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General Information

Morris Campus

Located on 160 acres in west central Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, Morris continues the educational service that began in 1887. The campus was originally an American Indian boarding school, operated for 22 years, first by the Sisters of Mercy and then by the federal government. In 1909, as the federal government reduced the number of nonreservation boarding schools, the campus and facilities were deeded by Congress to the State of Minnesota on the condition “that Indian pupils shall at all times be admitted to such school free of charge for tuition and on terms of equality with white pupils.” Beginning in 1910 and for the next 53 years, the West Central School of Agriculture offered a boarding high school experience for rural young people under the auspices of the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Agriculture. To meet changing educational needs, as the School of Agriculture was being phased out, the Board of Regents in 1959 established the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Conceived at the outset as a four-year liberal arts college, UMM was not only to serve the population of west central Minnesota, but also to provide an educational opportunity for students throughout the state who sought a rigorous and focused undergraduate liberal education in a small college setting. The guiding principles of selective admission, controlled growth, and academic excellence in a residential campus atmosphere have not changed for more than four decades.

With approximately 1,600 students and 115 teaching faculty, UMM combines the residential environment of the small liberal arts college with the advantages of being a campus of the University of Minnesota. The members of the faculty, representing more than 25 academic fields, are organized into four divisions: Education, Humanities, Science and Mathematics, and Social Sciences. A 13-to-1 student-faculty ratio and a strong institutional commitment to individual attention bring UMM students into frequent contact with faculty; undergraduates often collaborate with faculty in research activities and artistic performances.

The UMM student body is diverse and talented. The campus currently is the collegiate home for students from throughout Minnesota, approximately 26 other states, and 15 foreign countries. In 2007, 15 percent of entering freshmen ranked in the top 5 percent of their high school class; 25 percent were in the top 10 percent; and 49 percent were in the top 20 percent.

There are more than 85 student organizations, clubs, committees, and special interest groups at UMM. Throughout the year, the campus community and residents of the region enjoy a variety of cultural and cocurricular activities—theatre productions, concerts, recitals, music festivals, lectures, and athletic events.

UMM helped found the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in 1992. This national organization has 25 member colleges that share a common commitment to academic excellence and concern for undergraduate student

development. The council sponsors professional development conferences for faculty in various disciplines and helps tell the public liberal arts story. The COPLAC Web site can be viewed at www.coplac.org.

University of Minnesota Morris Mission

The University of Minnesota, Morris is recognized as one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation because of its instructional excellence, commitment to research, numerous extracurricular programs and services, and strong sense of community. UMM’s mission as a rigorous, undergraduate, residential, liberal arts college is distinctive within the University of Minnesota. The Morris campus shares the University’s mission of teaching, research, and outreach. UMM provides undergraduate students with the resources of the University of Minnesota, yet it is a small personal school where students can shape their own education. The campus serves undergraduate students from Minnesota and across the nation, and is a highly valued educational resource and cultural center for residents of west central Minnesota. UMM attracts and serves a student body, faculty, and staff reflective of our multicultural society. The college empowers the campus community to participate fully and thoughtfully in a diverse society, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Accreditation

The University of Minnesota, Morris is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Professional accreditation for elementary and secondary teacher preparation has been granted by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Minnesota Board of Teaching.

Academic Programs

UMM’s academic programs offer preparation for most of the professions and several specialized occupational areas. Each student program includes studies in three broad areas of knowledge—the humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Majors

UMM students may choose a four-year curriculum leading to the bachelor of arts degree with a major in any of the following fields.

American Indian Studies

Anthropology

Art History

Biology

Chemistry

Communication, Media, and Rhetoric
 Computer Science
 Economics
 Education
 Secondary Education (licensure only)
 Coaching (endorsement only)
 Elementary Education
 English
 Environmental Science
 Environmental Studies
 European Studies
 French
 Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
 Geology
 German
 History
 Latin American Area Studies
 Liberal Arts for the Human Services
 Management
 Mathematics
 Music
 Philosophy
 Physics
 Political Science
 Psychology
 Social Science
 Sociology
 Spanish
 Statistics
 Studio Art
 Theatre Arts

Individualized Majors (“Areas of Concentration”)

UMM students may also work closely with faculty to design their own individualized program or “area of concentration.” Examples of these individualized majors include: actuarial science, American studies, animal behavior, art therapy, arts administration, biochemistry with forensics science, biology with forensics science, biostatistics, chemistry with forensics science, criminal justice (see the LAHS major description in the Programs and Courses section of this catalog), digital media studies, international studies, journalism, peace studies, and sports management. To declare an individualized major, students must consult with a faculty adviser and develop their area of concentration. Students must complete the *Area of Concentration Approval Form* and request approval by a faculty adviser and the dean. *Area of Concentration Forms* are available online at www.morris.umn.edu/services/acad_affairs/aavarious.html.

Preparation for Professional Degrees

UMM also offers students the opportunity to pursue coursework that prepares them for admission to a variety of professional schools offered at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities or Duluth, or other prestigious universities across the country. (See **Preparation for Professional Degrees in Other Colleges** on page 47.) This coursework is determined in consultation with faculty advisers and is intended to complement the broad range of liberal arts courses required for the degree at UMM.

Honors Program

The UMM Honors Program offers a distinct, academically challenging, intellectual experience for motivated and high-achieving students that amplifies and complements the liberal arts mission of UMM. It does this by relying upon an interdisciplinary curriculum. Successful completion of the Honors Program provides students a UMM degree “with honors” as a recognition of their achievements and willingness to explore ideas beyond disciplinary boundaries.

All honors students must enroll in IS 2001H—Traditions in Human Thought, a course that explores significant works from history, literature, philosophy, and science from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students may then choose from several elective offerings each semester that examine a particular topic from an interdisciplinary perspective. The courses are often team-taught by faculty from different UMM academic divisions. As seniors, honors students complete an Honors Project: a substantial scholarly or creative interdisciplinary work designed by each student working cooperatively with a project adviser. Upon completion, the project is defended before a panel of faculty from different disciplines. In addition to these requirements, honors program students often volunteer for service initiatives; attend public presentations, music, and theatrical performances; enjoy occasional field trips and outings; and mentor those just starting in the program.

All UMM students are eligible to participate in the Honors Program. Students normally apply to the program in the spring semester of their freshman year and begin coursework in their sophomore year. While everyone may apply, academic success in the fall semester, faculty recommendations, and a short essay may be used to limit the number to students with the proven motivation and likely ability to succeed in the program. A more detailed description of the Honors Program courses and requirements appears in the **Programs and Course Descriptions** section of this catalog.

Continuing Education

Continuing Education, Regional Programs and Summer Session (CERP) shares in the liberal arts mission of UMM and serves as the primary educational outreach unit of the campus. CERP provides access to the academic resources and services of the University of Minnesota for current and potential students, as well as residents of west central Minnesota and beyond. CERP organizes and administers a number of course offerings, including a wide range of credit and noncredit courses and programs, mostly on campus but with some offered online. In conjunction with colleges on the University's Twin Cities and Duluth campuses, CERP occasionally offers postbaccalaureate programs. CERP develops and sponsors conferences, institutes, and workshops; it administers regional public service programs and provides educational advising for nontraditional students.

CERP frequently serves as a first stop for adults in the region who want to learn more about the educational opportunities available to them at UMM, the University of Minnesota, or other colleges and universities in Minnesota. CERP staff help nontraditional students with referrals to appropriate UMM resources or educational resources available elsewhere. Call 800-842-0030 or 320-589-6450, or e-mail cerp@morris.umn.edu to arrange a meeting with an adviser.

Facilities

The UMM campus is situated on rolling prairie along the Pomme de Terre River adjacent to the city of Morris. The attractive, tree-shaded campus, with its 26 buildings, is located around a pedestrian mall. The campus recently completed a state-of-the-art renovation of Imholte Hall, and added a new artificial turf football stadium. The major buildings, including the Science and Math Complex, the Rodney A. Briggs Library, the Humanities Fine Arts Center, the Physical Education Center, the Student Center, the Food Service, and three of the residence halls, are modern in design and of relatively recent origin. They are blended with several older buildings of a gracious early 20th-century style, which recalls the campus' early history, first as an American Indian boarding school, then as the University's West Central School of Agriculture. All major instructional areas as well as most administrative space are accessible to persons with mobility limitations.

The **Humanities Fine Arts Center** received the prestigious First Design Award from Progressive Architecture magazine. It houses two theatres, a recital hall, a gallery, art studios, music rehearsal rooms, two television studios, and a variety of special purpose classrooms.

The **Rodney A. Briggs Library** provides reading and study space for 600 students and contains more than 230,000 volumes. Through excellent interlibrary loan arrangements, students can borrow books and receive photocopies from the entire University of Minnesota library system as well as from other libraries throughout the state, region, or beyond. The library also serves as a depository for certain government documents and houses the West Central Minnesota Historical Research Center, the Writing Room, and the Academic Assistance Center.

UMM has laboratory facilities for psychology and a simulation laboratory for political science students, as well as many laboratories for the natural sciences. Students also have access to the modern Computing Services center, which supplies support services for instructional, research, and administrative programs on campus.

The **Student Center** opened in 1992. Intended as the community center for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests, the center contains meeting rooms, a café, a major auditorium, lounges, recreation rooms, study space, a banquet and ballroom, student activities and student organization offices, and the campus radio station.

In 2000, a science building and renovated existing science facilities gave the campus a state-of-the-art science complex. The 60,000-square-foot science building houses laboratories and computer classrooms to support the science and mathematics curriculum.

The 40,000-square-foot **Regional Fitness Center**, a campus/community partnership, houses a walking/jogging track, low impact cardiovascular area, warm water pool and water slide, and multipurpose court areas. The nearby Physical Education Center houses three basketball courts in its main gymnasium. Seating capacity for games is 4,000. It also features a large multipurpose gymnasium, an exercise therapy and weight room, handball courts, and classrooms. It has a spacious natatorium consisting of an official Olympic-size, eight-lane swimming pool, and a separate diving tank.

UMM has been in the forefront in adopting renewable energy technologies and achieving energy efficiency. The campus recently completed construction of a new biomass heating and cooling plant which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 percent by 2010. One wind turbine, installed in 2005, provides 60 percent of campus electricity demand. Additional turbines, expected by 2010, will further reduce electricity demand from fossil fuel sources. Combining the biomass facility, the wind turbines, and other conservation efforts, the campus expects to be energy self-sufficient and carbon neutral by 2010.

Plans are underway for a LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) certified renovation of the community services building. The renovation will be complete in 2010, and the building will be renamed the Gateway Center. It will house Admissions, External Relations, CERP, and the Center for Small Towns.

The campus is also planning an on-campus Green Prairie Living and Learning residential environment to be constructed in 2010. This state-of-the-art facility will further enhance the campus's energy and sustainability initiatives with both first-class residential space and a high quality learning environment suitable for student research and demonstration programs.