



# Midwest Student Exchange Program

An easy way to save money on out-of-state tuition costs

A program of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact

## The Benefits of the Midwest Student Exchange Program

# About the MSEP

## What is the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)?

Since 1994, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) has been expanding access and providing more affordable educational opportunities for students to attend out-of-state institutions at reduced costs. The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) offers reduced tuition rates to students in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin and serves as the Midwest's largest multi-state tuition reciprocity program. Students can enroll at one of nearly 100 campuses from the participating states at the MSEP-reduced tuition rates.

## Why was MSEP created?

MSEP was created to provide increased educational opportunities for students in the Midwest while promoting access and affordability in higher education, which is a key priority for MHEC.

**"This is an excellent program for helping students save money, if they want to attend college out of state, and helping states and campuses to fully utilize their program capacity by attracting students from other states."**

Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Academic Affairs - Indiana Commission for Higher Education and a MHEC commissioner

## How does MSEP work?

Public institutions enrolling students under MSEP agree to charge no more than 150% of the in-state resident tuition rate, while private institutions offer at least a 10% reduction on their tuition rates. Actual savings through the program will vary from institution to institution. Overall, MSEP cumulatively saves students approximately \$17.9 million per year.

MSEP status is retained as long as students are enrolled in the program to which they were originally admitted and they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree. Extension of the MSEP tuition privilege to students already enrolled is at the discretion of the institution.

As a member of MHEC, there is no cost to a state to participate in MSEP.



## How do students enroll under MSEP?

To apply for admission as an MSEP student, students are asked to get in touch with the campus MSEP contact (which is typically the office of admissions) at the participating MSEP institution. Students should mark prominently on the institution's application form that they are seeking admission as MSEP students. Special restrictions on enrollment may apply. Residents of states participating in MSEP may enroll in programs in other participating states only at the level at which their home state admits students. All of the enrollment and eligibility decisions for the program are made by the institution.

## How does a state/institution participate in MSEP?

In order for a college or university to participate in MSEP, the state higher education executive office (SHEEO) must endorse the program by signing MHEC's State Participation Agreement and appointing a representative to the MSEP Council. The state-level representative will be responsible for collecting data on campus enrollment as well as updating program information for the state's participating campuses. Once the SHEEO has endorsed MSEP, any institution in that state can voluntarily join MSEP by completing MHEC's Institutional Participation Declaration. Institutions participating in MSEP have the ability to tailor the program to their individual campus needs. For example, an institution may select only those degree programs where they want to increase enrollment, and they may want to limit enrollment in the programs that are already popular among students. The admission requirements as well as the available programs of study are set by each campus.

The following qualifiers can be added to state and/or campus enrollment requirements:

- Available degree programs of study
- Overall limit of MSEP students a campus will admit
- A limit on the number of MSEP students a campus will admit in a particular degree program of study
- Minimum high school GPA score
- Minimum ACT and/or SAT score
- Limit to full-time students only
- Limit to degree levels, e.g., only undergraduate programs
- Classifying MSEP as a form of financial aid or a form of reduced tuition
- Setting a special admission deadline for MSEP students
- MSEP status renewal requirements

Each state and/or campus is strongly encouraged to list in detail its enrollment requirements on the MSEP website. A state and/or campus must place the same limits and requirements on all prospective MSEP students. A state can only qualify admission requirements and place limits on participating institutions that are within its own borders.



## How is MSEP marketed to prospective students?

The MHEC office serves as the first stop for students interested in MSEP. MHEC responds to daily inquiries from students and parents and keeps the MSEP website up to date. Students primarily learn about the program through the Internet and scholarship searches such as the College Board and Peterson's Guide.

In addition, MHEC staff and the MSEP state-level representatives collect data and update MSEP website information. The website is a searchable database that lists all the participating institutions and their requirements and campus contacts. In the spring, state-level representatives work with the participating institutions to update the website listings. The MHEC office distributes program information to the state offices that in turn are responsible for distributing information to high school guidance counselors and the MSEP campus contacts. A printed "rack card" is available annually. However, many states now send information electronically, enabling high schools to easily post information on their websites for students and families.

Participating campuses are strongly encouraged to post their MSEP requirements and campus contact information on their own websites as well.

**"Students have been asking for this for some time, and I'm pleased that we can offer additional postsecondary access choices for students and their families."**

Suzanne Morris, vice chair of the Illinois Community College Board and a MHEC commissioner

## How can our state/institution benefit from MSEP?

There are significant benefits for states joining the program, including:

- Students and their families save significant money.
- Individual campuses within a state can use the program as an enrollment management tool.
- Campuses can focus program offerings.
- States or regions can focus programs on workforce development efforts.
- States can deploy a broad enrollment strategy for students from MSEP states rather than making decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- Institutions participating in the program receive increased marketing exposure through the MSEP website.
- Educational opportunities are expanded for residents.

Participation in MSEP begins with the state's higher education executive office (SHEEO). The state's SHEEO must endorse the program by signing the participation agreement, which in turn allows any institution in that state to voluntarily join MSEP. Once endorsed, at least one institution in the state must agree to participate before students can utilize the program. Institutional participation in MSEP is purely voluntary. An institution may decide to join MSEP at any time and can decide to discontinue participation at any time as well. If an institution discontinues participation, current MSEP students on the campus must be "grandfathered" in and allowed to complete their degrees under the MSEP discount.

Through MSEP, MHEC continues to expand access to affordable postsecondary opportunities for Midwest students.

# About MHEC

## What is MHEC?

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) is one of four regional higher education compacts in the United States. Since its formation in 1991, MHEC (*pronounced mek*) has been committed to cost savings programs, student access, and policy research and analysis. MHEC's programs and services are directed by representatives from participating institutions through volunteer advisory committees. The compact consists of twelve member states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Statutorily created, the compact is governed by leaders from higher education, the legislature, and the governor's office. MHEC is headquartered in Minneapolis.

## Midwest Student Exchange Program Council

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# Participating MSEP Institutions

## Illinois

Greenville College  
Lewis and Clark Community College

## Indiana

Ball State University  
Indiana State University  
Ivy Tech Community College  
Purdue University North Central

## Kansas

Emporia State University  
Fort Hays State University  
Kansas State University  
Pittsburg State University  
University of Kansas  
Wichita State University

## Michigan

Ferris State University  
Lake Superior State University  
Rochester College

## Minnesota

Anoka Technical College  
Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College  
Lake Superior College  
Metropolitan State University  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Pine Technical College  
St. Cloud State University

## Missouri

Central Methodist University  
Columbia College  
Crowder College  
Culver-Stockton College  
East Central College  
Fontbonne University  
Harris-Stowe State University  
Jefferson College  
Lincoln University  
Lindenwood University  
Linn State Technical College  
Maryville University of Saint Louis  
Metropolitan Community College - Blue River  
Metropolitan Community College - Business and Technology  
Metropolitan Community College - Longview  
Metropolitan Community College - Maple Woods  
Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley  
Mineral Area College  
Missouri Southern State University  
Missouri State University  
Missouri State University - West Plains  
Missouri Valley College  
Missouri Western State University

North Central Missouri College  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Ozarks Technical Community College  
Saint Louis University  
Southeast Missouri State University  
St. Charles Community College  
State Fair Community College  
Stephens College  
Truman State University  
University of Central Missouri  
University of Missouri - Columbia  
University of Missouri - Kansas City  
University of Missouri - St. Louis  
Webster University  
Westminster College  
William Jewell College  
William Woods University

## Nebraska

Central Community College - Grand Island,  
Hastings, and Columbus  
Chadron State College  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
University of Nebraska at Kearney  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Wayne State College

## North Dakota

Bismarck State College  
Dickinson State University  
Mayville State University  
North Dakota State College of Science  
North Dakota State University  
University of North Dakota  
Valley City State University

## Wisconsin

Blackhawk Technical College  
Fox Valley Technical College  
Lakeshore Technical College  
Mid-State Technical College  
Southwest Wisconsin Technical College  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay  
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse  
University of Wisconsin - Marinette  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh  
University of Wisconsin - Parkside  
University of Wisconsin - Platteville  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point  
University of Wisconsin - Stout  
University of Wisconsin - Superior  
Western Technical College  
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College