

MSU Overview

Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on regional engagement. MSU aspires to be the best public regional university in the South through a commitment to strategies dedicated to continuous improvements in **Student success, Outcomes, Academic excellence, and Rankings**, reputation, and regional responsiveness (see MSU Strategic Plan - *Come SOAR With Us 2018-2022*).

MSU is located in the foothills of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Rowan County, Kentucky. Founded in 1887 as Morehead Normal School, it was a private, church-supported institution known as “a light to the mountains.” In 1926, it became part of the state-supported system and was renamed Morehead State Normal School and Teacher’s College. An increase in enrollment and degree programs resulted in successive renaming as Morehead State College (1948) and its current designation as Morehead State University (1966). The mission statement/purpose of MSU is as follows:

As a community of lifelong learners, we will:

- Educate students for success in a global environment;
- Engage in scholarship;
- Promote diversity of people and ideas;
- Foster innovation, collaboration, and creative thinking; and
- Serve our communities to improve the quality of life.

MSU has an eleven-member Board of Regents that serves by statute as the governing body of the University. The board is dedicated to the promotion of the mission and goals of the University. The board is also responsible for the creation or dissolution of degrees upon approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In the fall of 2020, MSU had a total of 93 instructional program classifications and 212 institutional programs. At the undergraduate level, there were 59 instructional program classifications and 142 institutional programs. At the graduate level, there were 29 instructional program classifications and 68 institutional programs. The programs are housed in four colleges: Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology; Ernst & Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education; and College of Science. MSU offers associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral degrees as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates.

In the fall of 2020, MSU had a total enrollment of 9,307 students which included 8,621 undergraduate students and 686 graduate students. Of the 8,621 undergraduate students enrolled, 2,731 were high school students.

In the fall of 2020, MSU employed 419 total faculty members: 312 full-time (67% tenured or tenure track) and 107 part-time faculty members in addition to 533 full-time staff and 157 part-time staff.

MSU's annual operating budget, approved by the Board of Regents each June, is based on projected funds from tuition and fees, state appropriation, sales and services of educational activities, and auxiliary enterprise revenue. The University's independent external auditors conduct an annual audit and disclose concerns and recommendations to the Board if needed. MSU has received no audit concerns or recommendations in recent history.

MSU is part of the Kentucky public postsecondary education system. Our service region consists of 22 counties in eastern Kentucky; however, our outreach extends far beyond the service region. The University's main campus is located in Morehead, Kentucky with regional campuses in Ashland, Mt. Sterling, and Prestonsburg.

Distinctive Features:

- MSU's Program of Distinction, Space Science, is one of only five such programs in the nation.
- The University is home to the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science & Mathematics, a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students.
- Morehead State has been named one of the top public regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report for 17 consecutive years.
- The institution is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement.