

ABOUT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Visit www.buffalostate.edu/strategicplanning/vision for updated information on the College Planning Council, the Strategic Plan, Action Steps in Progress, and an archive of Final Reports.

Vision Statement

Buffalo State College will be a nationally recognized leader in public higher education, known:

For the intellectual and creative accomplishments of its faculty, staff, and students.

As a caring academic environment where lives are transformed through education and each individual is valued.

As an institution that serves to improve our region, our nation, and our world, one student at a time.

Mission Statement

Buffalo State is committed to the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of its students, faculty, and staff. The goal of the college is to inspire a lifelong passion for learning, and to empower a diverse population of students to succeed as citizens of a challenging world. Toward this goal, and in order to enhance the quality of life in Buffalo and the larger community, the college is dedicated to excellence in teaching and scholarship, cultural enrichment, and service.

Core Values

We, the Buffalo State Community, are committed to:

- Access to quality public higher education.
- Quality teaching and learning.
- Opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential.
- The rigors, joys, and fulfillment of intellectual discovery.
- Supportive and collegial relationships.
- Respect for diversity and individual differences.
- Service to society.

BUFFALO STATE’S COVENANT WITH ITS STUDENTS

The Covenant

Provided for students in the *Undergraduate Catalog*,
www.buffalostate.edu/undergradcat.xml.

Buffalo State is committed to providing:

Superb teaching faculty

Buffalo State faculty members are:

- Dedicated teachers.
- Nationally renowned scholars who bring the latest research to the classroom.
- Degreed professionals, not teaching assistants.
- Among the best in SUNY—49 have received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.

Innovative and relevant programs

- The general education or core curriculum ensures that students have a broad-based education.
- The professional curriculum—your major—prepares you for career success.
- Accredited professional programs.
- State-of-the-art technologies, facilities, and library.

An excellent learning environment

- The only SUNY campus in a major metropolitan area, offering exceptional cultural and recreational opportunities—all within walking distance.
- A dynamic and diverse faculty, staff, and student body.
- Strong student support and academic services, delivered by a committed professional staff.
- Outstanding library, strong technical and computing infrastructure.

The Buffalo State student is committed to:

First and foremost, being a student

Academics is the driving, paramount goal of student life. It means a dedication to study and being fully prepared for classroom, laboratory, or studio.

Making progress toward a degree

Advance through your program at the expected pace, whether you are a full-time, part-time, day, or evening student.

Graduating

Student Oath of Matriculation

Provided for students in the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

As a new student to Buffalo State College, being now admitted to the rite of matriculation in baccalaureate studies, I do pledge to be an exemplary learner, to place the highest value on my intellectual, personal, and professional growth, and to respect learning and knowledge.

My priority is to be an educated person, to make significant progress in my program of study, and to graduate. As a student at Buffalo State College, I will conduct myself with dignity, honesty, and civility, respecting the views and diverse backgrounds of my teachers and peers, enhancing the quality of life of my community, and promoting the welfare and esteemed reputation of Buffalo State College. This I pledge to myself.

HISTORY

Buffalo State opened its doors in 1871 as the Buffalo Normal School and has always focused on making quality education accessible to students while addressing the needs of the Western New York community. The college began by educating teachers, and later added undergraduate and graduate professional and liberal arts programs. Buffalo State joined the State University of New York (SUNY) in 1948.

Today Buffalo State is the largest of the four-year liberal arts colleges within the 64-campus SUNY system.

ACADEMICS

Buffalo State offers 136 undergraduate academic programs in the arts, sciences, education, and professional programs, including 11 honors options. There are many flexible minor, interdisciplinary, and special programs, including African and African American studies, “three-two” physics-engineering (in cooperation with SUNY’s Binghamton University and the University at Buffalo as well as Clarkson University) and women’s studies, as well as pre-professional advisement for law, medicine, sports medicine, and veterinary science.

The Graduate School offers 38 master’s programs, two certificate of advanced study (C.A.S.) programs, four graduate certificate programs, and 18 postbaccalaureate teacher certification programs. While teacher education programs remain very popular, graduate programs in adult education, applied economics, art conservation, creative studies, industrial technology, and student personnel administration are unique within SUNY. The C.A.S. programs are educational leadership and art conservation. The four graduate certificate programs are adult education, museum studies, creativity and change leadership, and human resource development.

In addition to the above Buffalo State-only graduate programs, fashion textile technology and forensic chemistry are also not available at any other SUNY institution.

FACULTY

Teaching and learning are at the core of Buffalo State's mission. We take pride in our personal learning environment, with predominantly small classes taught by dedicated, highly qualified faculty, not graduate students. At Buffalo State, students come first. Eighty-six percent of all undergraduate classes have fewer than 40 students, and classes for majors average 12 to 15 students. Most graduate classes have fewer than 15 students. While many of our some 400 full-time faculty are recognized for their research or professional practice in their fields, their first priority is teaching. The Buffalo State faculty has been commended as a "major source of excellence" by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the national accrediting body since 1948. Forty-five faculty have won the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and six have been honored as SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors. Eighty percent of our faculty hold the highest degree in their fields from such institutions as Carnegie Mellon, George Washington, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Stanford, and Yale.

STUDENTS

The only SUNY college located in a metropolitan area, Buffalo State offers educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for its faculty, staff, and students. Our 10,993 students (9,139 undergraduates and 1,854 graduate students in fall 2007) enjoy the tremendous advantages at Buffalo State, both on the 115-acre campus and throughout the community. The incoming class comprises approximately 60 percent first-year (first-time) freshmen and 40 percent transfer students, with three of four undergraduates under age 25.

Buffalo State prides itself on the diversity of its student population—a reflection of today's society—with nontraditional students, students with disabilities, underrepresented minorities, students of many religions and ethnic backgrounds, and international students. More than 100 student organizations, facilitated by the Student Life Office, encourage students to participate in advocacy, cultural, ethnic, minority, academic, fraternity/sorority, leadership, professional, religious, sports, and recreation organizations. This diversity allows students to learn, play, and grow in a supportive environment where differences among individuals are appreciated. **Opportunities are available for faculty as advisers to these organizations.**

TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SCHOLARSHIP

The college sponsors numerous activities to further enhance excellence in the classroom and state-of-the-art pedagogy. In 1998, Buffalo State began working with the prestigious Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL). (See page 5.2.) CASTL is composed of campuses that have assumed a leadership role in providing support and a forum for fostering learning for all students as well as research into the practice and profession of teaching. The Buffalo State advisory committee works to establish policies and initiate campus activities that recognize and reward faculty and staff who advance the college mission to provide "excellence in teaching and scholarship." Access www.buffalostate.edu/orgs/castl for more information.

The college also supports a strong and significant research component. In addition to faculty research and broad-ranging graduate research opportunities, Buffalo State is

expanding undergraduate research experiences. For information, visit www.buffalostate.edu/undergraduateresearch.

ACCREDITATIONS

Buffalo State is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144; (215) 662-5606), and by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York. In addition, the following professional organizations have determined that Buffalo State programs meet their accreditation requirements.

- Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
111 Market Place, Suite 1050, Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 347-7700
- Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration.
- American Association of Museums (Burchfield-Penney Art Center).
- American Chemical Society.
- American Dietetic Association.
- Council on American Accreditation/American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Council on Social Work Education.
- Coalition for Interior Design Accountability (CIDA).
- International Association of Counseling Services.
- National Association of Industrial Technology.
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).
- National Association of Schools in Theatre (NAST).
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The professional education programs at Buffalo State are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) 2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 466-7496. The accreditation includes the initial teacher preparation and advanced levels of professional education programs offered at Buffalo State.

DEGREES OFFERED

Bachelor's degrees

Bachelor of Arts	Bachelor of Music	Bachelor of Science in Education
Bachelor of Fine Arts	Bachelor of Science	Bachelor of Technology

Master's degrees

Master of Arts	Master of Science
Master of Professional Studies	Master of Science in Education

Certificate of Advanced Study

SUNY & BUFFALO STATE GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF REGENTS, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

www.nysed.gov

www.highered.nysed.gov

The State Education Department is the administrative agency of the Regents of the University of the State of New York. The Regents, established by the New York State Legislature in 1784 and further provided for by the New York State Constitution, form the oldest continuous state education entity in the United States. The Regents are responsible for the general supervision of all educational activities within the state, presiding over the university and the New York State Education Department. The Regents are organized into standing committees and subcommittees whose members and chairs are appointed by the chancellor.

The Board of Regents comprises 16 members elected by the State Legislature for five-year terms. Regents are unsalaried and are reimbursed only for travel and related expenses in connection with their official duties.

The concept of the University of the State of New York is a broad term encompassing all the institutions, both public and private, offering education in New York State. The University of the State of New York is the nation's most comprehensive and unified educational system. It consists of all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions; libraries; museums; public broadcasting; records and archives; professions; Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities; and such other institutions, organizations, and agencies as may be admitted to the university.

SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of SUNY. The board consists of 16 members, 15 of whom are appointed by the governor, by and with consent of the New York State Senate. The president of the Student Assembly of the State University serves as student trustee, ex-officio. Among the authorities of the Board of Trustees is the power to:

- Appoint its own officers, the chancellor, and System Administration senior staff.
- Appoint the president of each state-operated institution, and approve the appointment of statutory and community college presidents by their respective boards.
- Grant all degrees, diplomas, and certificates for the completion of studies at any state-operated campus, including honorary degrees.
- Regulate the admission of students and prescribe qualifications for their continued attendance.
- Regulate tuition, fees and charges, curricula, and all other matters pertaining to the operation and administration of each state-operated campus.

- Establish new campuses.

Community colleges have local boards of trustees whose relationships to the SUNY board are determined by law.

POLICIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Policies.pdf
www.uupinfo.org

The basic document elaborating the organization and governance of SUNY and its guidelines for the policies and procedures is the *Policies of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (Policies)*. All SUNY faculty and staff are subject to upholding the *Policies*. Human Resource Management provides a copy of the policies to each faculty and staff member at the time of employment. The policies are available for reference in the Human Resource Management Office. The document is referred to throughout this handbook. (2006)

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

www.suny.edu

The State University of New York (SUNY) was established by act of the 1948 Legislature as a corporate entity in the State Education Department under the Board of Regents. Today SUNY is a statewide system of 64 campuses, enrolling 414,000 students supported by some 30,000 faculty. It is the largest, most diverse multi-campus university in the nation. SUNY is committed to bringing its students the best and brightest faculty, and the promise of a caring learning environment. State assistance keeps SUNY tuition much lower than rates charged at private colleges and universities. The university's motto is "To Learn —To Search —To Serve."

The 64 campuses include four university centers, 13 university colleges, four centers of the health sciences, six colleges of technology, four specialized colleges, 30 community colleges, and five statutory colleges on the campuses of private universities. The Board of Trustees directly determines the policies to be followed by the 34 state-supported campuses. The 30 community colleges have their own local boards of trustees whose relationships to the State University Board are defined by law. System Administration is located in State University Plaza, Albany.

SUNY SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

www.suny.edu

The chancellor of the State University of New York is the chief administrative officer of the 64-campus SUNY system and is responsible for developing and implementing policies approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees. The Provost's Office provides academic leadership to SUNY in the pursuit of excellence, drawing on the strengths of its campuses and the potential inherent within a system. The chancellor and senior administrators are headquartered at State University Plaza, Albany.

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE COUNCIL

www.buffalostate.edu/governance.xml

According to New York State Education Law, Sec. 356, Councils of State-Operated Institutions; Powers and Duties, the operations and affairs of each state-operated institution of the state university, other than the state institutes of applied arts and sciences, shall be supervised locally by a council consisting of nine members appointed by the governor. Initial appointments are for nine-year terms. Also, one student member, duly elected by the student body, is appointed each year. Members receive no compensation for their services but are reimbursed for the expenses actually and necessarily incurred in performing their duties.

Access the above Web site for a current list of Buffalo State College Council members.

BUFFALO STATE ADMINISTRATION

www.buffalostate.edu/administration.xml

The chief administrative officer of Buffalo State is the president. Appointed by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation by the Buffalo State College Council and the chancellor, the president serves at the pleasure of the trustees. The chancellor, upon recommendation of the president, appoints all college administrative officers.

The college is organized under the President's Office and its vice presidential areas. The vice presidential area of Academic and Student Affairs comprises four schools and the vice presidential area of Student Affairs. Each school is headed by a dean who reports to the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. They are the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of Education, the School of Natural and Social Sciences, and the School of the Professions. The dean of the Graduate School and the dean of University College also report to the provost.

Members of the academic staff in charge of academic departments or divisions are designated as chairs in addition to their academic ranks. Chairs are designated for renewable periods of up to three years by the president after consultation with appropriate faculty including the department or division concerned.

Visit the above Web site for the listing of the administration and the organizational chart.

COLLEGE SENATE

www.buffalostate.edu/collegesenate

The College Senate is the official agency through which the faculty, professional staff, and students engage in the governance of the college. Its actions are advisory to the president of the college and focus on curriculum, faculty and staff welfare, instruction and research, standards for students, bylaws and elections, budget and staff allocations, student welfare, and academic plan.

The senate is composed of the college president (non-voting); the provost (non-voting); seven at-large members of the faculty and professional staff; six members of the professional staff; six members from each of the schools; one member from the support

staff; one faculty member from the library; 12 students; two state university faculty senators; and two non-voting members appointed by the college president.

College Senate meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday once a month during the academic year. The schedule is posted on the Senate Web site. Meetings are announced in the *Bulletin* and are posted in the *Daily* e-mail announcements.

DATA RESOURCES

www.buffalostate.edu/offices/instrsch

The Institutional Research Department is committed to providing the Buffalo State community with accurate and reliable data, such as enrollment data, statistics, and research reports.

