

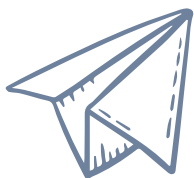
# FAST TRACK ADMISSION FACT SHEET



## TAKE THE FAST TRACK TO COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program that simplifies the traditional college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. With Fast Track Admission, you are notified of which participating universities you could be accepted to – without even having to apply!

Eligible students will receive a letter listing the participating universities where they could elect direct general admission based on their academic achievements. Students wishing to participate in the program must complete their Fast Track Activation Form found in the letter.



**OUR GOAL:** We want to help students easily transition from high school to college. By removing the traditional application process, we hope to reduce the anxiety around accessing college and allow students to focus on determining which school is their best fit based on career interests and financial aid opportunities.

## FAST TRACK ADMISSION AT A GLANCE

- “Fast Track Admission” means a student is eligible for direct general admission to a participating university without even having to apply.
- To participate, students must activate their Fast Track Admission by selecting their school(s) of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form found with their letter.
- **Participating South Dakota Public Universities:**
  - Black Hills State University – Spearfish
  - Black Hills State University – Rapid City (*non-residential*)
  - Dakota State University - Madison
  - Northern State University – Aberdeen
  - South Dakota Mines - Rapid City
  - South Dakota State University – Brookings
  - University of South Dakota – Sioux Falls (*non-residential*)
  - University of South Dakota – Vermillion
- **Current Participating South Dakota School Districts\***
  - Aberdeen
  - Sioux Falls
  - Spearfish

*\*This is a three-year pilot beginning in 2024-2025. Participation is expected to expand in future years.*



## student checklist:

To take full advantage of the *Fast Track Admission* program, use this checklist to stay on track!

### APRIL OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR

- **Receive and Review Your Fast Track Admission Letter:** Be ready! You will receive a hard copy and digital Fast Track Admission letter. This will list all the universities where you could be directly admitted based on your academic achievements.
- **Select Colleges:** Activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting your school(s) of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form included with your letter. Once you select the school(s) you are interested in, university representatives will follow up with additional information to help you weigh your options.

### FALL TO SPRING OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- **Explore Your Options:** Determine the best fit for you! Visit *OurDakotaDreams.com* to start exploring colleges, schedule campus visits, and speak with admissions representatives to learn more.
- **Complete the FAFSA and Explore Financial Aid Options:** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), open October 1, is the most important step you can take when paying for college. Maximize your chances to receive grants, scholarships, and other financial aid. Make sure you visit the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board to identify and apply for scholarships.
- **Make Your Final Decision:** Activating your Fast Track Admission is different from enrolling. Make sure the school you've decided to attend knows you will be joining them in the fall.

Scan here for  
more information!



SDBOR.EDU/FAST-TRACK





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### HOW DID I GET SELECTED FOR THE UNIVERSITIES ON MY LIST?

Your high school volunteered to participate in the Fast Track Admission program, and you were included because a review of your academic achievements showed that you are on track to graduate and meet the specific academic criteria for general admission to each school on your list. Your information was shared through a data-sharing agreement between your high school and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

### DO I STILL NEED TO TAKE A PLACEMENT/STANDARDIZED TEST LIKE ACT OR SAT?

While the universities participating in the Fast Track Admission program do not require students to submit ACT or SAT scores, students should still consult their websites to learn more about their current testing recommendations. You should be aware that certain scholarships require an ACT or SAT score.

### DO I STILL NEED TO COMPLETE AN ADMISSIONS APPLICATION?

No! You do not need to complete a traditional application for the universities where you have been directly admitted, though some programs or majors may have additional admissions requirements. However, you will need to activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting your school(s) of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form included with your notification letter. If you are interested in colleges not found on your Fast Track Admission list, you are encouraged to apply through the school's regular application process.



### WHAT IF I ALREADY APPLIED TO COLLEGES ON MY LIST? WILL THIS AFFECT MY APPLICATION?

No need to worry about any applications you may have already submitted! Your application will still be processed and there is no need to re-apply. Please note that if you've already paid an application fee, it will not be refunded.



### I DON'T SEE THE NAME OF A COLLEGE I'M INTERESTED IN ON MY FAST TRACK ADMISSION LETTER. DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T BE ADMITTED THERE?

Just because you don't see a college of interest on your list doesn't mean you can't be admitted there. That just means either the necessary academic criteria weren't met for automatic admission or the college you are looking for isn't participating in the Fast Track Admission program. You are encouraged to complete applications to any colleges you are interested in, even if you weren't offered Fast Track Admission there.

### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT A SCHOOL I'M INTERESTED IN?

The best place to get more information about specific programs or to learn more about campus life is to visit each university's website or the Our Dakota Dreams website. Additionally, when you select the school(s) you are interested in, university representatives will follow up to provide more information to help you weigh your options. Campus visits are also a great way to learn more about a specific school!



**READ MORE FAQs AT [WWW.SDBOR.EDU/FAST-TRACK](http://WWW.SDBOR.EDU/FAST-TRACK)**

