THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA WELCOMES APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF

VICE PROVOST FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & STUDENT SUCCESS



Located in Grand Forks, North Dakota

Founded in 1883

NCAA Division I Athletics

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools

Carnegie Classification: Research Universities – Very high research activity (R1)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
LEADERS IN ACTION

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success

As North Dakota's flagship R1 university, UND is entering an exciting period of momentum and possibility. Enrollment is growing, student success outcomes continue to advance, and significant investments in academic programs, student support services, research, technology, and campus infrastructure have positioned the University for greater success in the years ahead. The next Vice Provost will join an institution that is seeking to capitalize on a strong foundation and help shape the next chapter of undergraduate studies and student success at a distinctive public research university.

The University of North Dakota, founded in 1883 — six years before North Dakota achieved statehood —enrolls more than 15,900 students from all 50 states and nearly 100 countries, making it the largest and most globally connected University in the region. Offering more than 225 fields of study from bachelor's to doctoral levels, UND combines a strong liberal arts foundation with nationally recognized strengths in professional fields including law, medicine, business, engineering, education, aerospace, and the health sciences. As home to North Dakota's only law school and medical school, UND plays a distinctive role in advancing the state's workforce, economy, and quality of life. The University is also internationally recognized for the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, one of the nation's premier institutions for aerospace education, research, and workforce development. The 516-acre campus in Grand Forks, North Dakota, provides a dynamic setting where discovery, teaching, and service thrive within a welcoming college community of more than 70,000.

The Division of Undergraduate Studies & Student Success sits at the center of many of the University's most important strategic priorities. The Vice Provost oversees a broad portfolio that includes Student Academic Success, academic advising, Hawk Central, tutoring services, the Experiential Learning Center, Career Services, the Honors Program, Essential Studies, and the North Dakota Governor's School. Collectively, these areas support student persistence, academic achievement, experiential learning, career readiness, and degree completion while helping students connect their educational experiences to meaningful personal and professional goals.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost serves as one of the University's most visible and influential academic leaders. This is a uniquely expansive role that bridges undergraduate education, student success, academic planning, experiential learning, advising, and graduate pathways. Working closely with academic deans, faculty leaders, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, student affairs, and enrollment management, the Vice Provost will play a critical role in strengthening connections across the student experience and advancing a shared vision for student achievement.

The next Vice Provost will inherit a strong infrastructure, talented teams, and a community deeply committed to students. As the University's chief advocate for undergraduate education, the Vice Provost will have the opportunity to advance the quality and vitality of the academic experience by supporting curricular and program innovation, strengthening Essential Studies (UND's general education program), expanding experiential learning opportunities such as undergraduate research and community-engaged learning, enhancing pathways between undergraduate and graduate education, and further elevating the University's Honors Program.

The Vice Provost will also play a critical role in shaping the future of student success. Key priorities include strengthening advising and student support systems, enhancing transfer and first-year student experiences, leveraging data more effectively to inform decision-making and identify students in need of support, and deepening collaboration among academic and administrative partners to improve student outcomes. The successful candidate will be positioned to influence institutional priorities, shape strategy across the academic enterprise, and help define what student success looks like at a modern public research university.

UND offers the rare opportunity to pursue this work within a university that is large enough to provide significant scale and resources, yet collaborative and accessible enough for leaders to make a visible and lasting institutional impact.

The successful candidate will bring a terminal degree, a record of academic accomplishment, and significant leadership experience in higher education. UND seeks a collaborative leader who can navigate complexity, build trust across constituencies, and unite faculty and staff around shared goals. The ideal candidate will possess the strategic perspective to think broadly about undergraduate education and academic success, the managerial acumen to lead a complex organization, and the communication skills to engage effectively with students, faculty, staff, senior leaders, and external stakeholders.



The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success is responsible for providing strategic leadership over the undergraduate academic experience at the University of North Dakota. To this end, the Vice Provost is responsible for leading, administering, and overseeing undergraduate programming and curriculum processes and policy, and ensuring academic excellence throughout the undergraduate programming of the university through enhancing student academic support, experiential learning, and career development services; leading efforts to strengthen internal and external partnerships that enhance the undergraduate academic experience at UND; providing vision and leadership for undergraduate retention, persistence, graduation, and similar student success efforts; and leading the university's centralized undergraduate advising operation.

Working closely with the deans, the Vice Provost leads and supports efforts to create a comprehensive, innovative, and responsive array of academic program and curriculum development initiatives and helps to create a strategic vision for ongoing, strategic undergraduate program development at the university. The Vice Provost works across all colleges and schools on initiatives designed to improve student engagement, student achievement, integration of high-impact educational practices, co-curricular activities and opportunities, and the development and implementation of continuing educational experiences. Essential to this role is working in strategic partnership with the Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management to ensure that the undergraduate student experience is of the highest standard from recruitment to admissions to registration and advising to retention and graduation and to post-graduation connection and support.

Offices/Units that Report to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success include:

- Student Academic Success, including:
  - Academic Advising
  - LAUNCH!
  - Hawk Central
  - Tutoring Services
- The Experiential Learning Center and Career Services
- Honors Program
- Essential Studies
- North Dakota Governor's School





Duties include:

- Providing strategic vision and leadership for the growth, development, and excellence of undergraduate education at the University of North Dakota, and leading strategic initiatives designed to elevate institutional reputation and quality accordingly, establishing the University of North Dakota as the premier institution in the upper plains for undergraduate programming and student success.
- Overseeing/leading efforts in advising and registration, including incoming new students, transfer students, and continuing students; implementing best practices across all dimensions of the advising operation at the university and working to improve retention and graduation rates.
- Ensuring that advising, retention, and registration operations are aligned and integrated with the Enrollment Management operation at UND to elevate enrollment and retention efforts at the university.
- Overseeing and leading efforts in career services for students and alumni.
- Coordinating with other UND offices and with external partners when needed and appropriate to ensure students with needs for testing services get the assistance they need.
- Providing strategic vision and leadership for university-wide retention and graduation efforts and leading innovative strategies designed to improve student success throughout undergraduate education at UND.
- Overseeing/leading academic/curriculum-related policy updates, and developing, when needed and appropriate, new policy and procedures as they relate to the administration of undergraduate academic programming at UND and student success.
- Serving as the representative from the Office of the Provost to all shared governance committees insofar as they deal with undergraduate programming and curriculum, including committees in support of the general education program and Essential Studies.
- Representing the Office of the Provost on NDUS system initiatives and ensuring compliance with NDUS reporting requirements, insofar as they intersect with undergraduate education at UND; serving as the liaison in the Office of the Provost to NDUS institutions on initiatives related to undergraduate education across the system, in order to advance the mission of UND and the NDUS.
- Working directly with members of the Deans Council and the Vice Provost for Strategic Programming, Analytics & Effectiveness on the strategic development of undergraduate programs and curriculum that will enhance undergraduate recruitment, enrollment, and persistence at the university, and will prepare graduates for a wide spectrum of career opportunities across both public and private industry as well as prepare them for further educational opportunities; working in partnership with the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and the VP for Marketing & Communications on initiatives designed to grow enrollment in UND undergraduate programming and to raise the visibility of undergraduate studies at UND across the state, region, and nation.
- Establishing and/or enhancing strategic partnerships and relationships with regional and national community colleges; developing and implementing collaborative academic plans/ programs such as 2+2s, AU-ABC degrees, MOUs, equivalencies, and articulation agreements; helping lead efforts to improve workflows to improve equivalency decisions and related efforts to improve timely and accurate admissions and transfer decisions.





- Providing leadership and vision for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) initiatives across academic units.
- In partnership with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, administering the annual and periodic undergraduate program review processes and creating a vision for these processes that will enhance academic excellence and the undergraduate student experience at the institution, including working directly with unit leaders at the college and department levels to create, sustain, and document action plans designed to improve academic outcomes in UND undergraduate programs.
- Leading efforts and initiatives designed to enhance the honors program at UND and to elevate the impact of Honors programming at UND.
- Providing leadership and strategic vision for the Experiential Learning Center at UND and working to grow and enhance the integration of high-impact educational practices into the undergraduate student academic experience; working in partnership with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies to ensure that graduate students at UND have opportunities for experiential learning at UND.
- Leading efforts to establish a substantive First Year Experience program at UND.
- Serving as the point of contact for undergraduate student grievances and appeals in the Provost's office.
- Serving as a member of Red Team (cross-campus collaboration related to enrollment).
- Serving as VPAA representative to the Student Academic Standards Committee.
- Serving as VPAA representative to the University Curriculum Committee.
- Serving as VPAA representative, as needed, to the Academic Affairs Council.
- Supporting efforts in the Registrar's Office to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic course scheduling plan.



The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success joins UND at a pivotal moment. The University has built significant momentum in enrollment, student success, academic innovation, and institutional growth while establishing a comprehensive infrastructure to support students throughout their educational journey. The next Vice Provost will have the opportunity to build on this strong foundation, strengthen connections across the academic enterprise, and help shape a more integrated vision for undergraduate education, student achievement, and academic excellence at North Dakota's flagship R1 university.

Key priorities for the new leader include the following:

Advance a Unified Vision for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success

UND has made significant investments in student success infrastructure, academic support, advising, experiential learning, and student engagement while achieving meaningful gains in student persistence and retention. The next Vice Provost will have the opportunity to build upon this record of progress by advancing a cohesive vision for undergraduate education that connects academic success, student development, career readiness, and degree attainment. Working collaboratively with academic and administrative partners, the Vice Provost will help strengthen support for first-year, transfer, and continuing students while ensuring student success remains a shared institutional responsibility. The successful candidate will leverage data, relationships, and strategic leadership to further enhance persistence, degree completion, and student outcomes across the University.



Strengthen Advising Partnerships and Build a More Integrated Student Experience

Academic advising sits at the center of student success at UND and represents one of the most significant opportunities for the next Vice Provost. The University employs a combination of centralized and college-based advising models, creating both opportunities and challenges related to consistency, communication, and shared accountability. The next Vice Provost will have the opportunity to strengthen relationships among professional advisors, faculty advisors, department leaders, and deans in support of a coordinated approach to supporting students throughout their academic journeys.

Success in this work will require a leader who listens carefully to diverse perspectives, builds trust across constituencies, values the expertise of professional staff, and brings credibility to conversations about advising effectiveness, student support, transfer pathways, and persistence. The Vice Provost must serve as both an advocate for professional advising and a trusted partner to academic leaders, helping the institution move beyond historical challenges and toward a more integrated, student-centered model that leverages the strengths of both centralized and college-based approaches. The successful candidate will be able to navigate complexity, build consensus, and create stronger alignment around a shared commitment to students.

Strengthen Connections Between Undergraduate and Graduate Education

UND is increasingly focused on creating more seamless pathways between undergraduate and graduate study. Working in close partnership with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, the Vice Provost will be empowered to strengthen alignment between undergraduate and graduate education, expand accelerated and dual-degree pathways, support student progression into advanced study, and help shape a more integrated academic experience. The successful candidate will play a key role in fostering a culture of collaboration between undergraduate and graduate education while helping the University strategically assess its academic portfolio, strengthen pathways to advanced study, and support students' long-term academic and professional success.

Elevate the Honors Program, Experiential Learning, and Academic Enrichment Opportunities

UND's Honors Program serves high-achieving students from every college across the University. The next Vice Provost will lead the substantial work of elevating an honors experience defined by academic rigor and meaningful engagement. This will require understanding the gap between participation and completion and articulating the distinctive value of an honors education. Building on existing campus interest and philanthropic support, the Vice Provost will have the opportunity to expand undergraduate research and interdisciplinary learning while developing a long-term vision that advances the reputation and prestige associated with a truly distinguished honors experience. More broadly, the Vice Provost will extend UND's commitment to experiential learning by strengthening opportunities for internships, undergraduate research, study abroad, and other career-connected experiences that prepare students for success beyond graduation.

Leverage Data, Analytics, and Technology to Advance Student Success

UND has invested significantly in data infrastructure and student success technologies, including Hawk Central, the University's student success platform powered by Civitas Learning that was introduced in 2024, creating new opportunities to better understand student experiences and improve outcomes. As access to information continues to expand, the next Vice Provost will have the opportunity to help the University move towards more data-informed action. This work will involve strengthening information sharing across units, leveraging predictive analytics and student success technologies to identify opportunities for intervention and support, and helping stakeholders translate insights into meaningful action. The successful candidate will foster a culture where analytics support decision-making, resource allocation, and continuous improvement while maintaining a focus on the lived experiences and evolving needs of students.

Lead Through Collaboration and Shared Accountability

The breadth and complexity of the portfolio require a leader who is comfortable navigating ambiguity, building consensus, and fostering strong relationships across a wide range of constituencies. Success in the role will depend on establishing credibility with deans, faculty, advisors, staff, enrollment leaders, student affairs professionals, and senior administrators while promoting a culture of shared responsibility for student success.

Serving at a relatively new R1 institution that continues to elevate its national profile, the next Vice Provost will have a unique opportunity to shape the future of undergraduate education and student success at UND. This role calls for an individual who can champion academic excellence while bringing strong managerial, organizational, and financial acumen to a multifaceted portfolio. Success will require aligning people, resources, and priorities in support of the University's academic and student success goals.

Equally important is the ability to communicate clearly, listen thoughtfully, and build trust through transparency, consistency, and authentic engagement. An effective Vice Provost will engage differing perspectives with openness and respect, ensuring that colleagues across the institution feel heard, informed, and valued, particularly during periods of change. As a visible campus leader, this individual will serve as both a convener and a catalyst, bringing people together around common goals, translating ideas into action, and sustaining the collaborative culture that has contributed to UND's momentum and success.



Minimum Requirements

- Doctoral or terminal degree
- Five years of leadership and administrative experience in a higher education environment

Preferred Qualifications

The preferred candidate will likely have one or more of the following:

- Demonstrated experience leading, administering, and/or providing strategic vision and direction for student success initiatives.
- Demonstrated experience providing leadership and administrative oversight of academic program and curricular development.
- Demonstrated experience working with one or more of the following: honors programs, experiential learning opportunities, study abroad, general education, career services, first-year experience programs, tutoring services, or similar initiatives.
- Demonstrated experience working in a supervisory capacity, including hiring and evaluating employee performance, and overseeing financial resources (budgets) and institutional operations.
- Demonstrated experience leading efforts to improve student advising operations, retention efforts, and graduation rates.
- Demonstrated experience working with external partners (including system offices, partner institutions, and more) to create academic partnerships that improve student transferability, system-level policy, articulation agreements, and more.
- A record of achievement in higher education teaching, service, and research that would qualify for possible appointment as a tenured faculty member in an academic department or program at the University of North Dakota.

Core Competencies & Characteristics

The ideal Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies & Student Success should:

- Be a highly collaborative leader who builds productive partnerships across Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, the Graduate School, and the colleges and schools.
- Demonstrate exceptional communication skills, with the ability to clearly explain complex processes and student success initiatives to diverse audiences.
- Be a visible, approachable, and engaged campus presence who actively connects with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.
- Be an authentic listener who seeks to understand differing perspectives, values shared governance, and builds trust through transparency, responsiveness, and follow-through.
- Possess the relationship-building skills necessary to unite disparate stakeholders around a shared vision for student success and undergraduate education.
- Balance collaboration with decisiveness, demonstrating the judgment and courage to make difficult decisions in the best interests of students and the institution.
- Bring a systems-thinking mindset and the ability to understand how advising, curriculum, retention, experiential learning, enrollment, and student support services intersect to shape the student experience.
- Be a strategic leader capable of advancing an already strong and multifaceted portfolio while identifying opportunities for continuous improvement and innovation.
- Demonstrate strong data literacy and a commitment to evidence-based decision making, using institutional data and predictive analytics to inform student success, retention, graduation, and programmatic strategies.
- Have the ability to communicate the value and impact of undergraduate education, student success initiatives, experiential learning, and advising through compelling storytelling and effective advocacy.
- Be a champion for student success in its broadest sense, understanding the evolving needs of traditional, transfer, online, first-generation, international, and other student populations.
- Demonstrate a deep appreciation for faculty perspectives, academic excellence, and the role of shared governance in advancing institutional priorities.
- Be an empowering leader who develops, supports, and advocates for staff while fostering a culture of accountability, autonomy, innovation, and professional growth.
- Possess an understanding of advising models, student development, experiential learning, and other high-impact practices that contribute to student engagement, persistence, and career readiness.
- Be comfortable serving as a public-facing representative of the University, effectively engaging with legislators, community members, alumni, system partners, and external stakeholders.
- Demonstrate integrity, emotional intelligence, humility, curiosity, and professionalism in all interactions while fostering a culture of respect, belonging, and student-centered service.
- Possess the energy, adaptability, and resilience to thrive in a dynamic leadership role with broad institutional responsibilities and multiple competing priorities.

APPLICATIONS

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of North Dakota in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2027**.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's **candidate portal**.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Amy Crutchfield, Lauren Bruce-Stets, and Bronwen Bares Pelaez, Ph.D.
UND-ViceProvost@wittkieffer.com

Additional University information may be found at UND.edu/careers.



EEO Statement

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to disability or protected veteran status. People with disabilities and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.

Veterans Preference

Veterans claiming preference must submit all proof of eligibility by the closing date. Proof of eligibility includes a DD-214 or NGB 22 and, if claiming disabled status, a current letter of disability from the VA dated within the past 12 months.

Clery Statement

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, the University of North Dakota publishes an Annual Security & Fire Safety Report. The report includes the University's policies, procedures, and programs concerning safety and security, as well as three years of crime statistics for our campus. Prospective employees are entitled to a copy of this report. The report and statistical data can be found online at **UND.edu/annual-security-report**.

A paper copy of the report may also be requested from the UND Police Department located at 3851 Campus Road, Grand Forks, N.D. 58202.

Confidentiality of Application Materials

Pursuant to NDCC 44-04-18.27, applications and any records related to the applications that identify an applicant are confidential, except records related to the finalists of the position, which are open to the public after the search committee has identified three or more finalists who will be invited to campus. Successful completion of a criminal history background check on the finalist is required.

Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The University of North Dakota, founded in 1883 — six years before North Dakota achieved statehood — is the state's flagship institution of higher education. UND enrolls more than 15,900 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries, making it the largest and most globally connected University in the region.

Offering more than 250 academic programs from bachelor's to doctoral levels, UND combines a strong liberal arts foundation with nationally recognized strengths in professional fields including law, medicine, business, engineering, education, aerospace and the health sciences.

UND is classified as a Carnegie R1: Very High Research Activity university, placing it among the top tier of U.S. research institutions. The 516-acre campus in Grand Forks, North Dakota, provides a dynamic setting where discovery, teaching and service thrive within a welcoming college community of more than 70,000.

Current as of November 2026.

UND LEADS STRATEGIC VISION

LEADS
LEADS
LEADS
LEADS
LEADS

UND is guided by the UND LEADS Strategic Plan, which sets the direction for the University today and for the future. The plan centers on five core values:

Learning
Encourage a lifelong sense of wonder by providing educational experiences essential for living intellectually curious, personally fulfilling and socially responsible lives.

Equity
Enhance pathways to higher education and establish supportive learning structures that help all people realize their full potential. Embrace the evolving diversity of perspectives, peoples and ideas as a core strength.

Affinity
Foster a sense of belonging and a campus culture that celebrates the unique ways we connect and contribute to UND.

Discovery
Advance research, creative activity and scholarship through our spirit of inquiry and our desire to better understand the world around us.

Service
Engage in collaborations that serve the evolving needs of our people, tribal nations, the state of North Dakota and our global community.

These values shape UND's priorities, ensuring that teaching, research and engagement are aligned to meet the evolving needs of society. From pioneering unmanned aircraft systems to advancing rural health and Indigenous health equity, UND lives its mission to lead today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

See the UND LEADS Strategic Plan in action at UND.edu/leads.

LEADERS IN ACTION

From our first graduates in 1889 — including Dr. Cora Smith King, the first woman licensed to practice medicine in North Dakota — to today's students and alumni, UND leaders are making an impact in communities, industries and professions around the globe.

At UND, we don't just talk about leadership — we live it.

Meet our leaders in action at UND.edu/leaders.



15,908
students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries

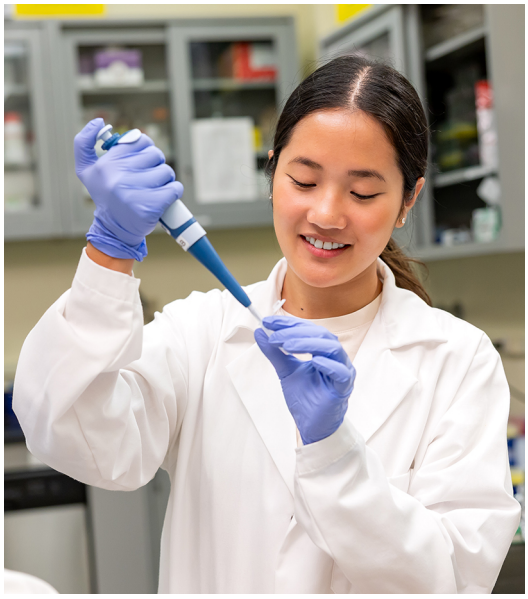
179,000+
alumni worldwide, shaping industries and communities across the globe





1 of only 34
public universities with both law and medical schools

Top 5
rural medicine program
U.S. News & World Report





Top 5%
of the nation's most elite research institutions (R1), as ranked by the Carnegie Foundation

Top 6%
of business schools worldwide
AACSB International



1st
university to join the U.S. Space Force's University Partnership Program

First-ever
satellites commissioned in North Dakota launched into orbit aboard a SpaceX rocket in 2025

Top 25
in the nation for its recreational and athletic facilities
The Princeton Review

8
men's hockey national championships with more than 100 players advanced to the NHL





15+ Years
ranked as one of the most military-friendly schools in the nation
Military Friendly

$1.48B
in annual economic impact on North Dakota and the region

STUDENTS AT UND

The University of North Dakota celebrated a historic milestone for fall 2026 with 15,908 students enrolled, the largest student body in UND's history.

As the largest and most diverse university in the state, UND enrolls students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Enrollment is on the rise, fueled by strong freshman classes and growing interest from students across the state, the nation and around the world. In fact, according to North Dakota University System enrollment dashboards, **UND is the #1 destination of choice for North Dakota residents** – boasting the most of any other institution in the state.

UND students are high-achieving and motivated — with average incoming GPAs above 3.6 and an increasing number of Presidential and National Merit Scholars.

Student success is a top priority: UND consistently posts one of the highest retention rates among the North Dakota University System's 11 campuses, reflecting strong academic support and a vibrant campus life.

From a nationally ranked Wellness Center to an active student community, UND offers the resources and experiences that help students succeed both in and out of the classroom.

800+
students in the UND Honors Program

350+
student clubs and organizations

30+
study abroad programs

19
Greek life options (12 Fraternities and 7 Sororities)

2
ROTC programs (Air Force and Army)







Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, UND offers more than **250 fields of study** – spanning the arts, sciences, professional studies and specialized fields – to prepare students for leadership in every profession.

UND's nine colleges and schools each bring distinctive strengths:

John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

A global leader in aviation and unmanned aircraft systems, UND operates the largest civilian training fleet in the world and was the first university to join the U.S. Space Force's University Partnership Program. The Space Studies Department has a new lab located at the Space Life Sciences Laboratory at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The Air Traffic Management program is one of the first to be part of the FAA's Collegiate Training Initiative, addressing critical national workforce needs.



College of Arts & Sciences

The intellectual heart of UND, the College fosters research and creativity across the sciences, humanities and the arts. From a Crime Scene Investigation Boot Camp in the Forensic Science program to the revival of the Music Therapy major to the annual Undergraduate Showcase, the College of Arts & Sciences promotes students gaining hands-on skills in a wide variety of fields.



Nistler College of Business & Public Administration

Accredited by AACSB International, UND is ranked among the top 6% of business schools worldwide. UND business graduates enjoy exceptional job placement rates, and students are consistently recognized for entrepreneurship and leadership in regional and national competitions.

College of Education & Human Development

Known for innovation in teacher preparation and rural education initiatives to help address state and nationwide shortages, the College is also a pioneer in emerging fields. It launched North Dakota's first Bachelor of Science in Esports, which blends kinesiology, public health and computer science.

College of Engineering & Mines

Preparing students for engineering careers in energy, manufacturing, cybersecurity and aerospace, the College offers ABET-accredited programs across eight departments. Many undergraduate programs are ABET-accredited, ensuring academic excellence and career readiness. Students can choose from 25+ online degree options, making UND a national leader in accessible engineering education.



School of Graduate Studies

Supporting 170+ master's, doctoral and certificate programs, the School advances UND's research mission while preparing leaders in academia, industry and government. Graduate students gain hands-on experience through federally funded research and professional development in grant writing, teaching and career readiness, supported by programs such as NSF and NIH initiatives.

School of Law

Accredited since 1923, UND is home to the only law school in North Dakota. It is nationally recognized for excellence in Indian and Tribal Law and for preparing attorneys to serve in rural and regional communities. More than 75% of North Dakota's practicing attorneys are UND Law alumni. Consistently recognized as a "best value law school," the UND School of Law ranks in the top ten law schools with the least amount of student debt.

School of Medicine & Health Sciences

As the state's only medical school, UND educates the majority of North Dakota's family physicians and other healthcare professionals. It's ranked in the Top 5 in the nation for most graduates practicing rural medicine by U.S. News & World Report. The School also created the world's first Ph.D. in Indigenous Health, a groundbreaking program advancing equity and health outcomes for Indigenous communities.

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

Meeting critical workforce needs in nursing, nutrition and social work, UND prepares compassionate, practice-ready professionals through nationally ranked programs. Its simulation and clinical training facilities provide hands-on experience, while flexible online options expand access for rural and working professionals. UND nursing graduates consistently achieve licensure exam pass rates above national averages and are recognized for excellence in patient care and community impact.



LEADERS IN ONLINE EDUCATION

#1
best online college in North Dakota
Learn.org (2026)

#4
best self-paced online courses and certificates
Learn.org (2026)

7
of UND's professional, graduate and online programs ranked in the top 100 nationwide
U.S. News & World Report (2026)

#20
most innovative online colleges
College Consensus (2025)

235+
online degrees, minors and certificate programs

The University of North Dakota is a Carnegie R1: Very High Research Activity institution — **a designation shared with only 187 universities nationwide** and representing about 4.7% of the nearly 4,000 degree-granting institutions in the nation. In fiscal year 2025, UND reported $244 million in research expenditures, reflecting the University's rapidly expanding research enterprise and placing it firmly among the nation's top research universities.

UND's success is further strengthened by state investments in national security and economic diversification research, ensuring UND faculty and students have the resources to drive innovation, advance discovery and address challenges of regional and national importance.

The Grand Challenges

UND has defined six Grand Challenges that help diversify North Dakota's economy and address social issues.

Advanced Autonomous Systems

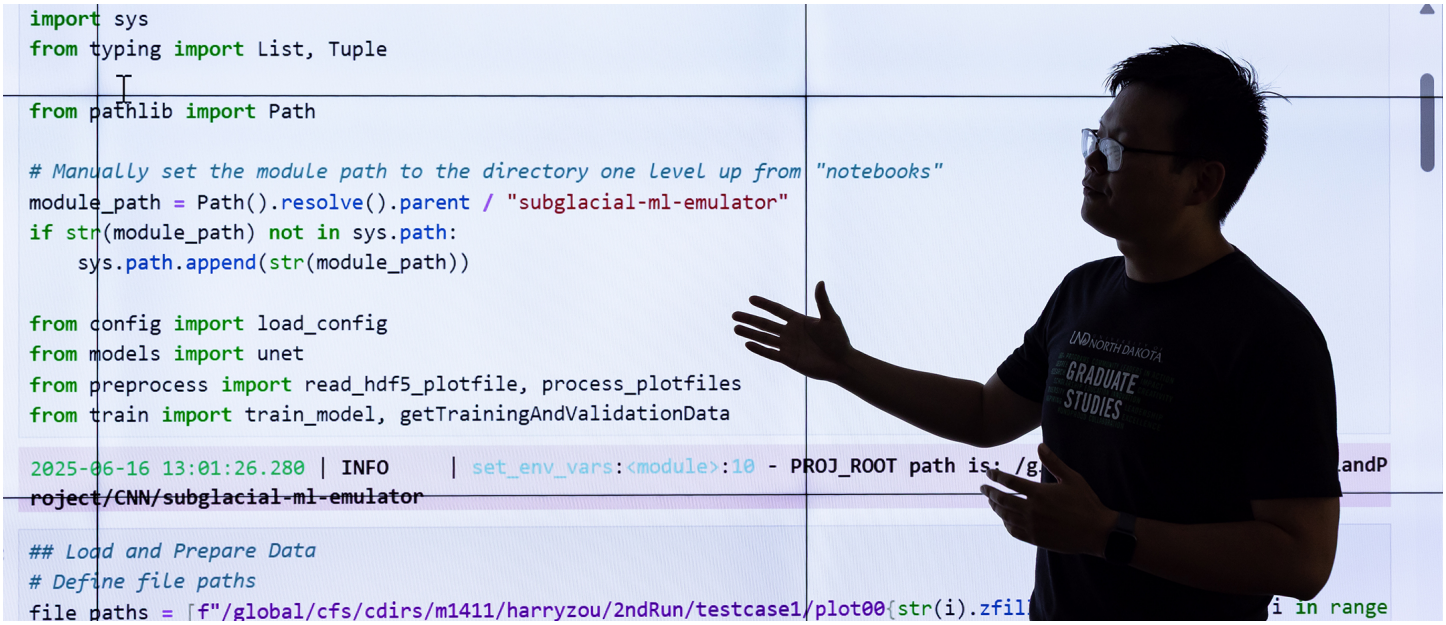
UND is a global leader in autonomous systems, advancing technologies that work safely and reliably alongside people to solve complex challenges on the ground and in the air. Building on the expertise of the Research Institute for Autonomous Systems (RIAS) and UND's leadership in unmanned aircraft, this Grand Challenge brings together engineering, aviation, computing, human factors, law and public policy. Research spans intelligent sensing, navigation, communications, cybersecurity and human-machine collaboration, while addressing the ethical, legal and societal implications of autonomous technologies. From infrastructure inspection and environmental monitoring to agriculture and public safety, UND is translating interdisciplinary research and partnerships into more capable, trustworthy autonomous systems that benefit communities and industries.

Artificial Intelligence & Computational Science

UND is advancing artificial intelligence and computational science to accelerate discovery, expand knowledge and solve complex scientific and societal challenges. Building on the expertise of the Artificial Intelligence Research Center, Computational Research Center (including the Medora AI computing cluster) and the AI & Human Innovation initiative, this Grand Challenge brings together machine learning, mathematical modeling, simulation, data analysis, visualization, and the arts and humanities. Research drives innovation across health, education, energy, autonomous systems and other fields while addressing critical questions surrounding responsible AI use, privacy, trust and its impact on learning, work and society. By combining technological innovation with interdisciplinary expertise and a focus on human needs, UND is developing tools and knowledge that inform decisions and drive meaningful progress.

Energy Advancement & Innovation

North Dakota's abundant energy resources position UND to lead research addressing national and global challenges, including growing energy demands and energy security. Through the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) and College of Engineering & Mines, UND brings expertise in oil and gas, coal, hydrogen, renewable energy, carbon management and critical minerals. Research in enhanced resource recovery, carbon capture and storage, and rare-earth element extraction is improving existing energy systems while advancing new technologies and opportunities for regional resources. This Grand Challenge combines technical innovation with economic, policy and community impacts. Through interdisciplinary research and partnerships with industry, government and communities, UND is advancing energy solutions that meet the evolving needs of North Dakota and the nation.



Human Health & Wellbeing

UND is advancing research to improve human health and wellbeing, from understanding the molecular processes of disease to addressing the factors that shape everyday life. Bringing together expertise in neuroscience, infectious disease, epigenetics, mental health, nutrition and human development, researchers also examine the social and environmental influences on health. This Grand Challenge connects biomedical scientists, clinicians, educators, engineers, social scientists and humanities scholars to better understand disease and the conditions that sustain health, while advancing approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, UND is translating research discoveries into advances in physical and mental health, everyday functioning and quality of life.

National Security & Space Innovation

From designing satellites and advanced materials to developing spacesuits and planetary habitats, UND is advancing research that strengthens national security and expands the frontiers of space exploration. Building on the National Security Initiative, National Security Corridor and Department of Space Studies, this Grand Challenge brings together expertise in engineering, computing, physical and life sciences, law, policy and the humanities. Research spans cybersecurity, satellite operations, autonomous technologies, human performance in demanding environments and the societal implications of advances in security and exploration. Through interdisciplinary research, UND is advancing secure technologies, protecting critical systems, strengthening resilience and expanding knowledge of how people and technologies can operate safely and effectively in space.

Thriving Rural Communities

UND is advancing research and partnerships that help rural communities thrive, building on its longstanding commitment to serving North Dakota and rural populations. Through the nationally recognized Center for Rural Health and established partnerships with rural schools, healthcare systems and Tribal Nations, this Grand Challenge brings together expertise in health professions, education, business, engineering, law, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. Research addresses the interconnected factors that sustain vibrant rural communities, including access to healthcare, economic vitality, educational opportunities, a strong workforce, and cultural and civic engagement. Working alongside communities to identify priorities and develop solutions, UND researchers explore how policy, technology, institutions and local assets shape opportunity and quality of life. This collaborative, holistic approach helps strengthen rural communities and create opportunities for healthy, fulfilling lives across generations.





FIGHTING HAWKS ATHLETICS

As an integral part of life at UND, our Fighting Hawks athletic teams foster school spirit, community pride and national recognition.

- UND competes in 15 NCAA Division I sports, offering student-athletes opportunities to excel on the field and in the classroom.
- Student-athletes post strong graduation and GPA rates, while contributing more than 7,000 hours of community service each year – **ranking UND among the top 5 universities nationwide for student-athlete service**.
- The men's hockey program is one of the most storied in the nation, with 8 national championships and more than 100 players advancing to the NHL.
- UND student-athletes compete and train in state-of-the-art facilities, including the Ralph Engelstad Arena, Alerus Center and Betty Engelstad Sioux Center. Recent investments in athletics include:

  Hyslop at Memorial Village (2024): A new space for student-athlete academic services, athletic offices and a tribute to North Dakota Athletics history.

  Albrecht Field (2024): A new, state-of-the-art home for UND softball.

  Nodak Insurance Company Sports Performance Center (2025): New cutting-edge training facilities, locker rooms and a nutrition station.

Experience the pride at fightinghawks.com.

- Basketball (M, W)
- Cross Country (M, W)
- Football (M)
- Golf (M, W)
- Hockey (M)
- Soccer (W)
- Softball (W)
- Track & Field Indoor (M, W)
- Track & Field Outdoor (M, W)
- Volleyball (W)









Embodying the University's tradition of leadership and service, UND's more than 179,000 alumni live in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries. Nearly 94% of recent graduates recommend UND to others, reflecting the strength of the UND experience and its lifelong impact.

Notable Alumni Include:

Phil Jackson – Winningest coach in NBA history

Karen Nyberg – NASA astronaut

Edward T. Schafer – Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Governor of North Dakota

Sally J. Smith – Former president and CEO of Buffalo Wild Wings

Dave St. Peter – Former president of the Minnesota Twins

Alumni support is fueling UND's future through **Forever UND: The Campaign for the University of North Dakota**. This comprehensive effort has already surpassed its original $500 million goal and now aims to raise $625 million by December 2026. Guided by the UND LEADS Strategic Plan, the campaign focuses on four priorities:

- **Student Scholarships** – Expanding affordability and access.
- **Faculty & Research** – Recruiting and retaining world-class scholars.
- **Capital Projects** – Transforming the campus environment.
- **Programs & Priority Needs** – Supporting innovation across colleges and departments.

The campaign reflects UND's bold vision for the future and the loyalty of its alumni and friends, ensuring that the University continues to grow in impact and reputation for generations to come.

Discover how our alumni are shaping the future at UNDalumni.org.



Phil Jackson


Karen Nyberg



DeAnna Carlson Zink
CEO, Alumni Association & Foundation

Andrew Armacost
President, UND

CAMPUS REVITALIZATION

Few times in its history has the University of North Dakota experienced such expansive, simultaneous and exciting growth. Recent and upcoming projects reflect UND's commitment to a modern, student-centered and research-driven campus that honors tradition while building for the future.

Major Completed Projects

Chester Fritz Library Renovations (2021)

Updated entrances, technology and study spaces.

Gershman Graduate Center (2021)

Dedicated space for graduate students.

Memorial Union (2021)

An $80 million student hub, nationally recognized for facility design.

Nistler College of Business & Public Administration (2022)

A $70 million state-of-the-art building made possible through public-private partnership and generous alumni support.

Residence Hall Renewal (2023)

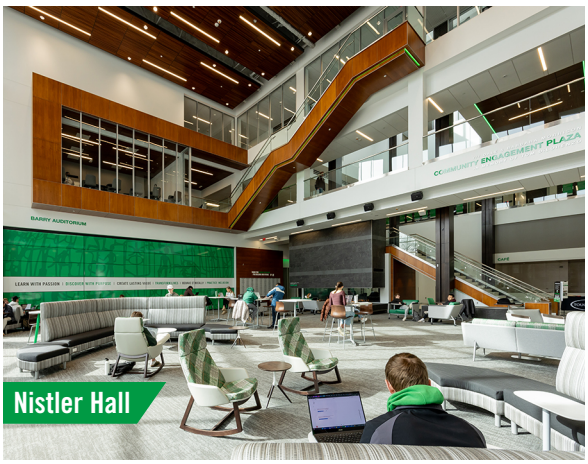
Two new halls (West and McVey) and renovation of Brannon Hall, enhancing the student living experience.

Carnegie and Merrifield Halls (2025)

Renovated historic buildings now featuring modern technology, accessibility and collaborative spaces.


Merrifield Hall


Chester Fritz Library



Nistler Hall


Engineering & Science Complex

Major Upcoming Projects

Flight Operations Building & Hangar (2025–26)

A $36 million, 28,000-square-foot aerospace facility at Grand Forks International Airport, fully funded by private donors.

Engineering & Science Complex (2028)

A 179,000-square-foot facility replacing Hyslop Sports Center, designed for interdisciplinary teaching and research across STEM fields.

Together, these projects reflect UND's strong partnerships with students, alumni, donors and the state, ensuring the campus remains a place of innovation, excellence and belonging for future generations.

BUDGET MODEL & REVENUE

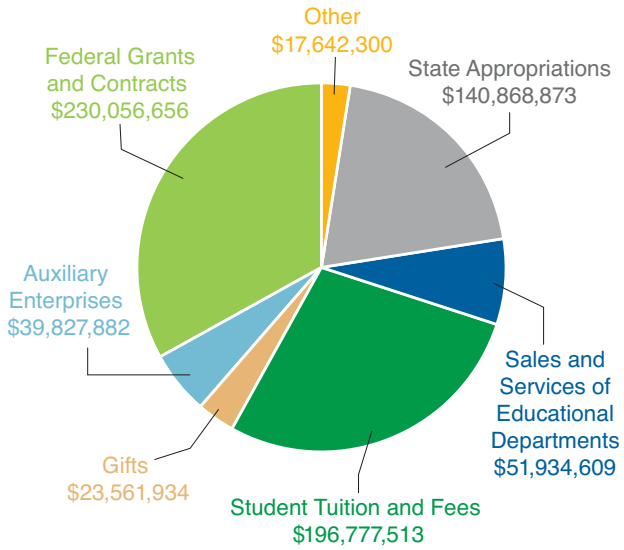
The University of North Dakota operates with a commitment to transparency, accountability and strategic investment. Annual revenues reflect a balanced mix of state support, tuition, federal grants and private philanthropy.

UND's **Model for Incentive-Based Resource Allocation (MIRA)** ensures that resources are aligned with the University's mission and priorities. The model emphasizes:

- Clarity and fairness in distributing funds.
- Incentives for innovation and efficiency.
- Strategic investments that strengthen teaching, research and student success.

This approach empowers colleges and schools to plan for growth while maintaining UND's values of responsibility, trust and long-term sustainability. Combined with strong state support and record fundraising by the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, the model positions UND to advance its mission as a flagship, R1 research university.

Fiscal Year 2025 Revenues: $721,394,900*



*FY2025 Revenues (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) – Audited

UND'S ECONOMIC IMPACT & STATEWIDE ROLE

As the state's flagship and most comprehensive research university, UND serves as North Dakota's chief opportunity engine. With more than $1.48 billion in annual economic impact, UND fuels business activity, supports nearly 10,000 jobs and generates millions in state and local tax revenue.

UND's contributions reach far beyond its campus:

Workforce Development: UND is the primary center for professional education and training in the state, educating the majority of North Dakota's physicians, attorneys, engineers, teachers and business leaders.

Energy Leadership: The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) and the College of Engineering & Mines drive advances in carbon capture, enhanced oil recovery and the commercialization of rare-earth minerals — making UND a key player in the nation's energy future.

Diversification & Innovation: UND helps expand North Dakota's economy through pioneering work in unmanned aircraft systems, autonomous technologies and national security research while fostering entrepreneurship and business growth across the state. The University partners with agencies such as the FAA, Department of War, Department of Homeland Security and NASA. The UND Center for Innovation and Nistler College's Center for Business Engagement & Development help launch startups, support entrepreneurs and strengthen North Dakota's economy. The new faculty-led UND CONNECT program — funded by the N.D. Economic Diversification Research Grant — fosters community partnerships and delivers impact through student learning.

Regional Partnerships: The Division of Research & Economic Development works closely with city, state and regional economic development groups, including targeted initiatives to grow the UAS sector and attract new industries to the state.

Through education, research and collaboration, UND strengthens North Dakota's economy while addressing challenges of national and global importance.

UND is part of a welcoming college community of more than 70,000 residents, including Grand Forks, its sister city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and the nearby Grand Forks Air Force Base. Grand Forks consistently earns national recognition as one of the best places to live in North Dakota.

With the **cost of living nearly 10% below the national average**, excellent public schools and short commutes, Grand Forks offers an outstanding quality of life. The community is known for its safety, friendliness and strong partnership with UND, a relationship honored with the International Town & Gown Association's Larry Abernathy Award.

Top 5
best small college towns
Preply

Best
college town in North Dakota
Far & Wide

Top 20
most charming cities in the Midwest
TravelMag.com

Way Cooler Than You Think

Many cite the people as their favorite thing about the college town, but there's plenty to see and do. Grand Forks offers a vibrant mix of culture and recreation:

- The Greenway provides 2,200 acres of trails and natural space along the Red River.
- Year-round recreation includes biking, golf, skiing and ice hockey, with easy access to lakes and state parks across North Dakota and Minnesota.
- Arts and entertainment thrive through the Empire Arts Center, Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center, symphony, galleries and nationally known concert venues like the Ralph Engelstad Arena and Alerus Center.

Located just under five hours from Minneapolis/St. Paul and two hours from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Grand Forks offers small-town accessibility with metropolitan connections.

Check out visitgrandforks.com and grandforksiscooler.com to see why Greater Grand Forks is simply grand.







THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

With a growing population of nearly 800,000 residents, North Dakota is a state of opportunity, combining economic strength with an exceptional quality of life.

Economic Engines

North Dakota is a national leader in energy and agriculture. The state ranks among the top producers of oil and natural gas and is the third-leading energy producer in the nation. The Legacy Fund, a multibillion-dollar savings account created from energy revenues, ensures future prosperity for residents.

The state also leads the nation in the production of spring wheat, beans, canola, flaxseed and honey, while a growing manufacturing sector supports food processing and agricultural equipment. North Dakota also has emerged as a hub for unmanned aerial systems (UAS), one of the fastest-growing industries, supported by strong public-private partnerships.

Tourism & Natural Beauty

Tourism is the state's third-largest industry, highlighted by the Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the historic town of Medora (home of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library) and the International Peace Garden. Residents and visitors alike enjoy abundant opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and year-round outdoor recreation across North Dakota's 20 state parks and recreation areas.

Rankings & Quality of Life

#1
state in the nation for business friendliness
CNBC (2026)

#2
in the nation for lowest cost of living
CNBC (2026)

#2
lowest unemployment rate
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2026)

#3
best state for families
WalletHub (2026)

#3
best state for fiscal stability
U.S. News & World Report (2026)

#4
best state overall
U.S. News & World Report (2026)

#4
happiest workforce
WalletHub (2026)

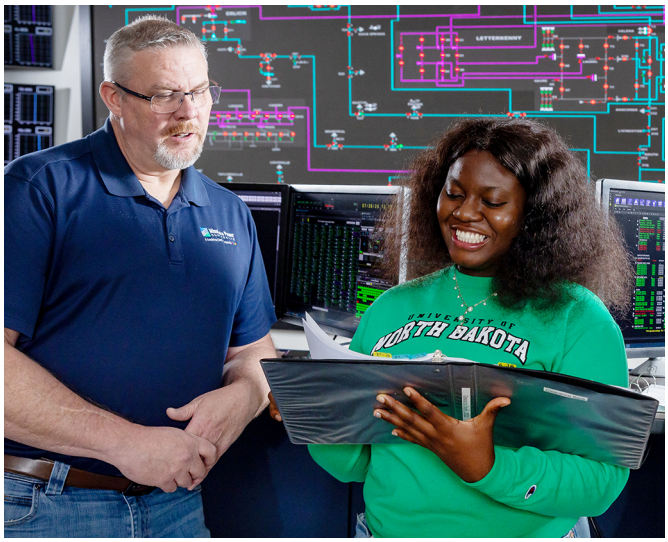
#7
best state for infrastructure, higher education and opportunity
U.S. News & World Report (2026)

#8
nationally for job opportunities
WalletHub (2025)

Learn how North Dakota is a better place to live, work and raise a family at ND.gov.









UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mission:

To provide exceptional educational experiences that enrich the lives of North Dakotans and the global community through excellence in teaching, innovative research and meaningful engagement.

Vision:

To inspire a sense of wonder, a love of discovery and a commitment to serve.