

NSU Institutional Profile for Fall 2013

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.

In September and for a 6th straight year, NSU has been named one of the top public regional colleges in the Midwest by US News and World Report. President James Smith, who has been at NSU since 2009, states "It's a very big plus for us. Good numbers in a magazine like US News translate to good numbers on campus every fall. Moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas read that edition every year, it comes out in October every year, and it's well-read."

This fall, enrollment numbers for Northern State University include an increase of high-achieving students, with triple the number of recipients of the university's highest level of the WolfPACT Scholarship. Fifteen students have received the **President's Meritorious Scholarship this fall**, meaning that they have an ACT of 30 or above. Only five students had this distinction in 2012-13. Also, 91 WolfPACT recipients (new and returning) have an ACT score of 28 or above.

NSU's fall 2013 headcount, as released by the South Dakota Board of Regents, is 3,343. Full-time equivalent enrollment is 2,128.5. The total is down from the historic levels seen in the last two years. "NSU has experienced tremendous growth over the course of the past few academic years; this year, that growth spurt was paused," said NSU President Jim Smith. However, Northern has dedicated attention to full-time students taking more credit hours, and that shows in the very limited reductions in FTE enrollment. "At present, our total loss in fully-enrolled students is less than 30," Smith said. "Thus, the vast majority of those not returning or not recruited for eventual enrollment, this year, were unquestionably part-time individuals," he said.

An area that has seen comprehensive growth is those awarded the WolfPACT Scholarship, the largest guaranteed scholarship in the region. NSU has a record 530 WolfPACT recipients (new and continuing) this fall, receiving annual awards of approximately \$732,000; resulting in an average award of \$1,381. Of those, 215 are first-year recipients – the largest number of new recipients since 2008-09. The largest total growth category in the past three years is among recipients with an ACT score of 24-27. There are 96 this fall, as compared to 86 in 2012-13 and 67 in 2011-12.

Facilities reconstruction continues. The new Student Center, Barnett Center addition, and Krikac Auditorium are excellent examples of this important facility upgrade effort. Starting next spring, Johnson Fine Arts Center will be given an extensive upgrade.

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-one areas of study. The Master of Science in Education is offered in seven 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 91 full-time teaching faculty members. Over 82 percent have earned a doctorate or other appropriate terminal degree; 56 percent are tenured; 64 percent are male. The student/faculty ratio is approximately 20:1.

Students

In the fall of 2013, Northern State University enrolled 3,343 students. Eighty-six percent of those students were undergraduate students. Seventy-four percent of the NSU students are from South Dakota with ten percent of its students coming from North Dakota and Minnesota. Eleven 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 abundant "smart" classrooms and 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 (26 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.
