SAMPLE BRIEF · MADE FROM PUBLIC DATA

HERD BENCHMARK BRIEF: MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

A full sample of the $250 brief, built only from public federal data. Morgan State University did not commission it and is not a client. Every figure comes from the NCSES HERD Survey (FY2016–FY2024) or IPEDS completions, as listed in the sources at the end.

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1. WHERE YOU STAND

$55.5M
Total R&D, FY2024

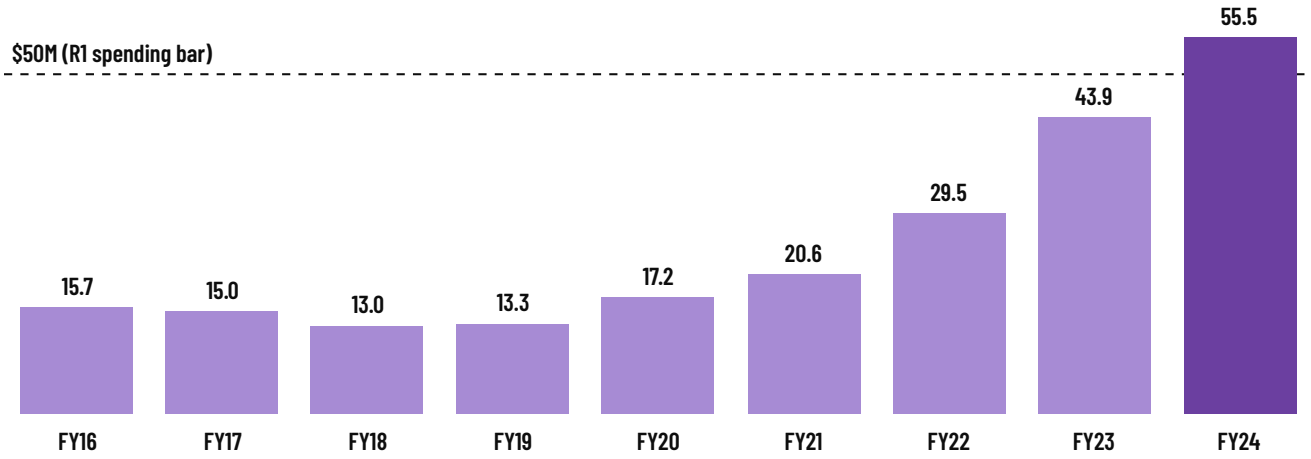
#230
of 681 schools nationally
(#294 of 639 in FY2016)

#5
of 13 in Maryland

#5
of 48 HBCUs

Morgan State University spent $55.5M on research and development in FY2024, up 319% from $13.3M in FY2019. Ranks count schools that filed the standard HERD form with spending above zero.

2. TOTALS AND TREND



Total R&D expenditures, millions of current dollars (not adjusted for inflation). The dashed line is $50 million.

Spending was flat near $13–16 million through FY2019, then rose every year from FY2020, more than tripling to $55.5M. Most of the rise is federal: federal funds grew from $14.3M in FY2016 to $37.1M in FY2024.

3. FIELDS OF RESEARCH

BROAD FIELD	FY2024	SHARE
Engineering	$12.8M	23%
Non-S&E fields	$11.4M	20%
Life sciences	$11.3M	20%
Geosciences, atmospheric and ocean	$10.7M	19%
Physical sciences	$3.1M	6%
Computer and information sciences	$2.8M	5%
Social sciences	$2.4M	4%
Mathematics and statistics	$0.6M	1%
Psychology	$0.4M	1%

Engineering leads, followed by non-S&E fields (such as education), the life sciences and the geosciences. The largest single detailed field is geological and earth sciences at $10.7M, followed by health sciences at $6.3M.

4. SOURCES OF FUNDS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

SOURCE OF FUNDS	FY2024	SHARE
Federal government	$37.1M	67%
State and local government	$9.3M	17%
Institutional funds	$7.8M	14%
Nonprofit organizations	$0.6M	1%
Business	$0.5M	1%
All other sources	$0.2M	0%

FEDERAL AGENCY	FY2024		SHARE
National Aeronautics and Space Administration		$10.5M	28%
Department of Health and Human Services		$7.2M	19%
Other federal agency		$6.5M	17%
Department of Defense		$6.2M	17%
National Science Foundation		$5.0M	14%
Department of Energy		$1.5M	4%
Department of Agriculture		$0.2M	1%

The federal government paid 67% of FY2024 research. NASA is the largest federal funder ($10.5M), ahead of HHS, which includes NIH. State and local government ($9.3M) is the largest source outside Washington.

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5. PEERS

Sample peer group: eight HBCUs with doctoral research programs. In a real brief you choose up to 10 peers; built-in groups (HBCU, state, AAU, athletic conferences) are added.

SCHOOL	STATE	R&D FY2024	SINCE FY2019	3-YEAR AVERAGE	FEDERAL SHARE	RESEARCH DOCTORATES (3-YEAR AVERAGE)	NATIONAL RANK
Morgan State University	MD	$55.5M	+319%	$43.0M	67%	64	230
Howard University	DC	$101.8M	+131%	$84.7M	54%	95	178
North Carolina A&T State University	NC	$81.8M	+119%	$64.0M	55%	70	192
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	FL	$68.7M	+62%	$61.5M	84%	35	213
Delaware State University	DE	$43.7M	+90%	$35.4M	65%	28	244
Tennessee State University	TN	$35.0M	+130%	$27.1M	59%	45	257
Prairie View A&M University	TX	$31.6M	+76%	$24.6M	58%	27	272
Jackson State University	MS	$24.7M	+36%	$20.6M	83%	51	292
Texas Southern University	TX	$19.0M	+289%	$15.8M	64%	31	316

Morgan State University ranks #4 of 9 in this group on FY2024 spending. The peer median is $39.4M. Its growth since FY2019 (+319%) is the fastest in the group.

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6. THE CARNEGIE GAP

For R1 ("very high research spending and doctorate production"), the Carnegie Classifications set two bars: at least $50 million in research spending and at least 70 research doctorates a year. The 2025 designations used the higher of a three-year average or the latest year; later rounds use the three-year average.

RESEARCH SPENDING

$55.5M

FY2024, above the $50M bar. The three-year average (FY2022–FY2024) is $43.0M, $7.0M short.

Target: FY2025 spending of at least $50.6M brings the three-year average (FY2023–FY2025) to $50M.

RESEARCH DOCTORATES

62

Awarded in 2023–24, below the bar of 70. The three-year average (2021–22 to 2023–24: 70, 59, 62) is 63.7.

Target: 89 research doctorates in 2024–25 would lift the three-year average to 70; at 70 a year, the average reaches 70 by 2026–27.

Reading: on spending, Morgan State University is already at the R1 level in a single year and close on the average. Doctorates are the binding gap.

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7. LINES TO QUOTE

- "Morgan State University spent $55.5M on research in FY2024, more than triple its FY2019 total ($13.3M), according to the federal HERD Survey."
- "Among 48 HBCUs reporting to HERD, Morgan State University ranks #5 in research spending."
- "Federal agencies funded 67% of Morgan State University's FY2024 research, led by NASA."
- "Morgan State University cleared the $50 million R1 spending bar in FY2024; research doctorates (63.7 a year on average) are the remaining gap to 70."

8. SOURCES AND METHOD

NCSES, Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey, public-use files (standard form), FY2016–FY2024, thousands of current dollars. NCSES estimates fill some gaps (1.2% of FY2024 dollars nationally). IPEDS Completions (files C2022_A, C2023_A and C2024_A): doctor's degrees, research/scholarship, first major, all fields. Carnegie thresholds: the 2025 Research Activity Designations. A real brief also ships with a spreadsheet of every number. Full notes: Sources and method.

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