

# Introduction

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## History

Minot State University is a comprehensive public university whose purpose is to foster the intellectual, personal, and social development of its students, and to promote the public good through excellence in teaching, research, scholarly activity, and public service. Minot State is an integral part of the state and region it serves, and its mission and purposes are linked inextricably to the needs, aspirations, and the commonwealth of the people of North Dakota.

Since its founding in 1913, Minot State University has evolved steadily in fulfilling its commitment to serving North Dakota and creating opportunities for its citizens. Today the University offers a wide array of undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and the professions, and graduate education in eight master's programs and one specialist program.

Originally established as a two-year normal school devoted to preparing teachers for service in the prairie schools of northwestern North Dakota, the institution soon expanded its offerings in response to the needs of the region, a pattern that has been repeated many times in Minot State's subsequent history. Those who governed the institution recognized the need to add teacher preparation programs in the fine arts, liberal arts and sciences, and professional fields.

In 1924 the institution was given authority to offer the baccalaureate degree, and programs in the liberal arts began at Minot State. Programs in the sciences, humanities, fine arts, and social sciences were developed. Later, programs in special education, speech language pathology, business, and nursing were added. In 1964 the school's name was changed to Minot State College, and its mission expanded to include graduate education at the master's level. In 1987 the institution's name was changed to Minot State University, and today the University offers master's degrees in communication disorders, education, management, management information systems, music, special education and sports management. The University offers one specialist degree in school psychology.

## Mission, Vision and Goals

### MSU Strategic Plan: Empowering Generations

Approved by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education September 2016

#### Mission

Minot State University is a public university dedicated to excellence in education, scholarship, and community engagement achieved through rigorous academic experiences, active learning environments, commitment to public service, and a vibrant campus life.

#### Vision

Minot State University will:

- Deliver high-quality education where, when, and how it is needed to a diverse, multi-generational student population.
- Prepare students and the institution for the evolving social and technological challenges of the world.
- Inspire scholarship and creative activity among students, faculty, and staff.
- Empower graduates with a distinctive combination of professional expertise and broad-based education to support varied careers and productive lives.

#### GOAL 1: Meet the educational needs of the local, regional, national, and global communities.

Objectives:

- Provide and promote high-quality academic programs that empower students through engagement in relevant, meaningful hands-on learning experiences facilitated by knowledgeable, skilled, and well-qualified faculty and staff.
- Determine the educational needs of future students and allocate resources accordingly.
- Develop and offer curricular and co-curricular programs supporting diverse, multi-generational learners.

#### GOAL 2: Recruit, retain, and value well-qualified students, faculty, and staff.

Objectives:

- Establish high performance standards and expectations for the work of students, faculty, and staff.
- Encourage and value commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service.
- Create an environment that values and supports diversity.
- Offer professional development support for students, faculty, and staff to encourage their commitment to the mission and vision.

#### GOAL 3: Create an institutional environment that supports student, faculty, and staff success.

Objectives:

- Provide support and institutional resources to accommodate all learners.

- Design, implement, and support technology resources to ensure security of data and the physical plant.
- Empower faculty and staff to seek and secure external funding.

**GOAL 4: Promote and support the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, enabling them to address challenges across generations.**

Objectives:

- Provide the necessary resources to enrich the campus experience and enhance campus life.
- Promote campus opportunities that encourage balance in academics, work, and social life.
- Meet the health, nutrition, physical environment, and safety needs of the campus community.

**GOAL 5: Foster and grow collaborative partnerships locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.**

Objectives:

- Orchestrate collaborative efforts with P-12 partners and other institutions of higher education.
- Cultivate and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local, regional, national, global communities, organizations, and partners.
- Leverage the expertise of individuals, groups, and organizations within the community to enhance learning and to strengthen university operations.

**GOAL 6: Promote and recognize commitment to public service.**

Objectives:

- Build vibrant university and community relationships through meaningful service and volunteer projects.
- Engage the community by offering and hosting activities and events in athletics, performing arts, culture, and academics.
- Acknowledge the service achievements of the campus community.

## Campus and Region

The University's tree-lined campus provides students a friendly and personal atmosphere. The campus includes five residence halls, seven classroom buildings, the Student Center, library, domed athletic facility, new wellness center, a concert hall, two theaters, and an art gallery.

The University is located in Minot, North Dakota, a city of approximately 50,000 that serves as the cultural, educational, and commercial center of a region which includes western North Dakota, eastern Montana, and southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Minot is known for its beautiful residential areas, spacious parks, and busy commercial districts. Here students find many of the cultural advantages usually associated with larger cities, including a symphony orchestra, an opera company, two theatre companies, three art galleries, a fine arts center, numerous choral groups, and a city band. Minot International Airport is served by Delta Airlines, United Airlines, and Allegiant Air. The city is also served by Amtrak. Minot is situated in one of the finest agricultural, industrial, and commercial areas in the state. The city is near the Bakken energy region and the great Garrison Dam on the Missouri River which offers world-class outdoor recreational opportunities in fishing, boating, sailing, hunting and camping.