

# Important Facts

## History

Founded in 1839, the University of Missouri was established in Columbia as the first public university west of the Mississippi River and the first in the 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 30,000 undergraduate students who choose courses from a broad range of academic disciplines.
- The university also has more than 5,000 graduate and professional students enrolled in more than 150 different degree programs. The professional schools include more than 1,400 students in law, medicine and veterinary medicine.
- MU is nationally recognized for its Freshman Interest Groups, in which students with shared academic interests live in the same residence hall and attend classes together. These communities provide a strong academic and social foundation for new students, 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, including the six Ionic Columns adorning Francis Quadrangle, the Memorial Union Tower honoring fallen soldiers and the MU Student Center completed in 2010.
- 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 more than 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

With more than 340,000 living alumni, Mizzou's influence spans the globe. Notable graduates include Grammy Award-winning musician Sheryl Crow, Academy Award-winning actor Chris Cooper, Emmy Award-winning actor Jon Hamm, Peabody Award-winning journalist Jim Lehrer and Cy Young Award-winning pitcher Max Scherzer. Mizzou alumni succeed after graduation: 95 percent of MU graduates find successful career outcomes including employment, continued education and military service.

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