

ADMISSIONS TERMS



Wherever your student is on their college search, it is important to remember the following terms. If you have any questions, please contact the U of M Office of Admissions by phone at 612-625-2008 or 1-800-752-1000, or reach out to one of our admissions counselors at z.umn.edu/counselor. We are happy to explain terms and support you and your student on their college search.

KEY TERMS

ENGLISH TERM	TRANSLATED TERM	DEFINITION
Academic Factors		A student's educational history used by the University of Minnesota to review a student's application and determine if they are academically prepared to succeed in university-level classes
Admission		A college's response to an applicant to allow them to become a student of their college
Admissions Counselor		Staff member of a college who supports students during their college search journey
Admission Decision		A choice a college makes on whether to offer a student admission
Admit		A college has reviewed a student's application and agrees they are prepared to succeed at their school and extends an offer to attend
Advisor		A university staff member that helps students choose coursework and progress toward graduation
Application		Form and documents a student gives to a college to be considered for admission
Apply		The act of submitting an application
College Life		Experiences and opportunities students will have as a student
College Search/ Journey		Actions a student takes to find and look at colleges that interest them
Commuter		A student who does not live on campus and walks, bikes, takes public transportation or drives to campus to attend classes
Confirmation Fee		A payment a student makes to confirm their enrollment
Confirm Enrollment		Action a student takes to let a school know they will be attending. This action includes paying a non-refundable confirmation fee.
Context Factors		A student's personal background information used by the University of Minnesota to review a student's application. These factors can include a wide variety of topics like after-school clubs, sports, family responsibilities, job experience, volunteering and more.
Cost of Attendance		The total cost of going to college, including housing, books, transportation, fees, and other expenses a student typically has while going to school
Coursework		Classes a student takes to complete a requirement
Defer		A college's response to an early action applicant who has not been admitted yet because more information is needed
Deny		A college has reviewed a student's application and has decided not to admit them
Early Action Deadlines		The first deadline for applications which allows students to receive an early admission decision. The U of M has two Early Action deadlines. This decision is non-binding.
FAFSA		Shortened name for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a government form that calculates how much a student can afford to pay for college. This calculation is used by the University of Minnesota to award financial aid.

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Financial Aid		Money in the form of loans, grants, scholarships, and work study to help pay for college
Financial Aid Package		Total amount of money a student receives to help pay for college. This includes money awarded from the FAFSA, and given by the university, in the form of scholarships and work study.
Freshman		A student in their first year of college
Golden Gopher		A nickname for University of Minnesota Twin Cities students, named after the school mascot, Goldy Gopher
Holistic Review		Process used by the University of Minnesota to look at the academic and personal experiences a student shares on their application
Housing Application		Actions a student takes to live in on-campus residence halls. This application is different from the admissions application.
Living Learning Communities		U of M housing arrangements where students with similar backgrounds and interests live near each other in residence halls
Majors		A student's specialized focus of study. A major is required for graduation.
Minors		A student's second specialized focus of study. A minor is not required.
MN DREAM Act		The MN DREAM Act provides benefits to undocumented students in Minnesota who meet specific criteria
Net Price Calculator		Online form where students enter information about themselves and/or their family's finances to get an estimate on how much financial aid they may be awarded
Next Steps		Actions a student takes after their admission
Orientation		A mandatory summer program that introduces students to the resources and opportunities at the U of M
Priority Deadline		Deadline to complete the FAFSA to ensure notification is not delayed
Prospective Student		A student who is interested in attending a college
Reciprocity		Students attending the U of M from Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Manitoba, Canada. These students qualify for in-state tuition if they apply for reciprocity status.
Regular Deadline		The final deadline for applications
Rescind		A choice a college makes to cancel a student's admission
Residence Hall		Dormitories or other living quarters provided by the college
Resident		A person who lives in Minnesota
Room and Board		Money a college charges for living and dining in a residence hall
Self-Reported Academic Record		The U of M requires students to report their test scores and high school grades on their application - which means they do not need to provide official documents until after they have been admitted. Please note: ACT/SAT test scores are not required through the 2027 application.
Standardized Test		A test that measures a student's understanding of a topic and their academic readiness for university-level classes
Tuition		Money a college charges for classes and use of on-campus resources. The amount a student pays depends on their financial aid and their in-state or out-of-state status.
U of M		Shortened name for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Virtual Campus Tours		Online option for students to see campus without visiting a school in-person
Waitlist		A college has placed a student on a list of other qualified students but has not admitted them yet due to space limitations
Waive		Item or document not required for an application to be considered complete



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