

Freedom Scholarship - University Allocations for Years 2022-2026

University	2026-27 October 27, 2025	2025-26 Approved by Board Oct 24	2024-25 Approved by Board	2023-24 Approved by Board	2022-23 Approved by Board
Augustana	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 440,000.00	\$ 380,000.00	\$ 370,000	\$ 300,000.00
BHSU	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 470,000	\$ 470,000.00
DSU	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 490,000.00	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000.00
NSU	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 365,000.00	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000.00
SDSM&T	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000.00
SDSU	\$ 2,600,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,600,000.00
USD	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000.00
USF	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 285,000	\$ 280,000.00
DWU	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 70,000	\$ 50,000
Mount Marty	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Presentation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 7,215,000.00	\$ 5,760,000.00	\$ 5,405,000.00	\$ 5,200,000.00	\$ 5,005,000.00

Freedom Scholarship - Census Figures

University	Fall 2025	Fall 2024	Fall 2023	Fall 2022	Fall 2021* different census count
Augustana	1,000	939	866	851	822
BHSU	916	917	911	890	1,290
DSU	1,010	1,025	988	829	1,108
NSU	680	715	668	684	922
SDSM&T	685	675	690	677	844
SDSU	4,345	4,159	3,938	3,869	4,520
USD	2,647	2,573	2,548	2,580	3,306
USF	512	550	584	642	768
DWU	415	408	411	439	453
Mount Marty	280	260	257	283	294
Presentation	0	0	0	71	101
Total	12,490	12,221	11,861	11,744	14,327



January 14, 2026

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
President
Augustana University
2001 S. Summit Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Dear President Herseth Sandlin,

I am writing to provide you with notice that South Dakota Workforce Scholarships has assumed the South Dakota Community Foundation's administration of the South Dakota Freedom Scholarship. This change is effective January 1, 2026.

On October 27, 2025, the South Dakota Freedom Scholarship Board voted to transfer the Freedom Scholarship's operations and management to South Dakota Workforce Scholarships. On November 25, 2025, this decision was formally agreed upon by the Freedom Board, the South Dakota Community Foundation, and South Dakota Workforce Scholarships.

Notwithstanding this transition, your Institutional Participation Agreement with the South Dakota Freedom Scholarship Board remains in full effect. Specifically, Article II(6) is unaffected, as the South Dakota Community Foundation will continue to transfer allocated funds to you to cover scholarship awards for each participating, eligible student. Please note, however, that Article III(10) of the Agreement is revised to replace the Freedom Board's address with the following:

South Dakota Freedom Scholarship Board
c/o South Dakota Workforce Scholarships
P.O. Box 62
Hosmer, SD 57448
elli@sdworkforcescholarships.org

Additionally, I am no longer employed by the South Dakota Community Foundation as the Freedom Scholarship Coordinator. Instead, I serve as Executive Director of South Dakota Workforce Scholarships.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have. I look forward to continuing our important work together in this new capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elli Haerter".

Elli Haerter
Executive Director
South Dakota Workforce Scholarships

Cc: Tresse Evenson, Assistant Vice President of Financial Aid

South Dakota Workforce Scholarships

	2024	2025	2025	2026
	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	budget
			YTD SDCF	Workforce
			12-31-2025	
Marketing	\$ 113,354	\$ 100,000	\$ 95,304	\$ 100,000
Software licenses, PowerBI dashboard, CRM	\$ 6,888	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,292	\$ 112,000
Legal Fees	\$ 11,137	\$ 12,000	\$ 45,708	\$ 25,000
Travel & Lodging	\$ 2,960	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,555	\$ 7,000
Cell Phone/Internet	\$ 1,560	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,705	\$ 4,000
Equipment + Furniture	\$ 1,793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Consultant Fees	\$ 94,637	\$ 60,000	\$ 5,546	\$ 12,000
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Other (PD, Professional memberships , postage)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105	\$ 9,000
Personnel (3 staff instead of 1)	\$ 159,244	\$ 156,195	\$ 171,847	\$ 382,000
	\$ 391,572	\$ 349,695	\$ 332,062	\$ 714,000

Bold denotes new category/subcategory for 2026 created by SDWS/ 1/16/2026

South Dakota Freedom Scholarships 2022-2026 Awards

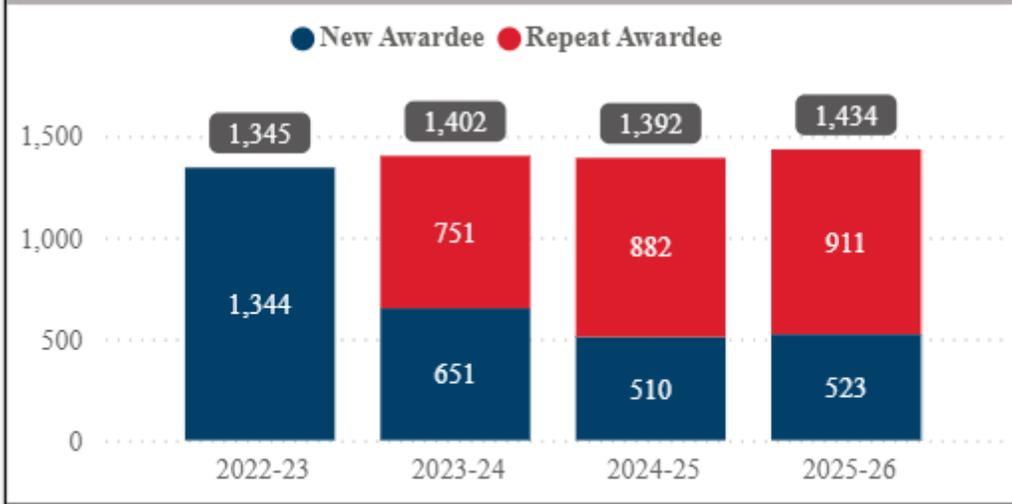
\$21M

Total Scholarship Amount

5,573

Total Scholarship Awards

Scholarship Awards by Year



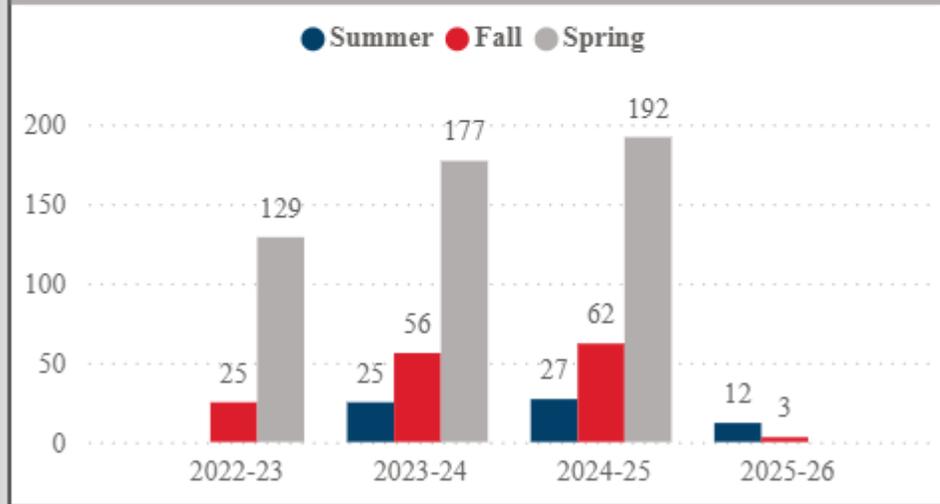
54.42%

Non Repeat Awardees %

708

Verified Grads

Graduates by Graduation Period



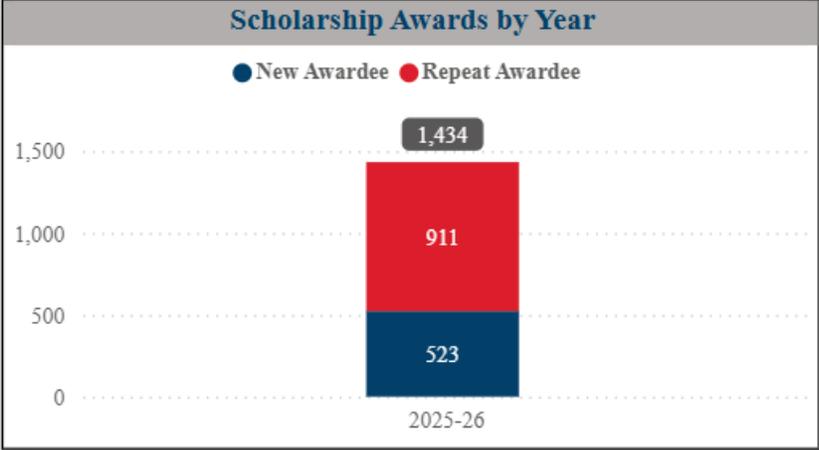


Freedom Board: Scholarships and Graduates

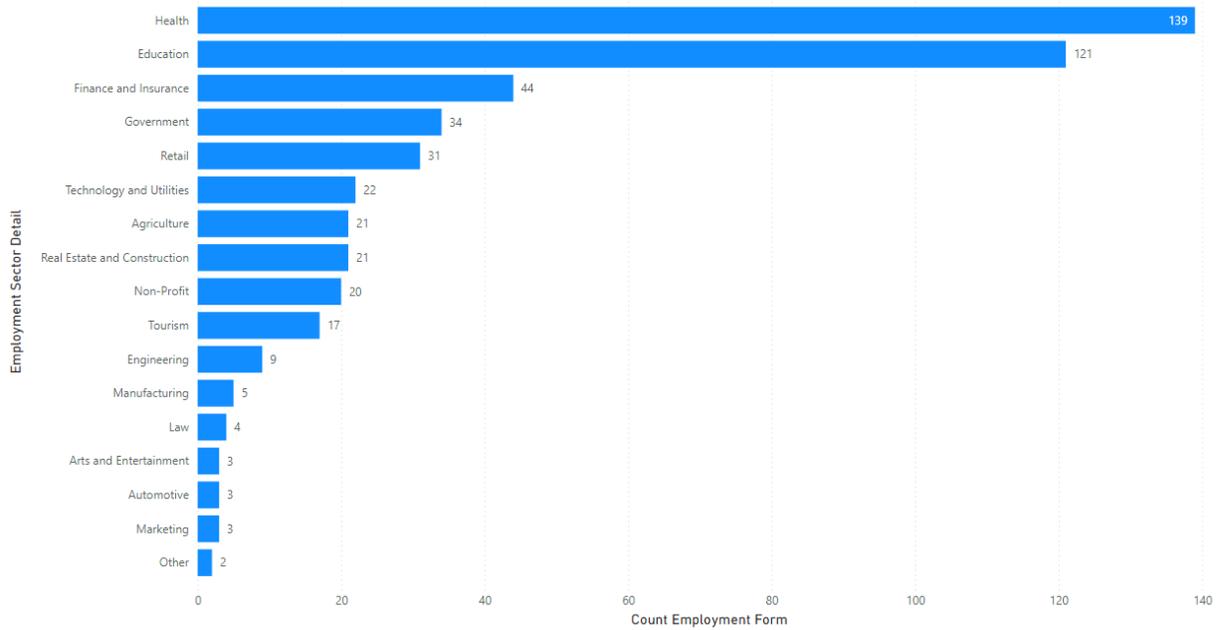
\$5.76M
Total Scholarship Amount

1,434
Total Scholarship Awards

36.68%
Non Repeat Awardees %



Graduates in Employment Sector

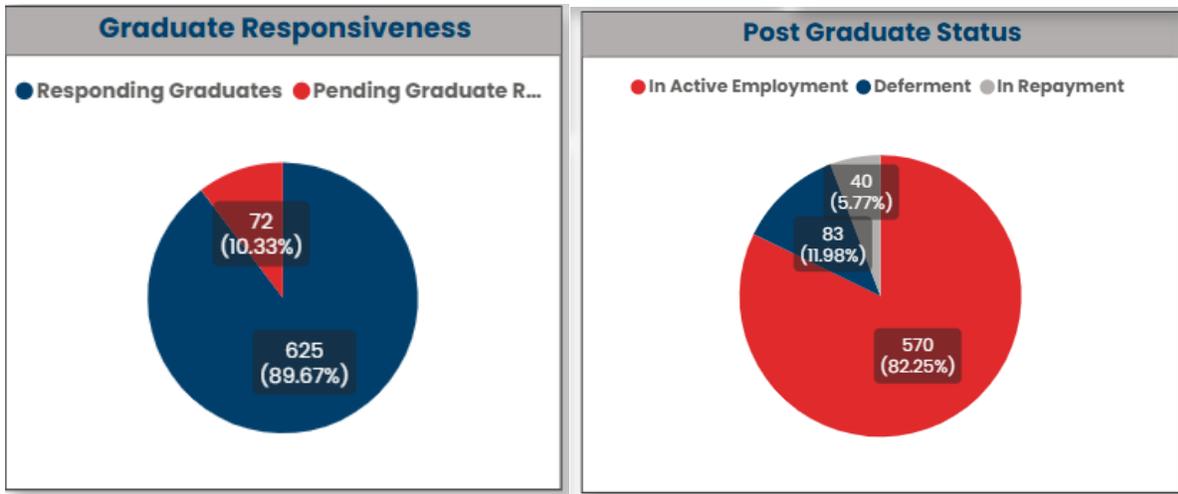


[Open in Power BI](#)

SDCF Scholarship and Reporting Modernization Dashboard

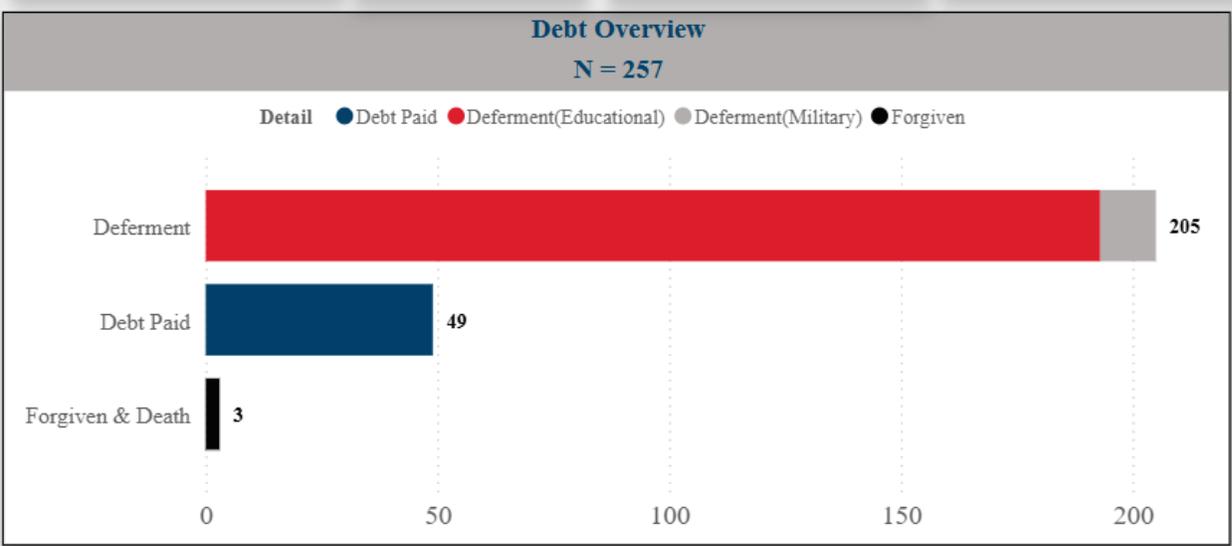
Data as of 1/16/26, 8:16 AM

Filtered by **Employment Sector Detail** (is not (Blank)), **Enrollment Year** (is 2022-23, 2023-24, or 2024-25)



Note: Graduates reflected from 2022-2023 through August 2025. Graduates confirmed with universities total 693. Graduate responsiveness chart reflects unverified self-reported graduates and totals 697.

South Dakota Freedom Scholarships 2022-2026 Debt Overview



To: Freedom Scholarship Board
 From: Brandy Drew
 RE: Debt Conversion Accounts for RGS Review
 Date: January 20, 2026

150+ Days Past Due Debt Notes

76 records are currently 150+ days past due at the bank. Of this group;

Total \$ referred = \$242,700.00

Total \$ paid = \$1933.83

Total \$ outstanding = \$240,766.17

Interest accrued = \$10,443.38

Avg days without payment received = 404 days

12 records of these 76 records made at least 1 payment (approx. 16%)

		Cohort Counts		Cohort		
University	# of Debt Accts 150+	University		1	2	Grand Total
USF	8	USF		3	5	8
USD	16	USD		15	1	16
SDSU	28	SDSU		14	14	28
PC	3	PC		3		3
NSU	8	NSU		7	1	8
MMU	2	MMU		2		2
MINES	5	MINES		5		5
DSU	1	DSU		1		1
BHSU	4	BHSU		4		4
AU	1	AU		1		1
Grand Total	76	Grand Total		55	21	76

Total debt records at bank as of 1/16/2026

Total \$ referred to bank, to date = \$888,942.13

Total \$ outstanding = \$675,653.66

Total principal paid = \$192,992.47

Total Interest Accrued = \$11,303.33

113 of 252 accounts have made at least one payment.

This is approximately 45% of the converted population.