

for our

FOR MINNESOTA'S FUTURE



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT (USG)
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

invest in minnesota's future leaders

The University of Minnesota is essential to the future of our state—not just as a hub for economic growth and innovation, but as the foundation for the next generation of leaders. From future teachers and nurses to engineers and business trailblazers, the students at the University of Minnesota will shape the success of Minnesota itself.

When these students succeed, Minnesota succeeds. However, the rising cost of education threatens this success. Since 2010, tuition and fees have increased by more than 68%, putting higher education out of reach for too many Minnesotans.

That's why we're calling on Minnesota legislators to take bold action.

Supporting the University of Minnesota isn't just an investment in education or the economy—it's a commitment to ensuring the success of the students who will lead our state into the future.



who we are

At the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, students are the driving force behind change. The Undergraduate Student Government (USG), formerly the Minnesota Student Association, represents the voices of 31,855 undergraduate students from every corner of the state.

USG works to ensure that the diverse voices of the student body are heard—shaping university policies, collaborating with administrators and the Board of Regents, and advocating at every level of government. Our mission is simple: every student at UMN deserves to be valued, empowered, and supported.

When students encounter issues on campus, we're here to listen and act—because together, we're building a stronger future for the University and the state.

addressing basic needs

For many students at the University of Minnesota, the greatest challenges to success lie outside the classroom. Food insecurity, housing instability, and mental health struggles present significant barriers to academic achievement.

The pandemic further exposed these vulnerabilities, with nearly 19.1% of UMN students reporting food insecurity, according to the College Student Health Survey (2018). Meanwhile, rising tuition costs and high housing expenses near campus force many students to make difficult choices between essentials like rent, food, and books.

Addressing these challenges requires systemic solutions:

- **USG supports fully funding Hunger Free Campus Grants and Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students.**
- **USG advocates for legislation requiring higher education institutions to assess students' basic needs every two years, modeled after the HOPE Center survey.**
- **USG supports banning price-fixing software used by rental agencies in Minnesota.**

By addressing basic needs, we can eliminate barriers and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

making college affordable

Minnesota’s strength lies in its highly educated workforce, but the rising cost of college threatens this legacy. With the 10th highest tuition and fees among flagship universities nationwide¹, many students face unsustainable levels of debt. This financial strain hinders students’ ability to enroll, complete their degrees, and participate fully in Minnesota’s economy.

The North Star Promise program has already sent a powerful message to low-income families that college is within their reach. Expanding this program to include more middle-income families is a crucial next step.

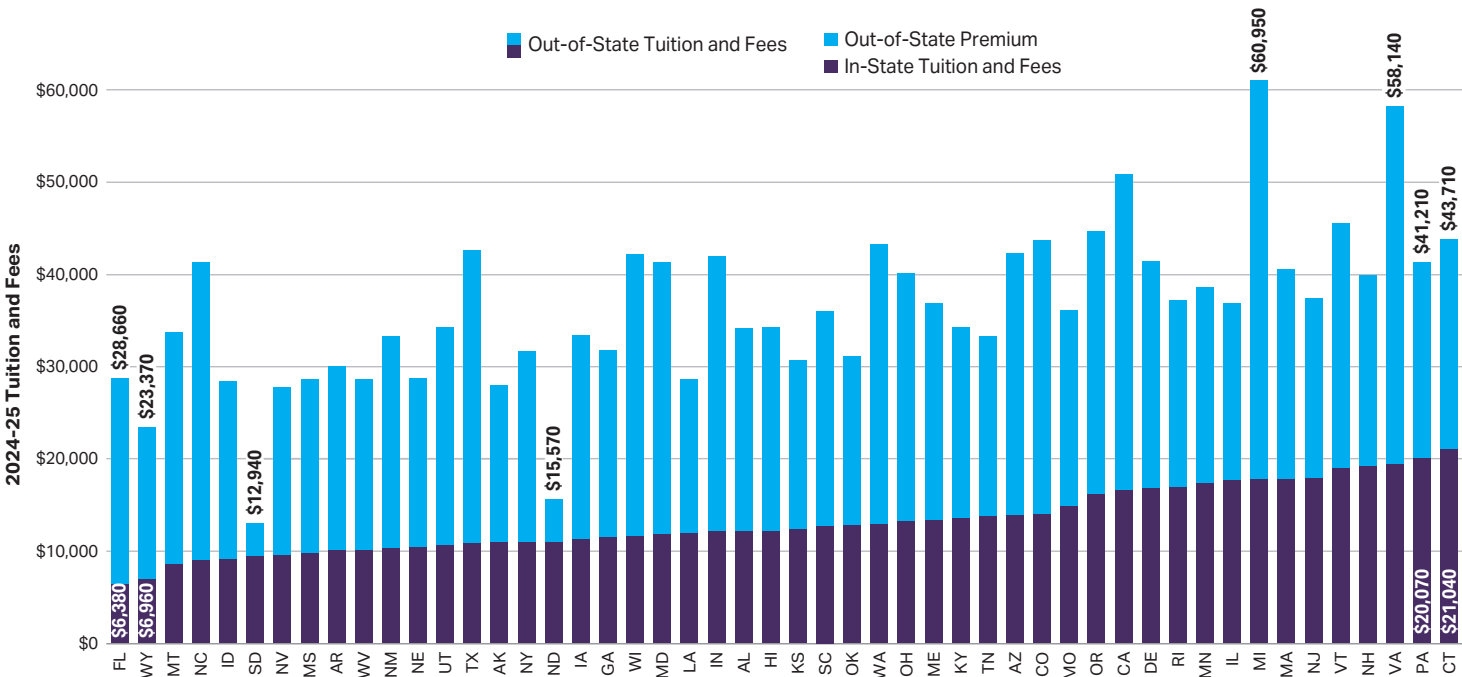
USG supports:

- A mandated tuition freeze to stabilize costs over the next two years.
- Expanding the North Star Promise program to serve more middle-class families.
- Passing the Minnesota Financial Aid Communication and Transparency legislation to standardize financial aid information and make it easier for students to understand their options.



With Minnesota facing workforce shortages across industries, making college affordable isn’t just a moral imperative—it’s an economic necessity. By investing in affordability, we can prepare our state for a more prosperous future.

2024-25 TUITION AND FEES AT FLAGSHIP UNIVERSITIES AND 2019-20 TO 2024-25 FIVE-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN INFLATION-ADJUSTED IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES



¹ College Board. Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2024 – Research – College Board. Research. Published October, 2024. <https://research.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/Trends-in-College-Pricing-and-Student-Aid-2024-ADA.pdf>

ensuring campus safety

Every student deserves to feel safe on campus, but rising incidents of campus shootings have left many students feeling less safe.²

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandates that the University of Minnesota have emergency plans in place that include safe exit strategies and active threat plans. Should there be a mass threat on campus, these plans are crucial to ensuring the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Even though 95% of buildings on campus have emergency plans, they are often inaccessible and out of date.³

To address this, USG supports:

- **Requiring updated and accessible emergency preparedness plans for all campus buildings.**
- **Adding mass threat preparedness training as a mandatory part of the University's online training program, alongside existing modules on sexual violence prevention and drug awareness.**

Students should be focused on their academics—not their safety. These measures will ensure preparedness and peace of mind for our campus community.

² Addressing Gun Violence on College and University Campuses, American College Health Association 2023

³ University of Minnesota Office of Emergency Management 2024



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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