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 Education and Human Services (CEHS) undergraduate student body consists of 36% URM and 76% 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; Public Health; and Nutrition and Food Sciences. In Spring 2017, 2,298 undergraduate and 2,062 graduate students are enrolled in CEHS.

The Department of Public Health trains public health practitioners with professional skills for planning, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining efforts to enhance population health and eliminate health disparities. The program seeks to advance the goals of Healthy People 2030 and the National Prevention Strategy and to contribute to a diverse public health workforce by developing and nurturing a student body that represents multiple cultural, educational, and professional backgrounds. In Spring 2017, 199 undergraduate and 43 graduate students are enrolled; 85% of undergraduates and 79% of graduates are female, while 59% of undergraduates and 40% of graduates are URM.