

Governors State University



Elaine P. Maimon
President

Governors State University is the only public university in Chicago's south suburban area and serves approximately 7,750 students. GSU provides affordable, accessible undergraduate and graduate education to a culturally and economically diverse student body, with undergraduate tuition the most affordable in the Chicagoland region.

GSU was founded in 1969, guided by the fundamental concepts of openness, innovation, flexibility and experimentation. The original curriculum at GSU was like no other institution of higher education. By design, classrooms lacked walls and students were judged by competencies instead of grades. Experimentation eventually paved the way for change. As a result of a thorough assessment of evolving academic

programs and student needs, interior walls were constructed and a traditional grading system was introduced, but the strong spirit of innovation remains.

Today's students benefit from high-quality academics, convenient class times and an outstanding educational value. Access to the university from Chicago, surrounding suburbs and outlying farm communities is easy and direct by commuter rail and major expressways. Amid 760 acres of prairie, students enjoy access to vital urban and suburban experiences as well as vibrant country life.

As an upper-division university, course work begins at the junior baccalaureate level, making it ideal for students transferring from community colleges, returning adult students, and individuals seeking to increase their qualifications through a graduate degree or certificate program. Four colleges — Arts and Sciences; Business and Public Administration; Education; and Health and Human Services — offer 22 bachelor's and 25 master's degree programs, three doctoral programs and 23 certificate programs. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accredits the university, and each GSU program is individually accredited.

Classes are offered on weekends, evenings, online, and as media courses to accommodate the schedules of students balancing academics with work and family commitments. Students may access tutoring services, the online writing center, personal counseling services, career services, and more than 40 clubs and organizations.

Minorities comprise about 45 percent of the total university enrollment, and the average age of a GSU student is 34. The university offers financial aid to qualified full- and part-time students, awarding \$30 million in aid annually. About 28 percent of the GSU full-time faculty members are minorities, representing one of the most diverse university faculties in the state.

The university has a complete library, computer center, Center for Performing Arts, Student Environmental Contract Laboratory, Visual Arts Gallery, Follett Bookstore, child care in the Family Development Center, cafeteria and a fully equipped fitness center with swimming pool, weight room and basketball courts. The campus is home to the internationally renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, the 120-acre GSU Environmental Research Preserve and an organic farm.

While Governors State University has changed in many ways, its founding principles have not changed. Innovative ideas will always have a home at the university, along with

the commitment to provide a quality education, embrace diversity, reach out to students and surrounding communities, and serve the traditionally underserved.

Board of Trustees: Jack Beaupre, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Bruce Friefeld, Lorine Samuels, and Bryce Johnsen, *student trustee*.

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An aerial view of Governors State University.