

2025-2026

# FINANCIAL AID

FINANCING YOUR DSU EDUCATION



 [fa@dsu.edu](mailto:fa@dsu.edu)

 1-888-378-9988

 [dsu.edu/financial-aid](https://dsu.edu/financial-aid)

# DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY OFFERS DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Our nationally recognized, technology-based curriculum keeps the University on the leading edge of quality programs designed for today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

At DSU, the goal of the Financial Aid Office is to help you finance your education.

We look forward to assisting you as you earn your degree from Dakota State University!

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money that you may receive to help offset the cost of your college education. Federal Financial Aid generally does not cover the full cost of attendance. Your financial aid award package could include any of these types of aid:

**GRANTS** are awards that generally do not have to be repaid. Most are available through federal funding and are awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** are available from many different sources. Scholarships are generally awarded based on academic achievement or special talents and do not have to be repaid. Institutional scholarships are funded by the Dakota State University Foundation. Be sure to investigate opportunities that may be available from local and regional service clubs, fraternal organizations, and businesses.

DSU also offers students information on outside scholarship opportunities at:

<https://dsu.edu/admissions/undergraduate/cost-aid/scholarships.html#outside-scholarship-opportunities>

Also, check our web site for free scholarship searches that are available.

**LOANS** are awarded at a pre-determined rate of interest to qualified students. Student loans must be repaid under the specified terms. (98% of DSU students repay their loans on time!) Repayment obligations usually begin after you complete your education, discontinue enrollment, or if your enrollment status drops below half-time.

**FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)** positions are awarded based on financial need. FWS employment includes on and off campus positions to serve the needs of the institution and community with available funds.



**DSU students received over \$21 million in financial aid in the 2023 award year.**

## ADDITIONAL FINANCING OPTIONS

### **ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

are available through the Career and Professional Development Office and are not based on financial need.

**INVESTMENTS AND SAVINGS** for educational costs reduce dependence on your current family income, Federal financial aid and alternative education loans. Consider cashing in a plan to assist in paying education expenses.

**PARENT PLUS LOAN** is available for dependent students. A parent may borrow a PLUS loan to help cover educational expenses. The loan maximum is figured individually, based on your total cost of education minus any financial aid received. Repayment begins after full disbursement unless the parent applies for a forbearance or deferral while the student is enrolled. Graduate students may borrow a PLUS loan in addition to their Stafford loans. The interest rate and eligibility criteria are the same as the parent PLUS.

**ALTERNATIVE PRIVATE LOAN** programs are available to interested students who meet individual program eligibility criteria. Students may borrow up to their cost of attendance minus other financial aid received. The interest rates are variable based upon the Treasury bill, prime rate or SOFR rate and are not capped.

**TAX BENEFITS** are available to families who choose to submit information on their tax return regarding their out of pocket expenses toward the cost of tuition and certain required fees. The American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning tax credit programs are based on the amount paid by the taxpayer (either the student or the parent who claims the student as an exemption) for these expenses.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, visit the IRS web site at [irs.gov/newsroom/tax-benefits-for-education-information-center](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-benefits-for-education-information-center)

# FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## CHAMPION SCHOLARSHIPS

GPA	PRESIDENTIAL	ELITE	MERIT	ACHIEVEMENT	
	ACT = 32+ or SAT = 1420+	ACT = 28-31 or SAT = 1300-1410	ACT = 24-27 or SAT = 1160-1290	ACT = 21-23 or SAT = 1060-1150	ACT <=20 or SAT <=1050 or No ACT/SAT
4.0+	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$6,000 (\$1500/yr)	\$6,000 (\$1500/yr)
3.90 - 3.99	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)
3.75 - 3.89	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)
3.5 - 3.74	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)	\$4,000 (\$1000/yr)
3.25 - 3.49	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$3,000 (\$750/yr)	N/A
3.0 - 3.24	\$20,000 (\$5000/yr)	\$14,000 (\$3500/yr)	\$10,000 (\$2500/yr)	\$3,000 (\$750/yr)	N/A

NAME OF AWARD	AVAILABLE TO	AMOUNT AVAILABLE	HOW TO APPLY
Dakota State University Rising Scholarship	Incoming freshman, minimum 30 ACT composite and 3.0 high school GPA, enrollment in an undergraduate degree program within The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences	\$5,000 - 4 year renewable, must maintain 3.25 cumulative GPA and full-time enrollment. Complete 30 DSU credits per academic year.	Eligible students awarded upon admission.
Dakota State University Transfer Rising Scholarship	Incoming transfer student, minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA and 30 ACT, enrollment in a degree program within the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, continuous full-time enrollment	Eligible for up to 8 semesters minus other post-secondary continuous full-time enrollment	Eligible students awarded upon completing the transfer Rising application and review of final post-secondary transcripts.
Horatio Alger Denny Sanford Scholarship	Incoming freshman who has faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. Have demonstrated financial need (\$55,000 or less family income) minimum high school GPA of 2.5.	Up to \$10,000 over 4 years	More information available at <a href="https://dsu.edu/admissions/undergraduate/cost-aid/scholarships.html">dsu.edu/admissions/undergraduate/cost-aid/scholarships.html</a>
Dakota State University Transfer Champion Scholarship	Incoming transfer student, minimum 24 ACT composite, 3.0 cumulative GPA, continuous full-time enrollment, or 3.5 cumulative college GPA with minimum 24 earned credits, continuous full-time enrollment	\$1,500 per year for up to 8 semesters minus other post-secondary enrollment.	Eligible students awarded upon completing the Transfer Champion application and review of final post-secondary transcripts.
Dakota State University Foundation Athletic Scholarship	Students who meet the academic and athletic criteria established by the DSU Athletic Department	Varies	Contact the DSU Athletic Office at 605-256-5229 or <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Walz@dsu.edu">Jennifer.Walz@dsu.edu</a>
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship	High school graduates with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and composite ACT score of 24; student must be a SD resident; Regents Scholar Curriculum required.	4 year renewable, \$1,500 first three years, \$3,000 fourth year. Must maintain 3.0 GPA and complete 30 credits per academic year.	More information and application available at <a href="https://sdos.sdbor.edu">sdos.sdbor.edu</a> or from your high school counselor
SD Freedom Scholarship	SD residents enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs, must have financial need as determined by FAFSA	Varies	More information available at <a href="https://freedomsscholarshipsd.com">freedomsscholarshipsd.com</a>
Dakota Corps Scholarship	Students who graduated from a South Dakota high school with a minimum 2.8 GPA and composite ACT of 27; must agree to work in a critical need occupation	4 year renewable. Full tuition and standard fees up to 16 credits, approximately \$10,060. Must maintain 2.8 GPA and full-time enrollment.	Application and additional information available at <a href="https://sdbor.edu/dakotacorps/Pages/welcome.aspx">sdbor.edu/dakotacorps/Pages/welcome.aspx</a> or from your high school counselor.
South Dakota Education Access Foundation (SDEAF) Grant	Undergraduate students who are residents of SD, must be enrolled full-time and have financial need.	\$1,000 per year	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a>
Graduate Assistantships & Fellowships	Qualified graduate students, based on major and/or merit	Tuition rate assessed at 1/3 resident graduate tuition rate for state-support courses, stipend	Additional Information available at: <a href="https://dsu.edu/admissions/graduate/index.html">dsu.edu/admissions/graduate/index.html</a>
Federal Pell Grant	Students with a low calculated Student Aid Index	\$740 - \$7,395 in 2024-2025 (prorated for less than full-time enrollment)	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a>
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant	Student with a low calculated Student Aid Index and exceptional financial need	\$100 - \$2,000 per year	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a>
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	Students who plan to teach in a high-need field in a low income school district. Teaching service requirement is four years of full-time teaching.	Up to \$4,000 per year for full-time enrollment. Pro-rated for less than full-time enrollment.	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a> Additional information available at <a href="https://studentloans.gov/mydirectloan.launchteach.action">studentloans.gov/mydirectloan.launchteach.action</a>
Federal Subsidized Direct Loan	Students who demonstrate financial need	Max annual amounts per grade level; 1 - \$3,500; 2 - \$4,500; 3 & higher - \$5,500;	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at: <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a> Signed master promissory note (MPN) following award notification.
Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan	Students with low or no financial need, to replace a portion of the family contribution	\$2000/year for dependent Undergraduates; Independent and Graduate students eligible for extended Unsubsidized by grade level: 1 to 2 \$4,000; 3 to 5 - \$5,000; Graduate-\$20,500, not to exceed cost of attendance.	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a> Signed master promissory note (MPN) following award notification.
Federal PLUS Loan	Parents of undergraduate dependent students and graduate students	Up to total cost of attendance less financial aid repayment begins 60 days after full disbursement	Contact the Financial Aid Office. The family or graduate student should first complete the FAFSA to determine eligibility for other aid.
Alternative education loan	Credit ready enrolled students [Most students will need a credit worthy-cosigner]	Up to total cost of attendance less expected financial aid	Obtain an application from lenders or online at <a href="https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/346300/1">choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/346300/1</a>
Federal Work Study	Students with exceptional financial need	DSU award \$4,000 paid monthly as the hours are worked	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa">studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa</a>
Veteran's Assistance	Eligible students	Varies	More information and application available at <a href="https://gibill.va.gov/">gibill.va.gov/</a>

# STEPS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

## 1. COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Submit your application, high school and/or college academic transcripts, a copy of your American College Testing (ACT) Profile, and \$20 application fee at [dsu.edu/](https://dsu.edu/) apply. Final high school transcripts or GED certification is required of all student to receive federal financial aid.

**TRANSFER STUDENTS:** You must submit transcripts from any previous institutions you attended before you are awarded Federal financial aid at DSU.

## 2. APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Be sure to check with your high school counselor or principal for local scholarship opportunities and applications. South Dakota high school graduates completing the Regents curriculum and receiving a composite ACT of 24 or better should apply for the SD Opportunity Scholarship.

Check out DSU Scholarships, links to free scholarship searches and outside scholarships at;

[dsu.edu/admissions/scholarships](https://dsu.edu/admissions/scholarships)

## 3. APPLY FOR A FSA ID

In order to fill out your FAFSA online, both you and a parent will need to create an FSA account at:

[studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch)

You'll need the FSA account in order to sign your FAFSA online and access other federal student aid sites.

## 4. COMPLETE THE 2025-2026 FAFSA USING 2023 TAX AND ASSET INFORMATION

You may apply online at [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa). You can complete your application any time after October 1. Both student and parent information is required on the dependent student's application.

DSU priority date is **March 1** to ensure consideration for certain limited aid programs. Later applications are processed according to available funding. Be sure to include DSU's school code on your FAFSA (**003463**).

## 5. REVIEW THE STUDENT AID REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) will include your calculated Student Aid Index (SAI). Your SAI is used to determine your eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and other types of Federal financial aid at DSU. Check the FSS for accuracy. If you provided the Department of Education your E-mail address, you will receive your FSS electronically within days of completing the electronic application. Otherwise, the FSS will be mailed to you.

## 6. MAKE CORRECTIONS ONLY IF YOU SUBMITTED INCORRECT DATA

Use one of the following options:

- Provide the correct information at [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa)
- Mail corrections on your signed FSS to the Department of Education's processor at the address provided.

## 7. RETURN REQUESTED INFORMATION AS DIRECTED

It is important to promptly complete and return all forms that the Financial Aid Office may require to complete your financial aid file. You may be required to submit a 2023 tax return transcript obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (and your parent's, if dependent) to the Enrollment Service Center in Vermillion if your application results are chosen for "verification." Other documentation may also be requested to determine eligibility such as a birth certificate, Social Security card, visa, or marriage certificate. We are required to comply with Federal regulations and verify the information you reported on your FAFSA with documentation that we request.

## 8. FINANCIAL AID OFFER PACKETS

Financial Aid offer notifications are emailed to new students who have been accepted for admission after January 15. Watch your DSU email!

## FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Financial aid is determined by merit or financial “need.” Merit-based aid is awarded by reviewing an applicant’s academic achievements, special abilities, or leadership skills. Student qualifications are compared against the competitive pool for scholarships. Financial need is based on the amount of educational costs that exist after your Student Aid Index (SAI) has been determined. Most financial aid is based on your need, which is determined using the information that you report on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information reported is used to calculate a fair estimate of what you and your family can provide for educational expenses, known as your SAI, and what need is remaining.

COST OF EDUCATION  
- STUDENT AID INDEX  
= FINANCIAL NEED

DSU follows the Federal Philosophy that “the primary responsibility of financing a college education belongs to you and your family.” If you would like an estimate of your SAI before you officially apply for for 2025-2026, complete an estimator at [studentaid.gov/aid-estimator](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator).

## COST TO ATTEND

The direct educational expenses (tuition, fees, food & housing) for a typical DSU student during the 2024-2025 year is approximately \$17,914 based on 15 credits per semester for a SD resident student living on campus. Every student will also have additional indirect educational expenses incurred for books, personal expenses and transportation to and from the university. Indirect expenses vary depending on personal needs and circumstances.

Visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)  
a Department of Education  
web site specifically for students

## DIRECT UNIVERSITY COSTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR: SEPTEMBER 2024 - MAY 2025

(Based upon 15 credits per semester, includes Tablet PC lease)

Tuition Residency Status	South Dakota & SD Advantage	**Non-Resident
Undergraduate Tuition & Fees	\$9,654	\$12,755
On Campus Food & Housing*	\$8,260	\$8,260
Est. Direct Education Cost	\$17,914	\$21,015

Cost of attendance budgets vary based upon living arrangements and residency status of a student. Students living off campus should add \$2,200 to expected costs over the costs of students on campus. Students living with parents should reduce their expected costs by \$2,000 compared to students living on campus.

The estimated costs for books and supplies for an academic year is \$800.

Financial Aid Budgets will also include estimated costs for travel, personal, and miscellaneous expenses averaging \$5,000. Students with dependent care costs or disability expenses should contact the Office of Financial Aid for a budget adjustment.

\*Double residence hall room and minimum meal plan used.

\*\*This tuition rate is equal to 150% of the resident rate, and applies to non-resident students other than those eligible for Minnesota reciprocity.

New freshmen students and new transfer students from Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri and Colorado are eligible for a tuition rate equivalent to the resident undergraduate rate.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### I PROBABLY DON'T QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID. SHOULD I APPLY ANYWAY?

Yes. Many families mistakenly think they don't qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving Federal financial aid by failing to apply for it. In addition, there are a few sources of aid such as unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans that are available regardless of need.

### DO I NEED TO BE ADMITTED TO DSU BEFORE I CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

No. You can apply for Federal financial aid any time after October 1. To actually receive funds, however, you must be admitted and enrolled at DSU.

### WHAT IF A CHANGE OCCURS THAT ALTERS MY FAFSA APPLICATION INFORMATION, OR IF I HAVE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

Sometimes, due to special circumstances, the application process does not reflect your family's real ability to contribute to your educational expenses. These could be situations such as a family tragedy, divorce or separation, loss of employment or loss of income. If this is the case for your family, contact the Financial Aid Office to explain the situation. Do not make corrections to your FAFSA based upon your special circumstances.

Based on your documented information, the DSU Financial Aid Director may be able to use "professional judgement" and review your situation on an individual basis. If you feel you qualify, please contact our office.

### I DON'T LIVE WITH MY PARENTS AND THEY DON'T CLAIM ME ON THEIR INCOME TAX RETURNS. AM I CONSIDERED AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT?

If you are an independent student, your parents' tax and asset information is not required on the FAFSA. You are determined to be an independent student if you meet any of the criteria on the FAFSA that determine dependency status.



**DAKOTA STATE**  
UNIVERSITY®

## FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATIONS

Your DSU offer notification will include all aid awards you have been offered to date. Student financial aid offer notification begins in January for eligible students with valid FAFSA results and who have been accepted for admission to DSU.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Admissions .....	(888) 378-9988
Registrar .....	(605) 256-5144
Financial Aid Office .....	(605) 256-5152
DSU Athletics Office .....	(605) 256-5229
Enrollment Service Center .....	(800) 404-1547
(For information or inquiries regarding federal verification)	

Information in this brochure is subject to change without notice for compliance with Federal Regulations or institutional policy. Consumer information on placement rates, completion rates, athletic equity, campus crime, etc., is available upon request.

Dakota State University offers all educational programs, materials, and services to all people without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin. Dakota State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or employment in its programs or activities.



**MORE THAN 71% OF  
DSU'S DEGREE-SEEKING  
STUDENTS RECEIVED  
FINANCIAL AID IN THE  
2023 AWARD YEAR.**

## HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT DISCLOSURES

[dsu.edu/consumer-info](https://dsu.edu/consumer-info)