

Governance

MVU is a private, not-for-profit Michigan corporation established in 1998 to deliver online education and training opportunities to the citizens of Michigan. *MVU* is governed by a board of directors representing the business and education communities.

MVU operates the *Michigan Virtual School*, founded in 2000. The *MVS* has delivered more than 100,000 course enrollments to students in every corner of the state. *Michigan LearnPort* offers high quality professional development to over 70,000 registered users. An *MVS* and *Michigan LearnPort* Programs Advisory Council meets periodically to provide feedback from the field and guidance on K-12 needs and new approaches and innovation to improve quality. The council members are from the Michigan Department of Education, intermediate and local schools, K-12 professional organizations and higher education.

Technology Infrastructure

The *MVU* data center and the applications that support students and teachers are stable, accessible, secure and scalable. *MVU*'s fully-managed data center is equipped with triple Internet backbone provider feeds, dual AC power feeds as well as battery backup and instant-on diesel generator power. *MVU* utilizes high-speed path redundant fiber connections between our offices and the data center for nightly bi-directional data backups. All hardware supporting our learning management and other web applications are fully managed by highly qualified and experienced *MVU* IT staff. *MVU* guarantees 100% uptime, excluding scheduled maintenance windows.

MVU has deployed redundant firewalls, high strength encryption, isolated VLAN networking and building security to ensure the integrity and privacy of all student information associated with the *MVS*. A commercial-grade backup system is deployed with automated off-site media replication, assuring quick, safe and secure data recovery in the event of a catastrophic system failure.



Total Quality Approach

The Michigan Virtual University® (MVU®) operates the Michigan Virtual School® (MVS®) and Michigan LearnPort® to deliver quality learning to Michigan students and to provide access to professional development for Michigan educators. In order to ensure high quality in all of its programs, MVU follows a prescribed process for design, delivery, instruction and revision of content based on achievement and completion data, feedback from stakeholders, a review and revision cycle, and the adherence to various instructional standards. A high level synopsis is provided below that characterizes the commitment to a total quality approach.



Course Development

The Instructional Product Development (iPD) group works closely with C&I to ensure that courses meet rigorous standards. *MVU* adheres to standards developed by the International Association of K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) as a measure of course content and delivery quality. Courses are developed in-house by iPD or licensed from third-party vendors that have been thoroughly vetted through reviews including periodic Requests for Proposals for comparison of vendor products. Courses are constantly reviewed on a planned basis to ensure that each meets the Michigan and Common Core Curriculum standards. The review teams consist of qualified *MVU* staff as well as subject matter specialists from the K-12 and higher education communities. Feedback is gathered from students and onsite mentors that work with students on a daily basis. This feedback, coupled with student performance data in courses, informs and shapes *MVU*'s revision cycle and helps *MVU* maintain quality course offerings.

Instructional Staff

The Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) group manages the selection, training and evaluation of both full-time staff and part-time consultant instructors. Michigan certified and highly qualified instructors teach courses in the *MVS* after extensive training to help develop and refine skills necessary for teaching in an online format. All instructors must maintain their teacher certification and attend a prescribed number of professional development experiences each year. Instructors are evaluated on the basis of student feedback, the performance of students in their courses, and engagement and virtual presence with students as monitored by *MVU* staff. *MVU* department chairpersons assist with ensuring that instructors adhere to high standards of course information and virtual presence.

Accreditation



Michigan Virtual School was first awarded accreditation in December 2005 by the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), and re-accredited in 2010. Until recently, CITA was an accrediting authority in the U.S. and throughout the world and was an alliance of the premier American accrediting associations, including the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA) which accredited schools in 19 states, including Michigan.



In 2009, AdvancED acquired CITA and now supports all its institutions. AdvancED is the world's largest education community, representing 27,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and in 65 countries worldwide and educating 15 million students. AdvancED also is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Reporting

MVU publishes a yearly report to the legislature and distributes the report to all Michigan school districts. This report contains detailed information on *MVU*, *MVS* and *Michigan LearnPort*. The aggregated achievement and completion data are reported yearly, with the 2011-12 school year data showing an 86.3% completion rate and an average score completion of 78.1%. In addition the report breaks down the data into subject matter, frequency of final scores and average completion by course. A three-year comparison of completion rates is also provided.

Through *MVU*'s Customer and Enrollment Management System (CEMS) schools also have on-demand access to their school's enrollment data. Schools can view and download enrollments records — including student final scores — for all enrollments since 2002. Schools also have access to progress reports scores and feedback for current enrollments allowing schools to better monitor and support their online students.

Awards for Quality



Southern Regional Education Board Teacher of the Year finalist – Andrew Vanden Heuvel, *MVS* instructor, 2010



Brandon Hall Excellence in Learning Award – Best Learning Team 2012



Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals Service Award – 2012

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