



CANADA

Lake Superior

Moorhead State
Admissions Report
1994

NORTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

WISCONSIN

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SUMMARY OF ENROLLMENT TRENDS

In summarizing past enrollment trends as to where Moorhead State University students came from one could say, "as North Dakota goes so goes Moorhead State" (table 2.0). One doesn't have to look much further than to the student profile just mentioned. In the past decade Moorhead State enrollment has been greatly influenced by the declining North Dakota student population* (table 2.1 & 2.1A) and those actions taken by the State of North Dakota which led to the Tuition Reciprocity increase (table 2.2), tuition waivers for Native American Students, and the development of a North Dakota State Grant program. All efforts are designed to keep North Dakota students at North Dakota colleges and universities (table 2.3).

There is also an emergence of strong state competition for the limited student base from North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota and to some degree, the University of Mary, Bismarck State College, Minot State University and Jamestown College. All are located in the major North Dakota population centers and all have experienced significant enrollment increases since 1990 (table 2.4). This along with our failure to entice a larger share of the MN Community College transfers (table 2.5A & 2.5B) and our lack of numbers in off-campus enrollment (table 2.6) have all contributed to our declining market share (table 2.7).

*see following Fargo Forum article

SURVEY SHOWS NORTH DAKOTA POPULATION STILL DECLINING

People continue to leave North Dakota at a faster rate than they arrive according to the latest "Population Bulletin" from the Census Data Center at North Dakota State University.

The state suffered a net loss of nearly 5,000 persons between 1990 and 1992, held its population stable between 1992 and 1993, and as a result had an estimated population of 635,000 in 1993, down from the 638,000 count of the 1990 census.

"North Dakota is in a period of transition", said Richard Rathge, director of the Census Data Center. "The signs of population stability are very optimistic for the state, but they are only tenuous unless we can become more aggressive at economic development. At a county level, the major growth centers continue to be those with larger cities. This signals the relative economic disadvantage most counties face because of their population bases".

Between 1990 and 1992 only three counties had net immigration.

Cass gained an estimated 1,198 persons, Burleigh gained 1,178 and Billings gained 30. All the rest of the state's counties lost population.

"One needs to be cautious in interpreting such estimates," said Rathge, "since in small population areas, such as Billings County, the error rates for estimates can be quite high. The movement of several families in a count with fewer than 1,200 people is hard to track, yet can make an important impact on population figures."

The two counties with the highest estimated outmigration between 1990 and 1992 were Grand Forks and Ward. Each lost more than 2,000 persons. County estimates for 1993 are not yet available according to Rathge.

Unlike North Dakota, the surrounding states of Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota had net immigration between 1990 and 1992. Montana gained 11,477 persons, Minnesota gained 8,615 and South Dakota gained 651.

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FUTURE ENROLLMENT TRENDS

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS

After reaching a peak in 1979, the number of students graduating from the nation's high schools began to decline. Through the 1980s and into the 1990s the size of the nation's high school graduating classes dropped. After 1994 the number of graduates will begin to rise again. Shortly after the turn of the century the size of the nation's graduating classes will approach then exceed the peak reached in 1979 (Graph 3.0).

While the impact will be more pronounced in some regions than others, one thing is for sure: there will be more young adults in the nation during the first decade of the 21st century than at anytime since the "baby boom" generation reached maturity.

Soaring birth rates in the 1980s and 1990s will result in dramatic increases in the number of high school graduates. After bottoming out in 1994 the size of the nation's high school graduating class will rise steadily, reaching a peak of more than 3.3 million graduates in 2008. After 1994 the number of high school graduates will again be on the rise. By 2009 the nation's high school graduation classes will reach and then exceed the record reached in 1979.

Although there are differences across the regions and among states, by 2009 the majority of states will have recovered from the declines of the 1980s and 1990s. Only five states (Louisiana, Maine, North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming) (Graph 3.1) are expected to lose graduates between 1992 and 2009.

Eleven of the 12 north central states can anticipate increases in the size of their graduation classes between 1992 and 2009. However, these increases are more moderate than in other regions, ranging from less than 1% in Iowa to 35% in Minnesota (hooray). With the exception of Minnesota and Wisconsin (+24%), graduates in most of the north central states (Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio and Iowa) are projected to increase less than 20 percent between 1992 and 2009, and North Dakota is projected to lose graduates (-16%) during this period (Graph 3.2). Additional enrollment information and trends for North and South Dakota can be found in tables/graphs 3.3-3.9

By the year 2000, the number of new high school graduates in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area is projected to be 30,742 or 36% above the 22,642 graduates in 1992.

Despite having increases in high school graduates, greater Minnesota is projected to account for a decreasing proportion of new high school graduates: 44 percent in 2009 compared to 57 percent in 2000. By the year 2000, the number of new high school graduates in greater Minnesota is projected to be 33,090, a 24% increase over 1992. By 2009 the number of new high school graduates is projected to decrease to 28,171, or 5% above the 1992 total.