

Reciprocity

Minnesota has agreements with neighboring states to provide lower tuition for Minnesota residents to attend public colleges and universities in those states. **This is called reciprocity.** Typically, non-resident admission fees and tuition are reduced (or eliminated) if you're a reciprocity student.

Minnesota has reciprocity agreements with Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It also has an agreement with the Canadian province of Manitoba, and a limited agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College in northwestern Iowa.

The programs with Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota cover virtually all students, including full-time, part-time, undergraduate, graduate, and professional (some professional programs are excluded).

Students enrolled in programs that charge the same tuition rate to all students regardless of state of residence are not covered under any of the reciprocity agreements. Students taking distance education from a college in a neighboring reciprocity state while remaining in their home state are not covered under the reciprocity agreement with Wisconsin.

When should I apply?

First, apply for admission to the participating reciprocity college or university. You don't apply for reciprocity at the same time. Once accepted to a school you will apply for reciprocity online via your school. Otherwise, talk to the financial aid office at your school to fill out a paper application. **Your best bet for receiving reciprocity tuition price at the time of registration is to apply during the spring or summer before classes start in the fall.** Your reciprocity benefits will automatically be renewed each year you are attending your school. Additionally, you can find an online application for reciprocity via the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website.

Midwest Student Exchange Program

What is the MSEP?

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) helps improve access to postsecondary education through the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP). Since 1994, the MSEP has provided more affordable opportunities for students to attend out-of-state institutions. The MSEP serves as the Midwest's largest multi-state tuition reciprocity program.

Over 100 colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin have opened their doors to each others' citizens at more affordable rates. **Although the Midwestern Higher Education Compact is composed of twelve Midwestern states, the MSEP is a voluntary program (as are all MHEC programs) and only nine of the twelve states participate.** Iowa, South Dakota, and Ohio do not participate in MSEP at this time.

How it works

Through the MSEP, public institutions agree to charge students no more than 150% of the in-state resident tuition rate for specific programs; private institutions offer a 10% reduction on their tuition rates. You must be enrolling as a non-resident student at a participating MSEP campus to receive the discount. All enrollment decisions are made at the discretion of the receiving campus and the campus may exercise its right to limit participation or set specific admission requirements for MSEP.

Actual savings through the program will vary from institution to institution depending upon the tuition rates. Participating students will typically realize savings between \$500 and \$5,000 annually.

Website: <http://msep.mhec.org/>

- You can search for schools in the participating states who offer reduced costs through MSEP.