Building on a distinguished history dating back to 1908, Montclair State University is a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey. The University’s eight colleges and schools serve more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students with approximately 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate level programs. Situated on a beautiful, 252-acre suburban campus just 14 miles from New York City, Montclair State delivers the instructional and research resources of a large public university in a supportive, sophisticated and diverse academic environment.

Until recently, MSU was primarily an undergraduate-serving institution, but it is now experiencing considerable growth with a marked increase in research programs and initiatives. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, which is the widely recognized classification of U.S. institutions of higher education, has recognized Montclair State University as a Research Doctoral University—one of four such public institutions in New Jersey. In addition, the New Jersey Office of Higher Education has recognized MSU as one of eight doctoral degree-granting institutions in the state.

In the fall of 2015, MSU surpassed the 25% Hispanic enrollment threshold required by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for funding as a “Hispanic Serving Institution.” This will open up future avenues for research and program funding to support many areas to include (but not limited to) the purchase of laboratory equipment and educational materials for teaching, faculty development and student support services.

According to the 2013 CIRP Freshman Survey, 30% of first-time, full-time freshman report they are the first generation to attend college.

Because of its location in Northern New Jersey, MSU serves a highly diverse student body. In 2014, university-wide, 31% of the students graduating with a bachelor’s degree or certificate in the undergraduate level are underrepresented minority (URM) students. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) undergraduate student body consists of 40% URM and 67% female students.

CHSS combines a traditional liberal arts education with focused preparation in a wide range of disciplines and professional areas, offering 20 majors, more than 40 minors, and numerous areas of graduate study and professional certificate programs. CHSS majors and minors can reach across disciplines, exploring areas of interest from multiple perspectives, which allow students to draw from a range of disciplinary areas to better understand topics such as gender, religion and international studies. The CHSS curriculum offers students professional certification as child advocates, speech and language therapists, paralegals and teachers of psychology, social studies, foreign languages, literature and linguistics. In Fall 2015, 4,485 undergraduate and 763 graduate students are enrolled in CHSS.

The Department of Justice Studies offers a rigorous course of study that examines the intersection of justice, law, policy and social change. The Justice Studies major consists of a core liberal arts curriculum and a field-specific concentration, making it different from criminal justice majors available at many other academic institutions in New Jersey. The Department also offers a Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Studies Certificate—the first and only state college or university in New Jersey to receive American Bar Association approval. There are 705 undergraduate and 26 graduate students enrolled in the Department as of Fall 2015; 44% of undergraduates and 58% of graduates are female, while 42% of undergraduates and 35% of graduates are URM.