REACH NEW HEIGHTS WITH BUILD DAKOTA



Ready to reach new heights? Lay the foundation to start building big. With Build Dakota, you can earn a full-ride scholarship at one of four South Dakota technical colleges. Meaning you'll get your degree and get set up for a career, all with zero debt.

HOW'S IT WORK?

The scholarship supports tuition, fees and other expenses in eligible programs. Scholarship recipients commit to working in South Dakota, in their field of study, for three years following graduation.

HOW TO APPLY:

Students of any age can apply for the scholarship in just three steps:



Apply for admissions at the technical college you're interested in.



Find the Build Dakota Scholarship application for that technical college.



Turn in your application

January 1– March 31, 2026



Complete FAFSA

Tip: Set up a job shadow with companies you're interested in.

FIND YOUR FIT QUALIFYING PROGRAM AREAS

Advanced Manufacturing

*Agriculture

Automotive

Building Trades/Construction

Energy Technicians

Engineering Technicians

Healthcare

Information Technology

Public Service

Welding

*Requires industry partner

PLAN A VISIT

See technical college visit days:



GET STARTED

See the step-by-step toolkit:













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2026-2027 BUILD DAKOTA ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS, BY INDUSTRY AREA

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Lake Area Technical College

Electronic Systems Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Precision Machining 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Robotics 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Automation Controls/SCADA 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Mechatronics 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Machining and Engineering Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Precision Machining 1-Year Program, Diploma

AGRICULTURE

Some programs may require an industry partner to receive the Build Dakota Scholarship.

Lake Area Technical College

Agri-Production Option 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Dairy Option 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Natural Resources Management 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Precision Technology Option 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Agronomy

2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Precision Ag Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Horticulture

2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Sports Turf Management 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Environmental Engineering: Controlled Environment Agriculture 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

AUTOMOTIVE

Lake Area Technical College

Automotive Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Auto Body & Paint Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Diesel Technology: Truck Option 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Diesel Technology: Ag/Industrial Tractor Option 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Diesel Power Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Power Sports & Marine Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Automotive Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Collision Repair & Refinish Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree Diesel Technology: Heavy Equipment Diploma 1-Year Program, Diploma

Diesel Technology: Trucking Diploma 1-Year Program, Diploma

Diesel Technology: AAS Degree (Heavy Equipment & Trucking) 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Automotive Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Diesel Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

BUILDING TRADES/CONSTRUCTION

Lake Area Technical College

Building Trades Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Heavy Equipment Operator 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Architectural Design & Building Construction 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Electrical Construction & Maintenance 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Heating & Cooling Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Construction Management Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Electrician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

HVAC/R Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma

Mechanical Systems 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Plumbing Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma

Western Dakota Technical College

Construction Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma

Electrical Trades 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

HVAC/Refrigeration Technology 2 -Year Program, AAS Degree

Plumbing Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma

ENERGY TECHNICIANS

Lake Area Technical College

Energy Operations 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Energy Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Electrical Utilities & Substation Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

Mitchell Technical College

Automation Engineering Technician/Advanced Manufacturing 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

GPS/GIS Mapping 1-Year Program, Diploma

Wi-Fi & Broadband Technologies (Telecom)
2-Year Program, AAS Degree

z-rear riogram, AAO Degree

Southeast Technical College

Architectural Engineering Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Civil Engineering Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Land Surveying Science Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mechanical Engineering Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Architecture & Engineering Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Environmental Engineering Technician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

HEALTHCARE

Lake Area Technical College

Dental Assisting 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Dental Hygiene 1-Year Program, AAS Degree

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) 1-Year Program, Diploma

Med/Fire Rescue 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Medical Assisting 1-Year Program, Diploma

Medical Lab Technician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Paramedic 1-Year Program, Diploma

Registered Nursing (RN)
1-Year Program, AAS Degree*

Surgical Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) 1-Year Program, Diploma

Medical Assistant 1-Year Program, Diploma

Medical Laboratory Technician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Medical Office Professional 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Radiologic Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Registered Nurse (RN)
2-Year Program, AAS Degree*

Southeast Technical College

Cardiovascular Sonography 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Dental Assisting 1-Year Program, Diploma

Diagnostic Medical Sonography 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Invasive Cardiovascular Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) 1.5-Year Program, Diploma

Medical Assistant 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Medical Laboratory Technician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Paramedic Science 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Registered Nurse (RN) 1 or 1.5-Year Program, AAS Degree*

Respiratory Therapy 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Surgical Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree Western Dakota Technical College

Dental Hygiene 2-Year Program, AAS Degree Registered Dental Assisting 1-Year Program, Diploma

Health Information Management: Coding Specialty 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) 1.5-Year Program, Diploma

Medical Laboratory Technician 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Paramedic

2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Radiologic Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Registered Nursing (RN)
1.5-Year Program, AAS Degree*

Surgical Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Lake Area Technical College

Computer Information Systems 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Computer Programming 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

System and Network Security 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Computer Science: Information Technology Specialist 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

PUBLIC SERVICE

Lake Area Technical College

Law Enforcement 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Child Care Technician 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Entrepreneurship 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Early Childhood Specialist 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Law Enforcement Science 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Western Dakota Technical College

Law Enforcement Technology 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

WELDING

Lake Area Technical College

Welding Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Mitchell Technical College

Welding & Manufacturing Technology 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

Southeast Technical College

Welding 1-Year Program, Diploma

Western Dakota Technical College

Welding & Fabrication 1-Year Program, Diploma OR 2-Year Program, AAS Degree

*To enroll in an RN program, must hold active and current LPN license without restrictions. Contact school for details.