

Muskingum University Information

A. Mission

The mission of Muskingum University is to offer quality academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences in the setting of a residential, coeducational, church-related University and in the context of a caring community where individual fulfillment is encouraged and human dignity is respected. Its primary purpose is to develop - intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically - whole persons, by fostering critical thinking, positive action, ethical sensitivity and spiritual growth, so that they may lead vocationally productive, personally satisfying and socially responsible lives.

B. Accreditation

Muskingum University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and is approved for teacher education by the Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York State Departments of Education. Muskingum holds membership in the University Entrance Examination Board, the American Association of University Women, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Association of American Colleges, the American Council on Education, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

C. History

Muskingum University is rich in tradition, its proud heritage reaching back to the first half of the nineteenth century when Ohio was an infant state and covered wagons were bringing adventurous settlers westward over the newly completed National Road through New Concord.

Even its Indian name, sometimes mispronounced and often misspelled, is a source of pride to those who cherish the history of that colorful part of frontier America “beyond the Alleghenies.” The name Muskingum, first applied to a river, was one of only three names of Indian origin to appear in this area on maps published in London before the Revolutionary War. The others were Ohio and Miami; it is perhaps a coincidence that all three eventually came to identify schools of higher education.

D. Presbyterian Heritage

In 1836 a group of education-minded citizens of New Concord applied to the state legislature for a charter to establish a University in the village, and the next year--on March 18, 1837--- the charter was granted. Because the community was settled largely by farm people of Scotch-Irish descent who had come into eastern Ohio from neighboring Pennsylvania, the predominant religion was Presbyterian. In 1877, Muskingum became associated with the Synod of Ohio of the United Presbyterian Church, and continues in formal association with the Synod of the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

During its first half-century Muskingum adhered to the traditional educational patterns of the classical University of that period. In 1854, women were admitted on an equal basis with men. After the Civil War a period of steady growth began, accelerating in the twentieth century until the frontier classical University of less than a hundred students has now grown into a modern liberal arts University of over 1600 students situated on over 200 acres.

With the closing in 1927 of Franklin University at New Athens, Ohio, Muskingum acquired the charter, library and alumni rolls of that University, which had been an important educational institution of the Presbyterian Church in the nineteenth century.

E. Customs and Traditions

The following are some of the most prominent of Muskingum's traditions and customs. Upper-class students are already familiar with them. First-year students will soon come to know and observe them. Taken together they help knit together the University community and give to all students a sense of belonging.

1. **School Colors**...Black and Magenta. Legend has it that the color magenta was inspired years ago by a ribbon on a much admired hat of a lady faculty member.
2. **Nickname of Athletic Teams**...The Fighting Muskies. Although a logical abbreviation of the University name, it is deemed appropriate that "Muskie" is also the abbreviation for the game fish, muskellunge, found in the streams of southeastern Ohio and well known for its fighting qualities.
3. **Muskie "Hi"**...A spirit of warmth and friendliness permeates the campus. Students, faculty, administration, and guests keep alive this spirit.
4. **University Seal** ... Another respected tradition at Muskingum is that of never stepping on the University Seal which is inlaid in the floor of the main entrance to Montgomery Hall.
5. **Homecoming**...One of the most gala events of the fall season is Homecoming. At this time alumni return to their Alma Mater to see old friends and enjoy the parade, receptions, sporting events, the Varsity Revue and club reunions.
6. **Parent's Weekend**...Parents are especially invited to share a spring weekend on campus with their students and the University community. This event is usually accompanied by a Student Talent Show, senior seminar presentations and various activities.
7. **Scholarship Day**...The purpose of Scholarship Day, scheduled annually at the beginning of Parents' Weekend, is to give recognition to those students who have done outstanding academic work. Appropriate awards are given to the highest five percent of students in each class provided they have a G.P.A. of 3.35 or better.
8. **Illumination Nights**...The campus is illuminated on Commencement Weekend and Alumni Weekend, when the entire campus is lit with Japanese lanterns.
9. **Commencement Weekend**...Commencement is the most joyous and tearful time in the life of the University community, as it gathers together members, friends, and family to celebrate the graduation of those students who have completed their degree requirements. The Baccalaureate service provides an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings bestowed on the community and especially its graduating seniors, and the Commencement ceremony honors the accomplishment and promise of the graduating students as they join the Long Magenta Line.
10. **Alumni Weekend**...Hundreds of "grads" return to campus for class reunions on this weekend in June. A full weekend of activities is scheduled, highlighted by the annual alumni banquet held on Saturday afternoon.
11. **Chapel**...The campus community gathers for worship in Brown Chapel on Thursdays at 11 a.m. No classes are scheduled during this hour in order that a time for reflection and renewal might be observed.

The Alma Mater

All hail, Muskingum, glorious Alma Mater.
Thy loyal children come to do thee honor, Life more abundant
thou to us hast given, Hail, Alma Mater, Hail.
All hail, Muskingum, glorious Alma Mater,
Thou who hast guided our youth triumphant, Into the life where
knowledge still is holy, Hail, Alma Mater, Hail.
All hail, Muskingum, glorious Alma Mater,
To thee we pledge our loyal devotion,
God's care surround thee though the endless ages, Hail, Alma Mater,
Hail.

— **T. R. Berkshire '27**

Muskingum Fight Song

Fight on Muskingum, Fight, Fight, Fight
Fight for your University, with all your might
Victory will be
For dear old M.C
Fight with all your might for your school Muskingum!
Cheer every student, cheer, cheer, cheer Cheer for your
University dear
When this game is o'er We'll have a great big score
Fight on Muskingum, Fight!

— **James Mace '23 — Arr. by James Pierce '31**