

Estimating Your Cost of Attendance at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health

This guide helps prospective and admitted students estimate their cost of attendance at the UMN School of Public Health (SPH) and compare it with other programs. Because universities present costs differently, this resource outlines what to consider and where to find information.

Key Components of Cost of Attendance

- **Tuition and residency status:** Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) programs charge tuition per credit. Master of Science (MS) and PhD programs use a tuition band, which covers a range of credits. Rates differ for Minnesota residents and non-residents and are updated annually.
- **Student fees:** Students pay several mandatory fees each semester, including a student services fee, an SPH collegiate fee, a transportation fee and other fees. International students pay additional fees.
- **Health insurance:** Most degree-seeking students enrolled in 6 or more credits are automatically enrolled in the UMN Student Health Benefit Plan. Students with graduate assistantships are eligible for the Graduate Assistant Health Plan.
- **Living expenses & housing:** Housing, food, transportation and personal expenses vary by neighborhood and lifestyle. Minneapolis generally has a lower cost of living than the U.S. average and is considered more affordable than many larger U.S. cities. Housing options range and prices vary by area. UMN provides unlimited access to local public transit via the Universal Transit Pass, which can reduce transportation costs.
- **Moving expenses:** If you're relocating, be sure to budget for deposits, furnishings and initial travel expenses.
- **Scholarships and assistantships:** Funding opportunities can offset tuition and living costs. SPH offers scholarships during the admission process and to current students; graduate assistantships provide tuition benefits and wages.

Understanding Costs at UMN SPH

Tuition and Program Structure

- **MPH & MHA programs** – Tuition is charged per credit, and rates vary by residency status. They are set each summer for the upcoming academic year. Your admission deposit is applied to your first semester's tuition.
- **MS & PhD program** – Tuition is charged by band, which is a flat rate that covers a range of credits. Credits outside that range are billed per credit. Rates differ for Minnesota residents and non-residents.
- **Certificates** – Certificate programs typically charge a per-credit rate.

University & SPH Fees

- **Student services fee** – Supports student organizations, recreational facilities, counseling and legal services.
- **SPH collegiate fee** – Funds school-specific services and resources.
- **Transportation fee** – Provides unlimited bus and light-rail access via the Universal Transit Pass mentioned above.

- **Other fees** – Support campus facilities and infrastructure. Some fees apply only to students taking a minimum number of credits, others differ for professional or international students.

Health Insurance

The Student Health Benefit Plan mentioned above offers comprehensive coverage designed for students. It's automatically billed to most students registered for 6 or more credits, unless they waive the plan with proof of other coverage.

Living Expenses & Housing

Housing costs in the Twin Cities vary by neighborhood and housing type. Compared to many large U.S. cities, Minneapolis generally offers a more affordable cost of living. Prices may differ by proximity to campus and amenities. Beyond rent, be sure to budget for utilities, groceries, internet, and personal spending. Transportation costs can be minimized with the Universal Transit Pass and the city's extensive bike paths.

How to Estimate Your Cost of Attendance

1. **Choose your timeframe** – Decide whether you want to estimate costs per semester, per academic year or for the entire program.
2. **Calculate each component** – Use current data from One Stop and your housing research to estimate tuition, required fees, health insurance and expected living expenses. Remember to consider your residency status and program's credit requirements.
3. **Add them up** – Sum your costs for one term and multiply by the number of terms in your program. To compare schools, make sure each estimate includes the same components (tuition, fees, insurance, housing, etc.) so you are comparing apples to apples.

Example: A resident MPH student taking a full course load might calculate tuition by multiplying the number of credits per semester by the per-credit rate. They would then add the semester fees and health insurance premium (if needed) and estimate housing based on their chosen neighborhood. Multiplying this total by the number of semesters gives an approximate program cost, which can then be reduced by scholarships or assistantships.

Important Considerations

- Costs vary by program, residency, credit load, insurance choice and lifestyle.
- Tuition and fees are reassessed each year; always confirm the latest figures on One Stop.
- Securing scholarships, fellowships, graduate assistantships or part-time work can substantially reduce your overall cost.
- When comparing schools, ensure you include all comparable expenses (e.g., some institutions do not list health insurance or fees in their advertised "cost of attendance").



Financial Aid FAQ

What types of funding are available?	How do I apply for scholarships?	When will I be notified about scholarships?	How can I obtain a graduate assistantship?	What financial support is available for international students?
SPH offers scholarships, fellowships, on-campus employment and graduate assistantships. Students are also eligible to apply for federal financial aid and private loans.	All MPH applicants are automatically considered for school-wide scholarships during the admissions process. No separate application is required. Applicants to other degree programs should consult with their program contact.	First-round scholarship notices are typically sent in mid February, with additional awards offered on a rolling basis.	Graduate assistantships provide tuition benefits and a stipend in exchange for research, teaching or administrative work. Positions are competitive. Current students can search for openings through university job boards and should network with faculty to learn about opportunities.	International students are eligible for many SPH scholarships. They may also qualify for private educational loans.

Resources

- [SPH Scholarship Information](#)
- [SPH Jobs & UMN Jobs](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [One Stop Student Services](#)
- [Graduate School Fellowship Office](#)
- [Student Parent Help Center](#)
- [Office of Student Health Benefits](#)
 - [Student Health Benefit Plan](#)
 - [Graduate Assistant Health Plan](#)
- [Parking and Transportation Services](#)
 - [UMN Universal Transit Pass](#)
- [Off Campus Living](#)
- [Housing & Residential Life](#)
- SPHere Student Newsletter **Once enrolled, students are automatically added to the recipient list.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

SPH Scholarship Team
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