

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Big Rapids 49307

www.ferris.edu



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DAVID L. EISLER, President

About Ferris State University

Ferris State University is a public university with an 880-acre main campus in Big Rapids that enrolled 14,600 students in the fall of 2014. Ferris also has a vibrant state-wide presence with 21 satellite and off-campus sites throughout Michigan. Ferris attracts students from every county in Michigan, the majority of whom remain in the state after graduating.

Founded in 1884, Ferris is distinguished by its strong heritage of opportunity and focus on providing a professional education that links theory to practice. Ferris offers more than 180 programs, ranging from associate to doctoral degrees, through eight degree-granting academic colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, Engineering Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design, Michigan College of Optometry, and Pharmacy.

Many of Ferris' offerings are tailored to prepare students for careers aligned with occupations experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. A large number of these are professions requiring expertise in the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including computer science and digital animation and game design. Ferris also has strong programs in business, finance and management; social services; education and training; protective services; and construction, production, and repair. Additionally, Ferris offers a range of degrees in healthcare, including nursing, optometry and pharmacy.

Ferris has the fewest number of classes with 50 or more students among Michigan's 15 public universities. This gives students more direct contact with faculty, more hands-on learning and experimentation, and greater engagement. More than 50 percent of Ferris classes have fewer than 20 students, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 16-to-1. Full-time tenure-track faculty members with experience in their respective fields teach the majority of classes, providing real-world relevance. Ferris also is committed to creating an environment in which learning and collaboration take place both inside and outside of the classroom.

Ferris has partnered with Michigan community colleges to create a network of locations where students can learn where they live. The university's online programs also offer students flexibility in completing their degrees, which can be especially helpful to non-traditional students already employed, and professionals looking to upgrade their skills. Ferris has become a transfer school of choice for students, facilitating expansion of their first two years of study at off-campus sites into four-year university degrees. Ferris enrolls its largest number of off-campus students at the Applied Technology Center through its partnership with Grand Rapids Community College.

Ferris State University has several new facilities, such as the state-of-the-art Michigan College of Optometry building and completely renovated University Center, both situated on the main campus in Big Rapids, as well as a facility on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile for third- and fourth-year Pharmacy students. Also in Grand Rapids, the university has transformed the historically important Federal Building into the Woodbridge N. Ferris building, serving students in its Kendall College of Art and Design. Other recently upgraded facilities in Ferris' popular Rock Café, the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education, and the Granger Center for Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, and the University Center.

Ferris is the only university in Michigan named after its founders, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris (two-term Michigan governor and United States senator) and Helen Gillespie Ferris. Founded as the privately owned Big Rapids Industrial School, Ferris became a state institution in 1950, undergoing several name changes before becoming Ferris State University in 1987. The Ferris' founding 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.

<i>Credit Enrollment (fall head count)</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
On-campus	14,533	14,707	14,600
Off-campus	2,203	2,193	2,222
Online	830	896	983