



YOU'RE ADMITTED TO COLLEGE! *NOW WHAT?*

ATTENDING A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE!

YOU'RE IN! TAKE THE FAST TRACK AND ATTEND COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

WHY? Because South Dakota public universities are a true value – they offer a quality education at an affordable price. And the investment in your future is real! Education can open doors, and leave them open, providing you with flexibility and control, now and whatever lies next.

IN THE PAGES AHEAD:

CAREER AND COLLEGE EXPLORATION
UNIVERSITY PROFILES
ADMISSIONS CONTACTS
UNDERSTANDING YOUR INVESTMENT
PAYING FOR COLLEGE RESOURCES

SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

FASTTRACK ADMISSION

Through the South Dakota Board of Regents' *Fast Track Admission* program, we're simplifying the traditional application process for many of our state universities, making one less "to-do" in what will be your busy senior year. So with that, **CONGRATS!**

Based on your academic records, you may be directly admitted to the following institutions:

- 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 - VERMILLION*
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA - SIOUX FALLS (NON-RESIDENTIAL)

**Fast Track Admission requires a high school GPA of 2.6 or higher for these campuses.*

FIRST STEP

ACTIVATE YOUR FAST TRACK ADMISSION



Scan *here* to indicate your universities of interest, or visit sdbor.edu/fast-track! If you are interested in participating, the first step is to activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting your schools of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form.

SECONDSTEP

Find your college fit!

A healthy college search often includes a solid self-inventory.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Find your home away from home! We highly recommend visiting one (or more) of South Dakota's public university campuses to get a real feel for the school. You can explore each school's academic programs by browsing their websites, attending in-person college events and tours, and speaking with admissions representatives. When deciding on a university, it is important to ask yourself questions to help you determine what you want in a future school.



DO I WANT TO
ATTEND A BIG OR A
SMALL SCHOOL?



DO I WANT TO BE
CLOSE TO HOME OR
FARTHER AWAY?



WHAT ACTIVITIES OR
EXPERIENCES ARE
IMPORTANT TO ME?



WHAT ARE MY
FINANCIAL AID
OPPORTUNITIES?



WHAT MAJOR AM
I INTERESTING IN
PURSUING?

CAREER EXPLORATION

Not sure what college major you are interested in pursuing? Consider the classes and activities you enjoy, and take the Career Match Maker assessment on SDMyLife. *SDMyLife.com* is a free tool for South Dakota students in grades 6-12. It has hundreds of career descriptions and college profiles to help you decide which career area and major to pursue and what colleges to explore.

SAMPLE CAREER AREAS

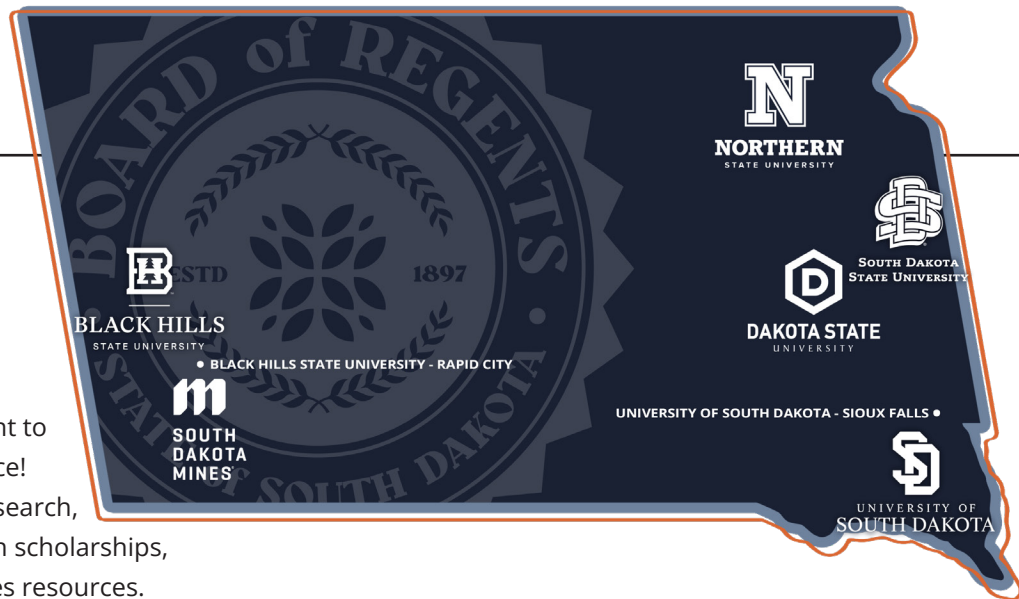
- **AGRICULTURE** | Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Technology, Animal Science, Food Science & Processing, Plant & Water Systems
- **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT** | Design & Digital Arts, Fashion & Interiors, Film & Theater Production, Broadcasting, Fine Arts
- **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY** | AI, IT Support & Services, Network Systems & Cybersecurity, Software Solutions, Web Design
- **EDUCATION** | Early Childhood Development, Education Administration, Learner Support & Community Engagement, Teaching
- **ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES** | Alternative Energy, Conservation & Parks, Environmental Research & Protection, Utilities
- **ENGINEERING & DEVELOPMENT** | Architecture, Construction Development, Engineering, Planning & Logistics, Manufacturing
- **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | Banking & Credit, Economics, Financial Strategy & Investments
- **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** | Behavior Health, Social Services, Health Administration, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy
- **HOSPITALITY & EVENTS** | Accommodations, Conferences & Events, Culinary & Food Services, Travel & Leisure
- **HUMANITIES & LANGUAGES** | Historian, Interpreter, Museum Curator, Writer, Publisher, Librarian
- **MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP** | Accounting, Business Management & Operations, Entrepreneurship, Project Management
- **MARKETING & SALES** | Advertising, Market Research, Analytics Development & Review, Customer Experience, Strategic Sales
- **PUBLIC SERVICE & SAFETY** | Emergency Response, Judicial Systems, Local, State & Federal Services, Public Safety



Discover the possibilities!

UNIVERSITY PROFILES

Get to know each of South Dakota's universities over the next few pages. Want to learn more? Contact the Admissions Office! They can help you navigate your college search, career interests, and even provide tips on scholarships, and of course, provide great on-campus resources.



VISIT: [BHSU.EDU](https://bhsu.edu)

Email: admissions@bhsu.edu

Phone: 605.642.6131

BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spearfish, SD

3,475 Students (main campus)

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

American Indian Studies
Business Administration
Communication & Media
Early Childhood/Special Education
Environmental Physical Science

Black Hills State University offers several undergraduate and graduate degrees and prides itself on fostering a culture of student support and success. The campus maintains top academic programs in business, education, exercise science, natural sciences, social sciences, the arts, mass communication and health sciences. BHSU leads the region in sustainability efforts and offers many outdoor recreational opportunities.

VISIT: [BHSU.EDU/RAPID-CITY](https://bhsu.edu/rapid-city)

Email: admissions@bhsu.edu

Phone: 605.718.4112

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Applied Health Sciences
Business Administration
Criminal Justice
Elementary Education
Tourism and Hospitality

BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY - RAPID CITY

Located just off Interstate 90, Black Hills State University provides a convenient and accessible site for classes and a wide variety of degree programs in Rapid City. The urban campus houses classrooms, science labs, computer labs, a 100-seat lecture hall, and conference rooms. The Rapid City campus is also the home to the West River Health Science Center, a nursing education partnership between Black Hills State University and South Dakota State University.



VISIT: DSU.EDU

Email: admissions@dsu.edu
Phone: 888.378.9988

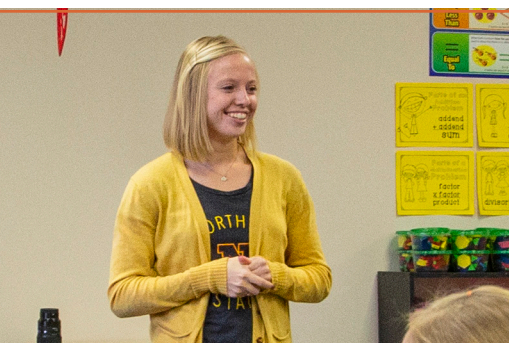
HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Cyber Operations
Computer Science
Cyber Defense
Network & Security Administration
Teacher Education

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Madison, SD
3,509 Students

As a STEM University, Dakota State University's mission is to prepare cyber-savvy graduates who are lifelong learners, problem solvers, innovators and leaders to live lives of positive purpose and consequence. DSU does this through cutting-edge courses and emerging research programs that impact the student experience and advance the nation's workforce. While Dakota State University serves as a primary university in the STEM field, it also meets a critical need in education.



VISIT: NORTHERN.EDU

Email: admissions@northern.edu
Phone: 605.626.2544

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Nursing
Teacher Education
Finance and Business Administration
Biology
Sports and Human Performance

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Aberdeen, SD
3,521 Students

Northern State University offers graduate and undergraduate programs that promote excellence in teaching, support research and creative activities, while providing service to the state of South Dakota, the region and the nation. Northern is recognized for its mission-driven expertise in E-learning and HyFlex Delivery and provides quality programs through various flexible methods and scheduling options designed to accommodate students' unique needs.



VISIT: SDSMT.EDU

Email: admissions@sdsmt.edu
Phone: 605.394.2414

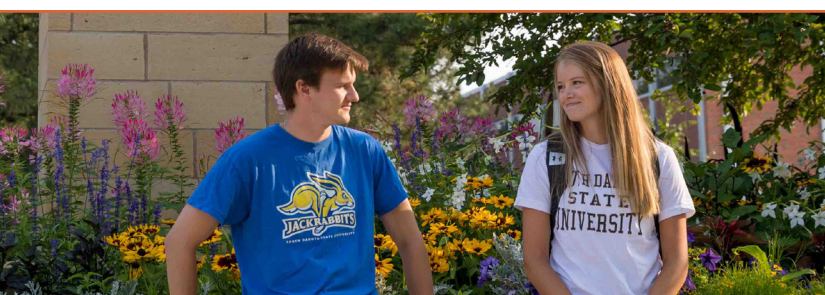
SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

Rapid City, SD
2,494 Students

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Mechanical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering

South Dakota Mines prepares students to be leaders in STEM. Through hands-on experiences, like design projects, co-ops and internships, students have the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. These invaluable experiences pave the way for career placement in a chosen field and offers a significant return on educational investment. Join students from all across the U.S. and from over 40 different countries.



VISIT: SDSTATE.EDU

Email: sdsu.admissions@sdstate.edu
Phone: 800.952.3541

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Brookings, SD
11,505 Students

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Nursing
Animal Sciences
Mechanical Engineering
Biology
Business Economics

South Dakota State University offers a rich academic experience in a welcoming environment through student-focused education, creative research and activities, innovation, and community engagement that enhances the quality of life in South Dakota, the region, the nation, and the world. Students come from almost every state and more than 70 countries, and can choose from 86 majors, 38 specializations and 102 minors.

**VISIT: USD.EDU**

Email: admissions@usd.edu
Phone: 877.269.6837

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Vermillion, SD
9,868 Students

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

Nursing
Teacher Education
Health Sciences
Business Administration
Sports and Human Performance

The University of South Dakota is all about promoting the excellent academic work of faculty, staff, and students. USD is proud to offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs designed to give students a world-class education and set them up for success in a variety of career paths. USD delivers innovative research and is also the only university in South Dakota offering professional degree programs in law, audiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, and medicine. Whether you're considering a future in business, political science, health care, education, or another career – or if you're still deciding your next steps – this Vermillion campus has a path forward for you!

VISIT: USD.EDU

Email: admissions@usd.edu
Phone: 605.274.9500

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA - SIOUX FALLS**HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS**

Nursing
Teacher Education
Accounting
Business Administration
General Studies

Located in Sioux Falls, the University of South Dakota – Sioux Falls offers a range of flexible and affordable programs, including associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, as well as certificates. With the quality and resources afforded by South Dakota's flagship university, USD's Sioux Falls campus prepares students for the next chapter of their educational or career journey — all with the convenience of learning in the state's largest city.

Stay on track!

**ACTIVATE YOUR
FAST TRACK
ADMISSION**



**EXPLORE
CAREER
INTERESTS**



**SCHEDULE
CAMPUS
VISITS**



**APPLY FOR
FINANCIAL AID
AND SCHOLARSHIPS**
(see the back page)

**REGISTER
AND
ENROLL!**



Ensure a smooooooth transition from high school to university - and remember, we're here to help!

THIRDSTEP

Understand your investment!

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

South Dakota students have a variety of options to help pay for college, from state-level scholarships to federal financial aid. *Scan the QR code* to find the right financial solution for you using the student-centered resources and financial aid



tools on our partner-site, *OurDakotaDreams.com*.

Top Priority! Fill out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** when it opens in October 2025. Anyone considering attending college should complete a FAFSA. The FAFSA is the key to unlocking need-based or federal financial aid. It's also required for some of South Dakota's best scholarships. Visit *StudentAid.gov* for more information.

Search the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board to find opportunities for dollars awarded to students based on achievement, financial need, and many other factors. Explore the Bulletin Board at *OurDakotaDreams.com*.

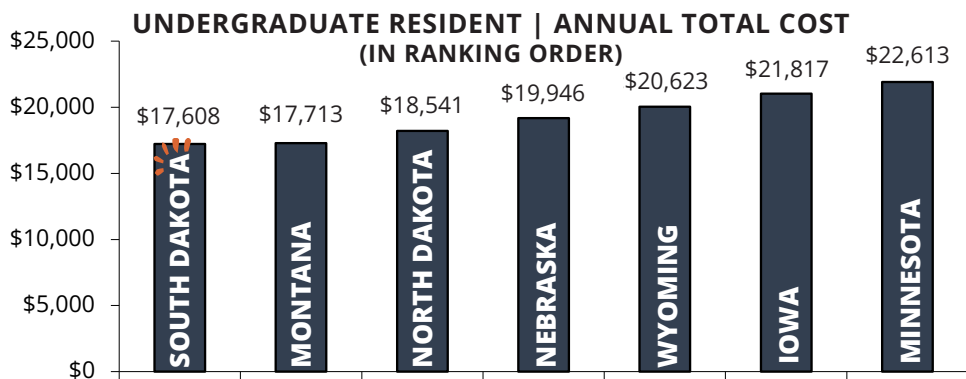
Loans, Grants, Work Study, and ROTC include just some of the additional resources that may be available to you. Work with a school counselor or mentor to explore all your options.

COST OF COLLEGE

Paying for college isn't just an investment in your future – it's an investment in yourself. When you consider all the things you'll purchase throughout your life, few have the ability to shape your future and open new doors like a college degree.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES OFFER A GREAT VALUE!

South Dakota is recognized as one of the most affordable states in the country to obtain a college degree, and is committed to providing accessible and affordable education to students.

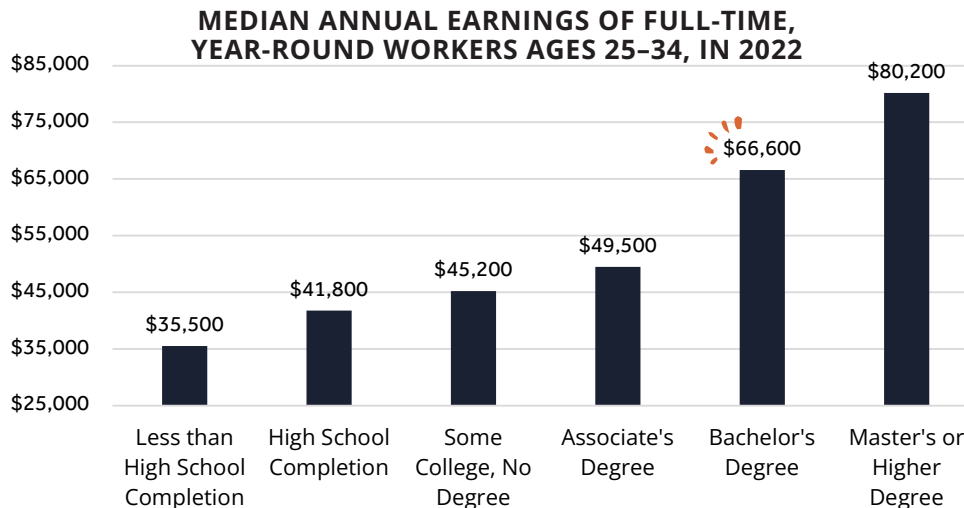


Total Cost includes tuition and required fees plus room and board for the 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Don't let the sticker price deter you from attending college!
REMEMBER TO EXPLORE FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS AND FACTOR THEM INTO YOUR FINAL DECISION.

THE IMPACT OF A DEGREE

When considering college, pencil out the return on investment of your desired career by considering the cost of your degree and your earning potential. In most cases, the amount you earn will far outweigh the amount you pay.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

FINAL STEP

Rock, Enroll!

CONFIRM YOUR ENROLLMENT

Once you activate your *Fast Track Admission*, your preferred universities will contact you to address needs, answer questions, discuss financial aid and scholarships, and verify your intention to enroll. Don't hesitate to reach out to the admissions office if you'd like to establish that contact sooner.

Once you choose to enroll in one of our universities, you will be assigned an advisor who will help you plan out one-, two-, and four-year goals to help keep you on track and ensure you are taking the correct coursework for your future plans.

class notes:

- Activating your admission is different from enrolling. Use your senior year to finalize your college decision and make sure your chosen university knows to expect you in Fall 2026.
- *Fast Track Admission* is general admission. If you have a specific academic program in mind, talk to an admission counselor about any possible additional requirements.
- Keep up the excellent work. You've gotten this far in your academic journey, so keep going strong!



SPRING - FALL 2025

- Activate your *Fast Track Admission*! Select the school(s) you are interested in on the Fast Track Activation Form. The information you provide will help you find the best fit for your future.
- Schedule campus visits to explore universities firsthand.
- Research and apply for scholarships, on the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board. Take note of priority deadlines for college-specific scholarships.
- Start the financial aid application process by creating your FSA ID on StudentAid.gov while you wait for the FAFSA to open on October 1.
- Consider taking high school dual credit courses to save time and money in college.

WINTER 2025-26

- Complete the 2025-26 FAFSA as soon as it is available!
- Keep researching and applying for scholarships using the Scholarship Bulletin Board on OurDakotaDreams.com.

SPRING 2026

- Commit to your university and request that your school sends final transcripts to the university you will attend.
- Finalize your university housing situation.
- Register to attend a new student orientation.
- Graduate and celebrate!



SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD of
REGENTS