

Identity and Access Management Program Executive Summary

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system has launched a major effort to overhaul and strengthen the system's aging information technology infrastructure. [Identity and Access Management \(iAM\)](#) is a key component of this investment.

What will iAM do for students, faculty and staff?

A system-wide solution is needed to provide students, faculty and staff with the [capabilities](#) needed to work effectively and securely in a digital world. Increasing access to this technology for all campuses and providing secure, seamless access to centrally and locally managed applications is the goal of the Identity and Access Management Program today. In addition to providing the infrastructure for seamless access, the iAM Project will enable trusted collaboration and resource sharing between MnSCU institutions and with K-12, higher education, government and industry. The iAM management infrastructure enables legitimate and secure access by limiting data and system access, both at the system and at the campus level.

Why is it important?

Identity and Access Management (iAM) is [defined](#) as a set of standards and practices for ensuring authorized and secure access to institutional information resources and the technical infrastructure or "middleware" to support those practices.

What needs does it address?

iAM addresses a number of [business needs](#) including secure access and collaboration, additional connections to the community, enhanced seamless experience, improved personal information security, cost containment and improved audit and compliance capabilities.

What do we need to do?

We need to inform and educate leaders about the value and work effort required for the program. We need to engage with business owners and stakeholders in developing appropriate operating standards and practices for managing these new iAM capabilities and processes. We need to engage governing committees to approve the [roadmap](#) and priorities for the program. Finally, we need to select the right technology tools to enable and support the practices defined.

What is planned for 2008?

The roadmap has been organized into an initial set of projects. Each project relies on successful completion of prior projects and prerequisites. The [2008 set of projects](#) focuses on organizing the program, building infrastructure and processes, and creating the framework for the future.

What can you do?

The success of this initiative relies in large part on thoughtful consideration and the shared experiences of the higher education, government and business communities. Evaluation and feedback are necessary and valuable tools in our efforts to provide easy and reliable access to information technology systems and tools, thus permitting students, faculty and staff to focus on teaching and learning.