

# MINNESOTA DREAM ACT



# What is the Minnesota Dream Act?



A law that provides undocumented students with the opportunity to pursue higher education.

It gives undocumented students access to Minnesota financial aid.

# What is the MN Dream Act?

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- Also known as The Prosperity Act
- Signed into law on *May, 23, 2013*
- Became effective July 1, 2013

# How do I qualify?

- Attended a MN High School for at least 3 years
- Graduated from a MN High School or earned a GED in Minnesota
- Registered with Selective Service (if male and was in the United States between the ages of 18 and 25)

*All of the above qualifications must be met.*

# What do I qualify for?

- In-state tuition rates at all Minnesota public schools
- Minnesota State financial aid eligibility
  - Minnesota State Grant
  - Child Care Grant
  - Work study job
  - Minnesota SELF loans
- Privately funded financial aid at Minnesota public schools

# How do I apply?

- Complete the application MN Dream Act application.

[www.ohs.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct](http://www.ohs.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct)

The Application is called **MN Dream Act – State Financial Aid and U of M In-State Tuition Only**

# What documentation is needed?

- Minnesota high school transcripts showing attendance at a MN high school for at least 3 years (these do not have to be official copies)
  
- A Minnesota high school diploma or copy of GED earned in Minnesota

# What documentation is needed?

- Selective Service documentation showing you complied with the registration requirements.

*Males born 1960 or after are required to register with the Selective Service when they are 18 to 25 years old.*

*This requirement does not apply to females.*

# What is Selective Service?

- The United States Federal Government requires all males between the ages of 18 and 25 to register with them. There is no active draft, but the requirement is still in place.
- Selective Service registration papers can be picked up at your local post office.

# Deferred Action Students (DACA)?

- DACA students will qualify if they meet the MN Dream Act criteria.
- DACA students who don't meet the MN Dream Act criteria may still qualify if they meet the state residency law requirements after they have been granted DACA status.

# Other documentation needed?

- Federal income tax records for students/parents

*If student/parents incomes were so low that no income tax returns were filed, you must submit copies of W2 statements.*

*If you were required to file, but haven't yet, you will need to do so before applying for the MN Dream Act.*

# What about Federal Financial Aid?

- This is only a Minnesota law so students will only receive financial aid from the State of Minnesota.
- To be eligible for Federal Financial Aid, you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.

# Where can I use State Financial Aid?

- If you qualify for financial aid, you can use it at any Minnesota higher educational institution:

Community Colleges

Technical Schools

Colleges/Universities (public and private)

# When do I apply?

- The application has to be submitted no later than the **30<sup>th</sup> day** of the semester.

*Fall semester began August 26, applications are due by October 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*Spring semester begins January 13, applications are due by February 25<sup>th</sup>.*

***Applications are good for one school year (August through July). Must re-apply every year. There is no fee to apply.***

# How do I know if I qualify?

- The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE) communicates directly with the student. They will email you to let you know the status of your application.
- You indicate on your application the school you wish to attend. MOHE will let send the financial aid funds to the school to give to the student.

# Example #1

- Student registers for 5 credits (2 classes) and receives MN State Grant.

Cost for tuition and fees                      \$943.40

MN Grant funds received                      \$423.00 - gift

**Difference student must pay      \$520.40**

*Student will have other expenses (books, supplies, transportation, etc.)*

# Example #2

- Student registers for 7 credits (3 classes) and receives MN State Grant and applies for a loan.

Cost for tuition and fees	\$1320.76
MN Grant funds received	\$172.00 - gift
SELF Loan	<u>\$1000.00</u> - pay back
<b>Difference student must pay</b>	<b>\$148.76</b>

*Student will have other expenses (books, supplies, transportation, etc.)*

# Example #3

- Student registers for 12 credits (4 classes) and receives MN State Grant and applies for a loan.

Cost for tuition and fees	\$2264.16
MN Grant funds received	\$0 - gift
SELF Loan	\$3750.00 - pay back
<b>Student receives</b>	<b>\$1485.84</b>

*Student will have other expenses (books, supplies, transportation, etc.)*

## Example #3 (continued)

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This same student applies for a work study job.

They work in the Book store 10 hours a week. They can earn an additional \$1350 each semester.

The pay rate is \$9.00 per hour and is paid directly to the student as a payroll check.

# Example #3 (continued)

Cost for tuition and fees	\$2264.16
MN Grant funds received	\$0 - gift
SELF Loan	\$3750.00 - pay back
Work Study job	\$1350.00 - payroll
Student receives	\$1485.84
Student receives	\$1350.00 during semester

# Scholarship Opportunities

- Each college/university may have scholarships available to students regardless of their immigration status.
- There are national and MN scholarships for undocumented students found on the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website.

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us>

# Questions?



Call the Communication Center  
1-800-658-2330

**Thank you for coming!**