

## Metropolitan State University – Fast Facts

*Feb. 18, 2010*

<p><b>University</b></p>	<p><b>Minnesota’s premier metropolitan university</b>, charged by legislature to serve the 7-county metro area (1971). In fact, we draw from the larger 13-county area.</p> <p><b>Designed to serve adult learners</b> through evening, weekend, online, individualized, and flexible programs</p> <p><b>Three campuses</b> (St. Paul, Midway, Minneapolis), 17 teaching locations</p> <p><b>“Lean, mean teaching machine”</b> – highly targeted focus of resources on instruction, advising, and information resources (none on athletics or recreation; little on facilities or marketing; no residential life)</p> <p>One of the nation’s modern “progressive/experimental” universities designed to be a national model of <b>innovation and flexibility</b>,</p> <p><b>University is <u>not</u> open enrollment and does not recruit directly from high school</b> (i.e., does not substitute for U of M’s general college).</p>
<p><b>Students</b></p>	<p><b>Enrolls over 10,000 individual students/year (a 20% increase over the past 3 years)</b> from the 13-county metropolitan area and beyond.</p> <p><b>Twice as many</b> metro area adult students would have preferred to enroll at Metro as actually did enroll (2008 Aslanian study).</p> <p><b>Changing demographics</b> of the Twin Cities require higher ed opportunities that are different from those offered by the traditional, residential out-state universities.</p> <p><b>95% are degree-completion transfer students.</b> U. of Minnesota is biggest single source, followed by the big metro area MnSCU community colleges (Century, Inver Hills, Normandale, MCTC, Anoka-Ramsey, and North Hennepin). (Note: We serve very few full-time, first-time freshmen, so traditional measures of retention and graduation rates are based on only 55 of our students.)</p> <p><b>Adult, nontraditional students:</b> Average age is 31; 2/3 are part-time students; 60% are women; ¼ are first generation college students</p> <p><b>30% are students of color</b>, including both American-born and new immigrants, making Metropolitan State the most diverse public university in Minnesota or in the Upper Midwest.</p> <p><b>Metro State students are <u>not</u> primarily inner-city, minority, or first-generation college students.</b></p>
<p><b>Programs</b></p>	<p><b>Baccalaureate and graduate programs and certificates</b> in the arts and sciences, business, nursing, education, human services, law enforcement, criminal justice, and individualized majors.</p> <p><b>Flexible delivery</b> meets the needs of the individual learner. E.g., St. Paul</p>

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<b>Programs (Cont.)</b>	<p>National Guard soldier Lina Knox completed her entire senior year while deployed in Basra Iraq.</p> <p><b>National pioneer innovative academic programming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Metro State pioneered <b>online education</b> and is MnSCU's biggest provider of online degree programs.</li><li>➤ First College's <b>Individualized Degree Program</b> offers innovation and flexibility like no other.</li><li>➤ The <b>Advanced Dental Therapy</b> program will have a <b>national impact</b> on the delivery of basic dental care in the US.</li><li>➤ Metro State is <b>agile in developing innovative programs to meet emerging needs</b> in business, education, healthcare, and public service. Examples include special programs to meet the needs of Travellers, Schwan Co., Minnesota Society of CPAs, U.S. Peace Corps, and the St. Paul Fire Department.</li></ul> <p><b>Over 400 articulations agreements</b> with two-year colleges enhance transferability of credits.</p>
<b>Points of Pride</b>	<p>Students evaluate Metro State's <b>quality of instruction, academic advising, and use of technology</b> as major institutional strengths (2009 Noel-Levitz study).</p> <p><b>Value</b> (quality + affordability).</p> <p><b>Enrollments have grown 20% over the past 3 years, showing that we are meeting a clear and vital market need here in the Twin Cities.</b></p> <p><b>MnSCU's Dashboard shows Metropolitan State graduates to have the highest pass rate on professional certification exams</b> (e.g., nursing, CPA, law enforcement, teaching) <b>of any MnSCU university.</b></p> <p>On the Educational Testing Service content competency exam for graduating seniors with business majors, of 83,000 students taking the exam last year, <b>Metropolitan State Students scored, on average, in the top 15% in accounting and economics, the top 20% in finance, and the top 25% in management information systems.</b></p> <p>Metropolitan State has the <b>highest retention and graduation rates</b> in the system (<i>Measuring Up</i> measure of graduates per 100 students).</p> <p><b>Metropolitan State has no "gap" between the graduation rates of underrepresented students and nonunderrepresented students.</b></p> <p>Metropolitan State was <b>selected by the U.S. Peace Corps</b> as its exclusive provider of baccalaureate education for Peace Corps volunteers.</p>

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	<p>Metropolitan State is <b>one of only six universities</b> in the US to be selected for support by <b>Travellers</b>.</p> <p>Metropolitan State is approved to offer MnSCU's first and only <b>Doctorate of Business Administration</b>.</p> <p><b>National leadership</b> in online learning, adult education, and assessment of prior learning (see National Awards, below)</p> <p><b>Alumni-leaders</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Minnesota Senate (retired)</li><li>• Peter Bell, Chair, Metropolitan Council</li><li>• State Senators Sandy Pappas, Leo Foley, and Ken Kelash</li><li>• Jesse Bethke Gomez, President, CLUES</li><li>• Elise Hernandez McGuire, MBA, owner of "Ideal System Solutions" in Pine River, named "Outstanding Business Owner" by <i>Mpls/St. Paul Business Journal</i>, and "Minnesota Minority Small Businessperson of the Year" by the U.S. Small Business Admin.</li><li>• Kathleen Meyer, COM grad, named "Outstanding Business Owner" by <i>Mpls./St. Paul Business Journal</i></li><li>• Carolyn Lowe, WCCO News</li><li>• At least six police chiefs in the metro area</li></ul>
<b>National Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AASCU (American Association of Colleges and Universities), Award for Innovation &amp; Change (1983)</li><li>• TIAA-CREF Institute, Hesburgh Award for Improving Teaching (1995)</li><li>• CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) Professor of the Year (Nancy Black, 1998)</li><li>• Center for Transforming Student Services, Award for Best Practices in Student Services (2006)</li><li>• NACADA (National Academic Advising Association), Advising Technology Innovation Award (2007)</li><li>• CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning), Institutional Service Award (2008)</li><li>• CASE (District 5), Most Improved Alumni/Institution Magazine Silver Award (BUZZ Magazine, 2009)</li></ul>

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<b>Challenges</b>	<p><b>Facilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Condemned building</b> on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and facilities inadequate to serve current enrollments. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> time we've requested construction funds. Replacing this building has been a high MnSCU priority, with legislative approval, the last 2 rounds. The governor vetoed this project in 2008 and "skipped over" it in 2010, favoring lower-ranked projects.</li><li>• <b>No facilities for science or nursing</b></li><li>• <b>Inadequate facilities to serve the West Metro area</b> (only business and education programs are offered in the West Metro)</li></ul> <p><b>The swell of students "in the pipeline" is extraordinary.</b> MnSCU's 10 metro area colleges currently enroll 150,000 students, suggesting huge enrollment pressures on Metro State in the years ahead. At current capacity, Metropolitan State will have to turn students away. The only alternatives in the Twin Cities cost 2-4 times as much (U of M is 2x the cost; privates are 4-6x the cost). The economic implications of huge student debt load are enormous for the city (delayed home ownership, business start-ups, family upward mobility).</p> <p><b>Fierce competition from the for-profits</b> who invest huge amounts in marketing and recruitment and who charge 4-6 times our tuition. The state colleges and universities are not permitted to operate on a level playing field or to have the amount of flexibility over our product development and pricing systems that good business practices would require.</p> <p><b>Need to become more strongly positioned as Minnesota's premier metropolitan university.</b> The University of Minnesota's has become too selective &amp; too expensive to serve the region's needs for quality, convenient, affordable public higher education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Portland has Portland St. U.</li><li>• Detroit has Wayne St. U.</li><li>• Los Angeles has C.S.U. system campuses</li><li>• New York has C.U.N.Y.</li><li>• Atlanta has Georgia St. U.</li></ul> <p>Minnesota needs a Metropolitan State U. supported on a proper scale to serve the region. <b>To become appropriately positioned will require significant investment in East and West Metro area campuses, faculty/staff, and marketing.</b></p> <p><b>Part-time students and transfer students</b> require proportionately more support/FTES than MnSCU's allocation framework allows for.</p> <p>Enrollment growth, eroding state support, allocation framework, and policy constraints threaten our capacity to continue providing value to our students through a quality, affordable education.</p>
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