

Introduction

Mayville State University (MSU) is located in the rural community of Mayville, North Dakota (ND) with a population of approximately 2,500. Mayville is the largest community in Traill County, located in east central North Dakota, in the heart of the Red River Valley. Highway 200 connects the University to the western counties, and I-29 places MSU students within a 45 minute drive of Grand Forks, ND and Fargo, ND where major bus, rail, and air transportation are available. The cities of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Minneapolis, Minnesota are within a comfortable 3-4 hour drive to offer additional social and cultural experiences to students on weekends.

MSU is one of the smallest public baccalaureates in the nation and is strategically positioned between the state's two research institutions. The mission of MSU is to educate and guide students, as individuals, so that they may realize their full career potential and enhance their lives. This is carried out in an environment that reflects personal service, commitment to innovative technology-enriched education, and dynamic learning relationships with community, employers, and society. The vision of MSU is to be known for continuing academic excellence in a cooperative, enjoyable learning environment that anticipates and responds to individual needs. The purpose of MSU includes: (1) Collaborative relationships with schools, employers, and communities that contribute to the economic growth and social vitality of ND; (2) Effective support for appropriate applications of information technologies to instruction and administration; (3) Academic programs and services that address real-world career and ND workforce opportunities; (4) Innovative, flexible delivery of instruction that meets the needs of the individual; (5) Enrollment and revenue development through retention, recruiting, and new opportunities; and (6) Assessment and improvement of student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

Mayville State University, one of North Dakota's original colleges, was established in 1889 as a normal school to prepare teachers. The Legislature of the Dakota Territory had moved toward the establishment of colleges for teacher education three times, but none of these efforts bore fruit for the people of the area, which later became North Dakota. The North Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1889 located sites for the nine original state institutions and funded them by a 30,000 acre land grant, leaving organization to the First Legislative Assembly. Classes of the Mayville Normal School began in 1890, with funds for a building ("Old Main") provided by the Second Legislative Assembly in early 1891, where classes were initially held in 1893. Since then, Mayville State has steadily grown and progressed. In 1925, the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) authorized Mayville State to grant a Bachelor of Arts in Education. The Mayville Normal School thus became a "teachers college," providing general education and offering a four-year degree. Successive additions strengthened the curriculum and, as enrollment grew, new buildings appeared. In 1948, the B.A. in Education became a B.S. in Education and the first non-teaching Bachelor of Arts was offered in 1961. In 1973 and 1982, the college established programs in business administration and computer studies respectively. In the early 1980's, the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of

General Studies became available. The institution's present name, Mayville State University, was approved by the legislature in 1987.

The University maintains the historical mission of teacher education and has added other programs to prepare students for careers in business, computer information systems, health and physical fitness, psychology, science, mathematics, and nursing. Degrees offered at Mayville State University include: Bachelor of Science in Education, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of University Studies, Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Associate of Arts. These programs allow articulation for students who have earned an Applied Associate or Associated of Science degree with articulation agreements in place with 23 institutions. The University has carved out a unique niche as a technology-enriched campus in 1997 when it became one of the first laptop computer campuses in the nation. The total enrollment at Mayville State University in the fall 2015 was 1110 students including 638 full-time and 472 part-time students. Currently, 78-80% of MSU graduates find employment in the state and contribute to North Dakota's way of life socially and economically.

Mayville State University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), formerly known as the North Central Association (NCA). HLC is recognized as a reliable authority on regional institutional accreditation by the United States Department of Education. HLC accreditation was established in 1960 and has remained effective since that time. Reaffirmation of accreditation occurred in 2006, and the year for the next HLC comprehensive evaluation will occur in 2015-16. In addition, since 1954, the University is also accredited by the formerly National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and currently the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

MSU is a member of the North Dakota University System (NDUS), a unified system of higher education governed by the ND State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), which consists of nine members appointed by the governor of the state. The SBHE sets major policies for the institutions under its control. The SBHE appoints the chancellor of the NDUS and president of the University to carry out broadly delegated duties. The president is the chief administrative officer of the University. The president appoints all other administrative officers and is the communication link between the campus and the chancellor, the SBHE and Legislature. On the local level, the University functions through a number of student-faculty-staff committees that review and recommend policy to the Faculty Association, which is the major academic policymaking body. The University has five academic divisions including: the Division of Business and Computer Information Systems, the Division of Education and Psychology, the Division of Liberal Arts, the Division of Health, Physical Education, & Recreation, and the Division of Science and Mathematics.

The NDUS includes two research universities, four regional universities (including MSU) and five community colleges working in concert to make students' educational goals their highest priority. Led by the chancellor, the

NDUS staff supports the SBHE's mission to enhance the quality of life for all those served by the NDUS as well as the economic and social vitality of ND. In order to do so, the NDUS has implemented several initiatives which fall under categories designated as Access, Quality, Affordability, Learning, and Accountability. These efforts for efficiency and transparency include admission standards reflecting the missions of each institution, secondary and postsecondary expectations alignment, strengthening academic support services to improve retention and graduation rates, and a uniform tuition model. The NDUS encourages collective work towards the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative.

Mayville State has been recognized as a *Best in the Midwest* by The Princeton Review for several years running. Mayville State was also recognized in 2014 as "one of the top three Public Regional Colleges in the Midwest" by U.S. News & World Report and was further named to the *2015-2016 U.S. News and World Report Best Online Bachelor's Programs*, with reference to programs listed in the rankings "are the best online bachelor's degree programs, based on factors such as graduation rates, indebtedness of new graduates and academic and career support services offered to students.". Also, in 2015, U.S. News and World Report named MSU to the list of *10 Schools With the Lowest Out-of-State Tuition*. Mayville State was named a *Military Advanced Education Top College and University* in 2014 and was also named as one of the *30 Most Attractive Yet Affordable College Campuses* in 2014 by a national publication.