

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Big Rapids 49307

[www.ferris.edu](http://www.ferris.edu)



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DAVID L. EISLER, President

**Ferris State University** is the fastest growing public university in Michigan, with more than 13,500 students enrolled in classes on the main campus in Big Rapids, 17 satellite and off-campus sites throughout Michigan and at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids. Ferris attracts students from every county in Michigan, many of whom remain in the state after graduating.

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2009-2010, Ferris is distinguished by its strong heritage of opportunity and career-oriented approach to education where theory meets practice, along with unique degrees that are not available at other universities in the state, region, or nation.

More than 170 programs, ranging from associate to doctoral degrees, are offered through 9 degree-granting colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, Engineering Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design, Michigan College of Optometry, Pharmacy, and Professional and Technological Studies.

The majority of Ferris' offerings are tailored with a specific occupation in mind and align directly with many occupations that are expected to experience growth across the country through 2016. Ferris has at least 140 degrees that align directly with in-demand occupations in the categories of business, finance and management; administrative and clerical; computer science and engineering; social service; education and training; healthcare practitioners; healthcare technology and support; protective service; and construction, production, and repair.

Ferris has the fewest number of large classes among Michigan's 15 public universities, with only one percent of classes having more than 50 students. This allows for more direct contact with faculty, more hands-on learning and experimentation, and greater student engagement. More than 50 percent of Ferris classes have fewer than 20 students, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 15-to-1. Full-time tenure-track faculty with experience in their respective fields teach the majority of classes, providing real-world relevancy to the learning environment. Advisory boards also contribute to ensuring current and relevant curriculum is taught that produces graduates with hands-on skills that allow them to be productive employees from the first day of employment.

More than any institution in the state, Ferris has reached out to Michigan community colleges, creating partnerships on 17 campuses and expanding online offerings. As a result, Ferris has become a transfer school of choice for students, facilitated by the ease of "laddering" from a 2-year to a 4-year degree. Ferris enrolls the largest number of off-campus students at the Applied Technology Center through its partnership with Grand Rapids Community College.

Construction of a new facility to house the Michigan College of Optometry and the addition of new student housing is currently underway. These projects, coupled with classroom renovations and improvements to Ferris' largest dining facility, add to the vibrancy of the university's 880-acre campus, which already boasts FLITE, a state-of-the-art library; the Granger Center, a building with visible mechanical systems, such as geothermal heating and cooling, for HVACR students; and the National Elastomer Center, a specialized center for studying plastics and rubber technology.

Ferris is the only university in Michigan named after its founders, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris (2-term Michigan governor and U.S. senator) and Helen Gillespie Ferris. Founded in 1884 as the privately owned Big Rapids Industrial School, Ferris did not become a state institution until 1950, undergoing several name changes until becoming Ferris State University in 1987. The Ferris' philosophy of a practical, hands-on approach to education that enables students to learn practical skills for new jobs in a changing world still resonates today.

<b><i>Credit Enrollment (fall head count)</i></b>	<b><i>2007</i></b>	<b><i>2008</i></b>	<b><i>2009</i></b>
On-campus .....	10,860	11,019	11,250
Off-campus .....	2,227	2,513	2,238
Online .....	n/a	n/a	377