

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HISTORY AND MISSION

University Mission

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive university system with a mission in public affairs, whose purpose is to develop educated persons while achieving five goals: democratizing society, incubating new ideas, imagining Missouri's future, making Missouri's future, and modeling ethical and effective behavior.

The University's statewide mission in public affairs, requiring a campus-wide commitment to foster competence and responsibility in the common vocation of citizenship, distinguishing its identity.

The undergraduate academic experience is grounded in a general education curriculum which draws heavily from the liberal arts and sciences. Students admitted to Missouri State University graduate programs are expected to be well-grounded in the liberal arts and sciences. This foundation provides the basis for mastery of focused disciplinary and professional studies. It also provides essential forums in which students develop the capacity to make well-informed, independent critical judgments about the cultures, values, and institutions in society.

The task of developing educated persons obligates the University to expand the store of human understanding through research, scholarship and creative endeavor, and drawing from that store of understanding, to provide service to the communities that support it.

Profile

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education categorizes Missouri State University as a Master's L institution because of the University's significant institutional commitment to graduate education, combined with extensive undergraduate education. Missouri State University is committed to providing the programs and scholarship base that make it the center for graduate education in the region and for selected students beyond the immediate locality.

The enrollment at Missouri State University, Springfield is approximately 19,000, and these students are engaged in the learning environment by more than 700 full-time faculty. More than 150 undergraduate programs provide a solid foundation leading to graduate education.

Approximately 3,200 students are enrolled in the graduate programs. These programs provide master's degrees in 44 areas, a Specialist in Educational Administration, Doctorates in Audiology and Physical Therapy, and a

Doctorate in Educational Leadership which is offered jointly with the University of Missouri at Columbia. Eighteen graduate-level certificate programs are also offered.

Missouri State University is a metropolitan university serving a unique combination of urban and rural environments. The broader context in which the University is located is a natural setting for academic achievement. The institutional mission of public affairs integrates and focuses university efforts in the themes of business and economic development; creative arts; health; professional education; science and the environment; and the human dimension. The community itself is a laboratory where these themes are experienced and addressed, and the public affairs mission of Missouri State University challenges all constituents to demonstrate community engagement, ethical leadership and cultural competency.

Missouri State belongs to The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities which subscribes to the philosophy that metropolitan universities are "major intellectual resources for their metropolitan regions," whose programs "respond to regional needs while striving for national excellence." This Coalition has committed its institutions "to be responsive to the needs of our metropolitan areas by seeking new ways of using our human and physical resources to provide leadership in addressing metropolitan problems, through teaching, research, and professional service."

Missouri State University System

The University functions through a multi-campus system that is integrated to address the special needs of the urban and rural populations they serve. The system includes campuses located in Springfield, Mountain Grove and West Plains, Missouri, and also a branch campus in Dalian, China.

Missouri State University – Springfield, the system's center of operation, is a selective admissions, graduate-level teaching and research institution. Graduate programs are offered through the academic departments on the Springfield campus.

Missouri State University – West Plains is a separately accredited two-year open admissions campus serving seven counties in south central Missouri. West Plains is located approximately 100 miles east of Springfield.

Missouri State University – Mountain Grove comprises 190 acres of land and boasts excellent building facilities, which support both field and laboratory research in the fruit and plant sciences. A small number of students live and work on-site at this campus.

The Missouri State University branch campus at Liaoning Normal University (LNU) in Dalian, China provides the Associate of Arts and one Bachelor's degree program for students in that part of the world, while also serving as a base to enhance learning for many students from the Springfield and West Plains campuses.

The Missouri State University Extended Campus provides anytime, anyplace learning opportunities through Internet-based instruction, telecourses, and its interactive video network (BearNet). Two master's programs, Administrative Studies and Computer Information Systems, can be completed through the internet. The major portion of the master's degree in Elementary Education, Special Education (Visual Impairment Emphasis), History (American Studies Track), Nursing (Nurse Educator role specialization), and Project Management also can be completed through Internet course work. The MBA is delivered via ITV to West Plains, Lebanon, and Nevada.

Access to graduate education has been expanded by offering five master's degree programs in Joplin, Missouri: Elementary Education, Accounting, Business Administration, Social Work, and the Master of Arts in Teaching. In addition, graduate courses in a number of programs are offered in several southwest Missouri communities including West Plains, Mountain Grove, Lebanon, and Neosho.

University Setting

Springfield Campus: The main Missouri State University campus is located on 225 acres in a residential area in central Springfield. The relatively close proximity of most classroom and laboratory facilities on campus allows walking between classes and an efficient shuttle system facilitates student transportation to more distant sites, including some university programs that are in the heart of the city.

Springfield is the third largest population center in Missouri with a metropolitan service region of 250,000. The community is supported by an industrial/manufacturing base and an expanding service industry in tourism. The city serves as a regional center for health and medical services for southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas, southeast Kansas, and northeast Oklahoma. Springfield is located in the Ozarks, a distinct geographic region with a unique cultural heritage, significant agricultural economy, and rapidly expanding tourism and recreational industries.

Educationally, the region is served by a diverse mix of both public and private colleges and universities. Missouri State University, the largest and only multipurpose university in

southwest Missouri, serves as a creative and intellectual resource for the Springfield metropolitan area, contributing to its economic development, social health, and cultural vitality through education, research, and professional outreach. The Springfield Campus offers a spectrum of educational programs that respond to regional and statewide needs while striving for national and international excellence. These offerings include baccalaureate, master's, specialist in education, and professional doctorate degrees offered through 44 academic departments.

Special Facilities: Missouri State University operates various other special facilities, such as the 125 acre Darr Agricultural Center in southwest Springfield, the Jordan Valley Innovation Center in downtown Springfield, the Bull Shoals Field Station near Forsyth, and Baker's Acres and Observatory near Marshfield, Missouri. The University operates a graduate residence center in Joplin which provides for on-site classrooms and also includes ITV delivery classrooms.

Missouri State University also has one entire academic department, the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, located near Washington, D.C. in Fairfax, Virginia. All classes for the M.S. in Defense and Strategic Studies are offered at this location.

Heritage

Missouri State University was founded in 1905 as the Fourth District Normal School and became Southwest Missouri State Teachers College in 1919. The chronology of history of the university over the first 100 years shows the institution has undergone dramatic change, yet the purpose has been the same. Missouri State University has opened the door of opportunity for young people from Springfield, the region, the state, the nation and now the world. The Daring to Excel theme of the 2005 centennial year is an apt descriptor of the history of the University. Through more than a century of service as a higher education community, the administration, faculty, staff, students, and the supporting community have taken bold steps to move the University into expanded roles and higher levels of excellence.

The University's primary purpose during the first 40 years was the preparation of teachers for the public schools in the southwest region of Missouri. By the mid-1940s, the University had expanded its instructional programs in the liberal arts and sciences. As a consequence of this growth, in 1945 the Missouri legislature authorized an official change in the institution's name to Southwest Missouri State College.

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A cooperative graduate program with the University of Missouri was begun in 1955, and Southwest Missouri State College initiated its first Master of Arts and Master of Science degree programs in 1967. With the development of graduate programs and the continued expansion of undergraduate education, the University had become an educationally diverse institution. These changes were recognized with an official name change to Southwest Missouri State University in 1972. The Mountain Grove Campus, founded in 1899 as the State Fruit Experiment Station, was added to the University in 1974.

During the decade of the 1990's the University doubled its graduate program offerings and the number of graduate students. This commitment to more extensive graduate education and research resulted in an official name change to Missouri State University in 2005, the centennial year for the University. Today, the institution is a multidimensional, multi-campus university system providing diverse instructional, research, and service programs.

The major focus of graduate education is at the master's level with the University currently offering 44 master's degree programs that span a diverse array of disciplines. In keeping with the institutional heritage and continued commitment to teacher education, a Specialist in Educational Administration is offered in the College of Education, and the University collaborates with the University of Missouri-Columbia in offering a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. The University offers a Doctorate of Audiology and a Doctorate of Physical Therapy, exemplifying the University's broad commitment to education in health sciences.

The title of the University's strategic plan, *Imagining and Making Missouri's Future: A Long-Range Vision and Five Year Plan (2006-2011)* is indicative of the goal's and aspirations of the institution. This Plan can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.missouristate.edu/longrangeplan/>.

University Roles

The University recognizes the interrelationship and compatibility of teaching and learning, research, and public service to the mission of the institution. Each draws from and builds upon the strengths of the others, and all focus on student learning. Research and creative activities are vital to ensure excellence in instruction. Instruction and research represent the foundation upon which service to the University's public is developed.

Developing Educated Persons: Missouri State University's purpose is "to develop educated persons." It is committed to the expansion and preservation of knowledge. It recognizes that human curiosity explores and pushes back the boundaries of the human intellect and the physical world. In an age where knowledge can become quickly dated, the University is committed to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge that serves the future. The characteristics of an educated person are readily assessable and recognizable:

- They cultivate their aesthetic tastes
- They are critical thinkers
- They are serious readers who become broadly literate
- They dedicate themselves to becoming curious and contributing citizens in an increasingly global society
- They balance an in-depth mastery of at least one academic discipline with a broad appreciation of the liberal arts

Teaching and Learning: The University is responsive to changing educational needs and has endeavored to develop, adopt, and implement innovative educational delivery modes to the extent they are appropriate. These include Internet classes, individualized instruction, experimental learning, computer-assisted instruction, audio- and video-tutorial instruction, and the use of various additional technologies for distance learning.

Research: Both basic and applied research are vital functions essential to the mission of the University. These activities further complement teaching by providing depth, breadth, and application to the learning process. The University believes that its research efforts must (1) contribute to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of new knowledge, (2) foster application and integration for problem solving and improvement of society, and (3) provide students with opportunities to develop an appreciation for research and to learn a research methodology consistent with their chosen area of specialization.

Financial support for research activities comes from institutional funds as well as gifts, grants, and contracts from private and public sponsors (see Office of Sponsored Research and Programs listed under University Services). The scope of research activities at Missouri State University encompasses individual faculty research, departmental research programs, the activities of the University's research centers, and the operations of the Research Campus at Mountain Grove. Graduate students have many opportunities for involvement in these areas.

Centers: Missouri State University has established focused research and service centers that provide part of the organizational structure for meeting the University mission.

“Center” is a descriptor for formally recognized units, including institutes, bureaus and stations that function as an adjunct to the traditional University units (i.e., colleges and/or academic departments). The support base for Centers is primarily from external sources, including grants, contracts, and fees (for services, workshops, conferences, etc.). These centers are active in multi-disciplinary research, education, training and service projects that serve both the University and external entities. Each year a number of graduate students are involved in the research and service projects that are conducted through Centers.

A listing of Missouri State University Centers follows:

- Bull Shoals Field Station
- Bureau of Economic Research
- Center for Archaeological Research
- Center for Business and Economic Development
 - Management Development Institute
 - Small Business Development Center
- Center for Continuing and Professional Education
- Center for Dispute Resolution
- Center for Grapevine Biotechnology
- Center for Health Education Research and Services
- Center for Homeland Security
- Center for Industrial Productivity
- Center for Multidisciplinary Health Education
- Center for Research and Service
- Center for Resource Planning and Management
- Center for Scientific Research and Education
- Center for Social Science & Public Policy Research
- Community and Social Issues Institute
- Institute for School Improvement
- Jordan Valley Innovation Center
 - Center for Biomedical and Life Sciences
 - Center for Applied Science and Engineering
- Mid-America Viticulture & Enology Center
- Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute
- Ozarks Public Health Institute
- Southwest Missouri Area Health Education Center
- Southwest Regional Professional Development Center

Public Service: In order to serve the public, Missouri State University incorporates resources of knowledge, skills, and artistry into the mainstream of society. The role, therefore, of public service at the University is to make available the University's physical resources and human expertise for the purpose of meeting needs or solving problems of various public constituents.

The most important public service resources of the University are the diverse and specialized talents of the faculty, staff, and students. The scope of the public service program includes community education, research that informs the public on the natural environment and social issues, cultural and entertainment events, recreational activities, clinical and diagnostic services, conferences and institutes, public broadcasting services, professional development clinics and seminars, summer workshops and camps, and faculty/staff consulting activities.

A number of the University Centers contribute extensively to the public, as well as the research efforts of the University. For example, the Institute for School Improvement provides a broad range of services to school districts of the region. Similarly, the Center for Resource Planning and Management regularly assists municipalities and counties in moving toward solutions to various problems. The mission of the Community and Social Issues Institute is to serve as a catalyst to organize and apply the research and service capacity of the University to assist public and private organizations in addressing social issues of the community. The Center for Dispute Resolution provides its expertise to agencies and many local organizations. These are representative of the many public service areas of the university.

ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The University is accredited to offer graduate degrees by The Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Accreditations - Graduate

Specific graduate programs are professionally accredited by the following organizations:

Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA): Master of Science, Physician Assistant Studies

AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business: Master of Accountancy; Master of Business Administration; Master of Health Administration; Master of Science, Computer Information Systems

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: Doctor of Audiology and Master of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders/Speech-Language Pathology

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Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy
Education (CAPTE): Master of Physical Therapy

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE):
Master of Science in Nursing

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia
Educational Programs: Master of Science, Nurse
Anesthesia

Council on Education of the Deaf: Master of Science,
Communication Sciences and Disorders/Education of
the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Council on Social Work Education: Master of Social
Work

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
(DESE); Missouri State Board of Education:
Educational Administration, Early Childhood and
Family Development, Reading, Special Education;
Master of Arts in Teaching, Communication Sciences
and Disorders, Counseling; Specialist in Education

National Association of Schools of Music (NASM):
Master of Music; Master of Science in Education,
Secondary Education/ Music
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and
Administration: Master of Public Administration

National Association of Schools of Theater: Master of
Arts, Theatre

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
(NCATE): Master of Science in Education, Educational
Administration, Elementary Education, Instructional
Media Technology, Reading, Secondary Education,
Special Education; Master of Science, Counseling;
Specialist in Education, Educational Administration

Memberships

Missouri State University is a member institution of the
American Association of State Colleges and Universities,
the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, the
Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools, and the
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.