

Minnesota Transfer Opportunities



This guide is designed to help Minnesota students understand their options for transferring from two-year to four-year colleges. It includes key information about the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, transfer pathways and tips for a successful transfer.

Cross-Listed Course Example

Introduction to Environmental Science

- May fulfill:**
- Goal Area 3:**
Natural Sciences (*lab science*)
- Goal Area 10:**
People and the Environment (*environmental sustainability*)

Community College Education Options

Minnesota’s community, technical and tribal colleges offer associate degrees, typically completed in two years. Some community colleges also offer bachelor’s degrees in specialized, high-demand fields. These institutions provide certificates, non-credit courses and workforce training programs—often developed in partnership with local industries. Program availability varies by campus.

articulation agreements for technical or professional credits (e.g., Associate of Applied Science or diplomas). Courses must fulfill all 10 goal areas. Grades A–D are accepted, though D grades may not transfer to all programs.

General Transfer Requirements

Most institutions require a minimum 2.0-2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA). Students with fewer than 24-26 credits may need to submit high school transcripts. Official transcripts from all previously attended colleges are required, along with any additional application and admissions materials.

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) is a 40-credit general education framework used by students completing an associate degree or planning to transfer from a two-year public college to a four-year public college or university. It is accepted by all Minnesota State colleges and universities, all University of Minnesota campuses and many private colleges. Tribal and non-public institutions may have specific

Transfer Pathways

Transfer Pathways are structured associate degrees aligned with specific majors. Completing a Transfer Pathway at a Minnesota State college guarantees admission to a related major at any of the seven Minnesota State universities and
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Goal Area	Subject	Focus	Minimum Credits
1	Communication	Writing, speaking, listening	3-9
2	Critical Thinking	Problem-solving, reasoning	3
3	Natural Sciences	Scientific inquiry, lab work	6 (1 lab)
4	Math/Logical Reasoning	Math, logic, statistics	3
5	History and Social Sciences	Human behavior, institutions	6-9 (2 disciplines)
6	Humanities and Fine Arts	Arts, literature, philosophy	6-9 (3 disciplines)
7	Human Diversity	U.S. cultural diversity	3
8	Global Perspective	International awareness	3
9	Ethical and Civic Responsibility	Citizenship, ethics	3
10	People and the Environment	Environmental issues	3

Many courses are cross-listed, meaning they fulfill multiple goal areas. This allows students to meet all 10 goal areas within the 40-credit minimum.

fulfills general education requirements. To explore participating colleges, visit www.minnstate.edu/admissions/transfer/transfer-pathways.html.

Credit Transfer Decisions

To ensure credits transfer, students should request that their Advanced Placement (AP) scores, International Baccalaureate (IB) scores and/or college transcripts be sent to the college they plan to attend. Once the college or university receives your transcript(s), they will conduct a transfer credit evaluation. This is an evaluation process used by the college or university to assess a student's previously earned college credits to determine course equivalency.

If you believe a course was incorrectly denied or misapplied, you have the right to appeal. Each institution provides a transfer credit appeal form, typically available through the registrar's or admissions office. Be sure to include supporting materials, such as the course syllabus, description, reading list or assignments. After submission, your appeal will be reviewed by a faculty committee or department chair, and you'll receive a written decision. If the appeal is denied at the institutional level, you may escalate it to the Minnesota State senior vice chancellor of academic and student affairs for further review.

Reverse Transfer

Students who transfer to a four-year college before completing their associate degree may still have the opportunity to earn that credential through a process called reverse transfer. This allows you to send credits earned at your new institution back to your original community or technical college, where they can be applied toward your associate degree. For example, if you completed 45 credits at a Minnesota community college and then transferred to a university, you might be able to transfer back 15 additional credits to meet the 60-credit requirement. Earning an associate degree along the way can be a meaningful milestone, enhance your résumé and provide recognition

of your academic progress. To explore this option, contact your original college's registrar or advising office to learn about their reverse transfer process and eligibility requirements.

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Transfer Students

Transfer students often overlook valuable financial aid opportunities available to them. Many colleges offer institutional scholarships specifically for transfer students. To remain eligible for federal and state aid, students must update their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the new college's school code.

If you're planning to transfer to another institution, it's important to be aware of lifetime eligibility limits for financial aid programs such as the Federal Pell Grant and the Minnesota State Grant. These programs provide essential financial support, but each has a maximum limit. Once you reach that limit, you are no longer eligible for additional funding—regardless of where you enroll. To avoid unexpected gaps in funding, be sure to review your current aid usage and plan accordingly.

For more information on financial aid options, visit the Minnesota Office of Higher Education at <https://ohe.mn.gov>. Update your FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov>. If you completed the Minnesota Dream Act application, you must update the school on your application by contacting the Minnesota Office of Higher Education at (651) 642-0567, option 2, or email the information to financialaid.ohe@state.mn.us.

Transfer Myths and Misconceptions

Many students hesitate to transfer because of misunderstandings about how the process works. Let's clear up some common myths.

"All my credits will transfer."

Not all credits transfer automatically. While general education courses from the MnTC

are widely accepted, major-specific, remedial or technical courses may not transfer or may count only as electives. Check with your target institution to see how your credits will apply.

"I can't transfer if I've failed a class."

A failed class doesn't prevent you from transferring. Most colleges look at your overall GPA and completed coursework. You may need to retake the course or meet specific GPA requirements, but one setback doesn't end your transfer journey. For example, a student with a 2.5 GPA and 30 completed credits may still be eligible to transfer even with one failed course.

"I'll have to start over at a new college."

You won't lose everything when you transfer. If you've completed the MnTC or a Transfer Pathway degree, you may enter your new college with junior status and have most educational requirements fulfilled. Even if you're changing majors, many credits can still count toward electives or prerequisites.

"Only students with perfect grades can transfer."

While a higher GPA can improve your chances, many colleges accept students with a 2.0-2.5 GPA. Admissions decisions often consider your academic progress, course rigor and personal goals. Don't let fear of imperfection hold you back.

"Transferring is too complicated."

It can feel overwhelming, but you're not alone. Minnesota colleges offer advising, degree audits, and transfer planning tools to help you succeed.

Transfer Tips

1. Work with your advisor to select courses that fulfill multiple goal areas and align with your major.
2. Know your target school's requirements and take prerequisites early.
3. Choose a Transfer Pathway degree to guarantee junior status.
4. Keep good records (syllabi, course descriptions, transcripts).
5. Use your institution's degree audit system to track progress.

Web Resources

Resource	Description	Web Address
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum	Goal area requirements	www.minnstate.edu/admissions/transfer/mntc.html
Minnesota Transfer Pathways	Transfer pathways for each Minnesota State college and university	www.minnstate.edu/admissions/transfer/transfer-pathways.html
MyHigherEd Transfer Hub	Statewide transfer planning and tips	www.myhighered.mn.gov/transfer-students/your-transfer-do-list
Transferology	Explore college transfer options (create a free account)	www.transferology.com/index.htm