



February 15, 2026

Academic and Student Affairs

Veterans Report to the Legislature

Minnesota State

Veteran Applicants to Graduate Degree Programs

The 2013 Legislature adopted the following language which can be found in 2013 Minn. Laws Chap. 99 Art. 2 Sec. 23 Subd. 2a (b):

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities must adopt a policy recognizing for applicants who are veterans, the applicant's veteran status as a positive factor in determining whether to grant admission to a graduate or professional academic degree program. The Board of Trustees must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over higher education policy and finance annually by February 15 on the number of veterans who apply for a graduate or professional academic degree program and the number accepted.

The majority of veterans that apply for admission to graduate programs at the state universities are accepted. There were 161 completed veteran applications to graduate degree programs in fiscal year 2025 and 151 of these were accepted, as shown in Table 1 below. In addition, 21 of 21 veteran applicants to graduate certificate programs were accepted. Veterans also completed applications with the educational intent of completing graduate courses, but not a graduate degree or certificate. All 15 of these applicants were accepted.

Table 1: Veteran Applicants to Graduate Degree Programs		
	Fiscal Year 2025	
University	Applicants	Accepted
Bemidji State University	12	12
Metropolitan State University	32	28
Minnesota State University Moorhead	9	9
Minnesota State University, Mankato	46	46
Southwest Minnesota State University	9	6
St. Cloud State University	39	36
Winona State University	14	14
Total	161	151

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (Minnesota State) served over 7,200 veterans through instructional programs, veteran-friendly policies and support services during fiscal year 2025. Minnesota State provides veteran-oriented and service member-oriented information, interactive military-to-college tools, and access to military-friendly services and assistance. These resources are made possible by partnerships between Minnesota State and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Higher Education Veterans Program, the Minnesota National Guard, other branches of the armed services and state and federal agencies. Minnesota State is a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon company. In addition, 18 state colleges and universities are also designated as Beyond the Yellow Ribbon companies.