

Brief History

Mansfield University has had five names changes since its founding as Mansfield Classical Seminary in 1857. The first changed occurred in 1862 to Mansfield State Normal School, followed by Mansfield State Teachers College in 1927. In 1960 the university broadened its degree offerings and became Mansfield State College. In 1983, it became Mansfield University. As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Mansfield combines the best qualities of a small liberal arts college with the resources of a comprehensive university.

Mission Statement

Mansfield University is dedicated to a personalized education with all programs grounded in the liberal arts. As a small, comprehensive public university, we are committed to promoting leadership development through character, scholarship, cultural awareness and service to others. Through our passion for learning, we positively influence the world.

The Mansfield Creed

At Mansfield University, we develop leaders. We accomplish this by focusing on the four core values that have been our tradition since 1912: Character, Scholarship, Culture, and Service.

Character

We believe in integrity. We act with honesty and respect toward others. We take responsibility for our actions and reflect on their impact on ourselves and others.

Scholarship

We believe in learning. We use rigorous, responsible, and critical inquiry to understand existing knowledge, acquire and share new knowledge, and apply what we learn. Each of us is both student and teacher.

Culture

We believe in celebrating humanity. We enrich ourselves and others by sharing and exploring our similarities and differences. We honor the past as we invent the future.

Service

We believe in helping others. We work with others to improve the communities in which we now live and will touch in the future. Knowledge invests us with the power to improve our world and the responsibility to act.

In 1912, our Mansfield University student body first adopted the above values, emphasizing their order: “Character as the essential, Scholarship as the means, Culture as the enrichment, and Service as the end of all worthy endeavor.” The current revision of the creed was developed by the Leadership Group of the Focus on Learning Forum and recommended to the Cabinet by the members of the Learning Forum. The revision approved by Mansfield University’s Cabinet June 8, 2004

Statement of Diversity

Graduates of Mansfield University participate in a world that has been enriched by knowledge, insights, and traditions of diverse peoples who live and work together. An academic community that values diversity by words and actions provides the best environment in which students can learn the social skills necessary to participate and flourish in our multi-cultural environment.

The Mansfield University Council of Trustees reaffirms the purpose of Mansfield University, as stated by President Simon B. Elliot in 1912, to strive to make education universal; that the rich and the poor, the child of those who have power and place, and of those who tread the lowly paths of life, shall receive alike the blessings of education^ invite equally and alike, without distinction of sex, or color, or race, or creed, or party, the children of all who may desire to participate in the opportunities here offered. That is the highest purpose for which Mansfield may be praised.