

Where life and learning meet.™



Serving the Needs of Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Students



A Call for Changes in Higher Education Delivery

A growing chorus of critics calls for sweeping changes in American higher education. Once the world's model of excellence, America's colleges and universities today are seen by many as slipping in quality, relevance and fiscal sustainability. And in an age of revolutionary speed and change in the transformation and dissemination of knowledge itself, the traditional structures and practices of the academy are seen as increasingly inflexible if not irrelevant. One leading critic is Mark C. Taylor, chair of the Department of Religion at Columbia University. In 2009 Taylor published a controversial *New York Times* op-ed piece, followed by a 2010 book, *Crisis on Campus*, calling for bold reforms to adapt our colleges and universities to a new generation of students, new fiscal realities and a new global marketplace. Taylor imagines a new system of higher education that is innovative and flexible in design and delivery, that is as responsive to new technologies as are the users of our new social media and that allows "improvisation" to meet the unique educational needs of diverse learners.

Since its inception in 1971, Metropolitan State has led the nation in answering the call for innovation, flexibility and adaptation to meet the emerging needs of the professions, businesses, society and the individual students we are so proud to serve.

Metropolitan State is the Model for Change

Metropolitan State was chartered to serve as Minnesota's public metropolitan university, to meet the growing needs of busy adults from diverse communities for upper-level, baccalaureate and graduate education. Throughout the last 40 years, Metropolitan State has followed a core mission of providing high-quality, affordable and accessible upper-division higher education to working adults, communities of color and other learners not well-served by traditional, residential and full-time programs of study—military students, for example. Our educational model includes course delivery at multiple locations throughout the greater metropolitan area, at times and locations convenient for working adults, as well as online throughout Minnesota and beyond.

Our students are adult urban and suburban transfer students who require convenient delivery of high-quality education that fits their schedules and residential locations. Their average age is 32. Many are working adults seeking new workforce skills and expertise at the graduate or undergraduate level, or simply to finish the degree they started, but did not complete years earlier. Almost 30 percent are students of color who appreciate Metropolitan State's diversity, student-centered learning environment and individualized academic advising. All appreciate Metropolitan State's laser-sharp focus on education and its support for flexibility in meeting the unique educational needs of the individual learner.

Metropolitan State University truly is *Where life and learning meet*SM for the growing population of Twin Cities metropolitan area students seeking the benefits of our model of higher education.

Our Distinctive Features

- Metropolitan State campuses are located throughout the seven-county Twin Cities area in a mix of permanent and leased facilities. They include the Saint Paul Campus on Dayton's Bluff; the Midway Education Center in Energy Park; the Management Education Center located on the Minneapolis Community and Technical College campus in Minneapolis; and the new Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Education Center located on the Brooklyn Park campus of Hennepin Technical College. Metropolitan State also offers classes at all of the two-year Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU) colleges in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area, as well as at several other convenient locations such as the headquarters of the Minnesota Society of CPAs and the Ford Motor Company plant.
- Metropolitan State's pioneering Individualized Studies major remains one of our most popular programs, enabling working adults to design the interdisciplinary degree completion programs that best fit their unique personal and professional interests.
- Eighty-five percent of our alumni (and 90 percent of our students) reside in the 13 county Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- We have no athletic programs, no student housing and no recreational facilities. Every dollar goes directly to support the core educational mission.
- Our university has the lowest tuition and fees of any university in Minnesota. Students can complete their education without incurring excessive loans or personal debt.
- According to the U.S. Department of Education, Metropolitan State students receive among the lowest percentage of student loans and aid compared with peer universities in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.
- Metropolitan State's online courses and academic degree programs serve residents of nearly every county in Minnesota. More than 25 percent of our enrollments are delivered either completely or partially online.

Our Unique Student Body

- Metropolitan State enrolls more than 10,000 students per year. Most, whether graduate or undergraduate, are part-time students.



- In recent years enrollments have grown steadily at 6–8 percent per year, with the strongest growth in graduate programs, nursing, and in online courses and programs.
- Ninety-four percent of Metropolitan State's students are transfer students, having successfully completed coursework at other colleges and universities. The average student brings in 72 credits from four other institutions; 5 percent of the transcripts come from the University of Minnesota and 50 percent from MnSCU's 10 two-year colleges in the metropolitan area.
- Metropolitan State is the most diverse public university in the Upper Midwest with 30 percent of its students coming from underrepresented populations.
- In recent years the “gap” between the graduation rates of our underrepresented students and our majority students has been nearly eliminated.
- Metropolitan State is not an “open admission” institution and does not offer remedial coursework.

Predicted Growth and Expansion

- Metropolitan State serves the diverse communities that the Minnesota state demographer predicts will generate nearly all of the population growth of the state for the next several decades. These populations are essential to the state's economic vitality. They include working adults; place-bound residents of the metropolitan area; residents of rural areas (through online programs); military students (who can continue their studies online and through independent study while deployed); racial and ethnic minorities; and new immigrants (who often feel the need to remain within their communities and support networks as they pursue their education).
- Our overall student enrollment has increased by 24 percent over the past four years including a projected 2010-11 increase of more than eight percent, which puts the university on track to achieve MnSCU Chancellor James McCormick's stated goal of reaching a headcount of 20,000 students by 2020.
- Enrollments in our nursing program increased significantly (28 percent) in 2010, as did enrollments in graduate and online programs. Current initiatives to meet emerging workforce needs include programs in special education, healthcare management, baccalaureate completion for Saint Paul fire fighters and EMT workers, a master's degree in criminal justice and continuing education.
- To meet our growing student needs, Metropolitan State will expand its East Metro campus at the current Saint Paul location and will develop a new campus in the West Metro area to replace leased facilities at the existing Midway and Minneapolis locations.
- Metropolitan State remains the only MnSCU university without a dedicated science laboratory and classroom facility. The university has requested state bonding funds for design of a new science building to support the growing needs of our students and increase STEM education opportunities. The new science building, once approved, will be located on the Saint Paul Campus.

Positive Results and Measures of Quality

- Metropolitan State is a national pioneer in academic innovations to serve adult learners, including online degree programs; our highly flexible individualized baccalaureate majors and an array of majors that incorporate community-based learning and engaged citizenship.
- New academic programs include fully-online majors in finance, computer science and computer forensics; a baccalaureate program for U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers; an online major for employees of the Schwan Co.; and an applied Doctor of Business Administration program designed with encouragement and input from the Minnesota Society of CPAs.
- We enjoy the highest professional exam pass rate of any MnSCU university and have achieved among the highest retention and graduation rates of any MnSCU institution.
- Metropolitan State produces a high return on investment for the state of Minnesota. With our exceptional student retention and graduation rates, each dollar spent on instruction or services returns many times that amount to the state's economy in the form of a stronger college-educated workforce.

Metropolitan State University is the Future of Higher Education for Minnesota!

