



## Historical Fact Sheet 1971 - 2011

- 1971:** State legislature established Minnesota Metropolitan State College, which was charged to improve educational services to underserved populations and provide community-based services. Dr. David Sweet named first president of the new college, serving until 1977.
- 1972:** Classes began Feb. 1, 1972 with 50 students, 21 full-time and 25 part-time community faculty. Offered only an Individualized B.A. competence-based degree program. Administrative home for the school was a “storeroom” in Saint Paul’s Capital Center Skyway.
- 1973:** First 12 students graduated in February 1973.
- 1975:** Received first accreditation by the North Central Association.
- 1976:** Changed name to Metropolitan State University. Enrollment reached 1,200 students.
- 1977:** Dr. Reatha Clark King named second president in 1977 and served until 1988.
- 1981:** Began Excellence in Writing, Nursing and Minority Services programs.
- 1983:** Admitted first graduate student to the Master of Management and Administration program, and first students graduated from the Bachelor of Arts in nursing program. Classes were conducted at more than 100 sites throughout the Twin Cities.
- 1985:** Created a Computer Competence program. Overall university enrollment reached 4,000.
- 1986:** Raised \$3.2 million for special programs in first major development campaign.
- 1987:** Academic regalia worn for the first time at commencement.
- 1988:** Former St. John’s Hospital site selected as Metropolitan State’s headquarters. Legislature provided \$1.3 million for land purchase. Opened the first university bookstore at the Metro Square location. Celebrated the 5,000th graduate.
- 1989:** Dr. Tobin Barrozo was named the third president and served until 1992.
- 1990:** Minneapolis Campus moved to 730 Hennepin Avenue. Legislature funded the first building at the new Dayton’s Bluff location with \$13 million.
- 1991:** Legislature created the School of Law Enforcement.
- 1992:** University moved from the Metro Square Building to the new Dayton’s Bluff site.

- 1993:** Dr. Susan Cole named the fourth president and served until 1998.
- 1994:** Opened New Main building and welcomed the first freshman students. Celebrated the 10,000th graduate. Added graduate programs in nursing and business administration.
- 1995:** Received the Hesburgh Award for continuing focus on improving teaching.
- 1997:** Celebrated 25th anniversary of the “Great Experiment.” Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce awarded the institution a Quality of Life award for conducting 25 community projects to celebrate the anniversary.
- 1998:** Moved academic year from quarters to semesters.
- 1999:** MnSCU provided funds to create a B.S. in Business Administration, the first fully online program at Metropolitan State.
- 2000:** Dr. Wilson Bradshaw named fifth president and served until 2007.
- 2003:** Opened the Health Partners Simulation Center for Patient Safety at Metropolitan State, the first patient safety simulation center in Minnesota.
- 2004:** Celebrated the 20,000th graduate. Opened the Library and Information Access Center.
- 2005:** Created the Circle of Engaged Learning, a social change model as an outcome of the 2003 civic engagement audit. The model provides the demonstration of the university’s “unwavering commitment to civic engagement.”
- 2008:** Dr. Sue K. Hammersmith named sixth president. The Law Enforcement program collaboration of Metropolitan State, Minneapolis Community and Technical College and Hennepin Technical College (HTC) received funds from the legislature to build the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Education Center.
- 2009:** Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Education Center completed. First nursing graduates earned their Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees.
- 2010:** Reached landmark in enrollment, exceeding 10,000 students. Celebrated 30,000th graduate.
- 2011:** Completed St. John’s Hall addition, replacing the last remaining structure of the old St. John’s Hospital. First Advanced Dental Therapy students graduated in June and the Advanced Dental Therapy Clinic opened in October.

