

Governors State University



Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President

Governors State University (GSU) was founded in 1969. Throughout the years, the university has prided itself on pairing innovation and inclusion to provide its students with a world-class education at the lowest tuition rate for a public, four-year state university in Illinois. It provides the region, as well as the students, with a hub of cultural, intellectual and explorational opportunities.

In 2015, the American Council on Education named GSU the most innovative small university in the nation and awarded GSU the 2015 ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation. This prestigious national award singles out GSU for its transformation through innovation.

At GSU, graduate students can select from 32 diverse programs to find the educational experience that fits their professional needs. Degrees range from a MFA in independent film and digital imaging to a Master of Science in management information systems or a doctorate in physical therapy. The university serves individuals who aspire to advance their careers with educational opportunities that meet the demands of a growing and changing global economy.

A recent independent study ranks GSU in the top 50 schools nationally that offer the best return on investment. GSU faculty members are scholars and leading practitioners who bring unique expertise into the classroom, providing students with learning experiences that are rigorous and feature experiences they might encounter in their future career. The endless opportunities include working with a creative faculty filmmaker, exploring the habitat of an endangered species with a campus scientist, engaging influential speakers on campus or even contributing to a community in Nicaragua through service learning.

GSU's commitment to innovation and inclusion is evident in its undergraduate program that guides and supports students along a path to graduation in four years. This is lower than the national average to earn a degree which is six years. GSU uses a multi-pronged approach, including academic cohorts in civic engagement, global citizenship and sustainability. The concept of grouping students together forms the foundation for their college coursework while promoting camaraderie and shared learning. GSU serves undergrads with a responsive and interactive support system designed to improve student success and communication that includes a low advisor to student ratio and small class sizes taught by full-time faculty.

The university offers multiple programs to aid in a bachelor's degree completion for students who enroll in GSU from community college or opt to continue their education after a break. The award-winning Dual Degree Program (DDP) is a partnership with 17 regional community colleges that encourages participating students to earn associate degrees at their community college while receiving academic counseling and support from GSU. This cooperation leads to a seamless transition to a bachelor's degree completion program. If students choose to attend GSU, their tuition rate is locked in at the rate when they enroll in the DDP, a potential savings of thousands of dollars. Students in DDP graduate at a level of 91 percent.

The ability to attend school part-time or full-time with a convenient class schedule and online courses provides many transfer and returning adult learners the opportunity to complete their degree while balancing the demands of work and family. The newly established Center for the Junior Year provides the support and guidance students need to reach their educational goals.

Student life at GSU reinforces the university’s academic mission. Diverse on-campus groups and active cultural, recreational and curricular clubs provide students with unique opportunities to thrive and have fun in an environment where their independence is celebrated and supported. As a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the university has a vibrant and growing competitive athletics program that places primary emphasis on student academic success.

GSU is located 30 miles south of Chicago, off I-57 and on the Metra Electric Line. The university has student residences, renovated classrooms, labs and a library. It also features a fully equipped Athletic and Recreation Center and Center for Performing Arts. The campus is located on 750 acres surrounded by the nationally acclaimed Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

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A view of the main entrance to the campus of Governors State University, which is set on 750 acres of prairie in University Park, located 30 miles south of downtown Chicago.