



FLAGSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

College opportunity for all



COLLEGE
POSSIBLE™
MINNESOTA



The growing college degree divide

A student's future should be determined solely by their aspirations, motivation and effort, not by their family's income

Yet nationwide, there's a widening gap between the aspirations of students from underrepresented communities who want to earn a college degree and the systemic, unfair barriers they face in achieving it.

While there is no single cause, contributors to this "degree divide" include inequitable academic prep, fragmented resources, complex college systems and resource-constrained staff. Early evidence indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has widened these barriers, putting the diversity of our future workforce and equitable economic mobility at continued risk.

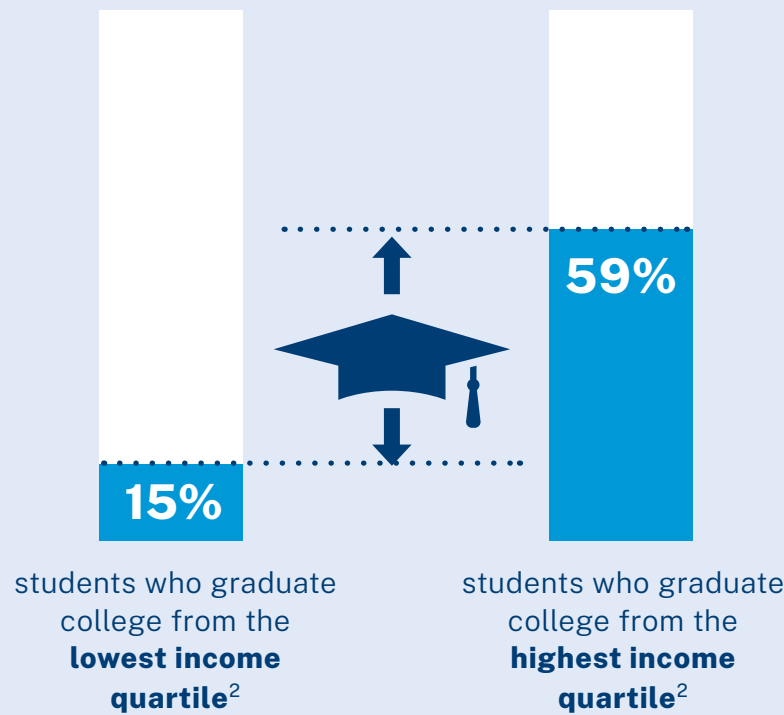
¹ Pew Research Center analysis of 1996 and 2016 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAAS), National Center for Education Statistics, "A Rising Share of Undergraduates Are From Poor Families, Especially at Less Selective Colleges."

² Pell Institute, "Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States: 2022 Historical Trend Report," page 292.

THE COLLEGE DEGREE DIVIDE

The number of college students who live in poverty or who are nonwhite has increased.¹

Unfortunately, too many of them are still being left behind as they graduate college at rates far lower than their higher-income peers.²



THOSE WITH
A COLLEGE
DEGREE ARE:



3.5x less likely
to live in poverty³



24% more likely
to be employed⁴



And earn upward of
\$1.2M more
in their lifetime⁵

Strong communities start with college equity

When students from underrepresented communities earn a bachelor's degree, especially those who are the first in their family to attend college, they are 24% more likely to be employed when compared with peers who don't attend college.³ Evidence shows that college graduates earn upward of \$1.2 million more in their lifetime, and have higher rates of civic engagement than their high school graduate peers.⁵

Evidence also shows that removing barriers to college access and success can create a more diverse and richer educational experience on college campuses. Removing these barriers also contributes to building a more diverse workforce, a critical factor in fueling greater innovation, stronger communities, and more equitable economic mobility.

³ "It's Not Just the Money: The Benefits of College Education to Individuals and to Society," 2015. <https://www.luminafoundation.org/resource/its-not-just-the-money/>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/44-6-percent-of-high-school-dropouts-and-72-3-percent-of-college-graduates-employed-in-august-2019.htm>

⁵ Lumina Foundation, "Stronger Nation Report," 2015. <https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/stronger-nation-2015/>

"I really wouldn't be where I am without College Possible. As a first-generation (college) student, I would have never known how or where to turn to even begin my college journey."

Alex,
Hamline University





We empower the college dream

At College Possible Minnesota, we're working to close the college degree divide. Since 2000, our college access and success programs have helped empower more than 15,300* students from under-represented communities on their path to a college degree. Our pioneering model matches eligible students with near-peer coaches and an intensive curriculum designed to help them overcome the most common barriers to getting into college and completing their degree — all at no cost to students or their families.

Through our partnerships with high schools and college institutions throughout the state, we are advancing college equity to build a stronger Minnesota.

* Fiscal Year 2021

WHAT SETS US APART:



Near-Peer Coaches

Students benefit from the relatability, recent experience and trusted relationships with our near-peer coaches who offer an intensive curriculum of personalized interventions.



6+ Years of Support

Students enrolled in our Flagship program receive one of the longest support cycles available, starting their junior year in high school and continuing through degree completion.



Support for Unenrolled Students

Students who unenroll or stop out of college continue to receive coaching support to help them get back on track toward their college degree goal.



Free to Students

Thanks to the generous support of our funders and partners, our college access and success programs are offered at no cost to students or their families.



AmeriCorps

A PROUD AMERICORPS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps is a federal agency that brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service. Our AmeriCorps members commit to a year of service as College Possible coaches in communities throughout the country. Many represent the identities of the students they serve, and each brings a commitment to social justice and closing the college equity divide.

College access and success programs offered in Minnesota



Flagship

Our primary, site-based college access and success program. Eligible students receive up to six years of near-peer coaching support to navigate and overcome the most common barriers to getting into and through college.



Navigate

A tech-connected version of our Flagship program. Eligible students receive up to six years of hybrid, tech-connected, near-peer coaching support to navigate and overcome the most common barriers to getting into and through college.



Connects

Customized college partnerships to match, recruit and support the college persistence and degree completion of College Possible scholars on partner campuses.



“I’m really amazed at the amount of support that College Possible has given me throughout my whole college experience. Having (my coach) there just keeps reminding me that if I need help, there will always be someone there.”

Ka,
University of Minnesota

Over 20 years of national, evidence-based results

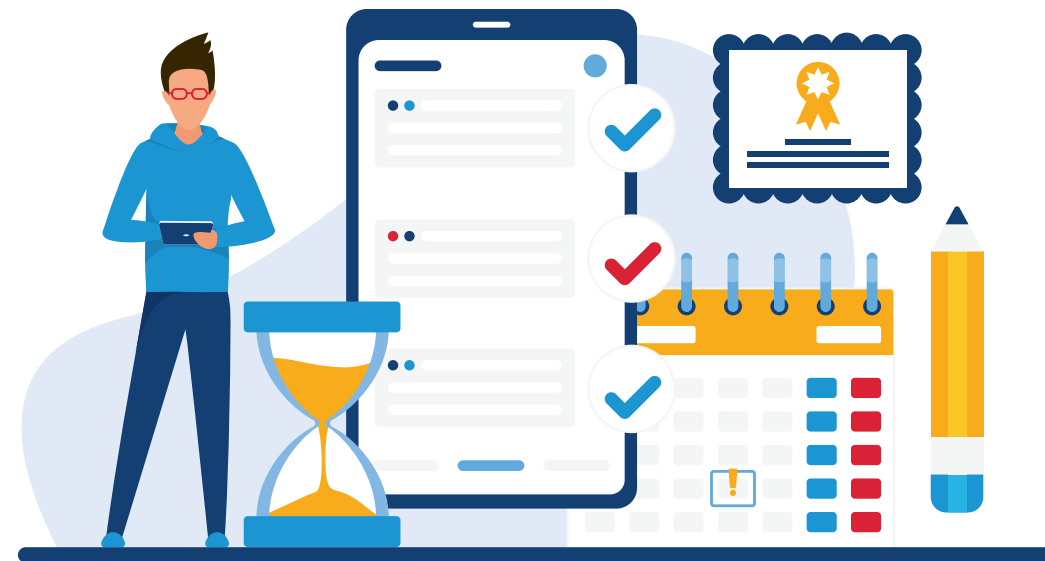
As one of the largest college access and success organizations in the country, our evidence-based programs have earned national credibility. Compared with their peers from similar backgrounds, College Possible students are **30% more likely** to enroll in college the year after high school graduation, and **three times more likely** to earn a bachelor's degree after graduating from high school.⁶

30%

more likely to enroll in college the year after high school graduation

3x


more likely to earn a bachelor's degree after graduating high school



“Without College Possible, I would not have gotten a good score on the ACT, and I probably wouldn’t have gotten as much help on my scholarships and college applications as I did. I am really grateful for that.”

Luis,
University of St. Thomas

⁶ The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States. p 121. 2019. http://pellinstitute.org/indicators/reports_2019.shtml

A young woman with voluminous, curly, reddish-brown hair and black-rimmed glasses is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a green cardigan over a dark green top and large hoop earrings. She is holding a silver laptop. The background is a blurred university hallway with other people walking.

“College Possible has provided me so much support; it is indescribable. I want College Possible to keep going for a long time.”

Ana,
Barnard College

“I knew that I wanted and needed to go to college, I just didn’t know the steps to take. College Possible has shown me how to take those steps and where it all starts.”

India,
Augsburg University

THE COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENT JOURNEY

1 Explore and prepare

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR YEAR

- SAT or ACT prep
- College fit exploration
- Understanding the cost of college

2 Select, apply and finance

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR YEAR

- Financial aid and scholarship applications
- College application and essay prep
- College visits and selection
- Housing and transportation exploration

3 Transition to college

SUMMER TRANSITION

- College enrollment tasks
- Transition to school

4 Persist through graduation

COLLEGE YEARS

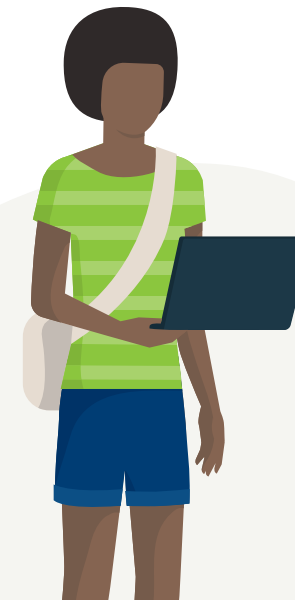
- Navigate complex college systems
- Access campus and community resources
- Form supportive peer and campus relationships
- Adjust to the rigors of the first year
- Stay on track academically
- Renew financial aid and scholarships
- Budget and manage time

Near-peer coaches provide proactive, personalized support to help students **navigate and break through the most common barriers** on their path to a college degree

5 Transition to career

GRADUATION

- Secure internships and jobs
- Resume and interview prep





Learn more or get involved

PARTNER

To explore how a College Possible Minnesota partnership can empower your students, contact our program team at MNinfo@CollegePossible.org to schedule an informational meeting.

GIVE

Your financial support helps us continue to expand our coaching and support throughout Minnesota at no cost to enrolled students or their families. To make a donation, or to explore a broader funding partnership, visit CollegePossible.org/DonateMN.

SERVE

If you know a current college student or recent grad interested in making a meaningful difference in the lives of youth, encourage them to explore a life-changing year of service as a College Possible Minnesota AmeriCorps coach at CollegePossible.org/Serve.

APPLY

If you know an eligible student who dreams of attending college and would like free support to find their best-fit colleges, build strong college applications, explore college financing, and persist through graduation, refer them to CollegePossible.org/Apply.



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CollegePossible.org/Minnesota