



Center for Extended Learning

Fall Online Enrollments

MSU's Online program saw a small increase in enrollments this fall semester. Total enrollment in online was 2195 and headcount was 1172. This was an increase of 108 students or 5.2% over last fall. We offered 149 courses which was up 14 courses from last fall.

The total headcount at MSU this fall was 3432. Of these, 55.3% took traditional classroom courses only. Another 17.3% took a combination of traditional classroom and distance education courses. A total of 548 students or 16.0% took only online courses and 392 students or 11.4% took a combination of distance education courses. This data was collected on Sept. 22, the official reporting date for fall.

Minot State University in Bismarck

In the 80s, Minot State University and Bismarck State College collaborated to meet the needs of BSC graduates who wanted to complete a bachelor's degree while remaining in the Bismarck area. The criminal justice degree was first offered in 1984 and was followed 10 years later by a degree in management. Today, students can earn MSU degrees in criminal justice, management, psychology and social work. Recently, the MSU program on the BSC campus moved to a new location just outside the campus proper. The Horizons building (pictured above) now houses our programs.



Below is a brief overview of the staff and faculty who work so hard to bring the MSU vision and values to the Bismarck/Mandan area.

Bobbi Jo Zueger, is a Bismarck resident and has worked for MSU since summer 2007. She is the Student Services Coordinator and advisor for the Management and Psychology programs.

Criminal Justice

Melissa Spelchen, has been the Criminal Justice Instructor/Advisor in Bismarck since May 2008 and is an alumni of MSU. "I want the Bismarck students to feel the SAME sense of pride and commitment that MSU and the Minot community feel about the university and the education they receive."

Cynthia M. Feland, has been with the Burleigh County State's Attorney's Office for 10 years and with MSU as an adjunct instructor for six years.

Michael Wardzinski, is a Lieutenant with the Bismarck Police Department and has been employed with the police department for 28 years. He has served as an adjunct instructor for MSU since 2004. "As a graduate of the Criminal Justice Program in Bismarck I enjoy being part of an organization that continues to provide an opportunity

The Dean's Perspective



As we move into autumn I am thankful for many things. Among them is the opportunity to work with many people

that I feel are colleagues and friends. A special thanks to all of you who attended our CEL Information and Open Forums held on Sept. 16. It was very nice to hear your questions and to share with you the special relationship CEL has with the other university departments and colleges.

We have decided to post the questions you asked during our sessions to the CEL website. To access these questions and our answers, go to <http://www.minotstateu.edu/cel/CELNewsletter.shtml>. You can always email me with additions and I will add them to this list.

Finally, be sure to put the CEL Fall Open House on your calendars. This CEL tradition is our way of saying thank you for your support and is a great way to take a quick break on an autumn day. Put Nov. 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. on your calendars and stop by for refreshments and pleasant conversation. — *Dr. Kristen Warmoth*

Quote of the day:

Bittersweet October.

***The mellow, messy,
leaf-kicking, perfect pause
between the opposing miseries
of summer and winter.***

Carol Bishop Hipps

for students to reach their academic goals without having to leave the area.”

Patrick Renz, is employed as a Crime Prevention Officer with the Bismarck Police Department. He has served with the police department for 16 years and has been an MSU criminal justice adjunct instructor for MSU for seven years. “I enjoy utilizing my master’s degree and appreciate the independence of incorporating work experience into the criminal justice curriculum.”

Social Work

Susan Herzog, MSW/LICSW, is a Bismarck resident and is the MSU Social Work Instructor/Advisor.

Shelly Paul, MSW/LAC, is employed at West Central Human Service Center in Bismarck for over 17 years. “I am currently the program director for the Regional Intervention Service Unit. I began teaching for MSU in the fall of 2007. I find teaching for MSU to be a very rewarding experience and enjoy working with the students. It has been great to teach for MSU since I graduated from MSU with my bachelor of social work degree.”

Deb Bosch, MSW/LICSW, is employed by Chambers & Blohm Psychological Services, a private mental health clinic. Prior to that Deb worked for St. Alexius for nearly 20 years. She has been an adjunct instructor for MSU since January, 2006. “I am very pleased we have a bachelor’s level social work program in Bismarck that meets the needs of working people and allows individuals to have a choice in what university they choose to attend.”

Tim Gienger, LICSW, has been employed by the Dakota Family Services for four years. This is Tim’s first semester as an adjunct instructor with MSU. “I like the opportunities afforded to the students by hiring adjunct faculty that are working in the field, I think it adds a tremendous learning opportunity for the students.”

Psychology

Matt J. Doppler, Ph.D., has been employed as a licensed clinical psychologist with Medcenter One for 13 years and has served as a psychology adjunct instructor for MSU for 13 years.

“My dad and wife are alumni; Dr. Burke is exceptional; Local coordination very helpful; generally solid quality students.”

Kirby Schmidtgal, Ph.D., LPCC, NCC, is employed by West Central Human Service Center. Prior to moving to North Dakota, Dr. Schmidtgal coordinated domestic violence group for batterers in Akron Ohio. This is his first semester as an adjunct for MSU. “What I like best about MSU is the small class size.”

Kathleen Meckler, has been a youth worker for Morton County Law Enforcement Center for 10 years and an adjunct instructor for MSU for about eight years. “I feel extremely fortunate to instruct students in the criminal justice, psychology, and social work fields. What started out as a “one-time” teaching adventure has turned into an almost full

time pursuit of academic excellence! I love the excitement and interaction with students, and take special pride in watching students achieve their career dreams.

Dr. Henry Riegler, Ph.D., is employed with Bismarck State College.

Heidi Heitkamp, is employed with Youthworks in Bismarck.

Management

Joseph Vuolo, is employed with Bismarck State College.

News from the Base

On Oct. 17, the Community College of the Air Force held its graduation ceremonies on the Minot Air Force Base. Over 130 graduates took part in the ceremony — many of whom took their general education courses with Minot State on the Minot Air Force Base.

COMPASS or CLEP? Maybe Both!

Connie Ridl was bored in MATH 103. The freshman accounting major from Green River, Wyo., began her first semester at MSU in August and enrolled in MATH 103 – College Algebra to fulfill her general education requirement for mathematics (GE5). During the first few days of fall classes, she realized that the course would cover topics that she had already learned and practice skills that she could already demonstrate. She decided to talk to the course instructor, who recommended she consider taking the COMPASS.

The COMPASS Math Placement Exam is a computer-based test that is free to all MSU students and takes about an hour to complete. Scores are calculated by the test software immediately upon completion of the exam. Based on score guidelines set by the Mathematics Department, the COMPASS test software also recommends the appropriate Minot State University course tailored to fit a student’s mathematical skill. Because these exams are given electronically and scored right away, there is no waiting period, allowing students to make better decisions about their class schedule.

Connie was referred to Kim Schwinler in the Center for Extended Learning to ask about the COMPASS Exam and to schedule an appointment. Fortunately, she was able to take her placement exam during the first week of fall semester. Connie’s exam results suggested that she enroll in MATH 165 – Calculus I. Because she took her COMPASS placement exam before the last day to drop or add a course for fall semester, she still had time to drop her College Algebra course and enroll in a calculus course that fit her schedule.

Her confidence bolstered by the COMPASS Placement exam, Connie then decided to try to earn four university credits for the algebra knowledge she already had by taking the College Algebra CLEP test. She registered for the CLEP exam through Kim in CEL as well and found the process of registering and taking a CLEP test easy to do. Her test appointment took less than two hours and upon completion

of the computer based CLEP exam, Connie learned she had met the minimum score requirement to obtain four credits for College Algebra at Minot State University.

Because Connie is from Wyoming, her Minot State University tuition is calculated under the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE). She estimated that the College Algebra course she originally enrolled in would have cost her about \$1200 in tuition plus \$82 for a textbook. Instead she paid a \$20 registration & proctoring fee to CEL and a \$70 examination fee to the College Board for her CLEP exam, saving her a great deal of money, not to mention time spent repeating material that she already knew.

Connie Ridl is a success story for the COMPASS Placement Exam and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Taking advantage of these exam opportunities allowed her to shorten the path to her college degree. She now has four credits for College Algebra on her academic record at MSU and is presently enjoying the challenges of studying calculus.

Minot State University's COMPASS and CLEP testing center is located on the second floor of the Gordon B. Olson Library. For more information, contact Kim at 6-3990 or visit www.minotstateu.edu/cel/CLEPTesting.shtml.

OIT adds Closed Captioning to its Arsenal of Technology Tools

Do you use video or audio in your online course? How are you going to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities if they are requested? In the past, the Office of Instructional Technology has addressed these needs with text alternatives, which are an accepted accommodation. However, they're not state of the art or necessarily learner-centered. In response to a growing need and a compassion for our students and their learning environment, the Office of Instructional Technology and the Center for Extended Learning recently purchased CPC, Computer Prompting and Captioning Software to provide closed captioning for university audio and video streamed on the web as curriculum. The software embeds and synchs Tab Delimited Time Coded text (SAMI files) into Windows Media Player files, which enables users with hearing disabilities to turn on and access the closed captioning services. The Office of Instructional has two student employees trained

and working with the project. Alyson Parrill, a sophomore in the English program is starting her second year in the project, and newly hired Courtney Wankel, a senior in broadcasting just joined the team. Mark Timbrook, the software technician in the Office of Instructional Technology says that "the technology can benefit many of our students. It gives our students who are deaf or hard of hearing access to audio and video materials at a new level of quality. But it also helps individuals whose native language is not English. The captions can improve comprehension and fluency and can help with literacy skills. We are happy that this service is being activated. Now we have to get busy and catch up." If you want to know more about MSU's closed captioning drive, contact the Office of Instructional Technology at 858-2832/3280.

Nursing Raises the Technology Bar

Anybody visiting the nursing department in Memorial Hall can't miss the changes. They're visible in every classroom and in the hands of every nursing student. The department rolled out Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) two years ago and they are now integrated into the curriculum. Every student nurse in the program has their own PDA. This semester the department acquired Teamboard model smart boards and classroom response systems (PRS Interwrite Radio Frequency Clickers), both campus approved systems for their classrooms to enhance student engagement. Mark Timbrook and Sherie Saltveit, technology specialists with the Office of Instructional Technology are delighted with the changes. Sherie Saltveit added that "OIT is working hard to become fluent with each hardware acquisition as it comes on line so we can provide quality training and troubleshooting skills for faculty, staff, and students." Go nursing!

Who is this CEL Staff Member?

This CEL staff member once was a rural mail carrier. Who could it be? Look for the answer in our next CEL newsletter.

Don't Forget the CEL Open House

Nov. 14 from 9 – 11 a.m.

CEL Mission and Core Values

The mission of the Center for Extended Learning (CEL) is to provide flexible, accessible and quality lifelong learning opportunities. To carry out this mission, CEL assists the University in offering programs and learning opportunities that:

- Are taught by University faculty committed to teaching and learning with excellence, integrity and engagement.
- Use campus technologies to promote teaching and learning excellence and engagement.
- Are respectful and responsible regardless of student location or educational goal.
- Foster a sense of community and place in students that may be geographically removed from campus.
- Involve community members and recognize their contributions as respected and valued contributions to the University.
- Involve learners of all ages in ways that promote high ethical and moral principles.