

Advancing Knowledge.  
Transforming Lives.

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1855 - 2005

# 2005–2007 Sesquicentennial Edition

This 2005–2007 edition of *Academic Programs* presents the curriculum as it is offered in 2005, the Sesquicentennial year of Michigan State University.

Although individual academic programs in departments, schools, and colleges change periodically, the faculty role and responsibility for shaping the curriculum to meet the knowledge and skill needs of students remains constant.

From its beginning, the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan “linked together science, practicality, and liberal studies to create a curriculum that prepared young people to live successfully in their ever-changing world.” “One hundred and fifty years later, Michigan State University stands as living proof that the work begun in a wooded swamp three miles east of Lansing has made a difference to the lives of millions of people.”

Theophilus Abbot, who served as Michigan State’s third president from 1862 to 1885, had a “vision for the college.” It was to be “a vital, forward-looking, institution focused on preparing students to make a difference in the world.” This vision still lives as Michigan State University’s ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge and transforming lives.

Quotations are from: Widder, Keith R. *Michigan Agricultural College. The Evolution of a Land-Grant Philosophy, 1855–1925*, East Lansing (Michigan State University Press, 2005), pp. 1, 96, 99.

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Founding Date</b>   | February 12, 1855 |
| <b>Dedication Date</b> | May 13, 1857      |
| <b>Classes Began</b>   | May 14, 1857      |

## Name Changes

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1855 | Agricultural College of the State of Michigan                |
| 1861 | State Agricultural College                                   |
| 1909 | Michigan Agricultural College                                |
| 1925 | Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science    |
| 1955 | Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science |
| 1964 | Michigan State University                                    |

## Students, Faculty, Departments, Colleges

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1857 | 124 students, 5 faculty  |
| 1907 | 950 students, 90 faculty and other officers, 34 departments  |
| 1955 | 15,500 students, 1,973 faculty and other officers, 8 colleges, 110 departments                       |
| 2005 | 44,836 students, 4,500 faculty and academic staff, 6,000 support staff, 14 colleges, 100 departments |