



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs

DATE: January 24, 2024

TITLE: Transfer Paths to Graduate Education

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Ginny Arthur, President, Metropolitan State University

Kyle Swanson, Dean, College of Sciences, Metropolitan State University

Faisal Kaleem, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Cybersecurity, Graduate Director, Cyber Operations Program and Executive Director, MN Cyber, Metropolitan State University

Kumara Jayasuriya, President, Southwest Minnesota State University

Robbyn Wacker, President, St. Cloud State University

Katherina Pattit, Dean, Herberger Business School, St. Cloud State University

Mana Komai-Molle, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, St. Cloud State University

PURPOSE

This informational presentation and discussion will provide an overview of graduate education at the universities of Minnesota State, along with context on national trends in graduate education. Particular attention will be paid to how graduate education supports transfer across Minnesota State.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The most recent American Community Survey data showed that 13.7% of Minnesotans aged 25 or older hold a graduate or professional degree. This is in line with the national data showing that 14.0% of all Americans aged 25 or older hold a graduate or professional degree. However, Minnesota does have a higher percentage of the population aged 25 or older who hold a bachelor's degree (25.4%) than the national average (21.6%), which represents an opportunity to create additional and more efficient pathways for students to complete a graduate degree.

To support the ongoing academic and educational vitality in the state, Minnesota State offers more than 350 master's and applied doctoral programs across the seven universities. The largest enrollment in Minnesota State graduate programs are in education and health

professions. In the previous academic year (FY23), the overall enrollment in graduate programs across the seven universities was 9,497 (unduplicated) credit bearing students. Almost 14% of FY23 credit bearing graduate students were Indigenous students and students of color.

Looking at the national landscape for graduate education, the Council of Graduate Schools 2023 report, *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees 2012-2022*, notes that “while overall outlook for the graduate education community remains positive... graduate institutions are beginning to experience the slowing enrollment growth trends that challenge the higher education sector as a whole.” The top three broad fields for first-time graduate enrollees are business, health sciences, and education. Additionally, the report highlights a decline in overall first-time graduate enrollment from the fall of 2021 to the fall of 2022 (-4.7%), as well as declines in first-time graduate enrollment among American Indian/Alaska Native students (-1.6%), Black/African American students (-7.8%), and among Latinx students (-7.8%).

Mirroring these national trends, Minnesota State experienced a decline graduate enrollment in the fall of 2022 after having seen continuing growth in graduate enrollment prior to and during the first two fall semesters of the pandemic (fall 2020 and fall 2021). Preliminary numbers for the fall of 2023 show that graduate enrollment across Minnesota State remained largely unchanged from the fall of 2022.

Additional Resource

Graduate Enrollment and Degrees 2012-2022, Council of Graduate Schools (2023)