

Minnesota State Profile

March 1, 2019

State profiles for the data visualization and 50-State Comparison on postsecondary governance structures summarize information about coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards, administrative/service agencies, advisory groups and membership organizations. The most in-depth information is provided for statewide and major postsecondary systemwide coordinating boards/agencies and governing boards.

Note: This resource does not include information related to setting tuition rates, administering funding formulas or allocating funds. The state profile information is based primarily on statutes, codes and state and postsecondary system board/agency policies. To the extent possible, Education Commission of the States reached out to state and system officials to verify our information.

State Overview

Minnesota does not have a single statewide or systemwide coordinating or governing board for public postsecondary education. Minnesota’s Office of Higher Education is an administrative and service agency that oversees academic programs, provides data and information services, and administers student financial aid programs. The governor appoints the office’s executive director with the Senate’s advice and consent. The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities governs a system of state colleges and universities and appoints the chancellor. The University of Minnesota Board of Regents governs the system’s campuses and appoints the president. Both system offices implement board policies, administer programs and provide services to the campuses, which do not have local governing boards.

Data Point	Description
Single Statewide Coordinating or Governing Board/Agency	
Single Statewide Coordinating Board (or Agency) or Governing Board for All Public Higher Education	No
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	University of Minnesota Board of Regents
Entity Function	Governing



Data Point	Description
Scope of Authority	Systemwide
Legal Authority	Constitutional
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Type of Institutions Notes	The University of Minnesota also includes several research and outreach centers.
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve presidential hiring and/or compensation - Approve institutional missions - Approve of or award degrees and credentials - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop master/strategic plans for state or system - Develop and/or oversee accountability or performance measures - Govern systems and/or institutions - Monitor or evaluate system/institutional effectiveness - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review or approve facility/capital construction plans - Set faculty and personnel policies
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	12



Data Point	Description
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	12
Board Member Composition and Selection	12 members elected by the legislature with 1 board member from each of the eight Congressional districts and 4 from the state at large, 1 of which must be a student.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	No
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Public four-year
Website	https://regents.umn.edu/
Citations	Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIII, Section 3 University of Minnesota Board of Regents Policies
Statewide and Major Systemwide Coordinating Boards (or Agency) or Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Entity Function	Governing
Scope of Authority	Systemwide
Legal Authority	Statutory



Data Point	Description
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve or administer bonds - Approve presidential hiring and/or compensation - Approve institutional missions - Approve of or award degrees and credentials - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Govern systems and/or institutions - Recommend or approve establishing, merging or closing institutions - Review or approve facility/capital construction plans - Set faculty and personnel policies
Budget Role for Institutions	Approve and recommend
New Academic Program Role	Review and approve
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governing board
Number of Board Members (Voting and Non-voting)	15
Number of Board Members Appointed, Serve Based on Role or Selected	15
Number of Board Members Elected through General Election	0



Data Point	Description
Board Member Composition and Selection	15 members appointed by governor with advice and consent of Senate, including 3 students and 1 representing labor; at least 1 member must be resident of each Congressional district; other members represent state at large. Governor must consider balance of membership with respect to labor and business representation and racial, gender, geographic and ethnic composition.
Do Institutions Governed (or Coordinated) by a Postsecondary System Board have Individual Governing Boards?	No
Type of Institutions with Individual Governing Boards	Not applicable
Type of Institutions without Individual Governing Boards	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	http://www.minnstate.edu/board/index.html
Citations	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 136F.02 Board of Trustees Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Policies and System Procedures
Agencies and System Offices Affiliated with Coordinating and Governing Boards	
Entity Name	Minnesota State Colleges and University System Office
Entity Function	Administrative/service
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year and public two-year
Website	http://www.minnstate.edu/system/divisions.html
Administrative and Advisory Entities	



Data Point	Description
Entity Name	Minnesota Office of Higher Education
Entity Function	Administrative/service
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year, public two-year and other (e.g., Independent/non-profit, proprietary, online or specialty)
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer federal programs - Administer student financial aid and/or loans - Advise or provide recommendations to state policy and education leaders - Approve or oversee interstate compacts and reciprocity agreements (e.g., SARA, tuition agreements) - Conduct policy research and analysis - Develop and/or administer academic policies or programs (e.g., admissions, transfer) - Develop and/or oversee accountability measures - License or approve/authorize specified institutions - Provide information and data services for state/systems/institutions
Appointing/Hiring Authority of Higher Education Executive Officer	Governor with approval of Senate or legislature
Website	https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/
Citations	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 136A.01
Other Postsecondary System and Multi-Campus Institutional Boards	
Entity Name	University of Minnesota Board of Regents (Other)
Entity Function	Governing



Data Point	Description
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Public four-year
Website	https://regents.umn.edu/
Membership Organizations	
Entity Name	Minnesota Private College Council
Entity Function	Membership
Type of Institutions Coordinated, Governed, Represented or Served by Entity	Independent/non-profit
Website	http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/