Mississippi Public Universities Drive Progress and Move Mississippi Forward

Mississippi Public Universities drive progress and move Mississippi forward by offering academic programs, conducting research and reaching out to assist communities and individuals. Students in our classrooms today will be the leaders of their professions, their communities and our state in the decades ahead.

As our students graduate and enter the workforce, they will play a vital role in helping Mississippi’s businesses, nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies fulfill their missions and achieve success. The workforce our students enter as they graduate may change dramatically during their working lives. Graduates with at least a baccalaureate degree will be able to adapt to the changes and pivot as new jobs, new sectors and new opportunities emerge.

Public universities in Mississippi also drive research, innovation and entrepreneurship, helping to improve Mississippi’s economy while solving some of its most pressing problems. The knowledge base and expertise housed within the university system makes a significant difference in our state and beyond.

This report highlights a few of our universities’ academic programs, research projects and community outreach initiatives. I hope you will take a few moments to review this information and would also like to extend an invitation to discuss any of this information in greater detail. You are also welcome to visit any of our campuses to learn more about these topics and other programs, projects and initiatives led by our universities.
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Advanced Technologies is a leader in preparing nationally board Certified Industrial Technologists (CIT) for private and public sector employers; in preparing state-certified teachers of vocational and technical education and in delivering engineering education through pre-professional transfer programs and pre-engineering outreach programs. Applied Research is conducted by faculty and departmental students which impacts the quality of life of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. Community Service is provided through industrial extension activities, teacher in-service and pre-service programs, youth development programs and community and economic development initiatives.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi Valley State University’s Department of Mathematics, Computer & Information Sciences is challenging students who have an aptitude for math & science or simply prefer to pursue a degree in a stimulating, challenging area to pursue Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Mathematics Education. The mathematics curriculum leads to a degree which qualifies the students for research, industrial employment and related jobs. The Mathematics Education curriculum leads majors to take courses for certification as public-school teachers, while the Computer Science curriculum is designed to train students in business applications, and the other curriculum is designed for scientific and/or research activities.

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary and integrated science that embraces biological, chemical and physical aspects of the environment and their effect on organisms.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES PREPARE STEM WORKFORCE

PROGRAMS

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Advanced Technologies is a leader in preparing nationally board Certified Industrial Technologists (CIT) for private and public sector employers; in preparing state-certified teachers of vocational and technical education and in delivering engineering education through pre-professional transfer programs and pre-engineering outreach programs. Applied Research is conducted by faculty and departmental students which impacts the quality of life of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. Community Service is provided through industrial extension activities, teacher in-service and pre-service programs, youth development programs and community and economic development initiatives.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta State University is the only state university in Mississippi that offers a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

POINT OF PRIDE

Ghanshyam Heda, Ph.D. spent two months of his sabbatical conducting research on cystic fibrosis in the physiology laboratory of professor David Sheppard, Ph.D. at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. Dr. Heda will continue the research he started at the University of Bristol at The W thanks in part to a seed grant he received from the Mississippi Space Grant Consortium for conducting undergraduate research in any STEM-related field that has relevance to National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi State University is on the cutting edge of uncrewed aircraft systems research and integration into the nation’s airspace, serving as the national lead university for the FAA’s Center of Excellence for UAS and as the FAA’s UAS Safety Research Facility. MSU’s Raspet Flight Research Laboratory includes a fleet of the largest and most capable UAS in academic use and conducts research on behalf of federal agencies and commercial industry. This robust aerospace research exposes students to the field’s emerging trends and technologies, helping the next generation of Mississippi’s aerospace industry take flight.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

UMMC has built a reputation as a research institution dedicated to contributing to basic science, clinical and translational research. During fiscal year 2021, the Medical Center experienced a record year for research and sponsored programs funding: its nearly 400 grants, awards and contracts brought in $123.5 million. The bulk of external funding came from federal agencies that support long-term projects on cardiovascular disease, new studies on areas including using cold platelets in trauma medicine and computer-based modeling of hypertension risks and education programs that enhance student experiences. UMMC scientists also initiated 84 clinical trials in FY21 funded primarily by industry sponsors that study innovation in areas including cardiovascular diseases, cancers and vaccines.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

As one of only 146 universities in the nation to earn the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education’s “R1: Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity” designation, USM produces top graduates in fields such as polymer science and engineering, biological sciences, forensics, computer engineering and many other STEM fields. USM leads Mississippi with 27 Goldwater Scholarships, a national honor that recognizes the next generation of great research scientists, and boasts of one of only 10 bachelor’s degree programs in the nation in ocean engineering.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Mississippi State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine equips its veterinary students with 50-plus surgeries on average as primary surgeon at the time of graduation, which is markedly more surgical experience than the national average. CVM students have a 98% pass rate on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). CVM’s Shelter Medicine program performs approximately 6,000 surgeries for shelter animals every year, providing a valuable service to the shelters across the region and giving students a wealth of hands-on experience.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University’s College of Science, Engineering and Technology recently partnered with the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to host the inaugural Pre-Medicine Day, welcoming over 200 undergraduate and graduate students to explore the various programs and curriculums offered at UMMC. With this JSU/UMMC partnership, a significant component of this outreach initiative centers on the importance of active physician retention within the state, as well as diversifying physicians available to under-served communities.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Each summer, the University of Mississippi’s National Center for Physical Acoustics hosts the Physical Acoustics Summer School for graduate and postgraduate students from around the world to learn the latest in cutting-edge physical acoustics. Acoustics can be applied across many fields, including biomedical ultrasound, jet noise reduction, novel materials, weather hazards and atmospheric science. The event is supported by the University of Texas and the Acoustical Society of America.
PUBLIC HEALTH

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES HELP ADDRESS MISSISSIPPITANS’ HEALTH CHALLENGES

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health offers three undergraduate programs (Biology, Chemistry & Environmental Health) and two graduate programs (Bioinformatics & Environmental Health). These programs have been designed to enable our students to understand scientific information that ultimately aids in understanding how all life on earth continues to develop, persist and evolve while continuing to advance with modern-day technologies and techniques. The NSEH Department consists of several research facilities. Our team of faculty, along with their student research teams, utilizes these advanced facilities to research the areas of Cellular and Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Plant Physiology, Environmental Analysis and more.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

The Public Health Education Program at The W is offered fully online and develops professionals who work to promote, maintain and improve individual and community health in the public and private sectors and at the local, state and federal levels. Because of the public health concerns in recent years, the need for more public health professionals has become evident. Public Health professionals at the entry level will actively ensure that local, state and federal health initiatives are implemented effectively.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

Led by a new dean, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the John D. Bower School of Population Health strives to be a force for driving, inducing and catalyzing change in the state, particularly in overlooked areas that make communities unhealthy. Since 80 percent of a person’s well-being is based on environmental factors – the communities in which they live, access to education and healthy behaviors – population health engages community partnerships, research and education to address issues including access to healthy foods, poverty, smoking and sexually transmitted diseases. The school consists of three departments: data science, which focuses on extracting knowledge and insights from data; population health science, which trains graduates to use policies, programs and other interventions to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities; and preventive medicine, which, shared with the School of Medicine, trains health professionals in disease prevention and health promotion for both individuals and populations.

RESEARCH

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JSU’s Department of Health Policy & Management launched a Bachelor of Science in public health program, which will provide sound theoretical and practical education for public health practitioners. In a study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of public health service managers is projected to increase by 18% over the next several years. Employment for health educators and community health workers will increase by 11%. With the demand for public health practitioners rapidly increasing, JSU Department Chair of Health Policy and Management Russell L. Bennett, Ph.D., expects the program to serve as the foundation for innovative strategies and interventions necessary for addressing health issues prevalent in society.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The PROMISE Initiative, led by the Division of Agriculture,
Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at MSU, recently received national recognition for its work to prevent opioid misuse among rural Mississippians, including agricultural producers and youth. The Initiative received the National Innovative Programs and Projects Partnership Award from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. As part of the PROMISE Initiative, 97% of MSU Extension agents are trained in mental health first aid to better understand, identify and respond to signs of mental illness.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Victoria Zigmont, an assistant professor of public health at the University of Mississippi, published, “The ABC’s of Public Health,” in an effort to make public health issues easier to understand for young children. Topics covered in the book include food safety, global health, mental health, quarantine and vaccinations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

The ASU Family Clinic is open five days a week to serve the medical and healthcare needs of Alcorn students, faculty and staff as well as residents of Natchez and surrounding communities. The clinic is staffed with a family nurse practitioner to provide accessible, cost-effective health care. Staff members emphasize health promotion, disease prevention and acute episodic outpatient medical care. Its mission is to maintain, improve or restore the health and well-being of students through an accessible, quality health care program that emphasizes campus-wide health education, health promotion and outpatient medical care. The unique mission of the ASU Family Clinic is essential to the university for meeting its teaching, research and public service mission.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Physician assistants play a critical role in Mississippi, delivering much-needed, high quality healthcare. Mississippi State University’s innovative Master of Physician Assistant Studies program—the only publicly funded PA curriculum in the state—prepares these professionals to practice and promote empathetic, primary care-focused medicine serving the Magnolia State’s culturally diverse population. The 29-month program, located at MSU-Meridian’s Riley Campus, includes student participation in hands-on clinical rotations at medical facilities which are eagerly involved with PA training.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

The University of Southern Mississippi is taking several measures to help address the nursing shortage in the state, while providing support to local medical providers: a partnership with Merit Health Wesley in Hattiesburg added hospital nurses to the University’s clinical teaching faculty; an accelerated nursing pathway at the Gulf Park Campus will help students who have already earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in as little as 15 months, with decreased barriers to admission; and USM has established partnerships with Alcorn State University, Pearl River Community College and Jones College that will create easier pathways for students to earn a nursing degree. USM’s nursing programs frequently rank among the best in the country—most recently as No. 3 in the nation for its online Doctor of Nursing Practice programs by OnlineU in the resource guide’s “2022 Best Online DNP Degrees.”

PUBLIC HEALTH

Delta State University Robert E. Smith School of Nursing has consistently boasted perfect or near-perfect scores. In 2021, the NCLEX pass rate for Delta State nursing graduates was 100%. In addition, the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification pass rate was also 100%.
ARTS & CULTURE

ARTS AND CULTURE OFFERINGS ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE ACROSS MISSISSIPPI

PROGRAMS

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Delta State University’s Delta Music Institute (DMI) offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Entertainment Industry Studies. This innovative program is intended to develop a broad range of skills in audio engineering technology and entertainment industry entrepreneurship that will give students a foundational base of knowledge for working in various entertainment industry careers. Graduates of the program are well prepared for the technical, business and legal issues that confront the practicing entertainment industry professional today and in the future. The DMI is also an Education Partner with GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi and an Avid Learning Partner offering Pro Tools Certification.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
Jackson State University is robust in immersive programs that help students to develop a diverse palette in the field of arts and creativity. From its historic opera and vocal performance program to graphic design and creative writing, JSU arts and academic programs prepare students for a rich cultural experience. Housed in the College of Liberal Arts, students study foreign languages, theatre, jazz, English language arts, ethnomusicology and more. When students graduate, they are prepared to thrive in a global society with an appreciation of the arts and culture in communities beyond the roads of Jackson, Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
The W offers numerous cultural events annually, most without charge, enhancing quality of life in the region. The Music Therapy program at The W was established in 2002 as the first program at a public university in Mississippi to educate music therapists. The mission of The W’s Music Therapy program is to provide holistic and clinically based music therapy education with an emphasis on individual student exploration and growth.

RESEARCH

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
The mission of the Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning at Alcorn State University is to celebrate culture, creativity and community. The Center serves as a resource for identifying, preserving and communicating the rich history, vibrant culture and cherished traditions of the region. Providing community outreach, hands-on and online learning opportunities, lectures, public forums, exhibitions and celebrations, the Center is a significant part of the region’s cultural landscape.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Department of Archives & Special Collections at the University of Mississippi contains archival papers, photographs, films and sound recordings related to Mississippi, the blues, the University of Mississippi and the American South. Established in 1984, the Blues Archive acquires and preserves blues and blues-related materials in a variety of formats for scholars and blues fans alike. With over 70,000 sound recordings in most audio formats; over 60,000 photographs; more than 1,000 videos; over 34,000 books, periodicals and newsletters; and numerous manuscripts and ephemera, the Blues Archive houses one of the largest collections of blues recordings, publications and memorabilia in the world.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER

For many students in the School of Medicine at UMMC, their own camera work provides a kind of mental health haven from the textbook grind. You can see evidence of their creative side in an exhibition called “Color Our Walls” in the Medical Education Building.

The compositions embrace landscapes, cityscapes, a church’s stained-glass windows, the joyful eyes of a child on a swing and a silhouetted man leaping atop a derelict plane. The medical school class of 2021 donated the money to buy frames for the photographs. The plan is to keep the visual arts project alive and include exhibits of paintings and drawings, along with works by faculty members.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

More than 60,000 young people in the state participate in the 4-H youth development program within Mississippi State University’s Extension arts and culture projects such as photography, theater, cultural education and clothing and interior design are offered in all 82 counties in an environment that is supportive as well as nurturing.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

The Mississippi Valley State University Choir and Valley Singers each year invite the local community and encourage them to embrace the holiday spirit with their annual Christmas concert. The event is held at a community church in Greenwood and brings together music lovers from all over the Mississippi Delta. The concerts are free and open to the public.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

USM is one of only 39 institutions in the nation accredited in theatre, art and design, dance and music. Its faculty and students annually host more than 300 events and perform for thousands of patrons each year.

At more than 100 years old, the Southern Miss Symphony Orchestra is the oldest orchestra in Mississippi and a true gem in the Gulf South. As part of the orchestra, Southern Miss students have been able to perform with extraordinary guest artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Placido Domingo and Renée Fleming.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY English Professor Catherine Pierce serves as Mississippi’s Poet Laureate, a distinguished education and cultural position appointed by the state’s governor. Serving a four-year term, Pierce has adopted “Poetry is for Everyone” as her platform, engaging Mississippi’s young people and adults in the art form through such contemporary, popular communications as podcasts and livestreams.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES LIGHT PATH TO SUCCESS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Mississippi inspires students to create innovative businesses through excellent teaching, exceptional service and world-class research. CIE provides entrepreneurship education through focused major and minor degree programs; a graduate certificate; competitions and experiential learning opportunities; and world-recognized entrepreneurship research. Specific activities include a pitch competition, a fall business model competition, a spring business plan competition, an entrepreneurship club, Discovery Grants to test venture feasibility and the Rebel Venture Capital Fund for initial seed grant funding. CIE also hosts the REDe Entrepreneurship Summit, an annual speaker event with the goal of encouraging, celebrating and enhancing entrepreneurial endeavors with students from varied academic backgrounds, such as the arts, engineering, pharmacy or business.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi Valley State University’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree introduces the student to the various functional areas (information technology (IT), human resources, management (strategic), accounting, finance, economics, operations, marketing, including global implications for these functional business areas) required to run a prosperous small, medium or large organization or prepares the student to pursue an entrepreneurial venture successfully. The rigors of an MBA program allow the student to acquire the managerial skills and competencies needed to efficiently and effectively manage and lead an organization or an entrepreneurial venture from a system’s perspective. The student will also learn how these organizational “sides” and “facets” fit together, operating synergistically to achieve organizational effectiveness.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Blue initiative pools the knowledge of research scientists, federal agencies, industry partners and entrepreneurs to further develop the Mississippi Gulf Coast into a global leader in blue technology. The history, geography and maritime resources position the Gulf Coast to lead the development of world-changing innovation that will emerge from Mississippi. As part of the initiative, the Gulf Blue Navigator Program is supporting the work of six startups with market access to the Gulf of Mexico region, proximity to federal agencies, technical facilities and expertise.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

POINT OF PRIDE

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

The Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research at UMMC offers a space for highlighting products, research and the exchange of ideas in improving human health in Mississippi. Located at the Medical Center’s main campus in Jackson, the venue encourages collaboration between early stage businesses and entrepreneurs so they can succeed in the market. They also have access to amenities on site and to student interns and researchers at UMMC. UMMC is also home to 26 centers and institutes with education or research functions that help reach the goal of creating a healthier Mississippi, plus fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship in the medical community.

RESEARCH

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Alcorn State University’s Extension Program is a premier “Extension Center of Excellence” for limited-resource audiences which is a proactive, responsive and collaborative learning organization committed to the growth and development of people through life-long learning. The basic purpose of the Cooperative Extension system is to improve American agriculture and strengthen the nation’s families and communities through dissemination and application of research-generated knowledge and leadership techniques, collaborative learning organization committed to the growth and development.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University was named as a new NSF Innovation (I-Corps) Hub, ushering in an era of expansion for the NSF-led National Innovation Network. As part of the initiative, each I-Corps Hub is funded for up to $3 million per year for five years. JSU is slated to receive $1 million in financial support. I-Corps Hubs provide experiential entrepreneurial training to academic researchers across all fields of science and engineering. I-Corps Hubs form the operational backbone of the National Innovation Network—a network of universities, NSF-funded researchers, local and regional entrepreneurial communities and other federal agencies—that help researchers translate fundamental research results to the marketplace. The I-Corps Hubs work collaboratively to build and sustain a diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem throughout the U.S.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The Bricks-To-Clicks® Marketing Program within MSU’s Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine has helped hundreds of businesses attract more customers and increase revenue with a clear marketing message. Through free on-demand courses and live marketing webinars, the program offered through the MSU Extension Service is helping Mississippi businesses thrive. James Barnes, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Economist in MSU’s Department of Agricultural Economics, offers one-on-one coaching to create and implement marketing plans to empower businesses in our state to succeed.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta State University’s Women Minority Business Development Center (WMBDC) is the largest single expansion of business development for women entrepreneurs across the state of Mississippi, with a concentration in the Mississippi Delta region. Under the auspice of the College of Business and Aviation at Delta State and with support from a $1.5 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation, the WMBDC will play a pivotal role in positioning women-owned business owners for success as they continue to grow and recover.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi State University is shaping the young innovators, leaders and community builders of the future through student participation in over 300 organizations, many of which have been recognized nationally as models for others across the United States. For 21 of the last 22 years, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has named MSU’s student chapter “outstanding,” and for more than 25 years the campus chapter of the American Society of Foresters has consistently placed in the ASF’s top 3 student groups. The university’s Phi Kappa Phi organization—the nation’s oldest and most selective multidisciplinary honor society—has been a Circle of Excellence recipient for five consecutive years.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Outreach has always been at the core of The W’s mission. For decades, The W has worked with Columbus and Lowndes County to attract students and tourists, as well as business and industry to the region for educational offerings, both inside and outside the classroom.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES LEAD
STATE’S INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) scientists at Mississippi State University are using artificial intelligence to tackle some of today’s toughest issues. MAFES researchers are testing new technology for more accurate planting across Mississippi and getting the answers to growers to improve their outcomes. Food safety and quality issues can affect the profitability and sustainability of Mississippi’s top industry and America’s most consumed meat. MAFES scientists are applying high-resolution imaging technology to poultry production for early detection in meat quality.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence at the University of Mississippi offers academic and hands-on courses that teach accountancy, engineering, business, communications and continuous improvement through the lens of manufacturing. CME’s LEED-certified facility includes a 12,000-square-foot manufacturing floor where students learn the importance of safety in the industrial environment, the value of teamwork and how to turn their ideas into tangible products. Beyond the classroom, CME immerses students in real-world opportunities with industry partners through internships, co-ops and experiential learning courses. Co-ops or internships have taken place with industry leaders such as ExxonMobil, Tesla, Toyota and Trane. Experiential learning courses have been held at ADP Products, Blue Delta Jeans, GE Aviation, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Nissan, Toyota, Viking Range and more. With a job placement rate consistently at or near 100%, CME graduates possess the academic knowledge and industry experience needed to embark on successful careers in advanced manufacturing.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

USM’s academic programs encourage innovation in a variety of fields. The University’s School of Polymer Science and Engineering is internationally recognized for the achievements of its faculty, its level of research excellence and the quality of students. Students in the School of Ocean Science and Engineering traverse endless frontiers as they conduct research—from studying the Gulf of Mexico and understanding the environment in which autonomous vehicles operate to promoting sustainable fisheries and advancing the study of aquaculture around the world. And the School of Computing Sciences and Computer Engineering offers undergraduate degrees in computer science, information technology, computer engineering and cybersecurity, along with minors and certificate programs in software engineering, cybersecurity and computer networking.

RESEARCH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta State University’s Master of Applied Science in Geospatial Information Technologies (MAS-GIT) program offers advanced coursework, practicum and independent research opportunities in geospatial science and technologies. The program focuses on state-of-the-art geospatial science and technologies that practitioners in geospatial fields seek. The program combines a professional orientation with an academic foundation by requiring both course work and practicum. Students are provided with research opportunities to solve and document real world geospatial problems. The program prepares students for entering professions and advancing careers in government, private industry and academic research in geospatial fields.
MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
Innovation is fueled at The W by reaching the state’s youngest innovators, early childhood students. Through exposure to scientific processes like observation and experimentation, early learners develop the foundation for careers in STEM. Daily integrated art activities stir the imagination of future artists and designers. The curiosity, imagination and piqued interests of 2, 3, and 4-year-olds is the germinated seed of research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the state. Through innovative partnerships, The W supports regional citizens through a lifelong learning model following students from birth through post graduate enrichment.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
By providing outreach and public service, producing or contributing to the production of enhanced crops, specialized medicinal crops, enhanced farming and pest control techniques and protocols, to name only a few of the area’s of potential impact, Alcorn graduates are prepared to drive Mississippi’s agriculture economy through innovation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Mississippi State University’s T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability works to ensure that persons with disabilities benefit from technological solutions and advances in the field of assistive technology. Removing barriers for clients with mobility, hearing, visual, communication and cognitive impairments, the center includes an Express Yourself! art program that empowers individuals with disabilities to explore their creative interests through full participation in activities. The recipient of the Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities 2022 Torchbearer Award, the center’s programs champion those with disabilities and help find solutions to transform their lives.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
Milwaukee Tools, located in Greenwood, and the Mississippi Valley State University Career Services Center partnered to hold Milwaukee Tool Day on the campus of MVSU. The event catered to Engineering Technology students to share information about the company and all that it provides to its customers. In addition, students provided resumes with company representatives for future internships and employment opportunities. Students learned how to utilize and operate some select power tools supervised by Milwaukee Tool employees. Engineering Technology students also received community service hours for helping company representatives share information and tips with other students and community members.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
UMMC has been a leader in telehealth for over a decade. In 2017, it was recognized as one of only two federally designated Centers of Excellence in Telehealth. With this designation UMMC is are tasked by the Health Resources and Services Administration to explore innovative ways to advance the modern practice of telemedicine. The UMMC Center for Telehealth serves as a national clearinghouse for telehealth research and resources. From remote patient monitoring to UMMC 2 You services for minor medical and mental health care, telemedicine is an important part of the care the Medical Center provides.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES DEVELOP NEXT GENERATION OF STATE’S LEADERS

PROGRAMS

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Myrlie Evers-Williams Honors Program at Alcorn State University has a celebrated history of excellence, bringing together students and faculty with exceptional intellectual commitment and ability in an atmosphere that stimulates scholarship, leadership and creativity. Given the many challenges and changes in higher education instigated by the global pandemic, Alcorn believes innovating the Honors Program can secure its continued relevance in a post-COVID 19 educational marketplace. In keeping with Alcorn’s refreshed vision and mission, the Honors Curriculum Program has become the Myrlie Evers-Williams Honors Program as part of its effort to attract and retain high academic performing scholars, and to assist them in being consequential, ethical leaders.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta State University’s Division of Teacher Education, Leadership and Research (TELR) prepares leaders for educational administration and supervision in public or independent school settings. The Division offers an array of graduate degree programs for those seeking to expand their expertise through continued education. These programs include a Master’s in Special Education, Master’s and Specialist’s in Elementary Education, Master of Arts in Teaching (Alternate Route), Master’s and Specialist’s in Educational Administration and Supervision and Doctor of Professional Studies (tracks in Higher Education, Educational Administration and Supervision and Curriculum and Instruction). Candidates in each of the programs are provided extensive opportunities to bridge theory and research to practice and to engage in interactive teaching and learning. Graduates of the Division are instructional leaders and change agents who act with integrity, focus on continuous improvement and engage the larger community.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University’s Center for Student Engagement and Leadership (CSEL) is dedicated to cultivating diverse students by providing programs and services that support holistic student development. CSEL is dedicated to leadership development, organizational advising and programming. The Center is committed to uplifting and developing all students through signature events such as Welcome Week, Student Leadership Elections, Thee I Love Bash and more. CSEL strives to create meaningful and memorable experiences that nurture students’ personal, scholastic and ethical development through innovative programming and co-curricular involvement.
RESEARCH

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE
The Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University is training tomorrow’s agriculture leaders through experiential learning today. The USDA reports an estimated 57,900 high-skilled job openings annually in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources and environment fields in the United States. MSU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences offers an Agricultural Leadership concentration that prepares students for roles in a variety of agricultural industry careers, including management positions.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Hands-on undergraduate research experiences are one reason first-time freshmen enroll at Mississippi State University. Available to them are world-class faculty experts at the state’s leading research university, which is ranked as a National Science Foundation top 90 research university and is 59th among public research institutions. Among those working with students in their quest for solutions to some of the world’s biggest challenges are 21 current MSU faculty who have received the prestigious NSF CAREER Awards, among the nation’s most distinguished recognitions for accomplished young scientists.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Leadership, based at the University’s Gulf Park Campus, prepares students to succeed in the business world by offering innovative coursework and research in partnership with thriving organizations. These affiliations allow students to foster independence of mind, a spirit of entrepreneurship and discovery, an awareness of a common responsibility to work collaboratively across disciplines toward solutions to complex workplace issues while capitalizing on emerging opportunities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
NEW Leadership® Mississippi advances The W’s historic mission to promote women’s leadership in Mississippi. Each summer the program brings together college students from across the political spectrum and from a wide range of racial, ethnic, educational, political and economic backgrounds to discuss the roles of women in leadership and politics. NEW Leadership® Mississippi is designed to empower women’s participation in politics through programs that educate, empower and encourage college students to become politically active and to take on leadership roles in public service.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
The Mississippi Valley State University Office of Student Leadership and Engagement helps to enhance the academic program of studies and facilitate the overall educational experience of students through the development of and participation in social, cultural and recreational activities. The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement is a significant programming agency for student life and a resource outlet for student organizations. Student Leadership and Engagement offers one of the best opportunities for students to assist with the planning and presentation of activities that will contribute to their intellectual, social and cultural development. Students’ involvement challenges them to develop and apply organizational and leadership skills that are useful after college.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
The Health Systems Administration and Doctor of Health Administration programs at UMMC give students a leg up in career advancement in health care. Professionals from an array of health care disciplines may enroll in any of three curriculum tracks in the HSA program that can lead to management and/or administrative positions. Advanced coursework in strategic change management, health systems and communications in health organizations highlight the DHA program. Since 2015, it has produced more than 70 graduates that have gone on to enhanced leadership roles or promotions within five years of graduation. Both programs are in UMMC’s School of Health Related Professions.

POIN OF PRIDE

The Stamps Scholars Program at the University of Mississippi offers one of the most competitive scholarship awards in Mississippi and the country. The program is an internationally prestigious scholarship program and community that helps exceptional students become meaningful leaders throughout society. Stamps Scholars are chosen based on academic excellence, leadership experience and exceptional character. Ole Miss is the only university in the state of Mississippi and only one of six schools in the SEC that participates in the Stamps Program.
UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES COLLABORATE WITH INDUSTRY TO ADVANCE STATE PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
MSU’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach consistently forges new partnerships with industry thought leaders as it works with university students, faculty and staff to start and grow successful companies. The center provides world-class strategic guidance and mentorship, builds financial and other tangible resources to support business startups, enhances interdisciplinary relationships and actively promotes outreach to new students. These efforts help unify, grow and foster a strong campus-wide culture of entrepreneurship that produces more than 100 student startups annually.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
Beginning in 2023, the University of Mississippi will offer a Master of Science degree in dietary supplement and medical cannabis. As the home to one of the nation’s most innovative and long-standing research programs in cannabis in the country, this degree positions UM researchers uniquely to help guide Mississippi and other states across the region on the benefits of medical marijuana as it becomes accessible to the public.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Polymer and High Performance Materials is home to academic programs in polymer engineering that produce some of the nation’s top graduates. In Hattiesburg, the University’s Mississippi Polymer Institute (MPI) is located at The Accelerator, a 60,000 square foot state-of-the-art full-service facility. MPI’s services and expertise help serve as an industrial outreach component for the School by offering services such as: product development, rapid prototyping and 3D printing, laser scanning services, pilot production, and workforce development/training.

On the Gulf Coast, the University is home to one of only 10 ocean engineering programs in the country, and the University’s Gulf Blue initiative pools the knowledge of research scientists, federal agencies, industry partners and entrepreneurs to further develop the region as a global leader in ocean- and maritime-related technologies. As a result of the initiative, companies like Ocean Aero, which has created the world’s first and only environmentally powered Autonomous Underwater and Surface Vehicle are operating from the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

RESEARCH

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
Incarcerated people at two prisons in the Mississippi Delta can earn four-year degrees from Mississippi Valley State University for the first time in more than two decades. With its Prison Educational Partnership Program, MVSU’s is one of many colleges providing classes in prison with Second Chance Pell. This federal program is restoring access to income-based financial aid for incarcerated people.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
Jackson State University is part of a consortium of HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions earning a $15 million NSF grant to close the digital divide in cyberinfrastructure research. The grant will assist JSU with increasing and diversifying its research portfolio, enhancing STEM curricular offerings and training at the graduate and undergraduate levels and expanding its research infrastructure. The NSF grant is expected to provide participating institutions with campus-specific cyberinfrastructure assessments that foster cyberinfrastructure strategic plans.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
From groundbreaking research to telehealth that can provide care to workers and their families, the University of Mississippi Medical Center is a health care resource to industries throughout Mississippi. The level of care provided at Children’s of Mississippi, UMMC’s main campus and at locations around the state can help in recruitment and retention of industries in Mississippi.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Delta State University’s Department of Commercial Aviation offers both a concentration and certifications in logistics, exposing students to critical elements and systems which drive logistics decision-making to manage supply and demand. Courses offered within the logistics concentration include transportation operations management, sourcing and contract
management and internal supply chain management. Delta State's continuing education certifications in logistics are accredited by the Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM) and are available to both students and working professionals in the field of logistics and supply chain management.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University partners with the state corn, soybean, rice, cotton and peanut promotion boards to discover solutions to production challenges in our state. Research conducted with the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station provides best management practices that deliver the greatest impact to Mississippi farmers’ bottom lines. MSU Extension agents help transfer the results of the research to farmers to implement in their own operations.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

The School of Education at The W is creating spaces to enhance student performance and provide professional development for community educators. Improvements to the School of Education were made possible by the Phil Hardin Foundation whose goal is to be a catalyst for educational opportunity and community improvement in Mississippi.

POINT OF PRIDE

Close to 50 percent of Alcorn State University students are in STEM related majors. Alcorn recently announced the expansion of its partnership with IBM to launch the first IBM-partnered Cybersecurity Leadership Center at a Mississippi HBCU. Initially, IBM and Alcorn collaborated on the IBM Skills Academy, an educational and outreach program developing cutting-edge technological skills aligned with evolving industry demands and trends. The learning tracks address advanced topics as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, blockchain, data science and quantum computing. The grant allows students and faculty to expand the tangible skills they need for today’s IT workforce and the jobs of the future.
PROGRAMS TO FILL SPECIFIC WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ADDRESS WORKFORCE NEEDS IN CRITICAL AREAS

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University increased its Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class size from 95 to 112 and the Veterinary Medical Technology program from 30 to 40 to expand access to veterinary professionals in our state.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Cora S. Balmat School of Nursing at Alcorn State University has a proud tradition of graduating competent, caring and professional nurses who make a difference in their communities and beyond. Its School of Nursing has produced hundreds of entry-level and advanced practice nurses employed in various leadership and healthcare settings across the globe. The School offers associate, bachelor, master and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. To combat a national nursing shortage, the University of Southern Mississippi has established partnerships with Alcorn State University, Pearl River Community College and Jones College to create more accessible pathways for students to earn a nursing degree. The new collaboration developed the Rural Health Scholars Program (RHSP) between USM and Alcorn State. The program’s purpose is to increase the number of doctoral-prepared nursing faculty from diverse backgrounds; prepare nursing scientists to improve rural health outcomes and improve the health of the communities surrounding Alcorn State – Adams, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson and Wilkinson counties.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi State’s newest degree—the Bachelor of Science in Data Science—prepares students to be today’s much-needed experts that can apply core data science knowledge and skills in a growing number of concentrations like agriculture, psychology and business. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics this year announced the demand for data scientists will grow by 36 percent through 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. MSU graduates in this field will enter employment with titles such as data wrangler, smart city application developer, information architect and data analyst in areas such as finance, sports, health, government and defense. Unique to MSU’s program is its focus on preparing students for the central role that data plays every day in the success of organizations operating in a digital world.

POINT OF PRIDE

The School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center is addressing the rising need for nurses throughout Mississippi and the rest of the country by offering accelerated nursing programs. Year-long accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs in Jackson and Oxford provide training for those who hold four-year degrees in other disciplines. The RN-to-MSN track and other nursing graduate programs produce more nursing educators, who are also in demand at universities and community colleges around the state.
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi Valley State University’s Department of Education offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Early Childhood Education. The Early Childhood Education degree is not designed for school-based early childhood education and does not currently lead to licensure. Through the coordination by the Department of Education, the department also oversees the B.S. degree in Biology Education, English Education, Mathematics Education, Vocal Keyboard and Instrumental Music Education and Social Science Education. These programs, all located in the College of Arts and Sciences, lead to K-12 licensure. Master of Science programs in Special Education and Elementary Education are offered by the Department of Teacher Education. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Teaching, with emphasis in Elementary Education (4-8), Social Sciences, Science/Biology, Math, Music, English and Physical Education.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

The W is committed to creating a pipeline of qualified educators to solve Mississippi’s ongoing teacher shortage. Through coursework with a focus on effective teaching strategies, teacher candidates are armed with the tools to fight illiteracy and to bolster motivation and learning outcomes. A focus on the diverse needs of students prepares teacher candidates to reach each child socially, emotionally and cognitively. Learn.org recently ranked Mississippi University for Women’s Master of Arts in Teaching as the third best online education degree program in the country. The W’s Master of Arts in Teaching is an alternative initial licensure program that provides completers of this graduate degree with an opportunity to teach in Mississippi secondary schools (grades seventh through 12th).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards has ranked USM 12th in the nation and first in the state of Mississippi for producing new National Board Certified Teachers. Since 1994, when the credential was first offered, 1,073 USM graduates have attained the highest credential in the teaching profession. This year, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has pledged over $2 million to The University of Southern Mississippi to support Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) in critical shortage areas. USM’s award is the largest grant in the $5.8 million program that will cover tuition and expenses at five Mississippi universities for up to 240 individuals seeking a graduate degree in elementary and secondary education.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Delta State University’s Office of Continuing Education offers online certificate programs designed to provide the skills necessary to acquire professional level positions for many in-demand occupations. Individuals can choose from more than 300 online certificate programs in a variety of industries, including Project Management, Cyber Security, Business Operations, Hospitality/Catering and Health Care. The programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field, who work to provide the most effective web-based learning experience available today. With open enrollment, individuals can start and finish at their own pace.

PROGRAMS TO FILL SPECIFIC WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University’s College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) welcomed 15 graduate students into their first Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) program this fall. The MTR program aims to prepare educators for teaching in geographical critical shortage areas. In December 2021, JSU received a portion of MDE grant funds to address elementary and special education teacher shortages. The program is supported by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. MDE recently expanded the residency program from three to five universities servicing over 20 school districts across the state. JSU’s partnership with Jackson Public Schools aims to ensure all Mississippi students have access to licensed, diverse, and effective teachers.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

For more than three decades, the Mississippi Teacher Corps, a graduate teacher preparation program at the University of Mississippi School of Education, has trained and placed hundreds of professionals in high-need public schools through an alternate route to teacher certification. Recent USM College of Nursing and Health Professions initiatives have been enacted by skilled, devoted professionals to help offset the critical nursing shortage. Long renowned as a leader in nursing education, USM saw 148 undergraduate and 48 graduate students earn degrees last year.

One unique approach USM has taken to combat the shortage and meet demands is an accelerated pathway to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree that will be offered on the University’s Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, Miss.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES REACH OUT TO IMPROVE COMMUNITIES, TOUCH LIVES OF CITIZENS

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

The W offers opportunities for all students to hone their natural leadership qualities. The university prides itself on developing strong leaders, ready for the career of their choosing. The W Leadership Program is a rich and challenging leadership program that teaches students the commitment, knowledge and values that will enable them to blaze new trails in their chosen paths.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

For two decades, the Jackson Free Clinic has given UMMC students a chance to get up every Saturday morning and help change the world, or at least a corner of it. Run by student volunteers and supervised by UMMC faculty members, the facility in west Jackson offers free health care and dental services to uninsured patients and others. Patients can tap into medical specialty services as well, at certain times of the month or year: psychiatry, dermatology, radiology, gynecology and ultrasound.

The majority of volunteers are medical students, but most UMMC schools are represented. For the past couple of years, the students’ outreach mission has grown; they have traveled to other parts of Mississippi offering COVID vaccines and other services.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

More than 3,300 Mississippi State University students are served by the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans at Nusz Hall and its network of specially trained personnel. Building on its historic military roots, MSU has long been recognized as one of the nation’s most veteran-friendly universities and for three consecutive years has received national attention as a Top 10 Military Friendly School ranked by VICTORY Armed Forces Media. Brian Locke, MSU’s veteran and military affairs director, this year became one of only 22 nationwide named a “Veteran Champion of the Year in Higher Education” by G.I. Jobs magazine for his support of MSU’s military-affiliated students through job, education and transition assistance.
Mississippi State University Extension engages with communities in all 82 counties of the state, delivering research-proven education that improves lives. MSU Extension’s Center for Government and Community Development strengthens communities by providing education and resources for economic development, health and safety and much more. Extension serves as an integral part in our state’s disaster preparedness and response efforts, and the 4-H youth development program inspires a new generation of agricultural leaders in our state. In FY22, MSU Extension served almost 1 million direct contacts—more than one in four Mississippians.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Delta State University’s McNair Research Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 187 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. This program prepares qualified undergraduates for entrance to a PhD program in all fields of study. These students are generally first-generation college students with financial need or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and have demonstrated strong academic potential. These students are provided with a variety of activities that help prepare them for their future. These include opportunities for research and scholarly activities, summer research internships, tutoring, seminars and workshops to prepare participants for doctoral study, intrusive academic advising and counseling, increased access and exposure to STEM coursework and careers and more.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
Mississippi Valley State University’s service-learning component and community service graduation requirement are helping to develop future leaders by teaching them how to be a benefit to both the community served and the students the university serves. MVSU takes its mission seriously and works to ensure that the students have excellent opportunities to pursue learning that, promotes compassionate service and enhances their desire to participate in the creation of a more resilient community in and around the Itta Bena community. Students volunteer at the local soup kitchen, read at area elementary schools and participate in highway clean up and community clean up.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
The University of Mississippi’s Community First Research Center for Wellbeing and Creative Achievement, or UM: CREW, conducts community-based research and serves as a resource for Mississippi counties, cities and community groups to create, access, analyze and apply knowledge and data to improve community well-being and local and regional decision making. UM: CREW guides community organizations through research processes to help them make data-driven, evidence-based decisions about what’s best for their community. The center also helps UM students and faculty conduct community-based participatory research projects and serve as a facilitator between university researchers and Mississippi communities in need of research skills.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
With many areas throughout Mississippi viewed as food deserts, more than 1,000 motorists from various communities line up to receive fresh fruits and vegetables during Jackson State University’s annual fall and spring Crop Drop events hosted by the JSU Center for University-Based Development. Through a partnership with the Society of St. Andrews – Mississippi (MS) Gleaning Network, volunteers recently distributed 20,000 pounds of sweet potatoes, 350 watermelons, and 1,000 cases of bottled water.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
Inspired by Alcorn’s mission to “prepare well-rounded future leaders of high character,” the Hiram Rhodes Revels Institute for Ethical Leadership is dedicated to developing ethical leadership for every sphere of influence. Based on the first President Hiram Revels’s religious, political and educational leadership, the Institute provides reflection, research and recommendations for bringing spirituality, ethics and leadership together to address critical issues confronting rural and urban communities throughout our state and region.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
The University of Southern Mississippi has earned the Carnegie Foundation’s Classification for Community Engagement. The designation recognizes institutions for their collaboration with their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Each year, the University’s students typically engage in approximately 100,000 hours of volunteer service and its organizations raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for local, state and national organizations. For example, USM’s Chi Omega women’s fraternity raised more than $315,000 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation in 2022.

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Some individuals participated in more than one program and may be counted more than once.
MENTAL HEALTH

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES HELP MEET MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF MISSISSIPPIANS

PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The team of health scientists in MSU’s Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine working on the PROMISE (PReventing Opioid Misuse In the SouthEast) Initiative have identified farm stress as a key indicator of mental health and substance use disorders in rural populations. Farm owners, managers and workers have the highest rates of death due to stress-related diseases like heart disease, high blood pressure and ulcers. The profession also has the 4th highest rate of suicide of any profession in the U.S. The MSU Extension Service offers Mental Health First Aid training to equip individuals to better identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health crises and challenges, such as substance-use disorders.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Psychology has a long history of supporting the university and surrounding communities through research and psychological service in the schools, business and through providing low-cost mental health services to residents of South Mississippi.

The University offers a BS degree in Psychology as well as four graduate programs. The MS in Counseling Psychology is accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council. The Ph.D. programs in Psychology with emphases in Clinical, Counseling and School Psychology are all accredited by the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University offers a top psychology program focusing on treating and identifying the many contributors that lead to unstable and imbalanced mental states. Program graduates obtain careers as addiction psychologists, behavioral psychologists, child psychologists, sports psychologists and more. The Department of Psychology, currently under the School of Social and Behavioral Science in the College of Liberal Arts, offers two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. The department offers various services to campus members and the local community through its Applied Psychological Services Center. The center is designed for its doctoral students to receive training in the field alongside licensed professionals. Services include psychological assessments, psychological interventions, therapeutic and psychoeducational services and consultations.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY’s recent graduate Wayne Compton has partnered with Erica A. Draine, the MVSU Project Coordinator for the Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program to provide awareness on domestic violence and allow students to talk through mental health challenges. Following the tragic murder of his sister due to domestic violence and the suicide death of his brother, Compton created a non-profit organization called “Making a Change.” Each week Compton and Draine meet with students for “Mental Health Mondays,” which are student-led meetings that serve as a safe space to allow students to come and be themselves.

POINT OF PRIDE

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RESEARCH

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Delta State University’s Department of Social Work offers a Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) to students and local caregivers. The VDT is the original, ground-breaking, evidence-based and scientifically proven method of building a greater understanding of dementia. The VDT uses patented sensory tools and instruction based on research conducted by P.K. Beville, M.S., a specialist in geriatrics and the founder of Second Wind Dreams®. During a Virtual Dementia Tour experience, trained facilitators guide participants outfitted with patented devices that alter their senses while they try to complete common everyday tasks and exercises. The tour enables caregivers to experience for themselves the physical and mental challenges those with dementia face, and use the experience to provide better person-centered care.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Mississippi State University is a training ground for graduate students and a state leader in providing developmental, psychological, behavioral and academic services to those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. These extensive services, including MSU’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic, are soon to be housed in the University’s new 100,000-square-foot Jim and Thomas Duff Center. A vital resource for Mississippi children and families, the center will provide a comprehensive learning environment and hands-on training ground not only for students, but practitioners as well.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
University of Mississippi Medical Center’s Student Counseling and Wellness Center (SCWC) promotes the mental health and wellness of UMMC students across all degree through evidence-based mental health care for a wide range of mental health concerns. In addition, the Office of Well-being received a $3 million federal award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration. Ten institutions, including UMMC, were funded through the grant category “Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professionals Workforce Program.”
In research, Dr. Lei Zhang, professor and associate dean for research and scholarship in the School of Nursing, was awarded two grants: $5.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to establish the Mississippi Violence Injury Prevention Program, and $2 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to help prevent domestic violence against women.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
The Counselor Education Clinic for Outreach and Personal Enrichment (COPE) at the University of Mississippi offers free mental health counseling to faculty, staff and students as well as to members of the community. COPE counselors are a team of graduate students working under the supervision of licensed counselors and faculty. The clinic is an essential training component to allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to clinical experience. COPE also offers telehealth counseling services to adolescents, college students and adults within the state of Mississippi.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
The Mississippi Department of Human Services awarded the Alcorn State Child Development Center with a Child Care Strong Stabilization Grant. The grant, which totals $256,230 provides financial relief to childcare providers to help defray unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and to help stabilize their operations so that they may continue to provide care. The funds will be used for faculty and staff professional development, recruitment, mental health services and much more.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
The Counseling Center is available to provide a wide range of services to students currently enrolled at The W. If a student is experiencing stress, having difficulty adjusting to student life, struggling to create or maintain peer/family relationships or simply needs an objective point of view regarding a decision or issue in their life, the counseling center staff can help. The university’s Common Reading Initiative was “Bravey” by Alexi Pappas. In “Bravey” the Olympic runner, actress and filmmaker shares what she has learned about confidence, self-reliance, mental health, embracing pain and achieving dreams.
19,861
NUMBER OF DEGREES EARNED IN 2022

66.8%
% OF STUDENTS WHO ARE MS RESIDENTS

87,775
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SYSTEM
AY 2022

75,739
NUMBER OF STUDENTS FALL 2022 ENROLLMENT

652
DOCTORAL

609
PROFESSIONAL

4,715
STEM (ALL LEVELS)

66.8%

87,775

75,739

MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES

WHITE STUDENTS
35.1%

BLACK STUDENTS
56.7%

OTHER/UNKNOWN RACE STUDENTS
8.2%

2,115
NUMBER OF RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED

950
# OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFERED
*AS OF DECEMBER 2022. 950 INCLUDES THE MEDICAL RESIDENT PROGRAMS. 944 IF MEDICAL RESIDENT PROGRAMS ARE EXCLUDED

$916 M
AY 2021
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

FUNDING SOURCES

2,115

950

$916 M

60 M

60 M

796 M

FEDERAL STATE OTHER