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 Science and Mathematics (CSAM) undergraduate student body consists of 41% URM and 52% female students.

CSAM provides academically rigorous programs reflecting contemporary needs and research foci in sciences and mathematics. The mission of CSAM is to provide a rich academic and social environment that engages students in scientific depth and educational breadth so as to train them to discover new knowledge and evaluate existing knowledge critically and rigorously. Inclusion of undergraduates in research is a major emphasis of CSAM. Currently, the University offers seven doctoral programs—two within CSAM. In Spring 2017, 2,244 undergraduate students are enrolled in CSAM and there are 415 BS graduates.

Additionally, the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS)—a 107,500 sq. ft. science facility devoted to environmental and pharmaceutical life sciences research—opened in September 2015. CELS has expanded the university's science research infrastructure by 50 percent.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is certified by the American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training and offers a number of undergraduate and graduate degrees, including Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, a combined BS/MS program in Chemistry, an MS in Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry, as well as an MS in Chemistry. In
Spring 2017, there are 246 undergraduate students; 42% are URM and 55% are female. Of the 16 graduate students, 25% are URM and 75% are female.