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 Education and Human Services (CEHS) undergraduate student body consists of 31% URM and 74% female students.

CEHS offers a wide variety of outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs leading to professional careers in public and private schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private industry. All programs in the College are firmly grounded in the liberal arts and include the opportunity for internships, field work or student teaching. CEHS’s seven academic departments are: Counseling and Educational Leadership; Secondary and Special Education; Early Childhood, Elementary and Literacy Education; Educational Foundations; Exercise Science and Physical Education; Family and Child Studies; and Health and Nutrition Sciences. In Fall 2015, 2,350 undergraduate and 2,048 graduate students are enrolled in CEHS.

The Family and Child Studies Department provides students with a greater understanding of multiple ways of knowing families and children in various contexts, enabling students to critically analyze the literature and to keep abreast of trends in research. The faculty creates a learning environment that supports and encourages the development of forward thinking practitioners and educators who work with families and children in a variety of settings. The department offers three concentrations at the undergraduate level—Families, Children, and School Settings; Family Services; and Gerontology—as well as an MA in Family and Child Studies and a PhD in Family Studies. A total of 882 undergraduate and 50 graduate students are enrolled as of Fall 2015; 96% of undergraduates and 92% of graduates are female, while 33% of undergraduates and 38% of graduates are URM.