Ferris State University is in its second century as one of the nation's premier technical and professional universities. Ferris provides practical, "hands-on" education necessary to make its graduates immediately employable in a diverse array of fields.

The institution was founded Nov. 4, 1884 by Woodbridge N. Ferris, a former Governor of Michigan and a U.S. Senator. His intent was to provide a practical education for any person with the motivation and potential to benefit.

Today, Ferris State continues to teach technical skills and applications focused on solving real problems, and produces a work force that is prepared to meet the world of high technology.

The University offers more than 120 academic programs and degrees, including nuclear medicine, nursing, plastics engineering, social work, marketing, management, professional golf management, professional tennis management, criminal justice, pharmacy, optometry and public relations. The programs are designed to respond to the changing needs of manufacturing, business, health care and other industries and professions which are critical to Michigan's economy.

With a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 16:1, students at FSU receive the individual attention necessary to prepare them for their careers. Additionally, Ferris boasts a placement rate for graduates of 98 percent, one of the best in Michigan.

Students at Ferris State University also have the opportunity to join nearly 200 student organizations on campus plus club, intramural and intercollegiate sports.

The scenic Big Rapids campus is located along the banks of the Muskegon River in the gentle rolling hills of west central Michigan.

Initially, Ferris was known as the Ferris Industrial School, but in 1899 the title was changed to Ferris Institute. It was privately owned and operated until 1931 when it became a non-profit, non-stock education corporation. In 1949, Ferris became a state college, and the school was officially re-named Ferris State College in 1963 and Ferris State University in 1987.

“Education is life. It involves growth, development and training.”
— Woodbridge N. Ferris

Ferris State Quick Facts

▼ Ferris has the largest undergraduate Surveying Engineering program in the U.S.

▼ FSU's Dental Hygiene program is the second largest program of its kind in the nation and current job placement is in the high 90%.

▼ Ferris' Welding Engineering Technology program is the only one in the state and is second largest in the U.S. The program has the distinction of having the highest average starting salary of all FSU's four-year programs the last five years.

▼ 99% of FSU's criminal justice students passed their state board certification exams and job placement is over 90%.

▼ The Ferris Optometry program is just one of 16 programs in the nation and holds the distinction of being Michigan's only one. The program boasts a 100% successful national board examination rate with an average of six jobs per graduate.

▼ FSU's Television Production is the only program of its kind in Michigan with an emphasis on professional television. Job placement is 95%.

▼ Nine of 10 employed Ferris graduates are in occupations related to their major field of study.

▼ Approximately 98% of FSU nursing graduates pass the national boards and the Nursing Program is accredited by the National League of Nursing. Job placement is 100%.

▼ Ferris offers the only two-year associate degree program in Heavy Equipment Technology in Michigan and has the largest facility for teaching the curriculum on the North American continent (52,000 sq. ft.).

▼ In printing management, Ferris graduates on average earn 150% of their starting salary five years after graduation and 200% after 10 years.

Mission Statement

Ferris State University will be a national leader in providing opportunities for innovative teaching and learning in career-oriented, technological and professional education.