
POLICIES

The activities of the University are administered in accordance with a variety of federal and state laws, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Board policies, assorted rules and regulations, and staff and student rights and responsibilities. For more information concerning applicable University and system policy, contact the Office of Academic Affairs or go to <http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/policies/>.

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 administration, 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 at www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/policies/approved/studenteducationrecords.pdf.

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 first year students, 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, New Student & Family Programs Office 103 Preska Residential Community, and Human Resources, 325 Wigley Administration Center, 389-2015. The brochure is also available at www.mnsu.edu/safety.

DEGREES

Minnesota State Mankato offers programs leading to undergraduate certificates, associate of arts degree, baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, graduate certificates, education specialist degrees and doctoral degrees. (The Graduate Studies Bulletin contains complete information regarding graduate degree programs.)

Please note that for any degree program, completion of a major and a minor in the same discipline is not permitted. Usually a minor is not required if two or more majors are completed on the same degree. Some majors do require specific minors to be completed. **Please be aware that we only award a specific undergraduate degree once. Students can always add majors and minors to a degree.** No majors appear on the diploma, only on the transcript.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

The baccalaureate degrees available are Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.), Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE), Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE), Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSEC), Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (BSME), Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) and Bachelors in Athletic Training (BATR). Students seeking teacher licensure pursue a Bachelor of Science degree. These degrees are generally based upon four years of study and require satisfactory completion of 120 credits (or up to 128 for certain programs).

Bachelor of Arts (BA). The Bachelor of Arts degree emphasizes both breadth and depth in its curriculum.

BA candidates usually complete a major not exceeding 40 semester credits and a minor not exceeding 20 semester credits, plus general education and elective credits. Certain broad majors which exceed 47 semester credits do not require the completion of a minor.

BA degrees require completion of one full sequence (minimum 8 credits) of a single modern language (including American Sign Language) at the elementary or intermediate level. Please consult the Department of World Languages & Cultures for acceptable sequences.

BA candidates who wish to qualify as secondary school teachers may do so by completing the requirements for the Bachelor of Science (teaching) plus the professional education and other secondary teaching requirements described in the Bachelor of Science program for licensure. Students will then earn a Bachelor of Science (teaching) in addition to, or instead of the Bachelor of Arts. They may alternatively choose to complete the Master of Arts in Teaching degree described in the Minnesota State Mankato Graduate Bulletin.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA). The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program is designed for students who desire a professional career in the Fine Arts, Creative Writing and Theatre.

Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.). The Bachelor of Music degree program is designed for students who aspire toward a professional career in music. The music major for the B.Mus. degree has been designated as a broad major and, therefore, does not require the completion of a minor. Vocal majors seeking the B.Mus. degree should complete 8 semester credits for elementary or intermediate foreign language coursework as part of the degree requirements.

Bachelor of Science (BS). The Bachelor of Science degree emphasizes professional or technical preparation. BS candidates usually complete a major not exceeding 40 semester credits and a minor not exceeding 20 semester credits, plus general education and elective credits. Certain broad majors which exceed 47 semester credits do not require the completion of a minor.

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in Electrical Engineering.

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in Civil Engineering.

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSEC). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in Computer Engineering.

Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in General Engineering.

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in Mechanical Engineering.

Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW). This degree is designed for students preparing for a professional career in the social work field.

Bachelor of Athletic Training (BATR). This degree is a professional degree designed for students planning a career in Athletic Training.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Arts (AA). The Associate of Arts (AA) degree can only be earned through the Liberal Studies program. Students must complete the general education requirements plus 16 credits of lower division electives for a total of 60 semester credits. This Associate of Arts (AA) degree is intended for those students who wish to pursue a two-year balanced program of liberal education.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Pre-Professional Programs. The purpose of the pre-professional program is to provide students with the intellectual and academic background they will need before continuing their education at other institutions. Acceptance to professional educational institutions is usually contingent upon academic performance; therefore, students enrolling in pre-professional programs should be highly motivated and realize they are expected to maintain high standards of excellence.

Certificate. These programs provide evidence of specialized study and expertise in given fields such as non-profit leadership.

A certificate is awarded to students who satisfactorily complete a prescribed course of study and/or a qualifying examination. Program descriptions, with specific requirements, are given under departmental headings.