

## **Guide to Determine Institution of Higher Education Status for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program**

This guide replaces Bulletin # 09-01-04, 2009-2011 EIPS to Determine Institution of Higher Education Status for the SNAP. County financial and tribal workers should use this guide when applicants or recipients report pursuing a post-secondary education to determine if the school is considered “an institute of higher education” by SNAP definition.

A higher education status review was done for schools that fall under the Minnesota State Colleges and University System (MNSCU) to determine how these schools have evolved since merging in 1995. Based on this review, and discussions with the System Director for Academic Programs for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Academic Affairs, it became apparent that over the years, every school under the MNSCU umbrella has evolved into an institution of higher education by the SNAP. This means, for each of the institutions some standard admission requirements apply universally – either a high school diploma or general education development (GED) test is required for all of the MNSCU schools. *There are two exceptions.* A student attending a higher-ed school that is taking developmental or remedial courses would qualify for SNAP, if all other eligibility criteria are met. Documentation for remedial courses is required if the applicant or recipient is applying for, or receiving SNAP. Some colleges and universities offer classes outside of their regular curriculum such as English as a Second Language (ESL). A student enrolled in these classes (that are not a part of a school’s regular curriculum) would not be considered enrolled in an institution of higher education. This applies even if the school and its regular curriculum are classified as an institution of higher education. If it is questionable whether classes are part of the school’s regular curriculum, contact the school to verify.

### **DEFINITION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SNAP PROGRAM**

Students are enrolled in an institution of higher education if:

- They are enrolled in the regular curriculum at a college or a university that offers degree Programs. A “college” includes a junior, community, two-year or four-year college.
- They attend a business, technical, trade or vocation school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalency certification for enrollment in the curriculum.

Determinations are made by the individual school, or for the technical colleges and consolidated technical and community colleges, by the Minnesota State Colleges and University (MNSCU) system using the SNAP program definition.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board Policies provide the following definitions:

*Admission:* refers to a student’s initial entrance into a Minnesota state college or university as a candidate for a certificate, diploma or degree.

*A college:* is a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) institution authorized to offer certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.

*A university:* is a MNSCU institution authorized to offer degrees at the associate level and above.

State College Admissions Requirements:

- A. High school diploma
- B. GED or
- C. Ability to benefit (based on an assessment test). A person who has neither a high school diploma nor a GED certificate may be admitted if, at the discretion of the college, that person demonstrates potential for being a successful college student.

State University Admission Requirements:

Achievement of a high school diploma and preparation standard in specific subject areas.

All courses that count towards completion of a program meet the definition of higher education as defined by MNSCU. Developmental/remedial courses and ESL courses do not count towards completion of a program.

**All of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are now considered institutions of higher education for determining SNAP eligibility.** If a student is attending an institution of higher education, financial workers **must review CM0011.18** to determine if the student meets other student criteria for SNAP eligibility. These schools will be listed with all the other Minnesota schools (in alphabetical order) and will be available on the SNAP Resource page on CountyLink. As new schools are added (on-line schools for example) the guide will be updated on CountyLink on a periodic basis.

The colleges listed below are ones that were previously not considered institutions of higher education (marked with a N) or were designated with an asterisk (\*) for special consideration. Minnesota Schools Bulletin #09-01-04 issued September 9, 2009 has been replaced by this guide.

If you encounter a school not listed in the Guide to Determine Institution of Higher Education Status for SNAP or have a question or concern regarding a school's status, please contact:

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**MNSCU Institutions whose higher education status has changed –  
2011/2012**

**Alexandria Technical College**

**Anoka Technical College**

**Central Lakes College**

**Century College**

**Dakota County Technical College**

**Hennepin Technical College**

**Hibbing Community College**

**Mesabi Range Community and Technical College**

**Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical**

**Minnesota State Community and Technical College**

**Minnesota West Community and Technical College**

**Northland Community and Technical College**

**Northwest Technical College**

**Pine Technical College**

**Ridgewater College**

**Riverland Community College**

**Rochester Community and Technical College**

**Saint Paul College**

**South Central College**

**St. Cloud Technical College**