Building on a distinguished history dating back to 1908, Montclair State University is a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey. Designated a Research Doctoral University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the University’s nine colleges and schools serve more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students with more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate level programs. Situated on a beautiful, 252-acre suburban campus just 12 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. In addition to the Research Doctoral University designation—making MSU one of four such public institutions in New Jersey—the University has also been recognized by the New Jersey Office of Higher Education as one of eight doctoral degree-granting institutions in the state. In addition, MSU was designated a public research university in July 2017.

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 2016, university-wide, 32% 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 42% 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 Spring 2017, 4,185 undergraduate and 708 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 696 undergraduate and 16 graduate students enrolled in the Department as of Spring 2017; 44% of undergraduates and 50% of graduates are female, while 44% of undergraduates and 31% of graduates are URM.