

# APPLY FOR ADMISSION



We are excited that your student is interested in *applying* to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities! During this time, there are new terms and dates to remember. At the *U of M*, we want you to know about these important deadlines and next steps:



## Apply for admission



Students can apply for admission beginning in the fall of their senior year of high school. At the U of M, our *application* requires three items: an application, *self-reported academic record*, and a \$55\* application fee. Unlike other schools, we do not require letters of recommendation or essays.

A student can apply for admission using the Golden Gopher Application or the Common Application. We do not have a preference on which application a student submits. Students should choose the application that works best for them and only submit one application.

Students can begin applying the August before their senior year of high school. Your student can find information on applying to the U of M at [z.umn.edu/apply](https://z.umn.edu/apply).

\*The \$55 application fee can be *waived* for students who demonstrate financial need or participate in specific programs. Questions on the application will determine if a student is eligible, and allow them to bypass the payment screen.

## Write down important application deadlines



The U of M has three application deadlines. Students must complete and submit their application by one of the three deadlines to get an *admission decision* by a specific date.

- **November 1** = *Early Action I Deadline*
  - ◆ Students get a decision on their application no later than January 31.
  - ◆ In addition, November 1 is the deadline to apply for the freshman nursing program. Applications received after this date will not be reviewed.
- **December 1** = *Early Action II Deadline*
  - ◆ Students get a decision on their application no later than February 15.
- **January 1** = *Regular Deadline*
  - ◆ Students get a decision on their application no later than March 31.

Students are given equal consideration for admissions, merit based scholarships, and the University's Honors Program by all three deadlines. Your student can find more information on *freshman* application deadlines at [z.umn.edu/appdeadlines](https://z.umn.edu/appdeadlines). Please note, applications received after January 1 will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

## Types of admissions decisions



After an application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the Office of Admissions using a process called *holistic review*. During this process, the U of M uses two types of factors to make a decision: *academic factors* like *coursework* and grades, and *context factors* like interests and community service. For more information on the application review process, visit [z.umn.edu/review](https://z.umn.edu/review).

There are four possible decisions that can be made:

- **Admit:** a student has been admitted to attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. If admitted, students will receive instructions on their *next steps*, including how to *confirm their enrollment*.
- **Defer:** this decision is only for students who applied by the Early Action I or Early Action II Deadline. Not all students who apply by the Early Action deadlines are deferred. This decision means we need more information on other students before we can make a final decision. An update will be given no later than March 31.
- **Waitlist:** the student has been placed on a list of qualified students. This decision means we need to assure we have enough space and resources at the U of M before we can offer admission. An update will be given no later than the middle of June.
- **Deny:** a student has not been admitted to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

## Apply for financial aid



To be awarded financial aid, a student and their family must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or *FAFSA*, which evaluates a family's finances and calculates how much they are expected to pay. Submit the FAFSA by the U of M *priority deadline* of March 1. This guarantees an estimated *financial aid package* in spring. This package may include loans, grants, scholarships and work study opportunities.

We encourage both students and parents to get an early estimate of how much financial aid they may qualify for by using U of M's Net Price Calculator at [z.umn.edu/netcalc](https://z.umn.edu/netcalc).

Minnesota students who do not qualify for the FAFSA are encouraged to complete the *MN DREAM Act*. To find out more information and eligibility, please visit [z.umn.edu/MNDreamAct](https://z.umn.edu/MNDreamAct). For more information on resources available to undocumented and DACA students, please visit [z.umn.edu/undocumented](https://z.umn.edu/undocumented).

Financial aid is used to pay for *tuition*, or the cost of attending classes and using campus resources. Tuition is different from the *cost of attendance*, which is the total cost of going to college and includes tuition, the cost of *room and board*, books, fees, and other expenses.

There are two types of tuition rates:

- **In-state tuition:** the discounted cost a *resident*, or student who qualifies for *reciprocity*\* pays.
- **Out-of-state tuition:** the cost a student pays to attend college in a state they do not live in.

\*Official resident and reciprocity status is defined in the Residency and Reciprocity Handbook at [z.umn.edu/residency.pdf](https://z.umn.edu/residency.pdf).

## Apply for housing

Living on campus is an experience that allows students to live closer to classes, resources, and friends. However, living on campus is not required.



At the University of Minnesota, we guarantee on-campus housing in *residence halls*, for all admitted freshman who apply for housing by May 1. Students can submit a *housing application* before getting an admissions decision. The housing application opens in November and can be found online at [z.umn.edu/housingapp](https://z.umn.edu/housingapp). For more information on why living on campus adds to the freshman experience, visit [z.umn.edu/whyhousing](https://z.umn.edu/whyhousing).

The U of M offers unique housing opportunities in *Living Learning Communities* (LLCs) where students with similar backgrounds or interests live near each other in residence halls. Your student can find a list of LLCs at [z.umn.edu/LLCinfo](https://z.umn.edu/LLCinfo).

The U of M also has programs and resources for students who choose not to live on campus. We strive to ensure *commuter* students have an on-campus network and opportunities to meet others with shared interests.

### KEY TERMS

ENGLISH TERM	TRANSLATED TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Academic Factors</b>		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
<b>Admission</b>		A college's response to an applicant to allow them to become a student of their college
<b>Admission Decision</b>		A choice a college makes on whether to offer a student admission
<b>Admit</b>		A college has reviewed a student's application and agrees they are prepared to succeed at their school and extends an offer to attend
<b>Application</b>		Form and documents a student gives to a college to be considered for admission
<b>Apply</b>		The act of submitting an application
<b>Commuter</b>		A student who does not live on campus and walks, bikes, takes public transportation or drives to campus to attend classes
<b>Confirm Enrollment</b>		Action a student takes to let a school know they will be attending. This action includes paying a non-refundable confirmation fee.
<b>Context Factors</b>		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.
<b>Cost of Attendance</b>		The total cost of going to college, including housing, books, transportation, fees, and other expenses a student typically has while going to school
<b>Coursework</b>		Classes a student takes to complete a requirement
<b>Defer</b>		A college's response to an early action applicant who has not been admitted yet because more information is needed
<b>Deny</b>		A college has reviewed a student's application and has decided not to admit them

## KEY TERMS

ENGLISH TERM	TRANSLATED TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Early Action Deadlines</b>		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.
<b>FAFSA</b>		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.
<b>Financial Aid</b>		Money in the form of loans, grants, scholarships, and work study to help pay for college
<b>Financial Aid Package</b>		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.
<b>Freshman</b>		A student in their first year of college
<b>Holistic Review</b>		Process used by the University of Minnesota to look at the academic and personal experiences a student shares on their application
<b>Housing Application</b>		Actions a student takes to live in on-campus residence halls. This application is different from the admissions application.
<b>Living Learning Communities</b>		U of M housing arrangements where students with similar backgrounds and interests live near each other in residence halls
<b>MN DREAM Act</b>		The MN DREAM Act provides benefits to undocumented students in Minnesota who meet specific criteria
<b>Net Price Calculator</b>		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
<b>Next Steps</b>		Actions a student takes after their admission
<b>Priority Deadline</b>		Deadline to complete the FAFSA to ensure notification is not delayed
<b>Reciprocity</b>		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.
<b>Regular Deadline</b>		The final deadline for applications
<b>Residence Hall</b>		Dormitories or other living quarters provided by the college
<b>Resident</b>		A person who lives in Minnesota
<b>Room and Board</b>		Money a college charges for living and dining in a residence hall
<b>Self-Reported Academic Record</b>		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. <b>Please note:</b> ACT/SAT test scores are not required through the 2027 application.
<b>Tuition</b>		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.
<b>U of M</b>		Shortened name for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities
<b>Waitlist</b>		A college has placed a student on a list of other qualified students but has not admitted them yet due to space limitations
<b>Waive</b>		Item or document not required for an application to be considered complete

