NORTH DAKOTA · STATE AID REFERENCE

North Dakota State Aid Cheat Sheet (2027-28)

A two-page reference for counselors and families of the Class of 2027. Free to copy, print, and share.

North Dakota has two front doors. The **FAFSA** decides every need-based state grant, and NDUS pays them in college. The **DPI scholarship application**, open January to June of senior year, decides the merit scholarship. Two things on older handouts are now wrong: the Academic and CTE Scholarships ended with the Class of 2025 and were replaced by the North Dakota Scholarship, and a 2025 law added a Supplemental State Grant for families with total income of $80,000 or less. Verified against NDUS and NDDPI, October 2026.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays and who qualifies
North Dakota Scholarship (merit, through DPI)	$6,000 total: $750 per semester for up to 8 semesters, usable within 6 years of graduation at ND colleges, career schools, and apprenticeships. Requires all Essential Skills (3.0 unweighted GPA, ND Civics Test, Four-Year Rolling Plan, middle-school career course, 4 of 8 indicators) plus 2 of 3 pathways. No cap on winners. Apply January 4 to June 4, 2027.
ND State Grant (need-based)	Up to $1,375 per semester ($917 per quarter), prorated for part time, up to 8 full-time semesters. ND residents seeking a first undergraduate degree at a ND college. Ranked by unmet need from the FAFSA and awarded until funds run out. New FAFSA every year.
Supplemental State Grant (need-based, new 2025-26)	Fills the gap so Pell plus the State Grant plus this grant equals tuition, capped at the highest NDUS tuition rate. State Grant recipients only, total family income $80,000 or less, fall and spring only. Funded at $7 million for 2025-27 against a $12.1 million NDUS cost estimate.
ND Scholars Program (top merit)	Full tuition (15-credit rate) for up to 8 semesters. Students with a 30+ ACT or SAT equivalent, taken July 1 to June 30 of junior year, ranked until funds run out. No application; notified senior year. Renewal needs a 3.5 college GPA. Start college out of state and it cannot be reinstated.
Native American Scholarship	Up to $2,000 per year. ND residents enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, 2.0 GPA minimum (merit at 3.50+, need-based from 2.0 to 3.499 with a FAFSA). New application every year by July 15 through ND SAMS.
Dual-Credit Tuition Scholarship	$250, $500, or $750 one time for 1, 2, or 3+ dual credit courses from a ND college. Apply through NDUS after finishing the first college term.
Also worth knowing	ND Career Builders: up to $17,000 with an employer match and a 3-year ND work requirement, or it is repaid. ND-MN reciprocity: ND residents pay the Minnesota resident rate at Minnesota publics with a separate NDUS application. PSEP: vet, optometry, dentistry seats; apply by October 15 the year before entry.

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Deadline	What	Where
As soon as possible	2027-28 FAFSA for the State Grant and Supplemental State Grant (no published date; money runs out)	studentaid.gov
Jan 4 to Jun 4, 2027	North Dakota Scholarship application (first Monday in January to first Friday in June)	apps.nd.gov/DPI/scholarship
Before graduation	All ACT, SAT, WorkKeys, and ASVAB testing; send superscore, SAT, WorkKeys, and ASVAB reports to DPI (ACT code 2927)	DPI
June 30	School files the Choice Ready report; unmarked indicators do not count	High school
Jul 1 to Jun 30, junior year	ND Scholars testing window (Class of 2028: through June 30, 2027)	ACT or SAT
July 15, every year	Native American Scholarship priority date	ND SAMS (ndus.edu)
Before term ends	ND-MN reciprocity application	ND SAMS (ndus.edu)

January 4 and June 4 are calculated from DPI's published rule; DPI has not yet posted the 2027 dates. College dates for the Class of 2027: NDSU scholarship application and FAFSA priority February 1, NDSU Land Grant Access Award March 15 (application plus an error-free FAFSA), UND automatic scholarship priority February 1 (confirm the 2027 date).

The Rules That Trip Families Up

- **A 24 ACT and a 3.0 no longer qualify on their own.** The North Dakota Scholarship needs every Essential Skill plus two of three pathways. A 30 ACT can miss it; a student with no ACT can earn it.
- **Superscores count only on paper DPI receives.** A 24 superscore works if every test was before graduation and DPI gets the official ACT report. It never shows on the eTranscript by itself.
- **The GPA is unweighted.** DPI recalculates on a 4.0 scale no matter how the school weights AP or dual credit.
- **The ND Scholars clock runs in junior year.** Only ACT or SAT scores from July 1 to June 30 of junior year are ranked. A 30 earned in senior fall does not count for this award.
- **Total aid cannot pass the cost of attendance.** If it would, NDUS rules require state aid to be reduced or canceled for that term, so a late outside scholarship can shrink state aid. Report outside awards early.

North Dakota Scholarship: Check These Things Early

1. Essential Skills: all required. ND diploma; 3.0 overall unweighted GPA; ND Civics Test at 70% or higher; Four-Year Rolling Plan; nine-week career course or individual counseling in grade 7 or 8; and 4 of 8: 25 hours of community service, 95% attendance, career exploration experience, 2+ years co-curricular, 2+ years extracurricular, capstone project, online course, 21st Century Skills.
2. Two of three pathways. Any two qualify, which means a student can earn the scholarship through Workforce Ready and Military Ready with no ACT at all.

Pathway	Test	Plus
Post-Secondary Ready	ACT 24 or SAT 1180	2 of: C+ in an AP course, dual credit English or math, or Algebra II; C+ in 3 fine arts courses; AP exam 3+; IB exam 4+; 3.0 unweighted GPA in NDUS core courses
Workforce Ready	ACT 24, SAT 1180, or WorkKeys 5 on all three	4 CTE credits (2 in one plan of study), or 3 credits of one language, or the teaching pathway; then 2 of: Career Ready Practices course, any dual credit course, industry credential, 40-hour workplace learning, 40-hour Perkins work-based learning, Level 3 on the state reading and math test
Military Ready	ASVAB 50 (31 with basic training within 90 days of graduation)	C+ in PE, plus one of: 2 indicators from another pathway, 2 JROTC credits, Civil Air Patrol Phase 1, 2 credits of military coursework

New for the Class of 2027: an NDA+ score equivalent to a 24 ACT will count (HB 1404), but DPI has not published that score. Do not plan around it until DPI does: 701-328-2244.

The 39-credit checkpoint: $750 per payment. Payments 1 and 2 need only full-time enrollment; after that NDUS counts earned credits.

Payment	3	4	5	6	7	8
Earned credits required	24	39	54	69	84	99
12 credits every semester	24 paid	**36 not paid**	48 not paid	60 not paid	72 not paid	84 not paid
15 credits every semester	30 paid	45 paid	60 paid	75 paid	90 paid	105 paid

Also required: full-time enrollment and a 2.75 cumulative college GPA. The first drop below 2.75 gets a one-time exception; the second ends eligibility. Whether dual credit or summer credits count toward the totals is unconfirmed; ask NDUS at 701-328-4156.

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	What has to happen
Grades 9 to 11	Track indicators on the eTranscript progress page; service hours and two-year activity records build slowly. Juniors near a 30 ACT: test before June 30 for ND Scholars.
Senior fall	File the 2027-28 FAFSA now, with the high school listed. Send any 24+ ACT superscore report to DPI (code 2927). Find unmarked indicators and plan the spring around them.
December to January	Review the progress page together. Application opens January 4: personal email plus a parent email, print before submitting, confirmation email right away (else call 701-328-2244).
February to March	NDSU scholarship application and FAFSA priority February 1; UND priority February 1; NDSU Land Grant Access Award March 15.
April to June	Last ACT, SAT, WorkKeys, or ASVAB before graduation. Apply by June 4. Confirm every indicator is marked before the June 30 Choice Ready report.
Summer and in college	Native American Scholarship by July 15. Plan 15-credit semesters. Call NDUS at 701-328-4156 before any transfer or deferral.

Three Mistakes That Cost North Dakota Students Money

- **Treating 12 credits as safe.** Full time keeps the first two payments. Payment 4 needs 39 earned credits, and a steady 12-credit schedule only reaches 36.
- **Waiting because no FAFSA date is printed.** The State Grant ends when funds run out, and the Supplemental State Grant only goes to State Grant recipients.
- **Testing after graduation.** A June test after the ceremony does not count, even while the application is still open.

The June 30 report
Most North Dakota Scholarship indicators never appear on the student's application. DPI pulls them from the Choice Ready report each public high school files by June 30, and an indicator that is not marked there does not count. No exceptions. Nonpublic schools file a verification form; home-educated families submit notarized forms. Every spring, ask the counselor to walk the family through the eTranscript progress page.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

North Dakota Scholarship requirements and application	nd.gov/dpi (search: North Dakota Scholarship)
State Grant, Supplemental, ND Scholars, Native American	ndus.edu/paying-for-college
The FAFSA and FSA IDs	studentaid.gov
Our full North Dakota guide	collegereadyparent.org/north-dakota
Scholarships at 400+ colleges, all 50 states	collegereadyparent.org/college-scholarships

Produced by CollegeReadyParent.org, an independent, parent-built resource. No paywall, no accounts, no lead forms, no student data collection. Counselors and educators: you may freely copy, print, and distribute this sheet. Questions or corrections: leo@collegereadyparent.org. Verified against NDUS and NDDPI in October 2026. Funding for 2027-28 is set by the Legislature in its 2027 session, so confirm amounts at ndus.edu. College figures come from the CRP scholarship database. This sheet is general information, not financial advice.