

II. DATA BY CATEGORY

Since its founding in 1908 and its early days as a teachers' college, Montclair State University has earned a reputation for excellence and innovation among New Jersey's higher education community. Its strong emphasis on the liberal arts and the sciences helped make MSU the first teachers' college accredited by the Middle States Association as a liberal arts institution. Early on, Montclair's graduate education was recognized as outstanding, enabling the college to award master's degrees as early as 1932. Responding to an early period of rapid state growth, the institution became Montclair State College in 1958 and by 1966 was recognized as a comprehensive institution offering degrees in many fields. In April 1994, Montclair State became New Jersey's first public teaching university; again in part due to its strong graduate division.

This is a particularly exciting, creative, and challenging time for Montclair State University. The university is once again responding to a rapid period of growth in the state's college bound population with several long-range capacity building initiatives. These initiatives translate into developing new academic programs and renewing established ones, increasing the faculty, expanding the physical facilities, and recruiting a larger student body while effectively helping undergraduate and graduate students successfully complete their academic programs.

Now in its Centennial year, Montclair State University can take pride in its rich history of bold educational innovation, inspired teaching, and vital service to the state. But this history is only the beginning, and Montclair State University is unwavering in its resolution to continue to build on its history and to be a great university for a great state. Because the University community understands that the actions it takes have long-reaching implications for the people of New Jersey and for the economic and cultural future of the state, the University has completed an extensive strategic planning process, looking ahead and outward to meet the future needs of the state.

Institutional Mission

Approved in Public Session by the Montclair State Board of Trustees on 10/31/02. (Replaces Mission Statement approved on 5/13/81 and revised 4/27/94)

Montclair State University is committed to serving the educational needs of New Jersey with programs characterized by academic rigor and currency in the development of knowledge and its applications. The University will offer a comprehensive range of baccalaureate, master's and certificate programs and a focused portfolio of doctoral programs that are closely aligned with the University's academic strengths and the needs of the state.

The University will recruit faculty with exceptional academic or professional credentials and a deep commitment to the pursuit of their development as teachers and scholars. The University will admit to study with this faculty students who have demonstrated the potential for high achievement, diligence in the pursuit of their education, and high aspirations for using their education. The University will be inexorably committed to the maintenance of a learning community that is deeply and broadly reflective of the diverse population of New Jersey.

All University programs will develop in students the ability to discover, create, evaluate, apply, and share knowledge in a climate characterized by tolerance and openness in the exploration of ideas. Curricular and co-curricular programs will cultivate the ability to think critically, to act ethically, and to become informed citizen-participants prepared to assume leadership roles in a democracy. Recognizing the increasing connectedness of the world, the University will ensure that all students develop an understanding of global issues and of their responsibilities as citizens of the world.

The University will serve as a center for the creation of new knowledge and for the development of innovative applications of existing knowledge and as a center for pedagogical and artistic excellence and creativity. The University seeks to focus the professional activities of its faculty and the educational endeavors of its students on the enduring disciplines that will continue to constitute the knowledge base of an educated citizenry in the 21st century, as well as on the more specific and changing areas of study that have particular relevance to the region served by the University.

The University will play a role beyond the campus community, partnering and collaborating at the local, state, national and international levels to make positive contributions to addressing issues of importance to society, to enable students to experience their ability to use knowledge in constructive ways in the world, and to share the rich array of intellectual and cultural resources of the University with the people of New Jersey.