

## OVERVIEW

### A. The Institution

[St. Cloud State University](#) (SCSU), the largest of seven state universities in Minnesota, has evolved into one of the leading comprehensive state universities in the Upper Midwest, serving 17,000 students from Minnesota, the nation, and more than 90 countries. The [campus](#) overlooks the Mississippi River in the city of St. Cloud, a regional hub of Central Minnesota with a population of 63,000 in a three-county metropolitan area whose total population is over 263,000. St. Cloud is 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis and St. Paul whose seven-county metropolitan area has a population of 2,800,000. This location, which offers easy access to urban, suburban, and rural areas, provides students with a range of opportunities for clinical and field experiences, internships, and service learning. St. Cloud State University also serves regional businesses and industries through its centers for applied research in fields such as computer technology, biotechnology, manufacturing engineering, and microelectronics. The university is a major contributor to economic and workforce development, applied research, professional growth, international awareness, community development, and quality of life in Minnesota.

The university's evolutionary path is a familiar one in American higher education. The institution began in 1869 as the Third State Normal School with one building, five faculty members, and 53 students. In 1898 the school began offering a junior college curriculum, and in 1914 it dropped its secondary education program entirely. In 1921, when the state legislature changed the State's normal schools to state teachers colleges, the Third State Normal School became St. Cloud State Teachers College. Four years later, in 1925, the newly designated college awarded its first bachelor's degrees. In 1953 it became St. Cloud State College as the legislature broadened the mission of the teachers colleges to accommodate increasing demand for higher education following World War II. After the legislature authorized state colleges to offer master's degrees in 1955, St. Cloud State College offered its first master's degree programs in 1957. It became St. Cloud State University in 1975 when the legislature changed the designation of state colleges to state universities. In 2005 the legislature authorized state universities to offer doctoral programs in applied fields of study. SCSU has just recently developed its first applied doctoral program.

The university [mission](#) is as follows: *St. Cloud State University is committed to excellence in teaching, learning, and service, fostering scholarship and enhancing collaborative relationships in a global community.* SCSU is regionally accredited by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) of North Central Accreditation and just recently was reaccredited in fall 2007.

SCSU offers 205 academic degree programs of which 139 are [undergraduate](#) and 66 are [graduate](#). Undergraduate programs include 135 leading to bachelor's degrees, two to associate degrees, and two to certificates. Graduate programs include 52 leading to master's degrees, 13 to graduate certificates, one to a specialist degree, and one to a doctoral degree.

### B. The Unit

The [College of Education](#) (COE), with a rich heritage of educator preparation, is committed to the preparation of high quality teachers, administrators, counselors, education scholars, and other school and community professionals. This commitment to excellence has been recognized in a variety of ways including the recent 2008 AACTE Award for Research on Teacher Education Quality and Accountability, the 2007 AASCU Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education, and the 2000 NCATE review, where all standards were met with no areas for improvement.

The mission of the College is to prepare transformative professional educators; educators who are prepared to facilitate the transformation of learners into life-long learners, critical and creative thinkers and effective citizens in a democratic society. Within the College of Education, there are eight departments / centers and eight support offices as illustrated in the COE [organizational chart](#)

### ***Departments / Centers***

- [Child and Family Studies](#)
- [Center for Information Media](#)
- [Counselor Education and Educational Psychology](#)
- [Educational Leadership and Community Psychology](#)
- [Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Sport Science](#)
- [Human Relations and Multicultural Education](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Teacher Development](#)

### ***Support Offices***

- Development Office
- Curriculum and Technology Center
- Office of Assessment and Accreditation
- [Office of Clinical Experiences](#)
- [Office of Cultural Diversity](#)
- [Special Projects and Applied Research Center](#)
- [Praxis Center](#)
- Technology Support Office

### ***Faculty, Staff, and Candidates***

The professional education "[unit](#)" for St. Cloud State University includes two administrators (dean, associate dean), 116 faculty, 19 professional staff, and 24 clinical supervisors involved in the preparation of teacher candidates, school administrators, library media specialists, and school counselors. Unit faculty members include individuals from the [College of Education](#), [College of Social Sciences](#), [College of Fine Arts and Humanities](#), and [College of Science and Engineering](#). An overview of the [academic rank](#) of the tenured and non-tenured faculty provides a snapshot of the depth of the education and experience within the unit. [Enrollment](#) in programs within the unit includes 741 undergraduate and 469 graduate candidates.

### ***Programs***

The College of Education provides over 65 programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels including certificates and licensures at the initial and advanced levels. An overview of the programs included in the NCATE and BOT reviews is provided in a matrix titled [Unit Programs](#). As illustrated in the exhibit, the majority of programs have been approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching.

St. Cloud State University offers two off-campus programs: (1) Anoka Ramsey Community College (ARCC) Portal Project, and (2) Teacher / Administrator Preparation Program at North Branch School District. The Portal Project, a partnership between the College of Education at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) and Anoka Ramsey Community College (ARCC), currently offers a baccalaureate degree in special education and licensure in emotional/behavioral disorders. The program is designed to enable candidates to easily attain licensure in other high-

need special education areas, namely developmental disabilities and learning disabilities. Although the project was designed originally for undergraduates, graduate candidates are able to take evening courses that lead to special education licensure. Planning and recruiting efforts began in 2004 and initial program offerings began on the ARRC campus fall semester 2006. A primary appeal of the project is that it fosters a SCSU presence in the suburban Twin Cities and potentially cultivates the ability to recruit candidates of color into special education teaching programs. This project is also particularly appealing to special education paraprofessionals who are pursuing both a baccalaureate degree and special education licensure.

In 1998, the North Branch Partnership agreement was formalized between North Branch Schools, Cambridge Community College, and the College of Education at SCSU. The North Branch School District at that time projected a shortage of well-qualified teachers and was facing a large number of potential retirements. The district's professional staff was also interested in being more directly involved in the preparation of teachers. A collaboration that would utilize the staff and expertise of the nearby Cambridge Campus of Anoka Ramsey Community College, the faculty of St. Cloud State University, and the faculty and staff of North Branch schools was formalized.

The North Branch Partnership jointly supports cohort undergraduate elementary education degree programs, special education licensure cohorts, and special education masters degree programs in the North Branch/Cambridge area. In fall 2003, a master's in Curriculum and Instruction was added and a second cohort began during summer 2006. A Sixth Year Educational Administration licensure cohort program was also initiated during summer 2006. The partnership has now expanded into a strong collaborative project that provides undergraduate courses, education core courses, practica, advanced professional development, supervised student teaching experiences, and/or post-graduate programs on the North Branch Public School campus.

The unit does not offer any programs via distance learning technologies; however, a limited number of classes within programs are offered online. Finally, no alternative route programs are offered.

#### ***Substantive Changes / Events Since 2000***

Two noteworthy events occurred when the College of Education received the 2007 American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) [Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education](#) and the 2008 [AACTE Award for Research on Teacher Education Quality and Accountability](#). These two national awards were given for the exemplary work and [research](#) conducted over the past three years on co-teaching during clinical experiences and the impact on student learning.

Substantive changes that have taken place since the last visit include the following:

- St. Cloud State University was recently reaccredited by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) of North Central Accreditation (December 2007).
- Earl H. Potter III was appointed [President](#) of St. Cloud State University (July 2007).
- Kate Steffens was appointed [Dean](#) of the College of Education (July 2006).

- The College of Education received a \$5,000,000 [Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant](#) in 2003 focused on building partnerships related to co-teaching, professional development, and mentoring.
- A Reading Licensure Program was added in 2007.
- A Teacher Leader Certificate Program was added in 2007.
- An Autism Certificate Program was added in 2007.
- The Health Education Program was suspended in fall 2007.
- [Graduate Program Coordinators](#) in the College of Education are now receiving 25 percent reassignment to focus on assessment, data collection, follow-up studies, and recruitment and retention activities.
- The [Praxis Center](#) was developed to support teacher candidates in successfully passing the Praxis exams. The Center is directed by the Assessment Director and is staffed by three full-time graduate assistants.
- The Curriculum and Technology Center was recently renovated due to a generous gift from a donor.
- The [Office of Clinical Experiences](#) is developing an extensive database to track field and clinical placements of teacher candidates throughout their program of study.
- The Minnesota Board of Teaching approved 33/36 teacher education programs submitted February 2007. One program (Health Education) was suspended; two programs (ESL / Middle School) are in review.

### **Summary**

The College of Education at St. Cloud State University is committed to excellence and to ensuring that candidates completing our programs are well prepared to meet the challenges within today's schools. We are proud to serve as a pilot institution to evaluate the "streamlined" NCATE accreditation process.