

**POSTSECONDARY PLANNING:
A JOINT REPORT
TO THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE**

February 2025

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

University of Minnesota

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*Minnesota Session Laws 2003, Regular Session, Chapter 133, Article 1, Section 7. POSTSECONDARY SYSTEMS
As part of the boards' biennial budget requests, the board of trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the board of regents of the University of Minnesota shall report to the legislature on progress under the master academic plan for the metropolitan area. The report must include a discussion of coordination and duplication of program offerings, developmental and remedial education, credit transfers within and between the postsecondary systems, and planning and delivery of coordinated programs. To better achieve the goal of a more integrated, effective, and seamless postsecondary education system in Minnesota, the report must also identify statewide efforts at integration and cooperation between the postsecondary systems.*

Executive Summary

The 2025 Postsecondary Planning Report is the twelfth report produced jointly by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of Minnesota, as required by the Minnesota Session Laws 2003, Regular Session, Chapter 133, Article 1, Section 7.

The report reflects the long-term, ongoing, and effective working relationship between the two systems to develop and coordinate joint postsecondary programs in the Twin Cities and throughout Minnesota.

Collaborative Programs

- During the past 24 years, the number of formal academic collaborations and partnerships between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State has grown from 60 to more than 400 programs and services.
- The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State offer jointly to students and citizens throughout the state a sophisticated library and information technology resources; these joint resources are heavily used for learning and research.

Program Duplication

- There is very little duplication of programs in the metropolitan area between Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota. Among the 1,800+ degree programs available at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and metropolitan-area offerings of Minnesota State, only 41 are similar enough in content to be considered duplicative, and most of these are in high-demand fields.
- Programs are monitored and evaluated for possible overlap and duplication by each system independently.

Credit Transfer

- The two systems work cooperatively to ensure effective credit transfer policies between Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota.
- Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota have established and improved cooperative inter-system transfer programs, including articulated transfer standards, the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, and electronic transfer data software systems.
- Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota offer all or part of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum in all their participating institutions.
- “Reverse transfer” opportunities have been made available by the two systems for students whose associate degrees can be completed after transferring.

Statewide Postsecondary Attainment and Student Success

- The two systems work cooperatively to meet Minnesota’s educational and workforce needs by supporting the state’s postsecondary attainment goals. That requires supporting the current and future needs of all learners, and working with P-12 partners to prepare students for lifelong learning. The two systems collaboratively support that work through the P–20 Education Partnership and other alliances and programs.

I. INTRODUCTION

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota are pleased to submit this joint report on postsecondary planning, as required by the Minnesota Session Laws 2003, Regular Session, Chapter 133, Article 1, Section 7.

The 2025 report responds to the topics requested by the Minnesota Legislature and reflects the extensive and ongoing collaboration between the two systems providing public higher education in Minnesota. While individual cooperative initiatives have been in operation for decades, the higher education systems (and other primary stakeholders) have solidified their commitment to develop and coordinate joint postsecondary programs for the metropolitan area through formal agreements.

The 2025 report was produced cooperatively by representatives from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Minnesota and from the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at Minnesota State.

Mission Differentiation

Collaboration between Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota is grounded in the distinct and different missions of the two systems, as established by State Statute 135A.052: Postsecondary Missions:

Subdivision 1. Statement of missions. (a) The legislature recognizes each type of public postsecondary institution to have a distinctive mission within the overall provision of public higher education in the state and a responsibility to cooperate with each other. These missions are as follows:

- (1) the technical colleges shall offer vocational training and education to prepare students for skilled occupations that do not require a baccalaureate degree;*
- (2) the community colleges shall offer lower division instruction in academic programs, occupational programs in which all credits earned will be accepted for transfer to a baccalaureate degree in the same field of study, and remedial studies, for students transferring to baccalaureate institutions and for those seeking associate degrees;*
- (3) consolidated community technical colleges shall offer the same types of instruction, programs, certificates, diplomas, and degrees as the technical colleges and community colleges offer;*
- (4) the state universities shall offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree, including specialist certificates, in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, and may offer applied doctoral degrees in education, business, psychology, physical therapy, audiology, and nursing; and*
- (5) the University of Minnesota shall offer undergraduate, graduate, and professional instruction through the doctoral degree, and shall be the primary state supported academic agency for research and extension services.*

Collaboration History

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota have a long history of collaboration. Many of the partnerships between the two systems and their institutions pre-date the 2003 legislative requirement for this planning report as well as the merger of the state colleges and universities systems.

Efforts over the past two decades include joint planning to leverage limited financial resources, collaborating on teaching and learning technology solutions, coordinating upper-division programs in the Twin Cities, responding to Twin Cities metropolitan area growth, improving credit transfer between the two systems statewide, and serving traditionally underrepresented populations.

II. COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota share an obligation to increase options for Minnesota citizens who desire postsecondary education and seek lifelong learning opportunities. The two systems are committed to supporting collaborative efforts to respond to the changing needs of metropolitan-area students, and to have a measurable impact on the outcomes of underserved students who wish to pursue various paths to postsecondary education.

Analysis of program data from both systems illustrates that the academic programs of Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota complement one another, following their clearly differentiated missions. For example, there is a distinct difference in the levels of degrees awarded. Minnesota State dominates in degrees awarded at the associate level. By contrast, the University of Minnesota offers the largest number of post-baccalaureate degrees in Minnesota's public higher education sector and invests considerable resources in research and public service, unique components of its statutory mission.

This section of the report describes in more detail the broad range of ways in which the two systems collaborate while minimizing program duplication. These efforts include:

- Academic Program Partnerships
- Minnesota Cooperative Admissions Program (MnCAP)
- Rochester Partnership
- College of Pharmacy (formerly Center for Allied Health Programs) and HealthForce Minnesota
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Library and Information Technology Resources
- eLearning Initiatives
- Other Collaborative Initiatives

Academic Program Partnerships

During the past 24 years the number of formal academic collaborations and partnerships between the University of Minnesota and the colleges and universities of Minnesota State has grown from 60 to more than 400 academic programs and services, including collaborative activities to share resources, knowledge, and strategies for advancing higher education across Minnesota.

Collaborative undergraduate programs between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State are known as “2+2” agreements. These agreements allow students enrolled in one system to apply approved coursework toward completion of a degree at an institution in the other system. Applied baccalaureate programs allow students to build focused University of Minnesota baccalaureate degree plans based on approved community college coursework. In addition, collaboration between the two systems allows students to complete a limited number of University of Minnesota graduate and professional programs while in residence at colleges and universities in Minnesota State. Collaborative programs between the two systems are listed in Appendix A.

Minnesota Cooperative Admissions Program (MnCAP)

MnCAP is a cooperative arrangement between the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and Minnesota State. It provides access to the University of Minnesota for students wishing to transfer from one of the participating metro-area community colleges. MnCAP began as a pilot program in 2000 with three Metro Alliance community colleges and the University’s College of Liberal Arts. Since its inception, MnCAP has grown to include the seven metropolitan area community colleges (Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Century College, Inver Hills Community College, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Normandale Community College, North Hennepin Community College, Saint Paul College) and six undergraduate colleges at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities.

Students enrolled in MnCAP are guaranteed transfer admission to one of the participating University of Minnesota colleges and majors when they meet certain conditions. Students enrolling in this program work closely with dedicated staff at the community colleges and the University of Minnesota Office of Admissions to define the specific conditions for transfer.

Rochester Partnership

In 2006, the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) became the fifth campus of the University of Minnesota system, with the first students arriving in 2009. UMR’s vision is to *inspire transformation in higher education through innovations that empower graduates to solve the grand health challenges of the 21st century*. Academic programs for undergraduates are in the health sciences, with six areas of focus including pre-med and patient care; research, discovery, and cures; psychology and mental health; public health; health technology; and business and leadership. UMR also offers graduate programs in bioinformatics, occupational therapy, and business administration. The outcome of equity in educational attainment across all types of undergraduate students emanates from three principles: *students are at the center, research informs practice, and partners make it possible*.

In 1917 Winona State University began delivering courses in Rochester (WSUR) in collaboration with Rochester Community and Technical College. As a branch campus, WSUR provides online degree completion options and clinical placements for nursing. WSUR also delivers online graduate degrees well aligned with workforce needs of the region. Academic partnerships between UMR and Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC), Riverland Community College, and Winona State University (WSU) remain active, with enhanced efforts to support transfer students. RCTC delivers a variety of associate degrees (AS, AAS, AA) with many articulation agreements with Winona State University through its Path to Purple programs. UMR students are able to include upper-division academic programming at WSU in their fourth-year capstone experiences if it reflects their interest of study and is pre-approved. UMR and Riverland Community College also have an articulated advising plan for students’ transition into medical lab science and the undergraduate health sciences degree. All three institutions are active in the community-based Cradle 2 Career workforce development initiative.

UMR delivers a collaborative undergraduate degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Health Professions (BSHP), with the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences. This program embeds certification in specific health professions within a University of Minnesota undergraduate degree. Students can prepare for admission to the BSHP program at UMR or select Minnesota State campuses. UMR also works extensively with Mayo Clinic’s Office for Academic Partnerships to provide undergraduate research, volunteer, internship, and work-study opportunities, with 80 percent of UMR

graduates reporting a “meaningful learning experience at Mayo Clinic” while they were undergraduates.

UMR is also the site of a number of undergraduate and graduate programs in partnership with UMN Colleges or Schools that are housed primarily on the Twin Cities or Duluth campuses (BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences, BS in Nursing, Master of Occupational Therapy, MBA for health professionals). In addition, the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICB) graduate programs (PhD, MS, minor) were approved in 2008 and are administered by UMR in partnership with the College of Science and Engineering (the programs’ academic college on the Twin Cities campuses) and the University of Minnesota Graduate School, which awards the master’s and doctoral degrees.

Overlapping with the above are more than a dozen early assurance programs with a variety of institutions of higher education in Minnesota. These include 3 + 1 agreements in Medical Lab Sciences, Cytotechnology, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Surgical First Assistant, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging with the MCSHS; a 3 + 2 Physician’s Assistant Program with MCSHS; a 3 + 2 Program in Athletic Training with Winona State University; 4 + 1 agreements with the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities for Master of Public Health, and Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. Additionally, we have early assurance agreements in Doctor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy with UMR, and Doctor of Chiropractic with Northwestern Health Services University.

RCTC delivers a variety of associate degrees (AS, AAS, AA) with many articulation agreements with Winona State University through its Path to Purple programs. WSU delivers its doctoral nursing program, teacher licensure programs (undergraduate and graduate), business administration, accounting, computer science, and social work programs in Rochester. UMR students are able to include upper-division academic programming at WSU in their fourth-year capstone experiences if it reflects their interest of study and is pre-approved. UMR and Riverland Community College also have an articulated advising plan for students’ transition into medical lab science and the undergraduate health sciences degree and are working on a more extensive “dual admissions” agreement that would assure students accepted to Riverland may enter UMR automatically in their second or third year, assuming achievement of appropriate GPA.

Winona State University Rochester is focused on workforce-relevant programming that is primarily offered online, with partnered services offered at Rochester Community and Technical College, downtown Rochester, and Riverside Elementary (Rochester Public Schools).

All the higher education institutions in Rochester collaborate to support the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce and the community-based Cradle 2 Career initiative to enhance educational outcomes including career launch.

College of Pharmacy Programs (formerly Center for Allied Health Programs) and HealthForce Minnesota

College of Pharmacy Programs: The University of Minnesota developed the Center for Allied Health Programs in 2006 to address increasingly serious workforce shortages of allied health professionals in Minnesota. The Center was designed to increase workforce production in a financially sustainable model, coordinate the production of an allied health workforce with the Minnesota State system to avoid duplication and more efficiently deploy resources, collaborate with private health systems and

leaders to educate students with current and specialized skills, and produce the next generation of allied health professions researchers and faculty members.

In 2022, the University's medical laboratory science and occupational therapy programs (which formerly comprised CAHP) were integrated into the College of Pharmacy. Collectively, these programs advance the college's mission to improve health through innovative education, pioneering research, and interdisciplinary practice development that attends to the diverse needs of the people of Minnesota and the world. The college leverages the interprofessional opportunities that exist between programs to meet learner and workforce needs, and collaborates with multiple private and public partners, industries, and with Minnesota State and other higher education institutions.

HealthForce Minnesota: As a Minnesota State Center of Excellence, HealthForce Minnesota is a collaborative partnership of education, industry, and community organizations that was created to increase the number and expand the diversity of healthcare workers, to integrate health science education practice and research, and to build capacity for education and industry to collaborate to enhance patient care.

The University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Sciences program established academic affiliations with Minnesota State University, Mankato and St. Cloud State University to enable students to complete their professional year of courses through the University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) program. Each year, between five and ten students from these Minnesota State schools complete the NAACLS-accredited University of Minnesota MLS program, but receive their degree from their Minnesota State home school. MLS faculty and staff have developed transfer guides that Minnesota State institutions use to assist students as they prepare for the MLS program and application process.

University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Sciences faculty and staff are also active participants in the HealthForce Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Work Group, operated out of Winona State University. Members throughout the state—including educators from the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State University, Winona State University, Saint Paul College, North Hennepin Community College, and employees from Allina, Fairview, HealthEast, Children's of Minnesota, and Regions Hospital/Health Partners—meet monthly to discuss issues that have an impact on workforce needs.

The Clinical Coordination Partnership (TCCP) was formed to enhance nursing workforce development in Minnesota and Wisconsin by developing collaborative partnerships among educational programs and their clinical partners with a goal to maximize clinical rotation sites through scheduling coordination, student onboarding standardization, and faculty development. TCCP consortium members included nursing programs at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, Minnesota private colleges, and colleges/universities in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Clinical partners included Allina Health system, Children's Hospitals and Clinics, Fairview Health System, Essentia Health, HCMC, North Memorial, Park Nicollet, Mayo Clinic and Health System, Gundersen Health System, HealthPartners, HealthEast Care System, and many others. TCCP had 52 education partners and 78 clinical partners. Due to the changing needs of clinical partners, TCCP ended in June of 2024.

Other Collaborations: The Healthcare Education Industry Partnership (HEIP) Council has been in existence since 1998. It is staffed by HealthForce Minnesota and meets quarterly to discuss and plan

for strategic workforce and education issues across the state. The University of Minnesota is an active member of this group.

The **Minnesota Simulation for Healthcare Education Partnerships** (MnSHEP) is convened by HealthForce Minnesota to promote simulation excellence by providing evidence-based resources and support for educators. MnSHEP fosters academic/practice partnerships to promote research and provide collaborative learning opportunities in simulation. There are 300 members including industry partners, private and public colleges, and university educators. MnSHEP has an advisory board with representation from the University of Minnesota Nursing Program.

HealthForce Minnesota offers more than 15 Scrubs Camps throughout Minnesota. Presenters at Scrubs Camp come from the healthcare industry and Minnesota State, University of Minnesota, and private college faculty. The University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Dentistry students participated in several Scrubs Camps. Students at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College went to UMD for an evening planetarium activity.

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature provided one-time workforce development funding to establish the Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence “within the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, to address nursing workforce needs, including issues of health equity, recruitment, retention, and utilization of nursing workforce resources that are within the current scope of the practice of nurses” (Laws of Minnesota 2024, Chapter 120). The CNEE works with schools of nursing across the state, as well as health care providers, stakeholders, government agencies, and other partners interested in improving health care via nursing, on seven strategic priority areas:

1. Pathways to becoming a nurse
2. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in nursing
3. Nursing education
4. Simulation in nursing education
5. Student wellbeing and flourishing
6. Nurse retention, wellbeing, and flourishing
7. Workforce data analytics

The Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence is Minnesota's nursing workforce center, representing our state as a member and on the board of directors of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers to bring national best practices to Minnesota.

University of Minnesota Extension

University of Minnesota Extension collaborates with Minnesota State across the state in areas such as agriculture, food, children and youth, strengthening communities, and economic development.

University of Minnesota Extension educators deliver an array of education and training programs in collaboration with Minnesota State. Examples of these programs include:

- Farm Business Management courses help farm families meet their business and personal goals through quality farm records and sound business decisions. The program is designed to work closely with active farmers and persons interested in farming as a business. Extension offers the courses in collaboration with Minnesota West Technical College.

- MARL is a two-year immersive educational experience for early-career agricultural and rural leaders that has been offered jointly by Extension and Southwest Minnesota State University since 2000.
- Farm income in Minnesota is tracked and analyzed annually through a joint project of the Minnesota State Northern Agricultural Center of Excellence and Extension's farm business management program.
- At the Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center in Willmar, MN, Extension and the College of Veterinary Medicine are working with Ridgewater College to develop poultry training programs that provide multiple levels of education for differing needs within the poultry industry.
- 4-H programs have partnered with Minnesota State universities at Mankato and Marshall to offer career days and overnight campus immersion experiences to 4-H members.
- Extension educators worked with South Central College to develop an occupational safety and health-based curriculum to deliver to Minnesota agricultural educators who work with farm business management instruction, supervise high school students in agricultural workplaces, and/or coordinate college-level agribusiness internships.
- Extension's Clean Energy Resource Team collaborates on energy education with the Center of Energy, a partnership between Minnesota West and St. Cloud Technical colleges to help promote careers in the energy industry.

Library and Information Technology

Minitex Library Information Network (Minitex): Based within the University of Minnesota Libraries, [Minitex](#) provides significant resource-sharing capabilities to more than 2,200 libraries within the state. Minitex facilitates the delivery of books and journal articles to library users statewide. Minnesota State libraries and the University of Minnesota Libraries cooperate on these interlibrary loan processes. Most requests for journal articles are scanned and electronically delivered to the desktops of students and faculty, sometimes within hours. Book loans are delivered overnight through the Minitex delivery system.

[Minitex](#) also licenses electronic content, working in partnership with the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, and other libraries to provide a core collection of online research tools for the state. Minnesota faculty and students benefit by inclusion in these agreements, providing access to significant electronic content.

Librarians from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State, along with other library colleagues, run a [24/7 chat service, "AskMN."](#) where residents can get their questions answered. In fiscal year 2023, librarians answered 39,757 questions.

MNLINK: In 2002, Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota jointly implemented [MNLINK, a partnership among academic, public, and K–12 libraries statewide](#), funded through Minnesota's Office of Higher Education. MNLINK enables access to library catalogs and the sharing of library resources throughout the state. Students and faculty have better access to the collections of both higher

education systems using the online system. In fiscal year 2023, Minitex staff helped fill 158,937 item requests and helped transport an additional 368,510 items between Minnesota libraries.

Minnesota Digital Library (MDL): The [Minnesota Digital Library](#) is a collaborative undertaking initiated by the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State's university libraries. MDL provides infrastructure and support for the digitization of library, museum, and historical society collections. Administratively managed by Minitex, MDL has digitized and delivered more than 60,000 images, documents, and maps contributed by 204 cultural heritage institutions located in every one of Minnesota's 87 counties. MDL has further partnered with K–12 teachers to develop multimedia educational modules and primary source sets based on these resources.

In 2013, MDL was selected as an original hub for the [Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](#), a national network of state and regional digital libraries in the United States. DPLA brings together digitized and born-digital content from across the country into a single access point for end users and provides an open platform for developers. In addition to the cultural heritage organizations contributing content to MDL, additional organizations such as Minnesota Public Radio, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art have contributed metadata via MDL to DPLA, enabling broad access to their digital resources.

Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project: The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State libraries participate in the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project. This project promotes scholarship and offers professional-grade publishing tools to Minnesota's independent authors, at no cost. The project brings librarians together to share ideas and approaches to open publishing activities, from open textbooks and open educational resources (OER) to scholarly monographs, student projects, and literary works. To date, more than 1,000 book projects have been initiated via the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project. Four of these—open-access textbooks authored by Minnesota State faculty members—saved Minnesota State students \$26,000 in 2020 alone.

Professional Development: Minitex sponsors numerous professional development events for and with librarians and library staff in the state, including those from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State. Every year, thousands of academics, librarians, and/or students attend a wide range of conferences and workshops targeted at individual institutions in Minnesota.

For the past five years, Minnesota State has offered annual open education resources conferences and workdays for Minnesota's academic librarians and in 2023 expanded their OER Community of Practice to library staff in the Minitex network.

Shared Print: The University of Minnesota Libraries and Minnesota State University Libraries are among the 23 libraries participating in the Minnesota Shared Print Project coordinated by Minitex. The project is a coordinated effort among Minnesota's academic libraries to ensure that learners and researchers in Minnesota have access to the scholarly record of print monographs. While electronic copies of materials are increasingly accessible and may conveniently meet many scholarly needs, the ongoing need for access to print copies requires collaborative agreements among libraries to ensure that individual collection management decisions do not eliminate materials needed by scholars.

eLearning

Minnesota Learning Commons (MnLC): The majority of Minnesota State/University of Minnesota eLearning collaboration occurs through the MnLC, a joint powers agreement amongst the University

of Minnesota, Minnesota State, and the Minnesota Department of Education. MnLC’s mission focuses on supporting “educators teaching in online, blended, and digital learning environments.” By identifying strategies where Minnesota’s public education sector can work on issues that could be better accomplished together than alone, the MnLC provides greater benefit and better use of limited resources to lower costs and reach broader audiences. The [MnLC website](#) provides access to professional development and networking opportunities for faculty and instructional support staff.

Specific MnLC programs and services include:

- The **Minnesota Summit on Learning & Technology**, a high-quality conference and networking venue for college, university, and K–12 educators and innovators in Minnesota who are committed to effective online and blended learning. In 2024, the event focused on topics including artificial intelligence, open educational resources, and other emerging technologies with more than 30 concurrent sessions.
- **Quality Matters (QM)**, a national faculty-centered peer review process designed to improve and certify the quality of online courses. Based on best practices and rigorous research, QM provides rubrics, national course certifications, and training to faculty who are teaching online or hybrid courses. This program is paid for and coordinated jointly by Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota. A Faculty Development & Quality of Online Teaching Special Interest Group (SIG) provides additional collaboration opportunities.
- **MnLC Special Interest Groups.** Additional SIGs include Open Education Resources (OER), which brings together those working on OER and affordable content solutions with the goal of sharing best practices and collaborative opportunities; Digital and Information Literacy, addressing critical competencies needed by 21st-century learners; and Innovation, including topics such as remote proctoring, competency-based education, virtual reality/augmented reality, micro-credentialing, digital badging, and personalized learning.
- **State and Federal Regulatory Compliance for Online Learning.** Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota, through the MnLC, are working with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) to promote multi-state regulatory compliance with distance education regulations. By working jointly under SARA, both Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota have saved money and staff time. Currently all five University of Minnesota campuses and 26 of the Minnesota State colleges and universities have joined SARA.
- **Monthly Webinars for Joint Staff/Faculty Development.** The MnLC has continued its highly successful monthly “Best of Summit” webinar series, offering a wide variety of topics such as “The Digital Divide: Providing Equal Access in an Era of Online Delivery” (Intermediate District 287), “Developing Creativity in the Classroom” (University of Minnesota–Twin Cities), and “Are We Doing Enough to Help Faculty Teach Online?” (Minnesota State University, Mankato).
- **Annual Report of Public Online Learning in Minnesota.** The MnLC partners also collaborate on the annual report summarizing the state of online offerings in Minnesota’s public education institutions (higher ed and K–12).

The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State also partner in these eLearning-related areas:

- **The Minnesota Eligible Training Provider List:** Related to the new DEED database of the Career and Education Explorer Project, both the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State are working closely with DEED to provide non-credit and credit-based data feeds so that the CareerForce locations will have the most comprehensive listings of credit-based and non-credit courses and programs and provide targeted educational opportunities for displaced workers.
- **Media Management System:** The University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, and Learning Network of Minnesota have a collaborative working agreement to provide shared media services statewide.
- **Learning Network of Minnesota:** All Minnesota State and University of Minnesota institutions are members of one of the six Learning Network of Minnesota (LNM) regions. Developed as a result of legislative action in 1993, the LNM supports core network and online learning services infrastructure across the state. These services include video conferencing, web conferencing, and streaming media and voice communications. In addition, the LNM funds network bandwidth to many campuses. Each region is governed by a board of directors including representatives from corresponding institutions. There is also a statewide Learning Network of Minnesota board of directors that has Minnesota State and University of Minnesota system and institutional representation.

Other Collaborative Initiatives

College Student Health Survey (formerly Healthy Campus Initiative): Boynton Health's College Student Health Survey (CSHS) is a comprehensive survey of health and health-related behavior among undergraduate- and graduate-level students. The CSHS assesses student health, identifies behavioral risks, and examines the impact of health on academic performance. The survey was designed by Boynton Health at the University of Minnesota, and has been conducted at the Twin Cities campus every three years since 1995. In 2007, the other systemwide U of M campuses along with other schools in Minnesota joined the survey process. Each participating school receives a comprehensive report about the health status of their student population. The survey is administered annually, with the mix of participating schools differing each year. Schools participate voluntarily and provide support to cover the cost of administering the survey. Since 2007, 37 Minnesota State institutions have participated in the CSHS. This collaboration between Minnesota State and Boynton Health has led to the creation of new policies, programs, and services aimed at improving the health of students, staff, and faculty that are part of the Minnesota State and University of Minnesota systems.

North Star STEM Alliance: The North Star STEM Alliance (NSSA) is a partnership funded by the NSF, uniting institutions and organizations to increase the number of students from historically underrepresented communities in STEM who earn bachelor's degrees in these fields. Participating institutions include four University of Minnesota campuses (Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester, and Morris); seven Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and community colleges (Bemidji State University, Century College, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Saint Paul College, St. Cloud State University, and North Hennepin Community College); three tribal colleges (Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Red Lake Nation College, and White Earth Tribal and Community College); and three private colleges and universities (Augsburg, Carleton, and St. Olaf). Community partners include the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota

Technology Association, and the Minnesota STEM Partnership. The Alliance has received four five-year grants since 2007. Research and evaluation efforts on the impacts of participating in the North Star STEM programming show that North Star STEM participants are more academically and socially prepared to pursue STEM bachelor's degrees than underrepresented students not affiliated with the program. Students participating in the Alliance have improved their self-efficacy, interest, science identity, sense of belonging, and commitment to STEM through the program's research and mentorship programming. Current programming and initiatives allow for continued growth and impact beyond what the member campuses can individually support. The Alliance is working to increase the number of underrepresented STEM graduates to 1,000 by 2029 through established programming and by 1) deepening collaborations between NSSA two-year and four-year institutions; 2) creating a Tribal College Network; 3) further advancing institutionalization and sustainability; 4) cultivating an NSSA Alumni Network that provides increased opportunities for mentors, internships, and industry partnerships; and 5) creating pathways for URM STEM students to experience STEM study and research abroad.

Minneapolis College Student Health Clinic: In 2019 the Minneapolis College Student Health Clinic celebrated ten years of partnership with the University of Minnesota's Boynton Health. The clinic is operated under a Minnesota State service agreement, which has been extended through an RFP process. Funded through the health services fee with in-kind support by Minneapolis College administration for facilities, maintenance, and capital equipment, the Minneapolis College Student Health Clinic provides quality healthcare services by medical professionals on campus to all enrolled Minneapolis College students. The clinic provides treatments for common illnesses and injuries, testing (laboratory and x-ray on site), routine medical exams, vaccinations, physical therapy, nutrition counseling, and chemical health and mental health services (both therapy and medication management). Students have access to the 24/7 nurse line. In the calendar year 2024, the clinic had 1,645 patient visits, serving 575 unique patients.

Oral Health Practitioner Initiatives: Concerns about serious gaps in dental care access and increasing costs prompted the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and Minnesota State to create programs to educate dental therapists. Dental therapists, often referred to as "mid-level" dental providers, are primary-care dental professionals new to the continental United States but recognized members of dental care teams in many other industrialized nations. A delegation—including faculty and administrators from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, dentistry practitioners, and representatives from Minnesota State—visited dental therapy programs in Canada, New Zealand, and England to gather information about best educational practices and how mid-level dental providers can be effectively deployed.

In 2015, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry modified its initial dental therapy educational program to become a dual-degree Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSD)/Master of Dental Therapy (MDT) program. Graduates of this program perform dental assessments and treatments that go beyond those of dental hygienists or dental assistants but are still more limited in scope than those provided by dentists. The dental therapy program received accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation in March of 2023 and is now one of three accredited dental therapy programs in the nation.

In 2006, Minnesota State approved a Master of Science degree in oral health practice, offered by Metropolitan State University. The program admits baccalaureate-prepared dental hygienists with

significant clinical experience and prepares them to deliver a carefully designed scope of practice in a range of underserved settings. The practice model is team-centered and governed by detailed collaborative management agreements with practicing Minnesota dentists. These programs provide professionals to work with underserved populations within Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and Minnesota State dental therapy programs work together with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry to refine the dental therapy scope of practice to reflect the knowledge and experience of the practices that have utilized the dental therapists over the past 13 years. All programs focus on educating graduates to practice as advanced dental therapists, which is the top of the legislatively approved practice model.

Minnesota State faculty and faculty of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry are working with dental safety-net providers from urban and rural areas across the state and from managed-care organizations to propose a value-based dental home network to improve the oral health of public enrollees. In concert with the Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health, the dental safety-net providers and the members of the Dental Services Advisory Committee will ask the legislature to consider continued funding for the growth and support of this innovative initiative. This effort is part of an ongoing leadership coordination between the oral health education programs and safety-net providers in the state of Minnesota.

Minnesota North College–Hibbing Dental Clinic: The Minnesota North College–Hibbing Dental Clinic, a community-based dental clinic in northeast Minnesota, is a partnership among the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Minnesota North College, and the city of Hibbing. The clinic has significantly increased access to dental care for uninsured, underserved, and public program patients in the eight-county region of northeast Minnesota, while providing a critical outreach experience for dental and dental hygiene students. Since its opening in 2002, more than 160,000 patient procedures have been provided and more than 1,800 students have benefitted from the program.

Wellness Courses: Online wellness courses developed by the Rothenberger Institute within the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health are available to Minnesota State educators and students through curriculum licensing and collaboration. Currently, Century College offers the one-credit course “Success Over Stress.”

Multi-generation Farm Transition Planning: University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota State system have partnered to offer [hands-on farm transition education](#) focused on multi-generation farm businesses. An emphasis of the sessions is how to transfer both the “financial business” and the “management and responsibility” of the farm business. The retiring generation and incoming generation attend the sessions together, including spouses, partners, and other relevant parties.

III. PROGRAM DUPLICATION

There is limited duplication of academic programs offered in the Twin Cities metropolitan area (see Tables 1 and 2). The University offers no associate degrees in the metropolitan area, while Minnesota State offers two doctoral degrees and no first professional degrees in the metropolitan area. A comparison of baccalaureate and graduate programs offered by the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, Metropolitan State University, and other state universities offering programs in the Twin Cities reveals an apparent overlap of 39 programs (out of a total of 119 baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degree programs offered by state universities, and 446 similar degree programs at the University of Minnesota). However, the following must be considered in regard to instances of duplication:

- Overlap may be in name only, and does not represent substantively duplicative program offerings;
- In areas such as business- and health-related fields, sufficient need exists in the metropolitan area for degrees to be offered by both systems; and
- The two systems serve different student populations both in selectivity and patterns of enrollment (full-time vs. part-time), which leads to variances in programs and types of delivery.

The distribution of specific degree programs and patterns of enrollment for Metro Alliance institutions and the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities campus follows statewide patterns. Analysis reveals appropriate distribution among public providers for high-demand areas, such as business management, education, and nursing, as well as appropriate specializations. For example, Minnesota State offers all of the degree programs in law enforcement, while the University of Minnesota offers all of the medical degrees.

Table 1. Metropolitan-area degree programs at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State, 2024.

Degree	UM	Minnesota State	Total	Duplicates
Diploma	0	189	189	0
Associate	0	518	518	0
Certificate*	119	510	629	0
Baccalaureate	159	67	226	30
Master’s	191	20	211	7
Doctoral	102	2	104	2
First Professional	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	576	1,306	1,882	39

Source: University of Minnesota; Minnesota State

* The University of Minnesota predominately offers post-baccalaureate certificates, while Minnesota State offers mostly pre-baccalaureate certificates.

Table 2. Metropolitan-area comparable programs at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State, 2024.

2024 Baccalaureate Programs		2024 Master's Degree Programs
Accounting	Human Resource Management	Business Administration
Advocacy and Political Leadership	Individualized Studies	Computer Science
Biochemistry	Industrial Management	Co-occurring Disorders Recovery Counseling
Biology	International Business/Commerce	Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies
Chemistry	Marketing	Nursing
Computer Science	Nursing	Psychology
Data Science	Organizational Administration	Public Administration
Dental Hygiene	Philosophy	
Early Childhood Studies	Political Science	
Economics (General)	Psychology	
English	Studio Arts	
Environmental Science	Theater	
Finance	Urban Early Childhood	
Gender Studies	Education	
Health Systems Studies	Urban Elementary Education	
History		
2024 Doctoral Programs		
Business Administration		
Nursing Practice		

Source: University of Minnesota; Minnesota State

Conclusion

The two systems monitor and evaluate their own programs for possible duplication and overlap and are attentive to the distinctive missions and programmatic strengths of their respective institutions. The diverse and growing needs of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, combined with the need for an educated workforce, require the two systems to draw on the capacity of all the institutions to provide local and flexible access to academic programs. Collaboration between the two systems supports responsiveness and effective use of resources.

IV. CREDIT TRANSFER REVIEW

Effective credit transfer policies are an essential component of collaboration between Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota. Both systems are committed to students graduating in a timely way and agree that transfer, by itself, should not delay graduation. In other words, transfer students should not be automatically disadvantaged in time to degree—recognizing, however, that successful transfer depends on careful planning and consultation with knowledgeable advisors.

Policies and Practices

Improved awareness and understanding of transfer policy in both systems has led to a transfer-friendly environment wherein prior coursework is evaluated in the most generous terms consistent with program requirements. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State offer significant transfer credit for coursework taken at other regionally accredited institutions. Broad policy guidelines for receiving transfer credits are as follows:

- Transfer decisions are made on the basis of the educational quality, comparability, and appropriateness and applicability of the learning experience to the student's educational goals (Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit, 2017). The Higher Learning Commission accredits the University of Minnesota and all of the Minnesota State campuses (Higher Learning Commission Assumed Practices CRRT.B.10.020). Transfer among the Minnesota State campuses and the University of Minnesota is grounded in this common accreditation. Additionally, Minnesota State Transfer Policy 3.21, Procedure 3.21.1, and Operating Instructions govern transfer processes and practices.
- Students are given the benefit of the doubt, when possible, in transfer situations. Institutions consider whether or not coursework is comparable and whether courses to be transferred apply to the student's selected program. Courses are evaluated by such factors as learning outcomes, course syllabus or outline, and texts used. Institutions also consider the applicability of the coursework for meeting the requirements of degrees, diplomas, or certificates.
- Transfer students intending to transfer to a Minnesota State college or university can submit a written request to appeal transfer decisions regarding how courses or credits were or were not accepted for transfer at both the campus level and system level.

The basic principle is that “like transfers to like.” At the extreme end of the spectrum, courses in a technical program may not be appropriate for inclusion in a baccalaureate degree, even though the courses are offered by a regionally accredited school. The reverse is also the case—liberal arts coursework earned toward a baccalaureate degree may not be incorporated in technical programs if it is not required or if there is no room in the program to count them. This principle is important in ensuring that students who receive degrees, diplomas, and certificates from either system are doing so by completing coursework that is appropriate to their program or major and ensures high-quality education.

Cooperative Transfer Programs

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota have established, and improved, cooperative intersystem transfer programs. Since 1991, when the two systems submitted a joint plan and report to the state legislature, *Progress in Improving Student Transfer*, transfer across systems throughout the state has improved greatly. The following summarizes several key transfer initiatives.

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC): The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Agreement, executed by both systems in 1994, continues to provide a framework within which each public institution in the state defines its lower-division general education requirements.

Some students begin at a two-year college and transfer to the University of Minnesota to complete a baccalaureate degree, and some students who begin at the University of Minnesota decide to transfer to a Minnesota State college or university. Reasons for transfer include program offerings and economic, geographical, work- or family-related concerns. The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum provides a framework for all of these transfer patterns since students transfer in all directions.

Since 2014, registrars at Minnesota State institutions have had the ability to electronically and prominently annotate the transcripts of students who have completed the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. This enhancement promotes timely degree completion and lessens the chance that students take additional, unnecessary courses after they transfer. The majority of students who transfer from Minnesota State to the University of Minnesota have completed at least some of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum courses, goal areas, or the entire MnTC “package.” Surveys of students who have transferred indicate satisfaction with transfer is highest when the entire MnTC is completed prior to transfer.

In 2022, the Transfer Governance Team at Minnesota State recommended a complete review of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. A process design team met in summer 2022 to organize and develop a review process, draft a scope of work and charter, and propose a timeline, with an initial goal of implementing proposed changes to the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum by 2027. The University of Minnesota is also reviewing their general education requirements, and the two systems are meeting regularly to review processes and progress.

Transfer Resources: The [Minnesota Transfer website](#) provides comprehensive transfer information to students, parents, high school counselors, faculty, and staff of Minnesota State, the University of Minnesota, and others about transfer among public and private colleges and universities. The website is a useful tool for potential students, enrolled students, staff, and faculty at the secondary and postsecondary levels. The site offers a directory of transfer specialists as well as transfer action plans, accreditation information, transfer profiles, campus transfer websites, transfer guides, transfer agreements, details about the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, and more.

Transferology is a student-friendly online tool provided by CollegeSource, Inc. that enables students to see how their coursework transfers or would transfer to any institution within the Transferology network. Both the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State are members of the network, which means that current and prospective students can see how their courses transfer into any program offered at either system’s institutions. Transferology allows schools to post or link to Transfer Pathway maps to assist staff in advising Minnesota State transfer students.

Transferology runs on data tables built using CollegeSource's degree audit reporting system (uAchieve) software to advise students about their progress toward program completion and to process transfer evaluations. The uAchieve data tables are maintained by staff at Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota has used uAchieve since 1989, while Minnesota State started system-wide implementation in 1999. For more information, see the [Minnesota State Student Planner](#) site.

Transfer Specialists' Network: Every campus in both systems has designated transfer specialists who can answer students' questions specifically about transfer. These specialists connect in various ways to discuss issues and resolve problems, including at an annual conference hosted by Minnesota State that is attended by more than 130 staff members from the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, and private and out-of-state colleges and universities. Minnesota State also provides online, asynchronous Transfer Orientation training for new transfer specialists. Transfer and Degree Audit monthly webinars allow registrars, advisors, transfer specialists, and others to discuss topics of interest to the group, answer questions, and keep everyone up to date. Transfer tips are sent to the group periodically, and two transfer listservs and a degree audit listserv allow transfer specialists and encoders to ask questions and share transfer information. Because Minnesota State consists of both two- and four-year institutions, the Transfer Governance Team, a representative group composed of faculty, transfer specialists, administrators, students, and system office staff, meets regularly to discuss transfer policy and procedure, Transfer Pathway reviews, the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, and other transfer issues.

Reverse Transfer: Minnesota State engages in a process to award associate of arts (AA) degrees through reverse transfer. Since students sometimes transfer to other colleges and universities without having completed the associate of arts degree, the reverse transfer process allows them to transfer courses back from their current institution and complete the AA degree at a prior college or at the university they are currently attending. Since 2013, 3,124 AA degrees have been awarded through this process to students who had transferred to Minnesota State universities.

Conclusion

Transfer between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State continues to be of importance to students of both systems, and ongoing improvements serve students ever better. The two systems continue to evaluate and manage transfer so that it meets student needs and supports program integrity.

V. STATEWIDE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota continue to focus on the transition of students into postsecondary education. Initiatives include efforts to define postsecondary readiness in English, mathematics, the sciences, and other areas. The challenge of supporting students' educational goals requires all Minnesota educational partners to seek collaborative solutions to prepare learners for postsecondary learning.

P–20 Education Partnership

In 2009, legislation was enacted to formally codify the Minnesota P–20 Education Partnership (MNP20), itself an evolution of the informally organized Minnesota P–16 Education Council. The statutory purpose of the partnership is to “create a seamless system of education that maximizes achievements of all students, from early childhood through elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, while promoting the efficient use of financial and human resources” (Minn. Stat. § 127A.70).

MNP20 is led by an Executive Committee comprising the state commissioner of higher education, the state commissioner of education, the chancellor of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the president of the University of Minnesota (or their respective designees). The chair of the partnership rotates every two years between the commissioner and the higher education leaders. Dr. Robert McMaster (University of Minnesota) served as chair of the partnership from July 2021 through June 2023. Commissioner Dennis Olson (Minnesota Office of Higher Education), who was vice chair during this same period, began his service as chair in July 2023 and will continue through June 2025. As of July 2023, Deputy Commissioner Stephanie Graff (Minnesota Department of Education) is serving a two-year term as vice chair of the partnership.

Through seed funding provided by the Joyce Foundation, a full-time executive director (ED) position was created and filled in February 2023, and Josiah S. Litant was hired as the partnership's inaugural executive director. Responsibility for the leadership of MNP20 operations is delegated by the Executive Committee to the ED. The ED, while reporting to the Executive Committee, is a staff member of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and, through an inter-agency agreement that was established in order to expedite the hiring process, employed by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Since 2019, MNP20 has been steadily building a renewed vision and strategy. This work began in full when leaders of the partnership, along with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, and the governor's office, participated in a convening of the Level UP Coalition, a collaborative of state and national partners focused on “measurably increasing the numbers of high school students prepared for and successfully transitioning to postsecondary education and training programs.” This convening served as a catalyst for re-centering the work of MNP20 around a clear and demonstrable goal: achieving the state postsecondary attainment goal set by the Minnesota Legislature in 2015.

The work of the P–20 Education Partnership is centered around a clear and demonstrable goal of achieving the state postsecondary attainment goal set by the Minnesota Legislature in 2015. This goal

aims to increase the proportion of Minnesotans aged 25–44 who have attained a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree to 70 percent by 2025, within each racial/ethnic group. This focus on disaggregated attainment rates is critical to the citizens of Minnesota as our state continues to have the largest gaps in educational outcomes in the country.

MNP20 has continued to make progress on four projects that have been the focus since 2021. These projects are being facilitated through four work groups, as follows: Credentials of Value; Data Use and Capacity; Dual Credit and Exam-Based Credit; and Financial Aid and Literacy. In addition, the state’s longitudinal data systems—the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDs) and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS)—fall under the statutory purview of MNP20.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, created in 1985, provides Minnesota high school students with two ways to take courses that allow them to earn college credit from Minnesota colleges and count toward high school graduation. First, the Postsecondary Enrollment Options program (PSEO) allows high school students to take courses at a college or university. Second, concurrent enrollment partnerships allow high school students to take college or university courses at their high school, taught by qualified high school instructors who have been approved by college or university faculty.

In the past few years, legislation has increased access to PSEO and concurrent enrollment among 9th- and 10th-grade students who meet eligibility requirements, especially in career and technical education courses. In 2015, legislation was passed (Minn. Statute § 124D.09) that allowed for students participating in an early/middle college program at a state-approved secondary alternative learning program to have access to taking developmental education courses as PSEO students, in addition to college-level courses. These initiatives promote college readiness and early college credit opportunities that can assist in accelerating time to postsecondary degree completion.

That same 2015 legislation (Minn. Statute § 124D.09) also required that concurrent enrollment programs across the state meet the accreditation standards of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) by 2020–2021 and for all concurrent enrollment programs to have local advisory boards. The legislature also allocated an additional two million dollars to school districts to support their participation in concurrent enrollment partnerships. These legislative requirements and funding support are encouraging the growth and sustainability of high-quality concurrent enrollment offerings.

Educators from Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota system campuses and private colleges volunteer and meet bi-annually through Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (MnCEP) to share information about best practices and quality standards for concurrent enrollment partnerships, sometimes referred to as “college in the schools.” MnCEP is a statewide consortium that serves as a collaborative resource and advocate for equitable student access and success in concurrent and dual enrollment partnerships.

MnCEP offers professional development to identify and share best practices; develop communication tools to inform students, parents, and policymakers about concurrent enrollment programs; build and advance a shared research agenda focused on measuring the quality and outcomes of concurrent enrollment programs; and identify opportunities for collaboration and improvement.

These programs are significant, valued, and matter because students who take college courses while in high school (through PSEO and college in the schools) gain momentum and have higher rates of college enrollment, readiness, and persistence. Students who earn college credits while in high school can also graduate more quickly and at less expense. Research on the impact of dual and concurrent enrollment can be found at the [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships \(NACEP\) Resource Center](#).

College Preparation

Starting in 1991 the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State universities admitted students to baccalaureate programs under a common set of preparation requirements. These included four years of English; three years each of mathematics, science, and social studies; two years of a single world language; and one year of visual or performing arts. This establishes a strong model for high school students and has increased preparation. The University of Minnesota–Twin Cities campus added a fourth year of math for freshmen admitted in fall 2015 and beyond, based on research that completion of four years of math enhances student success in college.

In recent years, both systems had reviewed and addressed challenges presented by the Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) emphasis on faculty qualifications to ensure, as HLC states, “all instructors are appropriately qualified, including those in dual credit, contractual and consortial offerings.” The HLC faculty qualifications policy, approved in 2015, discussed determining minimally qualified faculty in the context of dual credit. Primary qualifications include a master’s degree in the field, or a master’s degree and 18 graduate credits in the field, or a combination of criteria (as described). However, in November 2023, HLC modified its faculty qualifications policy to allow institutions more flexibility in determining instructor qualifications, particularly for dual credit offerings.

Both systems also participate in Generation Next, the Minneapolis–Saint Paul collective impact coalition dedicated to closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

The University of Minnesota’s College Readiness Consortium (CRC) continues to support preschool to grade 12 efforts that help prepare students for college and careers, and is leading an effort to increase FAFSA fill-out rates in Minnesota, which are in [decline 4.8 percent from last year](#). As of 11/21/24, Minnesota is ranked 36th in fill-out rates, with 48.7 percent of the class of 2024 completing the form. In addition, CRC collaborates with UMN youth leaders who create programming that helps students learn academic content and issues related to readiness. In addition, use of the CRC’s [Ramp-Up to Readiness](#)TM, an evidence-based, school-wide college and career readiness curriculum for grades 6–12, has been expanded across the state. Ramp-Up is designed to increase the number of students who graduate with the knowledge, skills, and habits needed to obtain a degree or credential in higher education in five essential areas of readiness: academic, admissions, career, financial, and social/emotional. By doing so, Ramp-Up aims to make sure all students have an equitable opportunity to achieve social and economic mobility through higher education.

Many Minnesota State campuses have specific partnerships and programs with local high schools to increase college preparation for high school students. Such programs include administering the Accuplacer to high school students to determine college readiness benchmarks and providing targeted support in high school; delivering college preparatory courses at the high school; and offering college readiness workshops or summer bridge programs. Some selected examples:

- Century College and Saint Paul College administer the Accuplacer at many Saint Paul public schools, and they partner with specific high schools to offer interventions for high school students who need additional support.
- High school students enrolled in the Inver Prep program can complete college preparatory courses in English or mathematics that prepare them to participate in the Inver Hills Community College’s InCollege concurrent enrollment program.

- At Hennepin Technical College, Minnesota West Community & Technical College, and Anoka-Ramsey Community College, students can take summer bridge programs that include developmental education courses to prepare them for college-level courses.
- Minnesota State University, Mankato offers the College Access Program (CAP) that provides a four-week summer residential program between high school and college and continues to support students during the regular school year.
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College's Center for College Readiness provides direct connections between college faculty and high school teachers and students to assess college readiness in writing, reading, and math. Students are able to submit assignments, which are evaluated by college teachers, to gain information on their college preparedness.

One partial measure of college readiness that has historically been used is ACT scores. The use of the ACT, however, fluctuated during the pandemic as many colleges dropped, or at least temporarily halted, standardized testing requirements. Nonetheless, [reflecting the national decline in average ACT composite scores for the graduating class of 2024 \(19.4\) Minnesota students posted an average of 20.7](#). ACT data indicate that 68 percent of Minnesota graduates took the exam and that the following subject area average scores were achieved:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ▪ English: 19.2 | ▪ Reading: 21.4 |
| ▪ Math: 20.4 | ▪ Science: 21.1 |

Because Minnesota State colleges have the mission of providing open-door access to higher education, a number of students admitted to two-year colleges are not fully ready for four-year, college-level courses. Developmental education serves as the critical bridge between the academic readiness gap of new students and the skills they need to be successful in college-level gateway courses and academic programs. The colleges and universities of Minnesota State offer developmental education to support the success of students by delivering pre-collegiate courses in reading, writing, and mathematics and by providing a variety of optional and/or mandatory student support services.

Some students need developmental courses because they have not taken the necessary coursework in high school, or because it has been several years since specific classes were taken. In response, Minnesota State colleges use an innovative multifaceted approach, including a combination of courses, multiple measures for course placement, and academic support services, as detailed in the February 2018 *Developmental Education Plan Report* to the Legislature.

Most higher-education institutions in Minnesota also provide academic support programs, serving students both in person and online. Learning centers, supplemental instruction, tutoring, and advising programs are examples of such academic support. A wide array of students use these services, even if they do not need developmental courses.

According to the latest SLEDS data available, 7 percent of Minnesota high school graduates enrolled in developmental education courses in their first or second fall term in 2023, taking an average of 4.61 credits. In 2023, those students posted an average ACT score of 16.1, while their peers not enrolled in developmental education achieved mean scores of 20.9.

College Readiness Research

Both systems have an extensive array of researchers developing new knowledge regarding effective instruction and preparation of students during their K–12 years, and remedial work in college. [SLEDs](#) matched student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary and into the workforce. This data can help gauge the effectiveness of current programs and design targeted improvement strategies to help students. In addition, SLEDs intends to:

- Identify the most viable pathways for individuals in achieving successful outcomes in education and work;
- Inform decisions to support and improve education and workforce policy and practice; and
- Assist in creating a more seamless education and workforce system for all Minnesotans.

The University of Minnesota’s Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, moreover, serves a growing network of Minnesota K–12 schools by building educator data-based decision-making capacity through high-quality technical assistance, professional learning, and program evaluation in education.

IV. CONCLUSION

The 2025 postsecondary planning report reflects the long-term, ongoing, and effective working relationship between the two systems to develop and coordinate joint postsecondary programs in the Twin Cities and throughout Minnesota. In a period of substantial population growth and increased diversity in the metropolitan area, the two systems are aligned, each within their distinctive missions, to provide high-quality educational programs to citizens.

Appendix – Collaborative Academic Programs

Collaborative academic programs and services between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State allow students in residence at one system’s institutions to apply approved coursework toward completion of a degree at the other system and leverage resources and services across the two systems. The following tables list collaborative programs.

Minnesota State Campus	University of Minnesota Campus and Degree
Alexandria Technical and Community College	Crookston – B.S., Criminal Justice Crookston – B.M.M., Manufacturing Management Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S.W., Social Work
Anoka–Ramsey Community College	Duluth – B.A., American Indian Studies Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.A., Music Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.Mus., Jazz Studies Duluth – B.Mus., Performance (Band Orchestra, Keyboard, Vocal) Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering
Anoka Technical College	Crookston – B.S., Golf and Turf Management Crookston – B.M.M., Manufacturing Management
Bemidji State University	Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration
Central Lakes Community College	Crookston – B.S., Agricultural Education Crookston – B.S., Natural Resources Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry

	Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering
Century College	Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Twin Cities – B.A.E.M., Aerospace Engineering Twin Cities – B.B.E., Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Twin Cities – B.Bm.E., Biomedical Engineering Twin Cities – B.Ch.E., Chemical Engineering Twin Cities – B.C.E., Civil Engineering Twin Cities – B.Comp.Eng., Computer Engineering Twin Cities – B.E.E., Electrical Engineering Twin Cities – B.Geo.E., Geological Engineering Twin Cities – M.E., Mechanical Engineering Twin Cities – B.Mat.S.E., Materials Science and Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Environmental Horticulture
Dakota County Technical College	Crookston – B.M.M., Bachelor of Manufacturing
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	Duluth – B.A., American Indian Studies Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.A., Environment, Sustainability, and Geography Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Communication Sciences & Disorders Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration

	Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Duluth – B.S.W., Social Work
Hennepin Technical College	Crookston – B.S., Manufacturing Management
Inver Hills Community College	Duluth – B.A., Anthropology Duluth – B.A., American Indian Studies Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.A., History Duluth – B.A., Political Science Duluth – B.A., Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Duluth – B.S.W., Social Work Twin Cities – B.S., Technology Education Twin Cities – B.A.Sc., Information Technology Infrastructure Twin Cities – B.S., Individualized Studies Program
Lake Superior College	Crookston – B.M.M., Manufacturing Management Duluth – B.A., American Indian Studies Duluth – B.A., Art Duluth – B.A., Art History Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Cultural Entrepreneurship Duluth – B.A., Economics

	<p> Duluth – B.A., English Duluth – B.A., History Duluth – B.A., Sociology Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Communication Sciences & Disorders Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.F.A., Art Education Duluth – B.F.A., Graphic Design Duluth – B.F.A., Graphic Design Marketing Duluth – B.F.A., Studio Art (updates in progress) Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S.Ch.E., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Duluth – B.S.W., Social Work </p>
Minneapolis Community and Technical College	<p> Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S.Ch.E., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering </p>
Minnesota North College	<p> Crookston – B.S., Natural Resources Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.A., Environment, Sustainability, and Geography Duluth – B.A., Sociology Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Communication Sciences & Disorders Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.F.A., Graphic Design </p>

	Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Duluth – B.S.W., Social Work Twin Cities – B.S., Specific Engineering Programs Twin Cities – B.S., Forest Resources Twin Cities – B.S., Recreation Resource Management Twin Cities – B.S., Specific Engineering Programs Twin Cities – B.S., Forest Resources Twin Cities – B.S., Recreation Resource Management
Minnesota State College—Southeast	Twin Cities – B.S. Nanoscience Certificate articulates with Dakota County TC Nanoscience Technology A.A.S. with 2+2 option to UM–Twin Cities
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	Crookston – B.M.M., Manufacturing Management Crookston – B.M.M., Environmental Sciences
Minnesota State University, Mankato	Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Twin Cities – B.S., Clinical Laboratory Sciences Twin Cities – B.S., Medical Technology
Minnesota State University, Moorhead	Twin Cities – B.S., Chemistry or Physics (3 years) at Minnesota State University Moorhead plus B.S., engineering field (2 years) at the University of Minnesota
Normandale Community College	Duluth – B.A., American Indian Studies Duluth – B.A., Communication Duluth – B.A., Criminology Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.A., Theatre Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.F.A., Theatre Acting Duluth – B.F.A., Theatre Design & Production Duluth – B.F.A., Theatre Stage Management Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences

	Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Specific Engineering Programs Twin Cities – B.S., Computer Science Twin Cities – B.S., Food Science
North Hennepin Community College	Crookston – B.M.M., Manufacturing Management Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Duluth – B.S., Biochemistry Duluth – B.S., Biology Duluth – B.S., Chemistry Duluth – B.S., Computer Science Duluth – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.S., Geological Sciences Duluth – B.S., Mathematics Duluth – B.S., Statistics and Actuarial Science Duluth – B.S., Physics Duluth – B.S.C.E., Civil Engineering Duluth – B.S. ChE., Chemical Engineering Duluth – B.S.E.E., Electrical Engineering Duluth – B.S.I.E., Industrial Engineering Duluth – B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering
Northland Community and Technical College	Crookston – B.S., Applied Health Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology
Ridgewater Community College	Crookston – B.S., Agricultural Education Crookston – B.S., Applied Studies Crookston – B.S., Manufacturing Management
Rochester Community and Technical College	Crookston – B.S., Environmental Sciences Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration Twin Cities – B.S., Aerospace Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Biomedical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Biosystems, and Agricultural Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Chemical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Civil Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Computer Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Electrical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Geological Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Material Science Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Mechanical Engineering

St. Cloud Technical and Community College	Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration
St. Cloud State University	Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration
Saint Paul College	Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A.Sc., Psychology Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration
South Central College	Crookston – B.S., Accounting Twin Cities – B.S., Aerospace Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Biomedical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Chemical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Civil Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Computer Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Electrical Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Geoengineering Twin Cities – B.S., Material Science Engineering Twin Cities – B.S., Mechanical Engineering
Southwest Minnesota State University	Duluth – B.Acc., Accounting Duluth – B.A., Economics Duluth – B.B.A., Business Administration

Source – Minnesota State, University of Minnesota

Other Partnership or Collaborative Arrangements with the University of Minnesota

This list represents examples of past as well as current collaborative arrangements between Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota.

Minnesota State Campus	UM Campus	Collaborative Description
Anoka–Ramsey Community College	Twin Cities	The college’s Communications Studies Department hosts university faculty for various speaking events.
	Twin Cities	The university's Philosophy Department invites college students interested in majoring in philosophy at the U of M to attend a special "meet and greet" for community college transfers at their department at the end of the year.
	Twin Cities	Independent Research Summer Program (IRSP) is a multidisciplinary initiative that includes opportunities for research studies in molecular and cellular biology, genetics, developmental biology, and microbiology among other fields.
	Twin Cities	The Mathematics Departments at the two institutions are working on joint study of algebra instruction in community colleges.
	Twin Cities	The college’s chemistry department is collaborating with the university’s spectrometry lab on an NSF grant involving mass spectrometry, including opportunities for the college’s students to use the lab.
Century College	Twin Cities	The college’s Dental Assisting program sends 15–20 students in the spring and summer to the U of M Dental School for internships in a learning institution; students complete a general rotation or a specialty rotation.
	Twin Cities	The college is partnering with the university on the SOCRATES grant project to support students in the design a small satellite that will be launched into low earth orbit and employ a gamma ray detector for global positioning, navigation, and control.
Dakota County Technical College	Twin Cities	Nanoscience Technology – AAS Capstone semester (shared facilities) and 2+2 option
	Twin Cities	The Dakota County Technical College president is on the UMore Park Advisory Council; the administrative team participates in planning.
	Morris	The chancellor of UM Morris is a member of the executive steering committee on the college's Green Campus Initiative.
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	Duluth	The Bridges to Baccalaureate Program is a partnership between LSC, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, and UMD to increase the number of community college students entering the science field who obtain a biomedical/biobehavioral science related baccalaureate degree including biology, chemistry, math,

		physics, psychology, chemical engineering, and computer science.
	Morris	With federal funding (a Native American Serving NonTribal Institutions grant), a partnership between UMN Morris and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College will be offering summer language and cultural immersion opportunities to students and staff, and the two institutions are developing program pathways to liberal arts BA degrees.
Hibbing	Duluth	Iron Range engineering and graduate degree programs: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Master of Environmental Health and Safety (MEHS). Classes will be held at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN and are taught by UMD faculty. Enrollees will be UMD students and will have access to related courses offered on the UMD campus, ITV, and online courses. In conjunction with the Northeast Higher Learning District, classes are offered at all five regional community colleges: Itasca, Rainy River, Hibbing, Vermillion, and Mesabi.
Itasca Community College	Duluth	Iron Range engineering and graduate degree programs: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Master of Environmental Health and Safety (MEHS). Classes will be held at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN and are taught by UMD faculty. Enrollees will be UMD students and will have access to related courses offered on the UMD campus, ITV, and online courses. In conjunction with the Northeast Higher Learning District, classes are offered at all five regional community colleges: Itasca, Rainy River, Hibbing, Vermillion, and Mesabi.
	Twin Cities	Associate in science program agreements with dentistry, engineering, medicine, mortuary science, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. These agreements provide Itasca Community College students with equivalency tables of required prerequisites for entry into the majors at the University of Minnesota.
Inver Hills Community College	Twin Cities	Inver Hills Community College and the University of Minnesota offer the online/classroom course “Sleep, Eat, & Exercise,” providing students with knowledge and skills they need to live a balanced life while in college.
Inver Hills Community College with Century College	Twin Cities	Research agreement with UM Institute on Community Integration for evaluation of Center of Excellence initiatives targeting underrepresented students; partnerships with Century College and eight school districts to operate a Minnesota State Access and Opportunity Center of Excellence
Lake Superior College	Duluth	The Bridges to Baccalaureate Program is a partnership between LSC, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, and UMD to increase the number of community college students entering the science field who obtain a biomedical/bio-behavioral science related baccalaureate degree including biology, chemistry, math, physics, psychology, chemical engineering, and computer science.

	Duluth	Lake Superior College and the University of Minnesota Duluth since fall 2015 have collaborated in a collaborative Reverse Transfer program. As of summer, 2018, 38 additional degrees have been awarded.
	Duluth	Minnesota Sea Grant participates in Lake Superior College events such as Earth Day.
Mesabi Range College	Duluth	Iron Range engineering and graduate degree programs: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Master of Environmental Health and Safety (MEHS). Classes will be held at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN and are taught by UMD faculty. Enrollees will be UMD students and will have access to related courses offered on the UMD campus, ITV, and online courses. In conjunction with the Northeast Higher Learning District, classes are offered at all five regional community colleges: Itasca, Rainy River, Hibbing, Vermillion, and Mesabi.
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	Twin Cities	Online College in the High School program
	Twin Cities	Area Health Education Center (AHEC) sponsored by the University of Minnesota, located at the Fergus Falls campus of Minnesota State Community and Technical College
	Twin Cities	University of Minnesota family practice residents obtain clinical experience in sports medicine at the Minnesota State University, Mankato athletic training facility.
Minnesota State University, Mankato	Twin Cities	The two institutions, along with St. Cloud State University, are Co-Affiliate Universities associated with Project Lead the Way.
	Twin Cities	Biological Sciences has developed an affiliation agreement with UM to provide the medical laboratory science internship (14–15-month program/36 credits) for our bachelor's degree program in Medical Technology.
	Twin Cities	Mechanical and Civil Engineering faculty at MSU are working with UM researchers on collaborative research projects on behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Local Road Research Board.
	Twin Cities	The two institutions are Information Technology Peers through the AASCB Affinity Group Technology in Business Schools Roundtable.
	Twin Cities	UM Family Practice residents participate, side-by-side, with Minnesota State Mankato Family Practice Nursing students in a joint simulation each semester.
	Twin Cities	The Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence is working with the U of M 4-H and have collaborated on the Machine Design Competition. While this was held on the St. Cloud campus, it was Mankato's Center that facilitated the arrangements and the logistics to make it happen.

	Twin Cities	The Construction Management Department at MSU offers Storm Water Management Certification through the U of M and collaborates with the U of M program to offer student competitions for the Midwest Region.
	Twin Cities	<p>The Water Resources Center at MSU is collaborating with the University of Minnesota on several projects including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Social science assessment project in the Watonwan River Watershed Civic Engagement Project –Research project to distill and disseminate water quality success stories in the Minnesota River Basin –A Minnesota River Invasive Carp Prevention and Analysis project –Effective conservation modeling and targeting tools for conservation planning as part of the “Integrating Targeted Watershed Planning Tools with Citizen Involvement project” –Guidance materials on Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) –Research and authorship to a special section in Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Society in collaboration with the U of M, Purdue University, Iowa Soybean Assn, and USDA –Study of harmful algae blooms in Minnesota lakes
Minnesota State University Moorhead	Twin Cities	University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, MS in social work at Minnesota State University Moorhead via online education
Metropolitan State University	Twin Cities	Faculty and students from Metropolitan State University have full privileges to use the University of Minnesota Libraries.
	Twin Cities	The two institutions jointly offered a graduate course in cybersecurity that was hosted at the University of Minnesota and taught by a Metro State faculty member.
	Twin Cities	The two institutions obtained a collaborative NSF grant, “Augmented Reality in Cybersecurity and Forensics Education,” to support faculty and students in research on the usage of Google Glass and other glassware.
Normandale Community College	Twin Cities	The college’s biology department is partnering with the College of Biological Sciences at the U of MN on a National Institutes of Health funded grant that, in part, has postdoctoral students in Biology/Chemistry/Biochemistry areas come to Normandale to learn about teaching by being mentored by Biology faculty.
	Twin Cities	The chair of the Normandale Philosophy Department is a Resident Fellow at the University’s Center for Philosophy of Science, which funds research activities in all areas of the history and the philosophy of science.
	Twin Cities	The Mathematics Departments of the two institutions have an agreement to place and mentor master’s students who are interested in teaching at a community college.

	Twin Cities	The Infusing Africa into the Curriculum is funded by a US Education Department grant and supports Normandale faculty in developing course content and projects to include perspectives on increasing African content at community colleges.
	Twin Cities	University of Minnesota students enroll in three Normandale Dietetic courses that have been in place for the past five years.
	Twin Cities	The faculties in the Anthropology Departments of Normandale and the University of Minnesota collaborate on events for anthropology students of both institutions.
	Morris	Faculty in French at Normandale and the University of Minnesota–Morris planned and were scheduled to co-teach a summer study abroad course in Senegal. Post-pandemic, the course will be offered to students at both institutions.
Rainy River Community College	Duluth	Iron Range engineering and graduate degree programs: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Master of Environmental Health and Safety (MEHS). Classes will be held at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN and are taught by UMD faculty. Enrollees will be UMD students and will have access to related courses offered on the UMD campus, ITV, and online courses. In conjunction with the Northeast Higher Learning District, classes are offered at all five regional community colleges: Itasca, Rainy River, Hibbing, Vermillion, and Mesabi.
Rochester Community and Technical College	Rochester	Shared facilities
	Rochester	RCTC offers specific general education, science, and nursing assistant courses at the request of UM–Rochester.
	Rochester	The college shares facilities and land use with U of M Extension.
System Office	Crookston, Duluth, Rochester, Twin Cities	The Minnesota Learning Commons (MnLC) is a joint powers agreement among the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota State, and the University of Minnesota. The roots of the MnLC can be traced to legislation passed in 1997 that brought together Minnesota’s public K–12 and higher education community to collaborate in creating efficient and high-quality access for learners to online and hybrid opportunities. The goal of the MnLC is to identify strategies where Minnesota’s public education sector can work on issues that could be better accomplished together than alone, providing greater benefit, and better use of limited resources to lower costs and reach broader audiences.
	Twin Cities	Minnesota State and the University hold seats on the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority Advisory Commission.
	University-wide	Periodic meetings and informal consultation between the Offices of General Counsel for the two organizations regarding legal issues arising in Minnesota and higher education

	University-wide	Joint development of an internet-based training package for all employees on security and data privacy issues, tailored to the unique needs of each organization
	University-wide	Lake Superior College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, and Southwest Minnesota State University provide a veterans' center for a Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs employee to assist veterans at regional campuses including the University of Minnesota campuses at Crookston and Morris. The Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota provides a veterans' center that serves the needs of Twin Cities Minnesota State institutions.
	Twin Cities	Partnership with UM Hazardous Waste Management unit for Minnesota State campuses to get training, waste classification and packaging, and licensed shipping off-site of hazardous wastes from sources in laboratories and campus operations
St. Cloud State University	Rochester Twin Cities	The institutions have a joint affiliation for their Medical Laboratory Sciences program. The agreement focuses on providing SCSU students with the opportunity to enroll in University of Minnesota courses, primarily at the Rochester campus and corresponding clinical opportunities.
	Twin Cities	The two institutions share anthropology faculty.
	University-wide	The SCSU School of Public Affairs Research Institute (SOPARI) works with the Extension Office (Mankato) in quantitative research used in economic impact studies and with Extension researchers on an Economic Emergency Program for a St. Cloud plant closing.
Southwest Minnesota State University	Twin Cities	Collaboration between Extension and the Minnesota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program (MARL) to deliver leadership training through the SMSU Foundation
Saint Paul College and Winona State University	Rochester	University of Minnesota and Winona State University have signed a memorandum of agreement to coordinate health education offerings in Rochester, initially in the lab sciences.
Vermillion Community College	Duluth	Iron Range engineering and graduate degree programs: Master of Engineering (MEng) and Master of Environmental Health and Safety (MEHS). Classes will be held at Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN and are taught by UMD faculty. Enrollees will be UMD students and will have access to related courses offered on the UMD campus, ITV, and online courses. In conjunction with the Northeast Higher Learning District, classes are offered at all five regional community colleges: Itasca, Rainy River, Hibbing, Vermillion, and Mesabi.
Winona State University and Rochester Community and Technical College	Rochester	The three institutions collaborate in community outreach, marketing, and institutional research. A notable example is the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership, which provides professional development with PK–12 teachers through a partnership with industry, workforce agencies, and K-12 school districts.

Source: Minnesota State, University of Minnesota