

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

\$4.3M

TOTAL SAVED
by North Dakota students through WICHE's Student Access Programs.

\$2.6M
SAVED
through WUE

\$547K
SAVED
through WRGP

\$1.2M
SAVED
through PSEP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



WUE
Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top North Dakota WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **University of North Dakota (519)**
- ▶ **Dickinson State University (483)**
- ▶ **North Dakota State University (341)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for North Dakota undergraduate students:

- ▶ **South Dakota State University (92)**
- ▶ **Black Hills State University, SD (60)**
- ▶ **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (58)**

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



WRGP
Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top North Dakota WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **North Dakota State University (79)**
- ▶ **Minot State University (37)**
- ▶ **University of North Dakota (8)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for North Dakota graduate students:

- ▶ **University of South Dakota (15)**
- ▶ **Dakota State University, SD (7)**
- ▶ **South Dakota State University (5)**

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



PSEP
Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

43 North Dakota students paid reduced tuition for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

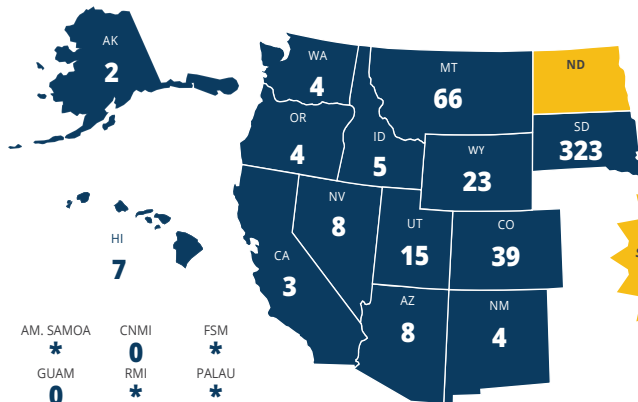
43% of North Dakota's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-21). Students are not contractually required to return.

North Dakota's institutions and their local economies benefit, too. This year, 15 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in North Dakota. Institutions received \$345,459 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

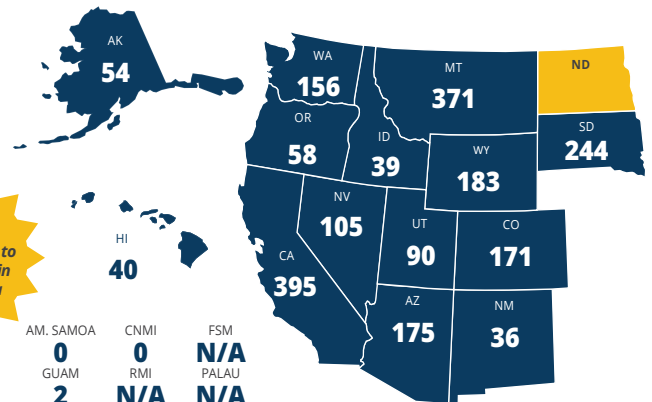
321% ROI Gained on North Dakota's WICHE annual dues (\$174,500/FY 2026)

WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM N. DAKOTA: **511**



WUE STUDENTS TO N. DAKOTA: **2,119**



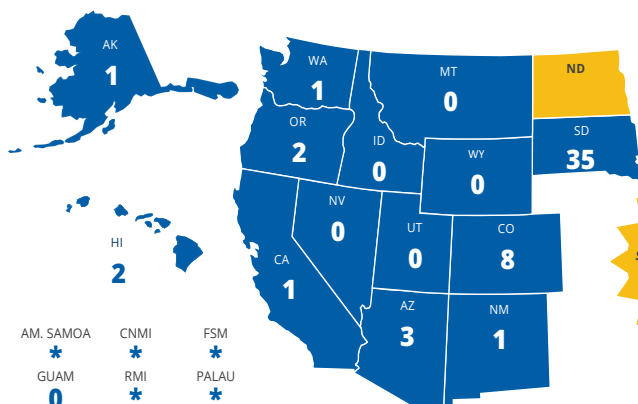
2,119 WUE students chose to attend school in North Dakota

* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

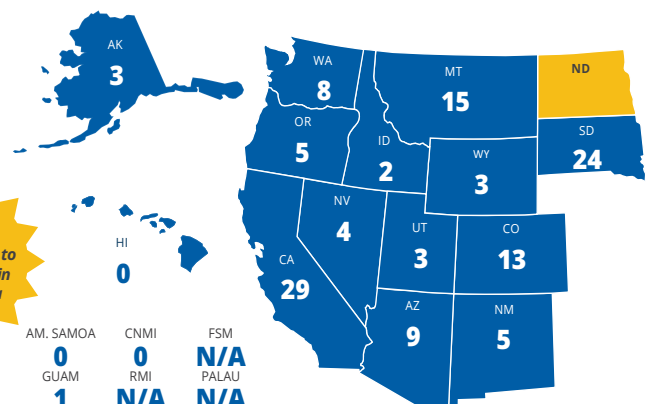
Note: Students from North Dakota are eligible for the South Dakota Advantage Program and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM N. DAKOTA: **54**



WRGP STUDENTS TO N. DAKOTA: **124**



124 WRGP students chose to attend school in North Dakota

* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

PSEP

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Dentistry	14	\$457,600
Optometry	23	\$472,450
Veterinary Medicine	6	\$221,700
TOTAL	43	\$1,151,750

PSEP students from North Dakota saved \$1,151,750 in tuition

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



"PSEP has been an incredible source of support in my journey to becoming an optometrist. It has made pursuing my professional goals financially feasible and allowed me to focus on my studies and clinical training. I am truly grateful for the opportunities this program has provided."

BRENDAN, North Dakota resident, Optometry, Pacific University (Oregon)

STRENGTHENING NORTH DAKOTA AND THE WEST

WICHE brings together senior leaders and partners to foster dialogue about issues facing institutions and states through its leadership and professional development networks.

WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Williston State College
- ▶ Bismarck State College

Kaylyn Bondy, Bismarck State College, serves on the Alliance executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Minot State University
- ▶ North Dakota University System
- ▶ University of North Dakota
- ▶ Valley City State University

Eric Link, University of North Dakota, serves on the Forum executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Ten cohort members from North Dakota institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015. Kaylyn Bondy, Bismarck State College, serves as a guest faculty member for the Academy.

WICHE convenes the **OERWEST NETWORK** as part of a national effort to expand free course materials and other open educational resources (OER) that reduce textbook costs and support student success. WICHE is also conducting a regional landscape analysis examining how textbook price transparency and affordability policies are being implemented across the West.

WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP), along with the leadership of Sanford Health, provides a broad training program to support the preparation and retention of doctoral level psychologists in North Dakota and Minnesota. WICHE's BHP ensures the **SANFORD PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP CONSORTIUM** meets the accreditation requirements of the American Psychological Association, provides technical assistance, and supports the internship program administratively. Sanford has a large national footprint, and it is a leading agency in the advancement of integrated health services (physical and behavioral health).

MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (MP ROTAC) develops and

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are state legislators appointed by the WICHE Commissioners in the region to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

- ▶ **Senator Kyle Davison** (*Commissioner*)
- ▶ **Representative Bob Martinson**
- ▶ **Representative Mark Sanford**
- ▶ **Senator Ronald Sorvaag**

shares resources, training, and technical assistance focused on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas in Region 8. This is funded through a multiyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP) is a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. In North Dakota, the RCORP program supports one grantee.

WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members include:

- ▶ Bismarck State College
- ▶ Dickinson State University
- ▶ Lake Region State College
- ▶ Mayville State University
- ▶ North Dakota University System
- ▶ University of North Dakota
- ▶ United Tribes Technical College
- ▶ Valley City State University
- ▶ Williston State College

STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) guides institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. North Dakota has 15 members

North Dakota Commissioners



Danita Bye
Board Member,
North Dakota State
Board of Higher
Education



Kyle Davison
Senator, North
Dakota Legislature



Brent Sanford
Commissioner,
North Dakota
University System

Data and Policy Resources for North Dakota

Policymakers and campus leaders in North Dakota can explore WICHE's data and policy resources to better understand what's happening at home and across the West. These resources provide reliable state-level and regional insights to help make informed, strategic decisions that strengthen postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

- ▶ **Knocking at the College Door** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Visit wiche.edu/knocking to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.
- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.
- ▶ With support from the ECMC Foundation, WICHE equips state leaders with analysis and resources on **Completion Strategies in the West** to increase credential completion and improve student success across states.

Our data experts provide research, analysis, and peer collaboration opportunities on key higher education issues, including workforce development, state finance, transfer, student success strategies, and more, to help decision-makers develop evidence-based, effective policy solutions.

Cost-savings Partnerships

WICHE offers pre-negotiated student health and technology contracts to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, state and local governments, and education-related nonprofits through a cost-savings program with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Last year, participating entities saved an average of 9% compared with other purchasing options.

\$158k NORTH DAKOTA ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS



About WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional interstate higher education compact of 15 Western states and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. Since 1953, WICHE has focused on its mission of expanding educational access and excellence for all residents of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. Visit wiche.edu.