

**ONLINE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

**A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**JULY 2025**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

## **RATIONALE**

This report is submitted as *requested*<sup>1</sup> by Minnesota Statute 135A.195 on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. This report was developed by the Office of Distributed Learning (ODL) within the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Minnesota

Per the requirements set forth in Minnesota Statute 3.197, the cost to prepare this report was \$300.

## **CURRENT OPM REPORT**

Existing for-credit online program management (OPM) activities and agreements as defined in Minnesota Statute 135A.195 at the University of Minnesota were entered into prior to July 1, 2023, and therefore fall outside of the requested reporting requirements. The University has not entered into any additional OPM agreements since that date.

## **OUTLINE OF CURRENT ONLINE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

The University of Minnesota currently coordinates online programs through the Office of Distributed Learning (ODL). This unit was formed in September 2023 and is led by the Vice Provost for Distributed Learning.

In 2024, ODL launched Online Program Support Services, a service for the entire University of Minnesota system that helps units considering new online and hybrid programs. ODL provides market research, consultation, help with coordination with other units, along with access to fee-for-service marketing and recruiting resources with approved vendors. These vendors were chosen as part of a process that followed all University policy requirements.

ODL manages the contracts and has regular status check-ins with these vendors to ensure that all vendor practices comply with state and federal laws and regulations. ODL also convenes regular meetings of an online steering committee where faculty and staff from around the University of Minnesota system share best practices and learn about new strategies for online program development. The University has one academic unit with an active for-credit tuition share OPM agreement; this agreement was signed prior to July 1, 2023. The majority of online courses and programs are designed and delivered with in-house expertise within the University's colleges and with support from ODL and Academic Technology and Support Services at the University.

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<sup>1</sup> Minn. Stat. § 135A.195, Subd. 4 (2024), <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/135A.195>.