

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO MISSION STATEMENT

Minnesota State University promotes learning through effective undergraduate and graduate teaching, scholarship, and research in service to the state, the region and the global community.

ADMISSION

College of Graduate Studies and Research

115 Alumni Foundation Center • 507-389-2321 • Fax 507-389-5974

Students possessing a four-year bachelor's degree earned at a regionally accredited college or university may apply for admission to graduate study. Admission to the graduate school is open to all who qualify with no limitation based on race, religion, color, veteran's status, sex, age, national origin, marital status, physical and mental disability, sexual orientation, creed, status due to receipt of public assistance or any group against which discrimination is prohibited.

Degree Seeking Admission

Students seeking a graduate degree must submit a completed application in duplicate for a specific graduate degree program. The applicant must make arrangements to have two official transcripts sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies and Research from the institution(s) where the undergraduate or graduate degree was received. The award of the baccalaureate degree must be listed on the transcript. If a student is seeking admission to the College of Graduate Studies and Research before his/her graduation from an undergraduate institution, an incomplete transcript will be reviewed for provisional admission. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for an official degree verifying transcript to be sent by the degree-granting institution once it is available. Students are not considered to be fully admitted until an official final degree verifying undergraduate transcript is received by the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Application Fee. All applicants must submit an application fee with the application for graduate study. The fee is waived for applicants currently enrolled in the McNair Scholars Program.

Materials filed with the College of Graduate Studies and Research cannot be returned, borrowed or reproduced. Application materials of applicants who do not enroll in graduate courses are destroyed after two years. If a student starts but does not complete a graduate program, his/her files will be destroyed after six years without course registration.

A four year accumulated minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale is required in all programs unless otherwise specified. **Some programs require a higher GPA.** Please review the admissions standards of each program for requirements of minimum grade point averages, Graduate Record Examination, Miller's Analogies Test, letters of recommendation or prerequisite requirements. If the program requires standardized test results, official scores must be in the applicant's file before the file will be reviewed for admission.

Once the applicant's file is complete and the applicant meets all the requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, the file is sent to the department for review and admission recommendation. A student is not officially admitted to the College of Graduate Studies and Research until an admission recommendation from the department is reviewed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. A review of an application review may require several weeks.

The reviewing department may require the student to complete certain deficiencies in addition to the normal requirements of the graduate program. Upon receipt of the department's recommendation, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research will admit the student to the program and the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The College of Graduate Studies and Research officially informs the applicant of his/her admission status.

Applicants with poor academic records or limited probability of succeeding in graduate work may be denied admission to a degree program and permission to take graduate courses. Applicants may also be denied if the department involved and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research concur that the applicant does not meet the professional standards commonly required for a student earning a graduate degree in that area.

Standardized Tests. Some graduate programs require the Graduate Record Examination, the Millers Analogies Test, or the GMAT for admission to the program. Students should check the specific admission requirements for individual graduate programs.

Transfer Credits. A maximum of 10 semester credits of graduate credit, all of which must be related to the program (with a grade "B" or better), may be transferred from other appropriately accredited colleges or universities into a master's degree program. A maximum of 16 semester credits of graduate credit may be transferred from the other Minnesota state universities and applied to a program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

To be accepted as transfer credit and applied towards a Minnesota State Mankato graduate degree, the following conditions must be met:

1. Credit must be from a regionally accredited educational institution
2. Credits transferred into an accredited program may need to come from an accredited program
3. The courses must be taught by a full-time faculty member with graduate faculty status at the originating university
4. The courses must be part of a regular graduate program at the originating university
5. Evaluation and approval by the student's Examining Committee
6. Evaluation and approval by the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

The following will not be accepted as transfer credit:

1. Correspondence or similar study
2. Individual study
3. Credit earned at a location in Minnesota through a university headquartered in another state or country
4. Credit for courses conducted by proprietary groups
5. Credit applied towards another degree
6. Extended campus credit from a university that does not accept that credit for its own on-campus graduate programs; or
7. Workshops, Continuing Education Courses and In-Service Training credits

All credit counting toward a Minnesota State Mankato graduate degree, including all transferred credit, must be completed within the six year time limit. Credit used to complete another graduate degree program can not be transferred into another graduate program.

Change of Program. To change degree programs, students must complete the admission requirements of the new program including a review and acceptance by that program's admission committee. Students must submit a new application form to the College of Graduate Studies and Research for the change to be effective. No more than 12 graduate credits taken by a degree seeking student can be applied to the new program. Earned graduate credit can only be counted once towards a degree.

Part-Time Students. Most graduate programs at Minnesota State University, Mankato accommodate the student who, because of employment, family or other obligation, chooses to attain a degree on a part-time basis. Students may choose to not register for classes for several semesters, and resume a part-time or full-time load at a later date. However, the maximum time limit to complete all master's degree and specialist program requirements, including coursework and the capstone project, is six years.

Immunizations. All students born after 1956 are required by law to be immunized for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus and diphtheria. Students will need to provide proof of these immunizations before they are allowed to register.

Non-Degree Seeking Admission

Students wishing to take graduate coursework, but who do not wish to seek a graduate degree or enroll in a graduate certificate program, must complete an application as a non-degree seeking student prior to registration. No more than 12 graduate credits taken by a non-degree seeking student may be applied to a graduate degree program. This option is not typically available to international students.

International Student Admission

Requirements for all International Students. International students must follow all of the standard application procedures listed above. In addition, a completed, certified financial statement confirming the availability of adequate financial support must be attached to the application form. An official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score must be sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies and Research from the testing service, as explained in the following section. Examinee's copies of TOEFL scores will not be accepted. Unofficial

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

transcripts and application materials are unacceptable. Transcript evaluation by an approved evaluation agency is required for most academic programs.

Because of the procedures required to determine English competency and the additional administrative time required, it is absolutely necessary that international student applications for graduate study be complete no later than three months before the beginning of the semester in which the student wishes to enroll. All official transcripts, official test scores, letters of recommendation, financial statement and background sheet must be in the student's file in the College of Graduate Studies and Research three months before the beginning of the term of anticipated entry. International students planning to attend Minnesota State University, Mankato should plan to arrive on campus at least one week before classes begin to participate in the required orientation program coordinated by the Office of International Students. There is no summer admission for international students.

International students are required to enroll for a full-time graduate student course load (6 semester credits).

English Proficiency. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required of all applicants whose native language is not English and who have not recently graduated from an educational institution in the U.S. or an English speaking nation.

Applications for the TOEFL can be obtained from the Educational Testing Service, Box 899, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. Only official scores sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies and Research by the Educational Testing Service are acceptable.

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate their ability to study in English by submitting a score of 500 or higher on the paper version, 173 or higher on the computer version. Prior completion of English coursework at other U.S. colleges does not exempt the student from submitting TOEFL results. Some academic programs have higher TOEFL minimum scores than are noted above.

International Students Office. The International Students Office serves international students by advising students about academic, immigration, personal, social and financial issues. There are approximately 600 international students representing more than 70 countries at the University. The Office of International Students serves as the official contact agent between the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, other government agencies, and the University community.

The ISO also processes immigration paper work for faculty from abroad in J-1 status.

The Office of International Students coordinates and implements international social and cultural activities on campus and within the Mankato community.

Health Insurance. Health and Accident insurance is required for all international students and their dependents studying at Minnesota State University on an F-1 or J-1 Visa. All newly arrived international students are required to subscribe to the University's designated health plan prior to enrollment. Health insurance is required for the entire period of study at Minnesota State University - including the summer. Any exception or waiver can only be granted by the ISO Health Insurance Committee.

New Student Orientation. All new and transfer international students are required to attend a New Student Orientation program before they receive authorization to register for classes. An orientation fee will be charged to each new international student who enrolls at MSU.

English Placement Test and ESL. All new and transfer students whose native language is not English are required to take the English Placement Examination prior to enrolling in classes. This applies to both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to transfer students. Based on student performance students may be required to enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, beginning their first semester on campus, until authorized by the ESL instructor as eligible to enroll in English Composition 101 or waived of further requirements in case of graduate students. If a student fails to meet this requirement, a hold will be placed on the student's records. ESL for undergraduate students is not a substitute for English Composition 101 for general education requirements. Questions concerning ESL can be referred to the Department of Modern Languages at 389-2116.

"International Students in U.S. Higher Education" Course. The University requires all new international students to register and complete the course: "International Students in Higher Education" during their first semester on campus. Students who have attended other U.S. institutions for more than one year are waived from this requirement. The course is offered through the College of Education.

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Office of the Registrar

136 Wigley Administration Center • 507-389-6266

Registration procedures are established by the Office of the Registrar. Class schedules and registration policies are posted on the University Registrar's web pages. Registration is accomplished via the Internet. Courses carrying graduate credit are those listed at the 500, 600, or 700 levels. Many courses listed on the 500 level are open to undergraduates as well as graduate students (undergraduates enroll in corresponding 400 numbered courses). The courses listed at or above the 600 level are open only to graduate students. Courses at the 700 level are available only to students admitted to a doctoral program. Graduate students registering for at least six graduate level credits during a semester are defined as full-time graduate students at the University.

All students wishing to take graduate level courses must complete and submit an Application for Admission to the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Graduate students enrolled in 500 level courses that are also listed at the 440 level will be required to demonstrate graduate level work in the testing process and/or through additional class assignments as required by the instructor, department, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

An undergraduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato who has 6 semester credits or fewer remaining on a bachelor's degree and has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better for the last 60 semester credits may, with the consent of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, be permitted to register for graduate work to complete a normal load. Usually, no more than two graduate courses may be taken under these circumstances. Forms initiating this procedure are available in the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate students permitted to register for graduate credits are considered as undergraduate students until they complete all undergraduate degree requirements. They are not eligible for graduate student financial aid or for graduate assistantships.

Students enrolled in courses must fulfill tuition and fee payment obligations by the published deadlines or they will be dropped from all registered courses.

Academic Transcripts. A fee is assessed for each official transcript. Payment is to be submitted when transcripts are requested. Allow a minimum of seven working days from receipt of request for processing. All holds must be cleared before an official transcript is issued. Additional information about ordering academic transcripts is available by contacting the Office of the Registrar's.

TUITION AND FEES

Minnesota Residency

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) Board establishes residency requirements for the entire State University system. These residency requirements pertain only to the payment of tuition within the University system. Voting privileges have no bearing on whether or not students pay resident or non-resident tuition.

Non-resident tuition will be charged to students whose permanent homes are outside Minnesota. "Permanent" means family home or home established for a purpose other than for University attendance.

Initial classification of a student as a non-resident, however, does not prevent reclassification at any time when residency requirements are met. Students desiring changes in residency may obtain specific information concerning residency requirements from the Office of the Registrar.

Tuition and Fees

Current tuition and fee rates may be found on the University's web pages. Please note that tuition and fees are subject to change without advance notification.

Reciprocity Tuition

Students from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Manitoba are eligible to participate in the reciprocity tuition program. Forms are available at the Office of the Registrar.

Midwest Student Exchange Program. The Midwest Student Exchange Program is an interstate initiative established by the Midwestern Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to increase educational opportunities for students in its members states. This program enables residents of Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mis-

souri, Nebraska, and North Carolina to enroll in designated institutions and programs at reduced tuition levels outside of their home state. Contact the Office of the Registrar 507-389-6266.

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Student Employment

All students seeking any kind of employment at Minnesota State University, Mankato must be able to lawfully accept employment in the United States at the time of employment as prescribed in the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Ordinarily, a state issued driver's license and a social security card will be sufficient evidence, but other appropriate documents may be required.

Need-Based Financial Aid Programs

Programs below are available to students who demonstrate financial need and otherwise meet program and application requirements: Federal Work-Study, Federal Stafford Student Loan, Minnesota State Work-Study, Federal Perkins Student Loans, Student Education Loan Fund (SELF). To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year in which financial assistance is needed. Applications for these financial resources should be filed early in the calendar year. For additional information, please contact the Student Financial Services, 120 Wigley Administration Center, 507-389-1866.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships provide academically-related employment for eligible graduate students. The three basic types of assistantships are for teaching, research, or program assistance. **Teaching Assistants** generally assist a professor with teaching his/her courses. Some will teach courses as the instructor of record under faculty supervision. **Research Assistants** assist faculty with various research projects. **Program Assistants** work in a variety of programs and offices throughout the university. Most departments with graduate programs have assistantships available. Applications should be submitted to the department or unit for which the student wishes to work. Students wishing to apply for assistantships in multiple departments or units need to submit a separate application for each.

Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants

Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organization subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

Federal Work-Study Graduate Assistantships

Federal Work-Study Graduate Assistantships are available to graduate students who are eligible for financial aid. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year in which financial assistance is needed. Apply online at the FAFSA Web site. Assistance with the FAFSA process is available from Student Financial Services at the Campus Hub, in person at 117 Centennial Student Union, by telephone at 507-389-1866, or e-mail campushub@mnsu.edu.

Memorial Library Graduate Assistantships

Applicants for any of the graduate programs who have had experience working in libraries may apply for assistantships in Memorial Library. These assistantships are especially beneficial to new librarians who wish to attain the necessary second Master's degree before entering full-time employment in a library. Positions exist in a variety of areas throughout the library.

Student Affairs Graduate Assistantships

Each year, 15 to 20 graduate assistantships are usually available through the following: Office of Student Affairs; Office of Admissions; Career Development and

Counseling Center; Centennial Student Union; Counseling and Health Services; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Center; Office of Financial Aid; Office of First Year Experience; Pre-Major Advising; Orientation; Office of International Students; Department of Residential Life; Student Leadership Development & Services-Learning; Office of the Vice President; and Women's Center. Apply through the Office of Student Affairs.

Assistantship policies are updated from time to time. Please contact the College of Graduate Studies and Research for current assistantship policies.

Policy Background. Graduate Assistantships are stipends awarded to assist students in making progress toward their degree. Graduate Assistants provide instructional, research, and/or administrative support to departmental efforts. A graduate assistantship provides the opportunity for a student to practice what is being studied in an applied activity, such as research, teaching, and other sorts of professional practice.

Policy Statement. Graduate assistantships are awarded to full-time students who are fully admitted to a graduate program and who maintain good academic standing during the time of the award. Appointments are competitive and are determined on the basis of undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average, test scores, letters of recommendation, pertinent experience, educational preparation, interviews, or a combination of these factors. The amount of compensation and terms and conditions of awards will be maintained and published by the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Requirements. Since the purpose of the award is to assist the student in making progress toward the degree, the maximum time commitment to assistantship activities is normally 20 hours per week (for a teaching assistant, 8-9 semester credits over 2 semesters). Teaching assistants may be assigned extra duties (not to exceed the equivalent of 9 semester credits). In special cases when a student is in the last term of study, additional assignments may be made up to 30 hours per week. For the same reasons, a student must be concurrently enrolled each term for at least 6 graduate semester credits, but not more than 12 semester credits. Summer session appointments require a minimum of 1 graduate semester credit. A student who was assigned a limited number of deficiency courses as a condition of admission may petition the Graduate Dean to accept the deficiency credits toward meeting the minimum credits required for the assistantship. No more than nine undergraduate credits may be covered by the graduate assistant tuition waiver during the entire time a student is employed as a graduate assistant (endorsed by the Grad. Submeet and Confer on 2/16/04). The maximum length of appointment (from all sources of funding) is limited to the normal length of time for completing the degree, in most cases 2 years (a few programs which require more than a minimum of 40 credits have a normal length of 3 years to completion).

Compensation. The amount of the Graduate Assistant stipend is published each year by the College of Graduate Studies and Research. As far as possible, stipends are set to cover the full cost of attending the institution, as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. Stipends are calculated on a full-time equivalent of "20 hours per week." The stipend is subject to State and Federal taxes. Full awards carry a waiver of 18 credits of tuition for Fall and Spring semesters (normally, 9 each semester). Tuition waivers for more than 9 credits each semester must be approved by the Graduate Dean. No tuition waiver is provided for Summer Session appointments. Partial awards are permitted and may carry a corresponding reduction in tuition waiver. Students may hold multiple concurrent appointments in different departments or administrative units, as long as the total of all appointments does not exceed the maximum allowed. At no time will a graduate assistant be employed concurrently as an adjunct faculty.

Students who hold an assistantship are eligible for Minnesota resident tuition rates during the time of their award, and over the Summer if they held an award the previous Spring semester, during the Summer, or have accepted an award for the following Fall semester.

Terms and Conditions. Prior to the beginning date of the award, graduate assistants will receive a letter summarizing their general duties, stipend, and times and flexibility of duties. During the first week of duty, graduate assistants will be given an initial orientation to their assigned duties by their supervisor, including a description of specific duties, standards for evaluation of performance, and training and other resources available.

Appointment. The award of a graduate assistantship is made by a letter of offer. Acceptance must also be in writing, and constitutes an agreement between the student and the department that both are expected to honor. Resignation from an appointment before the end of the term initially specified should also be in writing, and should be delivered to the department as early as possible. Students

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

who resign or are released from their appointment prior to the mid-point of a semester will lose the tuition waiver for that term.

Termination. Graduate assistants are expected to meet the standards of performance described at their appointment, and to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward their degree. Failure to meet either set of standards can lead to termination of the assistantship. Although, immediate termination may be invoked for serious misbehavior or failure to perform, under normal circumstances of poor performance the following guidelines will be followed:

1. Written notice of warning, with a two-week trial period; followed (if necessary) by
2. Written notice of termination, effective immediately.

Copies of this correspondence will be sent to the Graduate Dean and to the department chairperson (for departmental appointments) or to the unit's director (for administrative unit appointments). The notice of termination must also be sent to the Office of Business Affairs, and to the Office of International Students (if appropriate). All compensation accrued prior to receipt of the notice of termination in the Business Office will be charged to the unit responsible for direct supervision of the student.

Both written notice of warning and written notice of termination may be appealed. In case of appeal, the student will send to the department chair or the unit director a copy of the written notice and a letter stating the errors of fact or interpretation, which is the basis of the appeal. The chair or unit director must investigate the appeal and deliver a written response within one week. The appeal may be carried one step further, in writing, to the College dean (for appointments in academic departments) or to the appropriate vice president (for appointments outside the academic departments). The dean or vice president will consult with the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and their decision will be final. The initiation of an appeal does not extend the trial period or the termination of duties.

Policy Implementation. In support of the terms and conditions outlined in this policy, the following procedures are followed.

- A. The policy addresses the tuition waiver associated with graduate assistantships. To be eligible for resident tuition during the academic year, the signed Work Authorization Form must be received in the College of Graduate Studies and Research no later than the tenth instructional day in a semester in which the appointment is effective.
- B. The policy addresses the number of hours of work that can be expected from a graduate assistant. A graduate assistant can typically be hired only for work completed when the university is in session. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.
- C. The policy addresses the appropriate process to follow if the assistantship is terminated by the hiring unit. A student who believes s/he is being unfairly treated as a graduate assistant in any other areas unrelated to termination as a graduate assistant may initiate an appeal that is similar to the grade appeal process detailed in the Scholastic Standards.

The appeal process begins with the student discussing the issue with the supervisor. If no resolution is achieved, the student should submit a written petition to the department chairperson or director of the office, and send a copy to the supervisor. The chairperson or director will respond to the petition in writing within two weeks. If no satisfactory resolution is achieved, the student may appeal in writing to the dean of the college or appropriate vice-president, who will respond in writing.

If a satisfactory agreement has not been reached, the student will submit a written statement to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies in some cases may convene a committee to serve in an advisory capacity. This committee will be comprised of three members of the Graduate Sub-Meet and Confer and a graduate student.

If such a committee is formed, the chairperson of the committee will respond to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies within two weeks of the formation of the committee. The student and the supervisor shall be permitted to make a rebuttal to the written record compiled by the committee. This must be completed within two weeks. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research will then make a final decision concerning the situation, and the decision of the Dean will be communicated in writing to all concerned parties. This decision is final.

Written petitions should describe the nature of the problem, the remedy sought, and a statement that an attempt was made to resolve the issue at the appropriate levels. If witnesses are named in the petition, they should receive copies of the petition.

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The Graduate Dean enforces established graduate policy, administers the affairs of the College, and reports to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Graduate Submeet and Confer is consulted on all proposed graduate policy changes at Minnesota State Mankato.

Student Involvement. The Student Senate and the Graduate Student Association are invited to select a group of graduate students who will serve as an advisory committee to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Waiving of Regulation by Petition. Graduate students may petition the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and/or the Graduate Sub-Meet and Confer Unit for waiving of certain regulations based on the existence of extenuating circumstances. Such a petition must be endorsed by the student's advisor before it will be considered.

Graduate Faculty. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies approves graduate and research faculty status based on the recommendation of the department chair and the college dean as well as a review of their credentials by the graduate committee.

Advisors. Students are assigned an initial advisor upon admission to a program. Students, however, frequently change advisors after taking some courses and meeting faculty who share their interests. A change of advisor must be endorsed by the new advisor, the chair or the graduate coordinator of the academic unit, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. A Change of Advisor form is submitted to the College of Graduate Studies for the change to be effective.

Students are encouraged to work closely with their advisors in:

1. developing a Plan of Study and selecting their courses
2. meeting all departmental and College of Graduate Studies and Research requirements
3. organizing an examining committee
4. completing the required research course and capstone project
5. arranging for comprehensive examinations

Nondegree students graduate students are not assigned an advisor. They may, however, seek advice from a member of the faculty.

Courses

Only courses bearing graduate credit are applicable toward a graduate degree. The minimum number of credits required to be taken in courses restricted to graduate students is specified in the various graduate programs. At least one-half of the credits required for the Master's degree program must be from courses listed as 600-699, excluding thesis or APP credits. These courses are for graduate students only. If a dual numbered course is taken at the undergraduate level, it cannot be taken at the graduate level and counted toward a graduate degree program.

Graduate Student Load. To be considered full-time, a graduate student must enroll for at least 6 semester credits. The student's maximum course load each semester is 12 credits for the regular school year and a maximum of 8 semester credits during the summer session. Any exception must be approved by the student's advisor and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Any student exceeding the load limit without proper authorization shall lose the credits in excess of the authorized load.

Credit by Examination. Students who possess expertise and knowledge in a specific area covered by graduate coursework may, with the approval of the class instructor, department chairperson, and the graduate dean, apply for credit by examination for up to 6 credits. Forms may be obtained from the department offering the specific course(s) to be examined.

Workshops, In-Service, Tours. A maximum of 10 credits earned in workshops, in-service courses, and tours may be used in a graduate degree program.

Individual Studies. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken for independent study.

Course Definitions

1. **Contact Hour:** One 50-minute period containing class group activity under supervision.
2. **Regular Course:** Contact hours between professor and students designed more to synthesize content than to present material to be learned. Thus, contact among class members and professor is heavily supplemented

by regular assignments and systematic evaluation. A course meets on a regular basis usually for an academic semester, a summer session or as a module.

3. **Workshop:** The principal learning takes place through interchange among class members, the professor and her/his assistants. Thus, most work for credit is frequently done within the scheduled contact hours; however, appropriate evaluation of student performance may include assessment of outside work as well. A workshop has specific focus on an educational problem and occurs in a compact time period.
4. **In-Service:** A professor and a group of students concentrate on cooperatively working toward the resolution of a specific problem clearly relating to professional assignments of students. An in-service course focuses on concerns of a unique clientele. This course is usually offered on-site over an extended period of time. Each new subtitle must be approved by the department chairperson, college dean and, if at the graduate level, the graduate dean. Approval is for an indefinite time.
5. **Seminar:** Characterized by in-depth study and a narrow focus. Students are expected to do extended research outside of class and to present and defend their research in class. A limited number of students is accepted and stringent prerequisites are required.
6. **Practicum, Internship, Field Study or Field Work:** Credit is awarded for an educational experience on an individual basis emphasizing on-the-job training. The student's work is jointly supervised by the academic unit involved and the cooperating agency. Written permission from the individual professor and/or department is required prior to registration.
7. **Tour:** An extended group experience off campus in which major learning results from travel. Tours must be supervised by regular Minnesota State University faculty who accompany it. Credit is awarded and student evaluation is expected. The tour itself constitutes the major learning experience in earning credits.
8. **Field Trip:** A short-term visit off campus to a site of educational significance. This activity is supplemental to a regular course. Credit awarded is for the course involved, with no extra or separate credit awarded for the field trip.
9. **Individually Paced Course:** A series of specifically defined lessons. Each lesson involves an assignment and an evaluation which the student must complete at an acceptable competence level. Learning may involve group and/or individual activity, but the standards established apply equally to all members. A maximum of six credits of independent study may count toward a degree program.
10. **Individual Study:** Permits properly qualified students to undertake independent study under guidance of a faculty member. It is used only where the time sequence and content are especially suited to the individual student and no other students are enrolled in the same work at the same time. Written permission from the individual professor and/or department is required prior to registration. A maximum of 6 credits of independent study may count toward a degree program.
11. **Module:** Identifies a regular course taught in a compact time frame. All other guidelines for a regular course apply.

Note: Individual study courses require consent of instructor and department chair. In-service courses carry individual subtitles and are designed to meet special practitioner needs.

Scholastic Standards

The accumulation of grades below 3.0 in more than two courses of three or more credits each or Incomplete/In-Progress in more than three courses of two or more credits, or a combination of the above in four courses excluding thesis/alternate plan paper credits removes the student from degree status.

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research will monitor the academic standing of all graduate students each semester and take the following actions based on the review of the graduate students' semester ending grade reports. A student who fails to meet the academic standards may be required by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research to withdraw from the university.

Students receiving financial aid (excluding non-federally funded University graduate assistantships) must abide by federal, state, and institutional policies, including but not limited to, satisfactory academic progress standards. For additional information please see the web page of the Student Financial Services Office.

Academic warning letters will be sent to graduate students who receive a grade of less than 3.0, an In-Progress (IP), or Incomplete (I) in any graduate course of 2 credits or more, or who have a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0.

Probation letters will be sent to students who received an academic warning letter the previous term and who have subsequently failed to demonstrate significant improvement in their academic record. While under Academic Warning status, students who receive a grade of less than 3.0, a grade point average for the term of less than 3.0, a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0, or an In-Progress or Incomplete in excess of four graduate courses of 2 credits or more will be placed on probation.

Dismissal letters will be sent to all students who were placed on probation the previous term and who failed to demonstrate a significant improvement in his/her academic record and received a grade point average for the term less than 3.0, or a grade of less than 3.0, IP, or I in excess of four graduate courses of 2 credits or more.

No grade lower than a "C" is counted for graduation credit, but all grades earned (including Ds and Fs) are counted in determining the grade point average. Graduate courses may be repeated but credit for the course is applicable toward the degree only once. However, all grades earned for that course shall be used in calculating the grade point average.

A student's work in any course will be evaluated in accordance with the following system of letter grades: A, B, C, D, F, N, and P.

"A" represents work of definitely superior quality.

"B" represents a level of performance that is above average.

"C" represents a below-average level of performance.

"D" represents unacceptable performance.

"F" represents unacceptable performance.

"AU" represents that a course has been audited. Audit courses do not satisfy program requirements, are not used in determining the grade point average, and cannot be applied to a degree. Tuition and fees, however, are paid.

Incompletes. Courses that are "incompletes" must be removed within 1 semester of registration and replaced with a grade. Otherwise, the Incomplete ("I") will turn to an "F" at the end of the following semester, if it has not already been changed.

In-Progress Courses. Courses that are In-Progress "IP" must be removed within 2 semesters of registration and replaced with a grade. Otherwise, the In-Progress course will turn to an "F" after one year, if it has not already been changed. (The Registrar's Office reviews them only once a year in August, and it only turns over those that have been on the transcript for no less than one year.)

P/N Grading System. Under the P/N (pass or no credit) system a graduate student may choose to register for a course so designated with the understanding that credit will be received, indicated by the letter "P," if the equivalent of a "B" grade or better is earned. If less than a "B" grade is earned, no credit will be granted, but an "N" will replace the traditional grade on the record. Whether the grade is "P" or "N," the hours taken will not enter into the computation of grade point average.

Graduate students may take any course for which they qualify as general education or elective on a Pass/No Credit basis. (Departments may, with approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, prohibit P/N students from graduate courses open only to their majors. These courses will be designated in the Class Schedule.)

Departments may use Pass/No Credit grades for theses, individual study courses, practicums, workshops, tours, seminars, and internships in the major field. They may not use Pass/No Credit grades for other courses in the student's major without specific approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Students are requested to check with respective departments for specific information. Students shall have the option of choosing the regular grading system or the P/N system in all courses open to P/N. All grading method changes must be processed through the Office of the Registrar by the posted deadlines. No more than one-third of a graduate degree shall consist of Pass/No Credit grades.

Dismissal from a Program. Students may be dismissed from a graduate program "for cause" by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research on the basis of recommendations from the advisor, examining committee (if one exists), and the department chairperson. "For cause" includes professional judgment of the department involved and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research that the student does not meet the academic or professional standards required for a student earning a graduate degree in that area.

Registration Hold. On the recommendation of the appropriate department and concurrence of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, a hold may be placed on future registration of graduate students who are not making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

GRADUATE POLICIES

Appeal Review Process. A graduate student who feels he/she has been unfairly treated concerning grades or actions taken at the departmental level may appeal such treatment as follows:

The appeal process is initiated by a personal visit with the professor involved. In the case of a grade appeal, a written petition must be submitted within two weeks of university notification of a final grade, to which petition the instructor must respond in writing within two weeks.

If no resolution is achieved, the student should submit a written petition to the department chairperson with a copy to the instructor. The department chairperson may arrange a hearing with the student and the faculty member involved, and will, in any case, respond to the petition in writing within two weeks with copies to the student and the instructor.

If no satisfactory resolution is achieved, the student may appeal to the dean of the college in writing with copies sent to the department chairperson and the instructor. The dean may convene a College Grade Appeals Committee, if appropriate, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the dean. Within two weeks the College Grade Appeals Committee will make a recommendation to the dean who will respond in writing to the student of the decision reached with copies to the instructor and the department chair.

If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, the student will submit a written statement to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research with copies to the instructor, the department chairperson, and the college dean. The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research may convene a Grade Appeals Committee to serve in an advisory capacity. This ad hoc committee will be comprised of three members of the Graduate Sub-Meet and Confer and a graduate student. The chairperson of the Grade Appeals Committee will respond to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research within two weeks with copies to the student, the instructor, the chairperson, and the dean of the college. Both the student and the faculty shall be permitted to make a rebuttal to the written record compiled by the committee; this must be done within two weeks. The decision of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research shall be communicated in writing to all concerned parties. This decision is final.

Written petitions should describe the nature of the problem including relevant information, the remedy sought, and a statement that an attempt was made to resolve the issue at the appropriate levels. If witnesses are named in the petition, they should receive copies. The student should always keep a copy of all paperwork.

Graduate College and Program Requirements

Time Limit. All work for a master's degree or a specialist must be completed within a six-year period. The time limit is calculated similar to the following example: credits completed fall semester 2006 will no longer apply or be counted towards your degree at the end of summer session 2012. This six year limit includes all previous credit transferred to an Minnesota State Mankato program.

Students receiving financial aid (excluding non-federally funded University graduate assistantships) must abide by federal, state, and institutional policies, including but not limited to, satisfactory academic progress standards. Eligibility includes a maximum time frame component limiting the number of attempted credits to 150 % of the total number of credits required for completion. For additional please see the web page of the Student Financial Services Office.

Required Graduate Enrollment Policy. Students wishing to use University resources must be enrolled for at least one graduate credit. Graduate students must also register for at least one credit during the semester that they plan to graduate.

Examining Committees. The Examining Committee supervises a student's program, comprehensive examinations and the writing of a dissertation, thesis, alternate plan paper, or other capstone experience. Students should ask faculty to serve on their examining committee after consulting their advisor. Faculty are then appointed with their consent by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Each graduate student will have an examining committee of at least two members of the graduate faculty. Individual programs may require that students include more than two committee members. Some departments may also require that one of the committee members be a faculty member of a department other than the advisor's. The committee chairperson shall be the student's advisor, a regular member of the graduate faculty and in the student's area of concentration. Other members of the examining committee must be members of the graduate faculty. Doctoral programs have additional requirements concerning who is eligible to serve on a student's committee. Please consult the University's policies concerning graduate and research faculty appointments.

Faculty from other institutions may serve (without compensation) as a member on a student's examining committee. These external members must be approved by the student's advisor and must obtain Graduate Faculty Status at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Plan of Study. The Plan of Study is defined as an official listing of the student's total graduate degree program by department, course number, course title, semester of completion or anticipated completion, and the number of semester hours. The Plan of Study must be endorsed by the student, major advisor, examining committee members, and the Graduate Program Coordinator. The student and the department should keep a copy of this form. The Plan of Study does not have to be submitted to or approved by the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Programs will be responsible for creating their own Plan of Study forms.

Tools of Research Requirement. All graduate programs must include a minimum of one research methods or statistics course with two or three credits. Any substitute course or variance must be approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Language Proficiency for the MA Degree. Some Master of Arts degree programs require the student to demonstrate a reading knowledge of one modern foreign language prior to the awarding of the degree. The student should consult the department chairperson to determine the specific requirements.

Capstone Experience. A part of each graduate student's program is the demonstrated ability to do individual, independent work of a creative and/or investigative type in an area related to the student's major field. Such ability may be demonstrated by a thesis or, in certain programs and departments, by the alternate plan paper, or in some programs, by another type of capstone experience. Students should consult the Guidelines to Capstone Experiences and Thesis/Alternate Plan Paper for additional information.

Thesis. The thesis must show independent thought in the recognition of a clearly defined problem and in the method of its treatment. It involves extended research resulting in a significant contribution to new knowledge. The thesis content must be relevant to the degree program involved, conform to an approved manual of style, and be approved by the student's examining committee and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

A minimum of three thesis credits must be earned by a student following the thesis plan.

A Master of Arts degree student and a Master of Science degree student may earn from 3 to 6 thesis credits. Thesis credit earned by a student who changes to the Alternate Plan shall be converted to an "audit" on the student's record.

Students should review the Guidelines to Capstone Experiences and Thesis/Alternate Plan Paper, available in the College of Graduate Studies and Research before starting the thesis. A Thesis Proposal must be approved by the student's examining committee prior to data collection. Papers involving research on human participants require IRB approval prior to data collection and thesis proposal approval. IRB proposal forms are available in the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Creative Thesis. The creative/production thesis option is available in certain degree programs. For further information on this option, consult the appropriate program graduate coordinator.

Alternate Plan. The student may follow an alternate plan in programs where such an option is available. The alternate plan paper(s) includes a research requirement less extensive in nature than a thesis. However, the research should be significantly greater in quality and quantity than the standard graduate term paper. Ordinarily, the thesis is oriented more toward original research, data gathering with statistical analysis, theory testing and theory building, whereas the alternate plan paper is oriented more toward the usage of secondary research sources. Under the alternate plan, the student earns a minimum of 34 semester credits in approved courses and one or two research papers or their equivalent as required by the major department or Examining Committee.

The research requirement for the alternate plan may be fulfilled in one of these ways:

- a. As part of a regular course in which case no discrete credit is given for the alternate plan paper;
- b. As part of an internship or practicum in which case the experiences are cataloged, evaluated and presented in written form as an alternate plan paper; or
- c. As one or two credits earned in the course entitled "Alternate Plan Paper Research." When this plan is followed, the professor supervising the study will ordinarily be the student's advisor.

Students should review the Guidelines to Capstone Experiences and Thesis/Alternate Plan Paper before starting work on the project. Research involving human participants requires IRB approval prior to data collection. IRB application forms are available in the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Guidelines for Graduate Research Involving Human Participants. Minnesota State University, Mankato policy requires adequate protection for human participants involved in research. All such research, whether or not federally funded, shall be reviewed in accordance with federal regulations requiring review at the institutional level. Students planning to involve human participants in their research for Thesis, Alternate Plan papers or other projects should review the Guidelines to Capstone Experiences and Thesis/Alternate Plan Paper and the Institutional Review Board information and guidelines. A completed Human Participants Research Form must be submitted and approved prior to data collection.

Comprehensive Examinations. Some graduate programs require students to pass a comprehensive examination. Comprehensive examinations are designed to examine the student's broad understandings of his/her field of study, specific areas of interest and/or the nature and design of the research project. Exams may be oral and/or written. Individual programs may have additional policies and regulations concerning comprehensive examination. Consult the program's graduate coordinator to determine additional program policies concerning comprehensive exams.

Written Comprehensive Examinations. Regularly scheduled written comprehensive examinations are administered by the major department. They generally cover coursework and/or designated reading lists. The department decides who shall write and/or grade the examinations. The examinations are graded as pass, fail or decision deferred. Students must pass in all sub-areas to qualify and may retake the examination once. The department reports the results by sending the Written Comprehensive Examination Request and Report form to the student and to the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Oral Comprehensive Examinations. The Oral Examination, sometimes referred to as the Thesis Defense, is held after the examining committee approves the draft of the thesis or alternate plan paper. The student arranges the time and place after consulting the examining committee who conducts the examination.

The examination generally deals with the capstone project and the portion of the candidate's field of specialization in which the capstone project falls, although it need not be confined exclusively to the subject matter of the capstone project. While there are no time requirements, normally the examination requires a minimum of one hour and not usually more than two hours.

The report of the examining committee must be unanimous. The vote on whether a student has passed or failed the oral examination shall be conducted with only the committee members present.

The written and/or oral comprehensive examination may be retaken by filing the necessary request with the graduate coordinator or the examining committee, respectively. Sufficient time should be allowed to correct weaknesses uncovered in the first examination. Comprehensive examinations may be taken a second time only with the consent of the graduate faculty in the department involved.

Graduation Requirements. When a student has completed all requirements for graduation, the examining committee endorses a Recommendation for Awarding the Degree Form and forwards the form to the College of Graduate Studies and Research. This requires completion of all course requirements, research requirements, comprehensive examinations and the capstone activity. The student must also have maintained a 3.0 grade point average for all graduate work. All courses applied to the master's degree or specialist must have been completed in the six years prior to graduation and cannot have been used to complete the requirements of a previously earned degree. Contact the College of Graduate Studies and Research for form submission deadlines.

For all Master's degree programs, at least one-half of the credit must be earned in courses restricted to graduate students and listed as 600-699 (excluding Thesis and APP credits). Additionally, the candidate must complete or meet all special requirements established by the student's examining committee and approved by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Each recipient of a graduate degree is invited to hold an exit interview with the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research for the purpose of program evaluation. The graduate is encouraged to participate in commencement ceremonies, but participation is not required.

Diplomas. After verifying that all requirements have been met, the College of Graduate Studies and Research orders from the printer and then mails diplomas to the graduates. This process takes approximately eight weeks after the end of the semester.

Doctoral Program Policies

In addition to the policies noted in this publication and on the University's web pages, the following policies are enforced for students enrolled in a doctoral program. At the time of this publication was printed, Minnesota State University, Mankato has been approved by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) to offer doctoral programs. Additional levels of approval external to the university are required. The institution is currently in the process of pursuing approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

Advanced Standing. Students admitted to a doctoral program who have completed graduate courses elsewhere may apply to be admitted with advanced standing. The maximum number of advanced standing credits awarded will vary from program to program; however, with the exception of the DNP program, at least 4.5 credits of a student's doctoral program must be completed at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Up to twelve of the Minnesota State Mankato credits may be credits associated with the capstone project. Individual doctoral programs may have different credit limits.

Courses accepted as advanced standing do not affect the Minnesota State Mankato graduate grade point average. Please consult the appropriate departmental web pages to determine the doctoral program's additional policies concerning advanced standing.

Advisory Committee. During the first semester in the program each doctoral student will be assigned an advisor by the program coordinator. Students may change their advisor by completing the required forms.

The advisory committee consists of at least three members of the faculty, with the chair being a member of the research faculty of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. At least two members of the committee must be from the major area of study. Please consult the program's web pages for additional information about the composition of doctoral student advisory committees.

Qualifying Examination. Prior to beginning a doctoral dissertation or other capstone project, and at or near the time of completion of all required course work, doctoral students must pass a qualifying examination or, with the approval of the advisory committee and program, an alternate qualifying activity. This examination process is intended to determine if a student is prepared and qualified to begin work on the dissertation or other capstone project.

Qualifying examinations may contain written and oral components; in the case of oral examinations, a written evaluation will serve as documentation of the student's performance. Students who fail some or all portions of the qualifying examinations may be allowed to retake these portions. This decision is made by the student's advisory committee and the department chair, and is based on the student's overall program performance and the extent of the deficits on the qualifying examinations. No more than two attempts to pass the qualifying examination will be permitted. Second examinations should be scheduled so that sufficient time is provided to address weaknesses identified during the initial examination.

In order to be eligible to take the qualifying examination, a student must have an appointed doctoral advisory committee and have completed sufficient doctoral course work as specified by the program. No more than six credit hours may be graded as incomplete. Individual doctoral programs will have additional policies concerning qualifying examinations.

Admission to Candidacy. Admission to doctoral candidacy confirms that the student possesses sufficient knowledge of the academic specialty and has demonstrated potential to engage in, and to complete, the capstone project. After successfully completing coursework specified by the doctoral program, passing the necessary exams, and satisfying all other program requirements, the student is prepared to apply for Doctoral Candidacy. Please consult the appropriate departmental web pages to determine the doctoral program's policies concerning admission to candidacy.

A doctoral student is admitted to candidacy only with the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, acting upon the recommendation of the members of the student's advisory committee, and if applicable, the Dean of the college of the student's content area.

Continuous Registration. Students enrolled in a doctoral program must register for at least three academic credits for each fall and spring semester until all courses and examinations are completed, and the student is admitted to candidacy. Thereafter, doctoral students are required to register for at least one credit every semester until they receive their degree. Registration for summer sessions will not substitute for the mandatory registration during both semesters of the academic year.

CURRENT ACCREDITATIONS

Students who fail to register each semester after passing qualifying examinations must arrange to register for the missing semester credit hours, or the student will not graduate.

Dissertation. Doctoral programs often require a dissertation as the program's capstone project. At the very least, the dissertation must make a unique contribution to what has previously been written and known. The dissertation must be approved by the majority of the members of the student's advisory committee and must be presented in a standard scholarly format as established by the program and the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Approved dissertations must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies and Research by the deadlines established by the College. Students should consult the graduate program's policies concerning the dissertation and other capstone projects.

Doctoral Student Time Limit. Students must complete all doctoral program requirements, including the dissertation or other capstone project, within seven years of being admitted into the doctoral program. After seven years, doctoral candidacy is terminated for students who have not completed the dissertation or other capstone project. Students may apply for readmission by submitting a letter requesting readmission to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. If readmitted, such students must again pass a qualifying examination and fulfill other conditions imposed by the department in order to establish currency. If the qualifying examinations are passed and the other conditions are met, students are readmitted to candidacy. They have three years from this date to complete a dissertation (or other applicable) capstone project.

CURRENT ACCREDITATIONS

Minnesota State University is reviewed for accreditation every 10 years by the North Central Association of College and Secondary Schools. In addition, individual programs undergo periodic reviews, generally every five years. Some professional associations also accredit specific programs. The following accreditations have been awarded to Minnesota State University.

General Accreditations

1929: North Central Association of College and Secondary Schools

1952: The American Association of University Women

1954: The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Program Accreditations

Art - 1974: National Association of Schools of Art

Athletic Training - 1969: Board of Directors, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs - Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training

Automotive Engineering Technology - 1996: Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Business, College of - 1997: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) (Accounting; Finance; International Business; Management; Marketing)

Chemistry - 1970: American Chemical Society

Communication Disorders - 1993: American Speech-Language Hearing Association (MS in Speech Language Pathology), Certification of Clinical Competence (CCC), Educational Standards Board of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ESB)

Counseling and Student Personnel (School Counseling, College Student Affairs, Community Counseling) - 1985: Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

Dental Hygiene - 1970: Commission on Accreditation, American Dental Association

Dietetics - 1972: American Dietetic Association

Electrical Engineering - 1987: Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Electronic Engineering Technology - 1984: Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Manufacturing Engineering Technology - 1990: Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Mechanical Engineering - 1994: Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Music - 1971: National Association of Schools of Music

Nursing - 1953: Minnesota State Board of Examiners of Nurses (Minnesota Board

of Nursing), 1972: National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.
Online Programs - 2005: Certified by the Higher Learning Commissions
Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services - 1986: National Recreation and Park Association/ American Association for Leisure and Recreation
Rehabilitation Counseling - 1977: Council on Rehabilitation Education, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)
Social Work - 1974: Council on Social Work Education

Certifications:

Law Enforcement - Certified by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.)

Social Work - Certification

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The activities of the University are administered in accordance with a variety of federal and state laws, MnSCU Board policies, assorted rules and regulations, and staff and student rights and responsibilities. Individuals may consult the following University publications for detailed descriptions of applicable policies and procedures: "The Basic Stuff." For more information concerning applicable University and system policy, contact the Office of Academic Affairs or go to <http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/Resources/Policies.html>.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the Office of the Registrar, dean, head of the Department of Academic Affairs, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including health or medical staff) and also clerical staff who transmit the education record; a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person who is employed by Minnesota State Mankato Security Department acting in a health or safety emergency; or a student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Nondiscrimination in Employment and Education Opportunity. Minnesota State Mankato is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law.

Discrimination because of race, sex, or disability is prohibited by state and federal law. Discrimination because of sexual orientation is prohibited by state law. Discrimination is defined as conduct that is directed at an individual because

of his/her race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability or that of his/her partner and which subjects the individual to different treatment by agents or employees so as to interfere with or limit the ability of the individual to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities, or privileges provided by the university or otherwise adversely affects the individual's employment or education.

Harassment because of race, sex, or disability is a form of discrimination prohibited by state and federal law. Harassment because of sexual orientation is prohibited by state law. Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that is directed at an individual because of his/her race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability or that of his/her partner and that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to have the purpose or effect of creating a hostile work or educational environment. Harassment may occur in a variety of relationships, including faculty and student, supervisor and employee, student and student, staff and student, employee and employee, and other relationships with other persons having business at or visiting the educational environment.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may occur when it is directed at members of the opposite sex or when it is directed at members of the same sex.

Acts of sexual violence are criminal behaviors and create an environment contrary to the goals and missions of Minnesota State Mankato. These acts will be investigated and may subject an individual to complaints and disciplinary sanctions as well as possible referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Inquiries regarding compliance should be referred to the Office of Affirmative Action, 112 Armstrong Hall, or at 507-389-2986 (V) or 1-800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).

Student Records Policy. Federal law and state statute allow current and former students access to their education records. While the primary record is located in the Office of the Registrar, other records may be located in Admissions, Financial Aid, Business Affairs, Career Development Center, Student Health Service, Student Affairs, Graduate Studies, Office of International Students and academic departments.

Minnesota State Mankato has designated the following items as Directory Information. As such, this information may be released to the public without the consent of the student: name, date and place of birth, local and permanent address, major field of study, local and permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, previous college/university attended, degrees received, e-mail address, awards and honors, height and weight information for athletic participation, performance records and participation in competitive events, and participation in officially recognized activities, sports and organizations. Students may request that directory information be kept private by contacting the Office of the Registrar, 132 Wigley Administration Center.

Copies of the complete Student Records Policy may be obtained upon request.

Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act 1994. U.S. Department of Education guidelines now require post-secondary institutions participating in federal student aid programs to publish annual reports on gender equity in intercollegiate sports. In compliance with the EADA, Minnesota State Mankato prepared its first Equity Act report by October 1, 1996. Updated reports are released by October 15 of each subsequent year. Included is data on the amount of money spent on men's and women's teams and recruiting efforts, participation rates, personnel and operating expenses, revenues generated, and sports related financial aid allocations. The report is readily accessible to students, prospective students and the public. Contact Finance and Administration, 238 Wigley Administration Center, 507-389-6621.

Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act 1995. The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act increased the level of information universities must collect and provide to current and prospective students and employees and to the Department of Education. The first part of the act, entitled the Student Right-to-Know Act, requires colleges and universities to compile and release institution-wide graduation rates for all students, with more detailed statistical information submitted on the graduation rates of athletes. The graduation rate for Minnesota State Mankato new entering freshman, fall term 2001 cohort, is 50 percent. This percentage reflects the number of first time, full-time four-year degree seeking students either who received a baccalaureate degree within six years or an associate degree within three years. The 2001 cohort is the most recent one for which a six year graduation rate is available.

Part II of the act, entitled the Campus Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, requires colleges and universities to annually make available to all current

employees and students as well as to applicants for enrollment or employment the following information: 1) a description of policies concerning the security of and access to all campus facilities; policies and procedures for reporting campus crime; and policies concerning law enforcement along with crime prevention educational programs relating to campus security, and 2) statistics concerning the occurrence of certain categories of campus crimes. Institutions are also required to issue timely warnings to the campus community about criminal activities representing a continued safety threat to aid in crime prevention. In addition, the University complies with the 1998 Higher Education Amendments Act that amended the Campus Security Act by expanding the geographic scope and categories of offenses that must be included in the annual statistics. This information is available in Minnesota State's "Partners in Safety" brochure, which is made available to each enrolled student and employee annually. Copies are available from the Security Department, 222 Wiecking Center, 389-2111, the Women's Center, 246 Centennial Student Union, 389-6146, First Year Experience, 10 Gage Complex, 389-5489, and Human Resources, 325 Wigley Administration Center, 389-2015. The brochure is also available at www.mnsu.edu/safety.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

Minnesota State University, Mankato consolidated all programs and facilities onto the 400-acre Highland Campus in 1979. All academic buildings and on-campus housing facilities are located on a level terrain close to parking. Extensive modifications made to existing buildings facilitate mobility for disabled students. Most academic buildings are connected by enclosed passageways.

Campus accessibility maps that indicate location of parking places, curb cuts, accessible entrances and elevators are available.

OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

112 Armstrong Hall • Phone: 507-389-2986 (V)

The goal of the Office of Affirmative Action is to help individuals obtain a prompt and equitable resolution of problems related to discrimination and harassment. Individuals who believe they have been harassed or treated unfairly because of their race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, creed, or on any other basis prohibited by state laws, federal laws, or MnSCU System policy are encouraged to contact the Office of Affirmative Action.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

209 Wigley Administration Center • Phone: 507-389-6061

The Career Development Center (CDC) facilitates undergraduate and graduate student success through a variety of career planning services and resources. The CDC also hosts on-campus recruiters and has a comprehensive Career Resource Library and Web site.

COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center provides confidential counseling to help students cope with personal, social, and educational concerns that may be interfering with their ability to succeed at the University. Services include short-term counseling, educational programming, crisis intervention, consultation, national testing, and referral to outside resources.

DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC

3 Morris Hall (Lower Level) • Phone: 507-389-2147

The dental hygiene clinic is a student training facility staffed by a dentist and faculty. Comprehensive dental hygiene services are performed. The clinic is open to the public and most dental insurance is accepted.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

132 Memorial Library • Phone: 507-389-2825

The primary role of the Office of Disability Services is to ensure equal access and opportunity for students with disabilities to programs and activities offered through Minnesota State University, Mankato. The office also acts as a resource and referral agency for students needing additional services. The office assists with advocacy; alternative format of printed materials; alternative testing services; assistive technology; early registration; notetaking; sign language interpreters; and text on tape. The office also acts as a resource and referral agent for community contacts and disability-related information.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Emergency assistance is also available on a 24-hour basis through the Security Department. Grievances, questions or requests related to equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities should be presented to the ADA coordinator, phone 507-389-2825 (Voice) 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY) or to the Affirmative Action Officer.

EXTENDED LEARNING

116 Alumni Foundation Center • Phone: 507-389-2572 or 800-722-0544 • Office of the Dean: 507-389-1094 • E-mail: ext@mnsu.edu

Extended Learning serves the public and private sectors of our region by providing access to educational programs, professional and workplace development and lifelong learning consistent with the mission of Minnesota State University, Mankato. Complete graduate programs and certificate programs are offered in the Twin Cities Metro area, other off-campus locations, and on-line.

Continuing education short courses, workshops and seminars for professionals who are seeking to update and/or improve their skills and knowledge and maintain their certifications are available through Extended Learning. Workshops, seminars and courses can be designed to fit the needs and goals of organizations and delivered at the employer site, on campus or another appropriate location.

Visit the Extended Learning Web site for a current listing of courses offered.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

3010 Memorial Library • Phone: 507-389-6651 • Fax: 507-389-6115

Information and Technology Services serves the faculty, staff and student members of the University community in providing and supporting technology services. The Academic Computer Center and the Office of Instructional Technologies are areas within ITS.

The Academic Computer Center (ACC). Located at 121 Wissink Hall, telephone 507-389-5160. The Academic Computer Center has computers and printers for student use. Our computers are constantly being upgraded to keep current with technology. All computers have access to the Internet. Student workers are on duty at all times to maintain the lab, provide safety and security, and offer technical assistance. For students who need to develop their computer skills, free workshops are offered throughout the semester.

Surrounding the open lab are six classrooms/labs for hands-on, interactive instruction. In addition, a services area houses printers black and white and color laser printers for the Macintosh and IBM microcomputers.

Students who have personal computers with modems in their rooms or at home can access the campus computer network via telephone, DSL, or cable lines.

Many satellite labs, with over 300 computers, are located around campus to provide specialized needs. Wireless technology is available in every campus building.

Help Desk. Located at 3010 Memorial Library, 389-6654, Help Desk staff field questions about campus computers' hardware, software and related issues. They are also the contact for the Multimedia Presentation Systems in classrooms. Contact them via telephone at 507-389-6654 e-mail HelpDesk@mnsu.edu or in person at 3010 Memorial Library.

Computer Store. Located at 118 Centennial Student Union, 389-1907. Computers, printers, and software are available for purchase at low educational prices.

Student workers in administrative and academic departments at University may participate in computer training related to their position responsibilities.

DIVISION INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY

265 Morris Hall • Phone: 507-389-6125

The Division of Institutional Diversity coordinates facilities at Minnesota State University, Mankato to meet the needs of students developing in a multicultural society and provides direct services to underrepresented students, faculty, and staff including assisting students in financial aid concerns, housing, tutoring, social-cultural isolation issues, personal counseling, etc.

An extension of the program, the Intercultural Student Center, located at 269 Centennial Student Union, provides social and cultural opportunities.

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

243 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-6300

The goal of the Office of Multicultural Affairs is to provide a vehicle for the four departments within the Center: African American Affairs, American Indian Affairs, Asian American Affairs & Chicano, Mexicano, Latino Affairs to provide support to help students have a successful academic career at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

238 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-6669

The International Programs Office provides information and guidance to students and faculty about academic opportunities abroad. Students receive help at every step to facilitate their study in a different culture. The office complies with all legal requirements for the institution, sponsors and student participants. The office is responsible for publicizing and marketing various opportunities for study.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER CENTER

242 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-5131 (phone and calendar announcements) • Fax: 507-389-5632

The Center provides support, advocacy, referral and a sense of community to LGBTQQA. Through education, programming, and activism, the Center heightens campus and community awareness of concerns and strives to ensure every individual has equal opportunity to learn, work, and grow in a supportive and safe environment.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Reference Services: 507-389-5958

The mission of Library Services is to support the University curriculum by providing students and faculty with information resources available through traditional methods and evolving technologies. Assistance and instruction in the use of information resources is available through reference services, formal classes, web access, and individual consultations with librarians. The library's resources consist of almost 2 million volumes including 2,700 print periodical subscriptions, 25,000 full-text electronic periodicals and over 200 electronic databases. Circulation services include check out of materials from all areas of print, audio, video, and equipment collections. Interlibrary loan services complement the collections by providing access and delivery of materials at other libraries.

Memorial Library is a depository for Minnesota state documents, Federal government publications, and U.S. Geological Survey maps. The library provides the specialized services and materials of the University Archives and the Southern Minnesota Historical Center. The Music Library, housed in the Performing Arts building, provides a broad collection of scores and recordings.

Additional services include internet access from more than 200 dedicated terminals, print and electronic reserve materials, study carrels, seminar rooms, and a complete copy shop with paper and microform copiers. Wireless Internet access is provided for personal laptop computers in all study areas of Memorial Library.

SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC

103 Armstrong Hall • Phone: 507-389-1414

Audiology and speech therapy services are available for students requiring the services of the Clinic.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Carkoski Commons • Phone: 507-389-6276

The Student Health Services provides medical care, pharmacy services, laboratory services, and health education services including care for illnesses and injuries, sports medicine, contraception, STD screening, and physical exams. There may be a small charge for seeing a physician or nurse practitioner, certain medical procedures, laboratory tests, and prescriptions. A health insurance plan is available to students, spouses and dependents. Information is available at the Student Health Services and The Hub or Cashier's Window in the Wigley Administration Center.

The Student Health Services emphasizes prevention through health education. Health educators provide sexuality/birth control information, drug and alcohol education and nutrition information, as well as information in a variety of other health-related areas.

STUDENTS' ATTORNEY

280 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-2611

A service provided by the Minnesota State Student Association, the students' attorney is available on a part-time basis to all currently enrolled students.

WOMEN'S CENTER

218 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-6146 • Fax: 507-389-5539
Understanding Sexual Assault Web site

The mission of the Women's Center is to foster a healthy, safe, and engaging campus community by enabling the full and active participation of women students in both their personal and educational pursuits at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Women's Center provides programs, connections, advocacy, services, and leadership opportunities for all students.

NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Phone: 507-389-5127

It is our mission to build a strong and supportive community for nontraditionally aged and parent students within the university community in order to enrich the educational experience and to help ensure success for all adult students.

A nontraditional student is:

- An undergraduate student who is 24 years of age or older
- A student who is married, partnered, divorced, or widowed
- A student who is a parent
- A student who waited 3 or more years after high school to go to college
- A student who is returning to college after a leave of absence of 3 or more years
- A student who is also a veteran

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

218 Centennial Student Union • Phone: 507-389-5127 •
Web site: <http://www.mnsu.edu/assault>

The Sexual Violence Education Program provides support, advocacy, resources, and referrals for survivors and secondary survivors of sexual violence. In addition to providing services to students that have experienced violence, this program offers opportunities for involvement, risk-reduction and prevention programs. Please contact Lindsay Gullingsrud, the Sexual Violence Education Coordinator, for more information.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE HOUSING

112 Carkoski Commons • Phone: 507-389-1011 • Fax: 507-389-2687

The residence life program at Minnesota State University, Mankato is designed to provide a variety of opportunities and services that enhance and support students' academic experiences. There are a number of living-area choices available. Please contact the Department of Residential Life for additional information.