

Important Facts

History

The University of Missouri was established in Columbia in 1839 as the first public university west of the Mississippi River, and the first public university in Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase territory. In 1870 the University of Missouri was approved as a land-grant university under the Morrill Act of 1862. The original mission of land-grant institutions was to make higher education accessible to more people. Gradually that mission has expanded to include research, service and outreach; enabling the state's citizens to benefit directly from the knowledge gained through university research. As Missouri's flagship university, MU continues its historic mission through its emphasis on excellence in teaching, research, service and economic development.

Students

- Students come from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. The diversity of backgrounds, opinions and lifestyles improves the overall quality of the student experience.
- The university has more than 27,000 undergraduate students who choose courses from a broad range of academic disciplines.
- The university also has more than 7,000 graduate and professional students enrolled in more than 90 different degree programs. The professional schools include more than 1,200 students in law, medicine and veterinary medicine.
- MU is nationally recognized for its Freshman Interest Groups, where students with shared academic interests live in the same residence hall and often attend classes together. These communities provide a strong academic and social foundation for freshmen, as well as increased faculty involvement with students.

The Campus

- The University of Missouri prides itself on respecting the past while embracing the future. The 1,262-acre Mizzou campus is a testament to that belief. From the six Ionic Columns that adorn Francis Quadrangle to the Memorial Union Tower that honors fallen soldiers to the MU Student Center completed in 2010, every piece of campus represents equally the heart and soul of what it means to be a Tiger.
- The campus is also a living museum with hundreds of plant species from all over the world that make up the Mizzou Botanic Garden. The garden features over 42,000 plants and invites a stroll through more than 170 years of history as MU was transformed into the global university it is today. National magazines and newspapers consistently rank Columbia, among the top cities in the nation for its excellent quality of life.

Alumni

There are more than 260,000 living alumni worldwide. Many continue to support the University through membership in the Mizzou Alumni Association.

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Leadership of the University of Missouri

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Kevin McDonald, Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity
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Neil Olson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
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