

Show Me

*A Report Card on Public Higher Education
in Missouri*

Executive Summary

SHOW ME: A REPORT CARD ON PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MISSOURI takes a close look at the state of higher education in Missouri, focusing on four key areas of the public’s interest: what students are learning; whether the marketplace of ideas is vibrant; how our universities are governed; and what a college education costs.

Applying a common benchmark used in higher education to determine whether students pass or fail, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni offers a Pass or Fail grade in four key areas. This executive summary outlines our findings and provides an overview of the research and conclusions of the full report.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MISSOURI

General Education	P
Intellectual Diversity	F
Governance	
University of Missouri System	P
Missouri State University	F
Cost and Effectiveness	
University of Missouri System	F
Missouri State University	F

GENERAL EDUCATION

Institutions have strong general education requirements in some core subjects; however, large numbers of Missouri students can graduate without taking courses in foreign language and economics, or broad-based courses in literature and American government/history.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BY INSTITUTION

Institution	Gov/ Comp Lit Lang Hist Econ Math Sci							Pass/ Fail
University of Missouri-Columbia	√		√			√	√	P
University of Missouri-Kansas City	√		√			√	√	P
University of Missouri-St. Louis	√					√	√	F
Missouri University of Sci and Tech	√				√	√	√	P
Missouri State University	√			√		√	√	P
Missouri Southern State University	√	√		√		√	√	P
Truman State University	√					√	√	F

OVERALL GRADE: P

INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

Students report that major Missouri universities do not provide an intellectual atmosphere conducive to a robust exchange of ideas.

KEY INDICATORS OF INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

Offering Competing Ideas, Different Perspectives, and Alternate Claims of Truth	F
Teaching Students to Think Critically	F
Offering a Safe Learning Environment for Students	F
Ensuring Professional Responsibility in the Classroom	F

OVERALL GRADE: F

GOVERNANCE

The **University of Missouri Board of Curators** has an efficient, functioning structure and operates in an open, transparent manner. Overall, it has been an engaged governing body, taking an active interest in improving academic quality, containing costs, and debating key issues facing the University of Missouri System.

The **Missouri State University Board of Governors** has difficulty functioning as a cohesive and effective board. While the board hears many reports, it remains generally reactive. Recent structural changes and strategic plans offer hope of more meaningful future accomplishments.

BOARD STRUCTURE AND TRANSPARENCY OF OPERATIONS

	UM	MSU
Names and contact information of board members publicly available and easily accessible	F	F
Board meets frequently	P	P
Board members attend regularly	P	I
Effective board size	P	P
Periodic review of bylaws and/or policies	P	P
Pre-service training and/or professional development	P	F
Transparency of board activities and actions	P	P
Functioning committee structure	P	P
Executive Committees	P	P
Involvement in presidential search committees	P	F
Renewal of presidential contracts based on regular evaluation	P	P
Development of a long-range plan	P	P

BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	UM	MSU
Actions to improve academic quality	P	F
Actions to assess student learning	P	I
Actions to control costs and increase efficiency	I	F
Avoiding the rubber stamp	F	F

OVERALL GRADE UM SYSTEM: P

OVERALL GRADE MSU: F

COST AND EFFECTIVENESS

The **University of Missouri System** has had recent success in stemming costs and increasing effectiveness; however, graduation rates remain disturbingly low while costs remain high.

Missouri State University has done little to contain costs and increase effectiveness; however, signs of progress appear on the horizon.

COST AND EFFECTIVENESS

	UM	MSU
Instructional vs. administrative spending	P	F
In-state undergraduate tuition and fee trends	F	F
Annual in-state undergraduate tuition and fees as a percentage of median household income	F	F
Ratio of new programs to closed programs	F	F
Baccalaureate graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen	F	F
Percent of first-time, full-time freshmen continuing after the first year (first to second year retention rate)	P	P
Performance as a criterion for funding	P	P

OVERALL GRADE UM SYSTEM: F

OVERALL GRADE MSU: F

FOUNDED IN 1995, ACTA IS A NATIONAL EDUCATION NONPROFIT dedicated to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability in higher education. This report card is one of a series of publications on higher education designed to provide independent analysis for education leaders, policymakers, and trustees.



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