**MSU, CHSS Narrative with Religion Statistics (2017-2018)**

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 11 colleges and schools serve more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students with more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate 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. MSU has earned the designation of R2 – Doctoral University – High Research Activity – in the latest reclassification of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. 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 AY 2017-2018, university-wide, 35% 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 48% URM and 68% female students.

CHSS combines a traditional liberal arts education with focused preparation in a wide range of disciplines and professional areas, offering more than 20 majors, nearly 50 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 AY 2017-2018, 4,335 undergraduate and 718 graduate students are enrolled in CHSS.

Montclair State is one of the few public universities in New Jersey that offers a Religion major. Faculty have expertise in religion, society, and culture; religion and politics; religious ethics; and religious texts. The curriculum covers each of the major religious traditions in today's world, including indigenous religions, and represent a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of religion and spirituality. Students study the impact of religion on world politics or the role of women in religious history. There are 20 students enrolled in the Department as of 2017-2018; 50% are female and 45% are URM.