



Z-degrees

Textbooks and other course resources can be expensive, but they don't have to be.



A **Z-degree** is a complete associate or bachelor's degree program that exclusively uses course resources that are **zero-cost** to students.

Thanks to funding from the Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota State has accelerated its Z-degree efforts and increased its impact for students.

Z-Degree Impacts

- Student savings reached **\$3.1 million** in the 2024 academic year.
- Savings to over **126,000** Minnesota State students totals **\$12.6 million** since the inception of Z-degrees.
- Z-degrees impact the **equity gap** for students of color, first-generation students, and students who receive Pell Grants.

Library Support

Z-degree courses can provide resources at no-cost thanks to open educational resources, open textbooks, and library-curated materials. With system and Legislative funds, Minnesota State supports faculty, staff, and librarians in finding or developing high-quality resources.

Funding helps support:

- An OER faculty development coordinator
- An OER librarian and an OER support librarian
- Access to Leganto, allowing easy resource integration for online courses
- EBSCO ebook subscriptions
- Access to online publishing platforms
- Creative Commons certification courses

Ten Minnesota State colleges offer Z-degrees:

- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Central Lakes College
- Century College
- Lake Superior College
- Minneapolis College
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College
- Minnesota North College
- Minnesota West Community & Technical College
- Northland Community & Technical College
- St. Cloud Technical & Community College

An additional 15 are developing Z-degrees.



Read stories from the first 10 schools to implement Z-degrees