The Mindanao State University-Sulu was formerly known as MSU-Sulu Development and Technical College (SDTC) established by MSU Board of Regents through Resolution No. 860, Series 1974. The establishment of the campus was a government effort to rehabilitate the province of Sulu and its islands after its devastation in 1974 as a result of MNLF rebellion when the situation posed educational hiatus among the people.

In its initial operation in 1974, the university campus had temporarily held classes at Grandstand Elementary School with its office at residents of then Commission on Election Commissioner Hashim R. Abubakar. Due to the pressing needs, Founding Director Exuan T. Dagbusan appealed and asked the intercession of the provincial officials and subsequently, the Sulu Provincial Board passed Resolution No. 64, Series 1974 donating 11.5 hectares lot for the decent occupancy of MSU-SDTC. The present campus site is about 1.3 kilometers from Jolo Town. Presently the university has eight (8) academic units, such as Graduate School, College of Agriculture, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration and Computer Sciences, College of Education, College of Fisheries, College of Public Affairs, and Laboratory High School. It offers 18 baccalaureate courses, four technology courses in fisheries and in agriculture and five graduate courses and a Ph.D. Program.

Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives

Vision

MSU-Sulu envisions to become a world-class University in Southern Philippines committed to excellence in Science and Technology for the total development of man.

COMPLEMENTARY VISION

A leading University in Southern Philippines committed to excellence in Science and Technology for the total development of man.

Mission

MSU-Sulu envisions to become a center of development for Agriculture and Fisheries and other science and technology programs.

COMPLEMENTARY MISSION

To become a center of development for Agriculture and Fisheries and other science and technology programs.

Objectives

- To create and protect gender-fair, environment-friendly and responsive development plans and programs, in partnership with Civil Society Organizations, for efficient and effective delivery of basic services to the less fortunate;
- To strengthen quality education and intensify opportunities for advance education among the people Sulu and the region.
- To provide economic, political and socio-cultural opportunities.