

# NSU Institutional Profile for Fall 2012

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## History

The South Dakota Legislature established Northern State University in 1901 in response to the need for an institution of higher education to serve northern South Dakota. NSU offers degrees at the associate, bachelor and master's level. NSU celebrated a century of leadership during the 2001-2002 school year.

The below message came from President James Smith on "Points of Pride Day", Wednesday, October 3, 2012 during Gypsy Day Homecoming week. Smith began as NSU President in June of 2009.

"Today is "Points of Pride Day" here at Northern State University. Many of us will be emailing and texting highlights that we are most proud of – we'll send these to friends, colleagues, business associates, and family members. The essence of the exercise is to share bits of that which we know about campus and, of course, to share our excitement as broadly as possible. I hope that my message is just one of many you receive today.

So here I go ... I am exceptionally proud of the US News & World Report ranking of NSU as a top baccalaureate institution for the Upper Midwest. This is a designation that is nationally respected and well-publicized around the globe. I am also proud of our faculty who have received prestigious appointments or were selected for highly competitive opportunities; Drs. Steven Usitalo, a recent Fulbright Scholar, and Darci Bultema, a member of a regional opera production of the Magic Flute, come immediately to mind.

I am delighted with the progress we have made campus-wide in the area of facilities reconstruction. The new Student Center, Barnett Center addition, and Krikac Auditorium are excellent examples of this important facility upgrade effort.

Our enrollments continue to grow and I am proud to say that 3,622 students now call NSU their academic home. It gives me great pleasure to see our international students come to Aberdeen, South Dakota from all around the world. Of particular pride, this year, is the fact that many of these students are now fully degree seeking or dual degree enrollments, producing a longer stay at NSU and resulting in a degree that will, ultimately, have our name emblazoned on it at graduation.

I would be remiss not to mention our student competitions as a clear point of pride too – athletics, music, theatre, debate, and many other areas produce strong student outcomes for our university. And, finally, I am extremely proud to work in an environment that looks much like a national park. Our buildings and grounds are beautiful (and are maintained by a tremendously dedicated staff) -- this beauty makes working at NSU something special, day-in and day-out.

For all of the reasons noted above, combined with the phenomenal outcome of our Comprehensive Campaign (raising \$29,004,000 for the future of the institution), I find life at NSU to be truly exciting– and for that I can only say, Go Wolves!"

## Governance

A nine-member Board of Regents composed of members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, and one student regent appointed for a limited term provides governance for public higher education in South Dakota. The Board of Regents employs a full-time staff at its offices in Pierre. The Board of Regents executive director is Jack R. Warner.

## Academic Organization

NSU includes the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Fine Arts, the University College, the Graduate School, and the State-Wide Center for E-Learning.

## Accreditation

Northern State University holds accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accredits the School of Education. The National Association of Schools of Music accredits the NSU music program. The School of Business is also home to the Center of Excellence in International Business.

## **Degree Programs**

NSU offers the associate degree in eight areas of study and the bachelor degree in forty-two areas of study. The Master of Science in Education is offered in six areas (Guidance and Counseling, Leadership and Administration, Teaching and Learning, Instructional Design in E-Learning, Educational Studies, and Sports Performance and Leadership, and Masters in Music Education). NSU also offers Master of Science degrees in two areas (E-Learning Technology and Administration; and Banking and Financial Services).

## **Faculty**

Northern State University employs 89 full-time teaching faculty members. Over 85 percent have earned a doctorate or other appropriate terminal degree; 54 percent are tenured; 63 percent are male. The student/faculty ratio is approximately 20:1.

## **Students**

In the fall of 2012, Northern State University enrolled 3,622 students. Eighty-five percent of those students were undergraduate students. Seventy-three percent of the NSU students are from South Dakota with ten percent of its students coming from North Dakota and Minnesota. Thirteen percent of NSU's students are minorities and just fewer than 7 percent are international.

## **Student Activities**

A variety of successful student activities are available for NSU students including opportunities to participate in student government, student newspapers, choral groups, concert and marching band, small music ensembles and symphony, and drama and theater as well as intramural sports, student organizations and religious organizations. NSU's student-athletes successfully compete at the NCAA Division II level (The men's basketball team has been conference champions many times with one of these teams making it all the way to the NCAA Division II Elite 8 Championship Tournament -- The football team has been conference champions several times as well). For the Women's basketball team, head coach and NAIA hall-of-famer Curt Fredrickson ranks second on the active NCAA II women's basketball win list. NSU is a member of the best NCAA Division II athletic conferences in the nation, the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC Conference).

## **Campus and Facilities**

NSU proudly claims one of the most beautiful campuses in the Midwest. Trees shade its 72 acres and 21 buildings with flowers blooming in the spring, summer and fall. The Statewide Center for E-Learning implements the latest distance education technologies with 28 "smart" classrooms and 11 Dakota Digital Network classrooms. Distance Delivery technology is a core mission for all degree programs, especially all levels of teacher preparation. The Beulah Williams Library and Learning Resources Center houses group study rooms and multi-media stations as well as other instructional technologies. NSU's newest facility, the Technology Center, is located on the north side of MeWaldt-Jensen and houses the offices of NET Services personnel to include computer center, media services, instructional technology staff, the help desk and its personnel, College of Arts and Sciences faculty offices, computer labs, and classrooms. The location of the new facility makes the Technology Center a prominent focal point of the NSU campus and provides a most effective connection to the campus electrical and information technology infrastructure. The Johnson Fine Arts Center is the hub of the arts in Northeast South Dakota with its 1,000-seat Theater, recital halls, and newly renovated band and choir rehearsal halls. The Joseph H. Barnett Physical Education and Convocation Center is one of the finest athletic facilities in the state. The multi-use building features an 8,000-seat arena, classrooms, six-lane Olympic swimming pool, 160-meter track, wrestling and weight-lifting facilities, and basketball, tennis, volleyball, and handball/racquetball/squash courts. As a demonstration of NSU's commitment to serving its students, the campus also includes 29 computer labs, the NSU Child Care Center, six residence halls, including 2 all-suite halls, and the NSU Student Center and Student Recreation/Fitness Center for student activities. Every point on campus is within easy walking distance of downtown Aberdeen.

## **Finance**

State appropriations (32 percent) and tuition and fees (27 percent) are NSU's primary sources of support. Other major sources include federal funds (grants, awards, and stimulus), room and board and auxiliary services.

## **Location and Travel**

Aberdeen, a city of 30,000, is located in the northeast part of South Dakota. Aberdeen's regional airport is host to Delta Airlines. Delta has service to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. US highways 12 and 281 give Aberdeen's citizens easy driving access to all parts of the state and region.

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