

Southwest Minnesota State University
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SMSU IN PERSPECTIVE

Southwest Minnesota State University was authorized by the 1963 Minnesota Legislature as the state's only four-year liberal arts and technical university. A 216-acre tract of land was donated to the state as the site for the new campus, and in 1964 the first president of the University was named. Ground was broken in 1966 for the first construction, and amid the noise of bulldozers and carpenters, the still unfinished college—called Southwest Minnesota State College at the time—opened its doors in 1967. The University's modern physical facilities incorporate distinctive, barrier-free architectural designs, providing greater access for students with disabilities. In 1975, the Minnesota Legislature authorized university status for individual colleges in the state system, and Southwest Minnesota State College became Southwest State University. In 2003, MnSCU approved the change to Southwest Minnesota State University. Today, the University has approximately 5,634 students and 156 teaching faculty, its academic, social, and cultural programs are flourishing, and the campus continues to grow.

SMSU's academic program is carried out through the Division of Academic Affairs. The University offers 46 baccalaureate majors, 4 associate degree majors, and 40 minors. In addition, it offers master's degree programs in business and education. Students can enter a four-year bachelor's degree program (bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, or bachelor of applied science), opt for a two-year associate degree (associate in science), or enter one of 16 pre-professional programs.

Southwest Minnesota State University is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The Mission of Southwest Minnesota State University

The mission of Southwest Minnesota State University is to provide high quality liberal arts, professional, and technical programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Southwest Minnesota State University is dedicated to excellence in teaching and to preparing students to be lifelong learners in a changing global, social, and natural environment. The University has a special commitment to the educational needs of people in its service region. This commitment is reflected in the curricula, cultural enrichment programs, cooperative relationships with other regional institutions, and in service and research contributions to both the public and private sectors of the region.

Goals

In order to achieve this mission, Southwest Minnesota State University will:

1. Give priority to the highest quality undergraduate teaching and learning by:
 - a) providing a core of liberal studies as a foundation for all undergraduate degrees.
 - b) providing technical programs.
 - c) providing liberal arts programs.
 - d) providing professional and pre-professional programs.
2. Develop new and creative means to bring graduate-level instruction and programs to southwestern Minnesota in response to demonstrated regional needs.
3. Cooperate with other colleges and universities and with vocational-technical colleges and institutes to develop educational programs which will meet the educational needs of Minnesota and the region.
4. Provide for the continuing educational needs of the region through special courses, conferences, institutes, non-credit courses, workshops, and seminars, as well as provide special programs to serve early childhood, elementary, secondary, and special education.
5. Place particular emphasis on programs which enable persons with physical disabilities to achieve their educational goals.
6. Place particular emphasis on programs for the gifted and talented.
7. Place particular emphasis on coursework, service, and research in rural studies, rural education, and agri-business.
8. Seek to enhance the intellectual, social, and physical development of each of its students.
9. Assume a leadership role in the development of projects and initiatives which will assist in developing the economic base of southwestern Minnesota.

Accreditations

Southwest Minnesota State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Minnesota Board of Teaching, the American Chemical Society, the Council on Social Work Education, and The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago IL 60602; 800-621-7440.

The Marshall Community

Marshall, Minnesota (population 13,500) is a growth center in the 19-county, southwestern Minnesota area with a regional population of approximately 300,000. There are lakes, a beautiful countryside, a nearby state park and a county park that offer hunting, fishing, skating, hiking, horseback riding, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Surrounded by farms of corn, soybeans, and cattle-hog operations, Marshall has a 49-bed municipal hospital, a shopping mall, several major discount department stores, five city parks, athletic-recreational facilities, an 18-hole golf course, 18 churches, a fine arts association, a community theatre, a regional orchestra, a six-screen movie theater, five motels and numerous restaurants. One of the nation's largest diversified manufacturers and distributors of food products is located in Marshall.