About Us

Minnesota State Community and Technical College, a member of the Minnesota State system, serves more than 8,000 students in credit courses each year in more than 70 career and liberal arts programs online and at its four campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena.

M State was created July 1, 2003, by the merger of Fergus Falls Community College and three campuses of Northwest Technical College. This new college was developed to better serve the needs of the communities in west central Minnesota and the Red River Valley through a combination of strong technical programs and comprehensive community college curriculum. M State currently has more than 538 employees across Minnesota.

Each of the campuses has been meeting the educational and workforce needs of its community for a half century or more. The Fergus Falls campus was established in 1960 thanks to the initiative of community leaders determined to create a community college where area students could complete the first two years of a four-year degree. The Detroit Lakes, Moorhead and Wadena campuses were established when state leaders recognized the need to provide technical education and training to meet workforce demands. Wadena was founded in 1959, Moorhead in 1965 and Detroit Lakes in 1966. True to the goal of meeting workforce needs, each campus has added and enhanced programs as demands have changed. All four campuses now offer blends of occupational programming and access to a liberal arts and science curriculum.

Healthy Enrollment

M State has maintained healthy enrollment by expanding online classes and programs and workforce development options. Workforce Development Solutions staff work closely with each of our communities to meet the ever-changing needs of local businesses and industries, which has resulted in the growth of site-based workplace training in business and industry. Through collaborative community efforts and business partnerships, the college provided workforce development services and other responsive training programs to more than 6,600 people in Fiscal Year 2017.
Success of Graduates

Student success is measured by factors including student persistence, program completion, graduation and transfer rates, and pass rates for licensure exams. M state’s student persistence rate for first-time students has risen by four percentage points during the past four years. During calendar year 2015, M State’s Nursing and Radiologic Technology graduates had a combined average pass rate of 94.6 percent on licensure exams, among the highest in the state and well above national averages. Over 52 percent of M State students graduated or transferred to continue their education at another institution within three years of their start in the fall of 2013.

Serving a Diverse Student Population

M State is in the business of changing lives, and we have the privilege of serving and educating a diverse student population. Every student who walks in our doors, meets our instructors in their place of employment or logs in to our virtual classrooms has a story. The diversity of their stories is represented in our student demographics. In 2016, 14 percent of our students were of an ethnic background other than Caucasian/white, 36 percent had high financial need and 17 percent were first-generation students.

Affordable Education

We provide a cost-effective higher education option for our stakeholders by focusing on stabilizing tuition rates and aggressively monitoring our spending and assets. Following a two-year tuition freeze that began in 2013, a 1 percent tuition reduction was approved by the Minnesota State Board of Trustees for the 2016-2017 academic year, which was followed with a freeze at that level for the 2017-2018 academic year. This appropriation of state funds by the Legislature further enabled M State to strengthen our commitment to provide accessible education for students.

The cost of full-time attendance at M State is now less than a full Pell grant, and more than 51 percent of M State students attend tuition-free.

2016-2017 In-State Tuition and Fees Comparison

The Tuition and Fees Comparison chart compares tuition rates for full-time students who are state residents.

Source: College Navigator (National Center for Education Statistics)
K-12 Collaborations

M State has a strong history of working collaboratively with high schools, other educational institutions and industry partners from across the region.

- M State has partnered with area high schools to offer concurrent enrollment courses to high school students since 1985. During the 2016-17 academic year, M State reached more than 1,700 students with over 300 course offerings at 36 partner high schools.

- M State was the lead institution in offering online dual credit college courses to students in rural high schools throughout the state. M State continues to offer this option through eCampus in the High School, which serves more than 140 students each academic term.

In recent years, M State has focused on providing high school students with additional hands-on, engaging experiences such as health care clinicals, workshops, student shadowing, career exploration and summer camps.

M State Partners with Regional Educators

M State has successful partnerships with other colleges and universities in the region, including membership in Tri-College University with North Dakota State University, Concordia College, North Dakota State College of Science and Minnesota State University Moorhead. M State also partners with the 36 Minnesota State colleges and universities to support our students and our region. M State partners with Central Lakes College and Rural Minnesota CEP for the Career Advisor and Technology Mobile programs, which are designed to provide secondary students with opportunities to learn about college programs and career options. In addition, partnerships with our regional educational service cooperatives, Lakes Country Service Cooperative and the National Joint Alliance, help us to work collectively to enhance opportunities for diverse stakeholders.

Financial Outlook

Stakeholder support of the college is more critical than ever due to significant changes in revenue and funding sources in the past few years. M State remains committed to informed financial planning and a shared vision for the continued efficient use of financial resources so that it can continue to be an affordable educational option for students.

Accreditation

M State is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) accreditation pathway, which supports the College’s commitment to continuous quality improvement. The College has numerous career and technical programs that are additionally accredited by boards, agencies, commissions or professional organizations from specific fields or disciplines.

More information is available at:

Higher Learning Commission information: www.hlcommission.org

AQIP Pathway information: www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/aqip-overview.html

College and programmatic accreditation information: www.minnesota.edu/accreditation

Our Mission
Provide dynamic learning for living, working and serving.

Our Vision
A success story for every student and stakeholder.
Points of Pride

Instructors are Recognized for Quality

M State faculty members do an outstanding job of providing our students with a quality education; their accomplishments are recognized in a number of ways each year. Two of the most prestigious teaching awards are given through a peer nomination and portfolio process for the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and through the System Office Excellence in Teaching award. Faculty are nominated by students, faculty peers or staff, with their selection based on teaching strategies and materials; content expertise; service to students, their profession, their institution and the system; and assessment of student learning and performance.

Employment of Graduates

Not only is M State committed to educating our communities, we are invested in them! From 2011-2016, M State assisted in educating 9,266 graduates. Fifty-five percent were available for employment in their field of study. Last year, a large majority of our graduates successfully transferred to universities or found employment with more than 400 employers in the M State region.

Federal Grants

M State currently manages two federal grants totaling more than $4.7 million. The U.S. Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant supports ongoing training of more than 400 west central Minnesota residents for careers in construction and utilities. The U.S. Department of Education Title III Grant supports institutional improvements in business efficiencies, faculty development and student development.

In addition, the college is a state grantee of a federal Partnership for Success grant that focuses on preventing underage drinking and drug use through the implementation of research-based prevention strategies.

Focus on Workforce Development and Industry Partnerships

M State is committed to partnering with business and industry to provide high-quality innovative programs to support the economic needs of the region. More than 800 business and industry representatives serve on our program advisory committees. We have 44 career and technical programs that may be completed in one year or less and offer a variety of ways to deliver programs that prepare students for the workplace, including mobile training labs and classrooms, telepresence offerings, and online and blended courses and programs. The college has developed new programs in direct response to industry needs, including Supervisory Leadership Essentials, Industrial Workplace Readiness, and Business and Banking.

Foundation Scholarships

Through the support of the campus foundations, their dedicated boards of directors and their donors, 393 M State students were awarded nearly $464,000 in scholarships in 2017.

Student Life

Student life opportunities at M State focus on engaging students outside of the classroom in active learning, helping students develop coherent values and ethical standards, communicating high expectations for student learning, effectively using resources to achieve institutional missions and goals, forging educational partnerships which advance student learning, and building supportive and inclusive communities. M State has vocal and performance fine arts opportunities, athletics and a large number of student clubs and organizations.