



David Owsley Museum of Art



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

LEADERSHIP PROFILE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY

Ball State University serves approximately 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students across seven academic colleges with about 190 undergraduate programs. Ball State offers more than 140 certificates and master's, doctoral, and specialist degrees, many of them ranking among the best in the nation. Originally founded to meet the need for more and better teachers, Ball State has earned dual Carnegie Classifications as a Research 2 (R2) and an Opportunity College & University (OCU)—recognitions that reflect the University's impact in both research and student success. Ball State is one of just 27 institutions nationwide—and the only one in Indiana—to receive both distinctions. It serves as one of Indiana's public research institutions while remaining committed to empowering its graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives.

For 107 years, Ball State has had an unwavering belief in an education rooted

in innovation, enduring values, and intellectual curiosity. The institution was founded on the beneficence of the Ball brothers, who gave back to the community that gave them so much. They purchased the land and buildings of a defunct institution and donated them to the State of Indiana. This gift became the Indiana State Normal School Eastern Division, which opened in 1918.

To recognize the Ball family's generosity, the Indiana General Assembly changed the institution's name to Ball Teachers College in 1922 and then Ball State Teachers College in 1929. By the 1960s, the regional teachers college had begun to attract faculty from outside the Midwest. In 1965, the Indiana General Assembly renamed the college Ball State University, acknowledging its phenomenal growth in enrollment and facilities, the variety and quality of its educational programs and services, and the anticipation of the broader role it would play in the state's future.

What began as a teachers college has grown into a world-class University with highly respected programs in education, architecture, business, communications, fine arts, sciences, humanities, and the health professions. Symbolized by the statue *Beneficence*, our enduring values—excellence, integrity, inclusiveness, innovation, courage, social responsibility, and gratitude—guide us today and will endure as we enter a bright future.

The best is yet to come.

[*Destination 2040: Our Flight Path*](#) establishes Ball State University's ambitious goals for our second century. This strategic plan was designed with input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners, and benefactors. It provides a strategic framework with five long-term goals for 2040 and a set of strategic imperatives to be implemented by 2030.

Daniel Chester French,
Beneficence, 1937



We engage students in educational, research, scholarship, and creative experiences that empower our graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives enriched by lifelong learning and service, while we enhance the economic and social vitality of our community, Indiana, and our world.

—Ball State University Mission Statement



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

The Ball State University [College of Fine Arts](#) (CFA) comprises three academic units—the [School of Art](#), [School of Music](#), and [Department of Theatre and Dance](#). Together, they offer a comprehensive education rooted in creative inquiry, hands-on practice, professional excellence, and public engagement.

The college's nationally recognized programs prepare students to be thinkers, responsible citizens, and motivated artists through collaboration, empathy, inclusion, and hard work. College of Fine Arts students believe in the power of expression, the beauty of interpretation, and the possibilities of material. Professionally connected faculty artists nurture students' creativity, curiosity, and collaborative skills through individualized training that challenges, motivates, and inspires.

As of Fall 2025, the college enrolls more than 1,600 students supported by approximately 185 faculty and 24 staff. Enrollment has grown by more than 17 percent in the last four years.

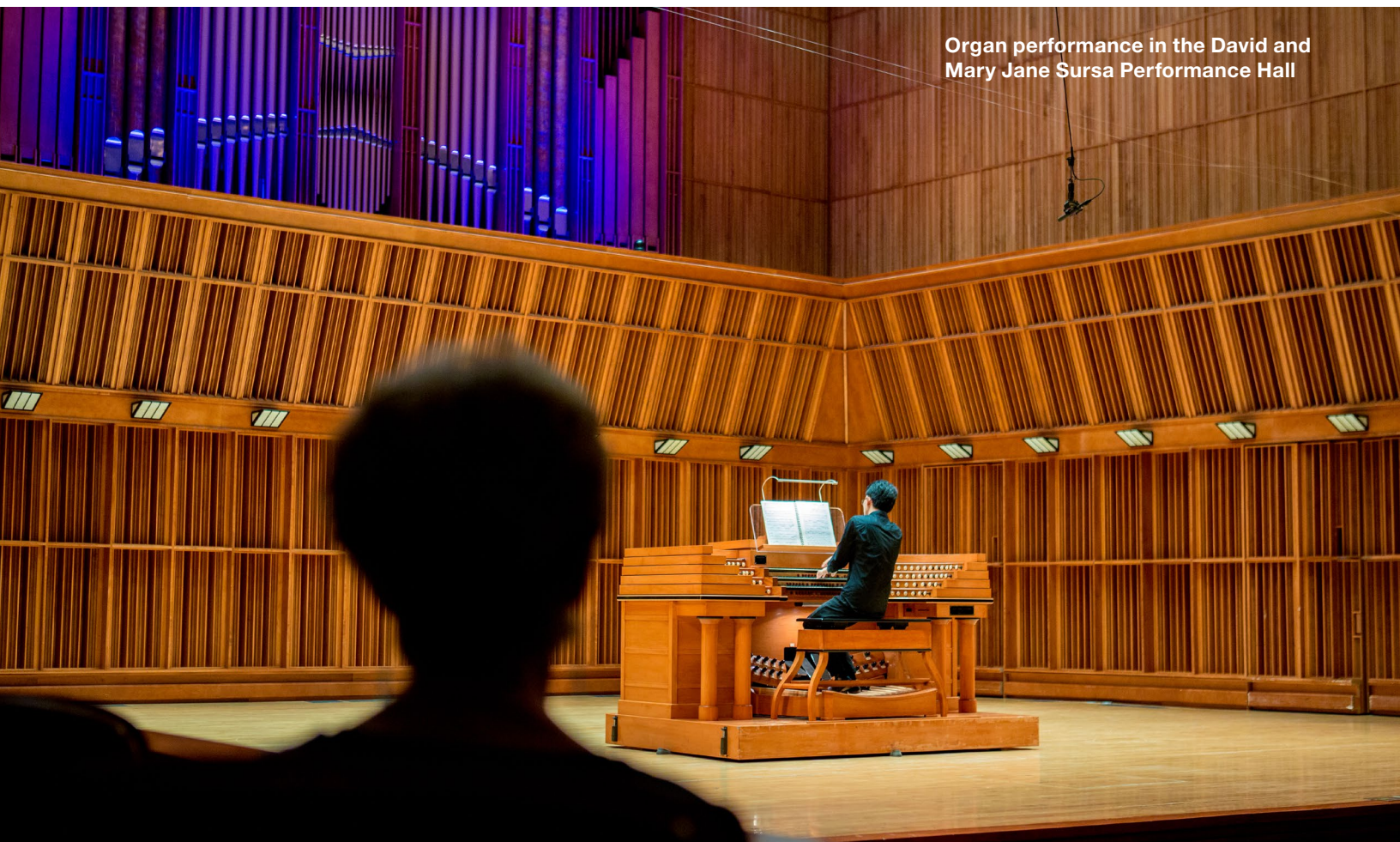
Remarkable exhibition and performance spaces amplify the College of Fine Arts and Ball State student experience. The world-class [David Owsley Museum of Art](#) is an academic support unit in the college. Additional cultural assets include the [Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass](#) and [Ned and Gloria Griner Art Gallery](#). Three public-facing performance venues—Emens Auditorium, Pruis Hall, and the Brown Family Amphitheater—comprise an auxiliary unit within the College of Fine Arts,

enriching both the campus and the greater Muncie and East Central Indiana communities. A new 65,000-square-foot Performing Arts Center, scheduled for completion in 2026, will further distinguish Ball State as a regional and national destination for the arts.

CFA thrives on collaboration among its units and with other Ball State colleges. The College of Fine Arts and College of Communication, Information, and Media partner on the Radiance Cinema project, a collaboration in immersive learning that brings together students across colleges for a unique filmmaking experience that culminates in a showcase at the Indy Shorts International Film Festival.

The College of Fine Arts is committed to making the arts accessible to the communities Ball State serves. Adults and children across Muncie can enroll in community art classes while local musicians play alongside students in Ball State ensembles. The college's [Arts Alive](#) series allows East Central Indiana residents to experience world-class arts and artists at a fraction of the cost to do so in other cities. The David Owsley Museum of Art offers programs and curriculum-based tours to K–12 students and teachers from Muncie Community Schools and surrounding districts and counties throughout the region.

Learn more about the [College of Fine Arts](#).



Organ performance in the David and Mary Jane Sursa Performance Hall

School of Art

The School of Art shapes students into critical thinkers and problem solvers in preparation for fulfilling careers as artists, designers, educators, and creative professionals. It provides an environment that supports and challenges learners, fosters curiosity, encourages risk taking, and helps students develop the skills and confidence to lead rich, fulfilling lives.

School of Art students develop skills in a wide variety of traditional and contemporary mediums. Curricula and facilities are dedicated to animation, art education, art history/design, ceramics, drawing, glass, game art/design, graphic communications management, graphic design, illustration, metals + jewelry, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, video and new media, and visual effects.

Degree programs include:

- BA in Art (with concentrations in Studio Art and Art History)
- BFA in Studio Art
- BA/BS in Art Education
- BFA in Visual Arts/Animation (with concentrations in Animation Production, Game Art/Design, Illustration, and VFX Animation)
- BFA in Graphic Design
- BS in Graphic Design Studies
- BA/BS in Graphic Communications Management

In addition, minors are available in Studio Art, Art History, Digital Publishing, and Graphic Arts Technology.

Animation Career Review included the School of Art among its top-ranked Graphic Design and Animation programs in 2024. In 2025, Graphic Design USA named the school one of its Top Graphic Design Schools for the seventh consecutive year. Along with programs in Interior Design and Fashion, the school has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design since 1994.

The school currently enrolls 718 students and employs 22 tenure-line faculty, 16 non-tenure-line faculty, and 5 staff. Approximately 50 student workers assist with studio and gallery maintenance and supervision and office support.

School of Art faculty are active nationally and internationally as artists, designers, scholars, and teachers. At Ball State, they guide students in developing the technical skills, historical knowledge, and conceptual ingenuity necessary to succeed. Faculty facilitate hands-on projects and professional experiences for students to create and share their work in exhibitions, festivals, and conferences.

School of Art students and faculty collaborate on interdisciplinary research and project-based learning in art and design. Students explore cutting-edge technologies, practice speaking and

writing about art, and develop their own skills as teachers and instructors. Through its Art Education program, the school also offers Saturday art classes to more than 100 elementary school students in the Muncie community each year.

The [Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass](#) is a signature element of the School of Art's studio art program. Supported by The Glick Fund at the Central Indiana Community Foundation, the center supports a dynamic, broad-based undergraduate curriculum in contemporary glass arts, including hot, warm, neon, and cold processes, as well as community outreach and education about the glass arts with a focus on K–12 enrichment. Along with the student-run Glass Art Alliance, the center partners with Muncie's Minnetrista Museum & Gardens on "Imagine in Glass," an event where children from the community watch as their drawings are brought to life in glass by School of Art students.

The [Ned and Gloria Griner Art Gallery](#) promotes the visual arts for studio artists, educators, and designers. The 2,000-square-foot gallery is an important educational resource, allowing students, faculty, and the broader arts community to showcase works and view the works of others. The gallery is the school's primary venue for student exhibitions and for exceptional juried and visiting exhibitions in various media with national and international participation



Glass blowing at the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass

School of Music

The School of Music at Ball State is one of the Midwest's premier centers for music study and performance. Its programs are designed not only to produce outstanding performers, educators, and engineers but also to prepare graduates to make a difference in the lives of others, to innovate how audiences experience music, and to contribute to the vitality of their communities.

With 415 undergraduate majors, 101 graduate students, and more than 70 artist-teachers, the School of Music combines the intimacy of dedicated mentorship with the resources of a nationally recognized program.

Students receive rigorous training in six distinct areas and benefit from a vibrant performance culture, award-winning ensembles, and access to artist-teachers who are internationally renowned performers, scholars, and authors.

The school offers undergraduate and graduate degrees across a full spectrum of music disciplines. All degree programs in the school are fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Degree programs include:

- Bachelor of Music Education
- BS in Music Media Production (with concentrations in Audio Engineering Technology, Commercial Music Design, and Game and Media Sound Design)
- Bachelor of Music in Music Performance (with concentrations in Guitar, Jazz Studies, Organ, Piano, Symphonic instruments, and Voice)
- BA/BS in Music (with concentrations in Applied Music, Music Creation and Composition, Music Exploration, and Music Industry)
- Artist Diploma
- Master of Music
- Master of Music with Music Education concentration (online)
- MA in Music
- Doctor of Arts in Music

The Bachelor of Music Education is one of the nation's leading music teacher education programs and prepares more than half of all music teachers in Indiana. The BS in Music Media Production features collaborations with Fortune 500 companies and renowned industry icons, funded research opportunities, and faculty who actively work in the music industry.

The Artist Diploma—a highly selective nondegree graduate program for the specialized training of gifted and accomplished performers—is open to both traditional classical-music artists and jazz musicians.

The Master of Music degree offers in-depth study for students highly gifted in music performance, music education, music theory, composition, and/or research. The school's doctoral degree program prepares students for fulfilling careers that combine teaching, performance, and scholarship.

In addition, certificate programs in entrepreneurial music equip students with the business, marketing, and management skills to succeed as professional musicians.

Music Performance majors frequently appear with regional orchestras and bands, and Music Education students begin field placements as soon as their programs begin. This hands-on approach fosters both exceptional professional readiness and a strong connection to the Muncie and East

Central Indiana communities.

School of Music students regularly win competitive positions, scholarships, and awards, and alumni go on to teach, perform, and innovate in Indiana, across the country, and around the globe. School of Music graduates influence the field from the classroom to the concert stage, and from Fortune 500 studios to the nation's premier symphonies.

Three flagship ensembles—the Ball State Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Chamber Choir—share the stage with dozens of student, faculty, and community groups spanning classical, jazz, and commercial genres. Participation is open to music majors, non-majors, and community members alike, underscoring the school's commitment to cultural enrichment and outreach.

State-of-the-art venues anchor the School of Music's programs. [Sursa Performance Hall](#), the school's principal concert venue, features adjustable acoustics and a world-class Goulding & Wood concert organ. [Hahn Recital Hall](#) provides an intimate, flexible space for recitals and rehearsals. Ball State is a proud All-Steinway School, ensuring top-quality instruments for practice and performance.

The school's music media production facilities rank among the nation's best, featuring more than 10,000 square feet of industry-leading studio space and one of the finest Dolby Atmos production suites in the Midwest.



Performance in David and Mary Jane Sursa Performance Hall

Department of Theatre and Dance

The Department of Theatre and Dance offers pre-professional training in a liberal arts setting, challenging students to become exceptional artists through the exploration of the dynamic relationship between art and the human experience. At the core of the department's ethos is a deep commitment to collaboration and collegiality. Theatre and Dance trains excellent human beings first and excellent artists and teachers second.

The department is recognized for its nationally competitive, audition-only programs in Musical Theatre and Acting, with approximately 60 percent of students in these concentrations coming from out of state.

The department offers highly competitive pre-professional BFA degrees and flexible BA/BS degrees in theatre and dance as well as a rigorous BA/BS Teaching major in Theatre, which includes licensure to teach theatre at the high school level in Indiana.

The Dance program features Indiana's only concentration in Commercial Dance, along with a flexible curriculum that includes Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, West African, and Hip-Hop styles. The Teaching major in Theatre maintains a 100-percent job placement rate, producing approximately 14 licensed educators annually. Theatre and Dance degree programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance, respectively.

Degree programs include:

- BFA in Theatre (with options in Acting, Dance, Design and Technology, and Musical Theatre)
- BFA in Dance (with concentrations in Commercial Dance and Concert Dance)
- BA/BS in Theatre (with options in Directing and Stage Management, Theatre Creation, and Design and Technology)
- BA/BS in Dance
- BA/BS Teaching Major/Theatre Education Option

The department has approximately 400 Theatre majors, including nearly 70 in Teaching, and more than 50 Dance majors. The department has 44 full-time faculty, 10 adjunct faculty, and a staff of 12.

Students learn from nationally recognized faculty, guest artists, and industry professionals who inspire them to think creatively, work collaboratively, and improve the world around them.

The department fosters strong professional connections with renowned industry figures such as Sutton Foster, Hugh Jackman, and Sidra Bell, and with leading casting directors in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, offering students valuable exposure and mentorship opportunities.

Theatre and Dance presents a robust and diverse production season each year, offering students extensive performance and creative opportunities.

The Theatre program stages four mainstage productions annually in a large proscenium theatre, typically including at least two musicals, directed by faculty or guest professionals. Four additional productions are held in a 99-seat black box space. Students take the lead in six to eight experimental space productions in a 50-seat theatre, providing hands-on directing experience.

The Dance program presents two mainstage productions each year, choreographed by faculty or guest professionals and showcasing a wide range of styles and techniques. Other professionally choreographed studio productions are held in a 75-seat dance studio. Additional student-choreographed dance productions foster artistic growth and leadership.

Currently under construction, a new Performing Arts Center will provide the Department of Theatre and Dance with an additional 65,000 square feet of dedicated space for performances, rehearsals, and teaching.

In addition, a \$40 million renovation to the department's current academic and studio spaces will create discipline-specific classrooms, mixed classroom and performance spaces, and four large multi-use studios for theatre or dance. A separate \$30 million project will upgrade existing classrooms and studios. Collectively, these capital enhancements will further distinguish Ball State for exceptional education, artistry, and production in Theatre and Dance.



Production of *The Three Musketeers*

David Owsley Museum of Art

The David Owsley Museum of Art (DOMA) is a world art museum and academic support unit in the College of Fine Arts that serves the campus, the Muncie community, and East Central Indiana at large. With a collection of more than 11,000 original works of art representing all seven continents and 5,000 years of human expression, the museum is a dynamic cultural resource for Ball State University and the region.

Situated on the south end of campus near the site of the new Performing Arts Center, the museum is a popular site for school tours, community events, and casual visitors. It is routinely utilized by all seven Ball State colleges, Muncie Community Schools, and K-12 and college students throughout the region. There is no admission fee to visit the Museum of Art, which is open to the public year-round.

The museum cultivates lifelong learning and recreation in the visual arts by bringing exciting national and international art exhibitions to Muncie,

balanced with engaging displays of the permanent collection and a variety of public programs and events. The museum also provides professional, hands-on experience for dozens of paid student interns, assistants, and gallery attendants each year.

The Museum of Art occupies two-thirds of the iconic Fine Arts Building designed by architect George F. Schreiber and located within view of Daniel Chester French's *Beneficence* sculpture. The museum was founded in 1935 as a gift to the community expressly for the enjoyment of the arts. It was reaccredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2025.

The museum is a point of pride and magnet for philanthropy for Ball State. In 2011, it was renamed in honor of art historian and philanthropist David T. Owsley, a grandson of Frank C. Ball, one of the university's founders. Prior to his passing in August 2025, Owsley had donated to the museum more than 3,000 works of art from around the

world—approximately one-quarter of the museum's holdings—and provided generous financial support.

In 2024, he established the David T. Owsley Fund with a \$4.5 million gift for the maintenance, presentation, growth, and promotion of the museum's collections. Owsley's estate plans call for additional gifts of artwork and financial contributions for the Owsley Fund, which will support the museum for years to come.

In 2026, Theatre and Dance classrooms and offices currently co-located with the museum will be relocated to the new Performing Arts Center. The museum will then undergo a major interior expansion after which it will occupy the entirety of the Fine Arts Building. The vision for both sites—along with the nearby Glick Center for Glass, Sursa Hall, and Emens Auditorium—is the transformation of the campus' so-called Cultural Corridor into a collaborative arts destination not only for the Ball State community but for Muncie and East Central Indiana.



Students tour the David Owsley Museum of Art

Exhibition and Performance Spaces

Ball State University is home to some of Indiana's finest facilities for the performing and visual arts. Clustered near one another in the heart of campus, these facilities provide modern teaching, learning, performance, and exhibition environments for students, faculty, and the Muncie and East Central Indiana communities.

Exhibition spaces such as the **David Owsley Museum of Art**, **Glick Center for Glass**, and **Griner Art Gallery** attract art enthusiasts from across East Central Indiana and beyond while Ball State's symphony orchestra and ensembles bring together students and community members for concerts and recitals in Sursa Hall and Hahn Hall.

In addition, three venues—**Emens Auditorium**, **Pruis Hall**, and the **Brown Family Amphitheater**—constitute an auxiliary unit within the College of Fine Arts that presents a diverse array of productions, celebrities, and guest

artists of national and international prominence while offering professional stage production, event planning, and support services.

Emens Auditorium seats 3,309 guests, including more than 1,000 in the balcony alone. Stevie Wonder, B.B. King, The Temptations, Alice Cooper, and Adam Sandler are among the performers who have taken the stage at Emens. The venue routinely hosts touring Broadway productions such as *The Book of Mormon* and *Chicago* and international acts such as the Soweto Gospel Choir.

Pruis Hall, named after the university's seventh president, is used for film screenings, clinics, workshops, conferences, special university lectures, and faculty and student gatherings. Designed to look like a grand piano, the two-story structure of Indiana limestone and cement features a unique combination of curved and angular walls and free-standing supports.

Unveiled in 2023, the Brown Family Amphitheater is a vibrant outdoor performance and gathering space on the Ball State campus. Designed to inspire creativity, foster innovation, and strengthen the bond between the university and the Muncie community, the amphitheater is ideal for summer music festivals, student organizations, and other musical or theatrical events.

Scheduled to open in Fall 2026, a new state-of-the-art **Performing Arts Center** will further transform the arts at Ball State. The groundbreaking center is expected to generate more than 160 performances annually, enhancing opportunities for College of Fine Arts students and strengthening the University's connection to the Muncie and East Central Indiana communities.

Collectively, these facilities support and advance the College of Fine Arts and Ball State's mission and vision by providing exceptional experiences to members of the University community, guests, and patrons.



Brown Family Amphitheater

New Performing Arts Center and The Village Revitalization

Ball State's new [Performing Arts Center](#) is a cornerstone of the University's long-term effort to [transform The Village](#)—a commercial and cultural district adjacent to campus and IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital—into a vibrant destination for students, faculty, residents, and visitors.

The 65,000-square-foot facility will feature a 425-seat mainstage theatre, a black box studio, and state-of-the-art production facilities.

The transformational facility will enhance the student and faculty experience and support their recruitment, expand community engagement, and elevate Ball State as a regional arts destination.

With more than 160 performances anticipated annually, the center is expected to draw more than 35,000 visitors each year.

Connected to the Performing Arts Center will be a new 97-room hotel. The boutique hotel will feature an upscale restaurant, rooftop bar, and cozy ground-floor café as well as intimate meeting and private dining spaces, an on-site exercise room, and a lobby gift shop.

The hotel is projected to create more than 120 jobs and generate more than \$8 million in local spending each year, further boosting Muncie's economy and enhancing the experience for visitors

attending performances and events in The Village.

A collaborative public-private partnership, The Village Revitalization project envisions a best-in-class, multigenerational district driven by arts and culture, entertainment, and innovation. Once completed, The Village will be a lively corridor connecting the Ball State campus to downtown Muncie.

The project will help Ball State attract and retain students, faculty, and staff, entice more students to remain in Muncie after graduation, and strengthen the University's economic impact on the greater Muncie and Delaware County communities.





Painting class in the School of Art

THE DEAN SEARCH

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

As the College of Fine Arts' chief academic and administrative officer, the dean guides long-term strategy; ensures excellence in teaching, scholarship, and creative work; and oversees the operations of a complex collection of programs, centers, cultural assets, and public-facing venues.

Reporting directly to Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Anand Marri, the dean serves as a key member of the University's academic leadership team. The next dean will have an exciting and rare opportunity to lead a diverse College of Fine Arts that values and integrates artistic excellence, interdisciplinary innovation, and community engagement.

Specifically, the dean will be expected to:

Develop and advance a strategic vision for the College of Fine Arts' future.

Working collaboratively with faculty, staff, and university leaders, the next dean will develop and advance a shared, unifying vision for the College of Fine Arts. The vision must balance aspiration with pragmatism, building on the college's historical strengths while being informed by contemporary student interests, evolving learner preferences, and shifting workforce demands. As CFA's foremost champion, the dean will develop and implement strategies and plans to enhance the College of Fine Arts' visibility and standing and to ensure its long-term vitality and success.

Champion academic and artistic excellence, student success, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In charting the course for CFA's future, the dean will prioritize faculty achievement, artistic and pedagogical innovation, student success, and community impact. This includes advancing research and creative practice, encouraging grants and publications, and supporting pursuits in emerging areas. The dean will promote greater collaboration within CFA and with other Ball State colleges and programs, linking the fine arts with the humanities, sciences, education, technology, and other disciplines. Building on the University's new core curriculum and SOAR initiative, the dean will lead efforts to engage students across Ball State in the study, practice, and appreciation of the arts while helping them build identity, resilience, and career readiness.

Build community and cultivate a more cohesive, collaborative college culture.

To enable CFA to realize its greatest aspirations, the dean will strengthen community in the college, fostering a culture that is student-centered, collaborative, and inclusive; prioritizes respect and transparency; and embraces innovation and change. To be an effective champion for the arts, the dean will model an authentic commitment to belonging and inclusiveness. This includes recruiting faculty and students from all backgrounds and creating spaces where all perspectives and voices are welcome. The dean will be a strong advocate for faculty and staff, actively supporting their professional development, growth, and success.

Cultivate CFA's extraordinary assets to enhance the student experience and distinguish Ball State.

The dean will steward the operational excellence of the David Owsley Museum of Art, Glick Center for Glass, Emens Auditorium, Puis Hall, Brown Family Amphitheater, and other facilities, leveraging these assets to enhance the student experience at Ball State. The dean will integrate the new Performing Arts Center into CFA and the campus, supporting student recruitment and enriching the Ball State experience for all. Through strategic and creative management of its cultural assets and performance venues, the dean will elevate the college and Ball State as a national destination for the arts.

Generate resources, enhance philanthropic support, and provide strategic operational management

The next dean will lead CFA toward a sound and balanced budget structure, providing responsible, transparent stewardship of resources in alignment with the University's strategic goals. The dean will work closely with the Ball State University Foundation and University leaders to cultivate and steward support from among alumni, donors, and patrons. The dean will build long-term relationships, identify gift opportunities, and articulate a compelling case for supporting the College of Fine Arts, including through scholarships, endowed faculty positions, program innovation, and capital projects. Specifically, the dean will lead a capital campaign for an expansion of the David Owsley Museum of Art that will create numerous naming opportunities.

Strengthen community engagement and external partnerships

CFA plays a pivotal role in Ball State's commitment to enriching its surrounding communities by partnering with Muncie Community Schools, local nonprofits, and regional arts and cultural organizations. Faculty and staff are eager to collaborate further by connecting academic programs with community experiences to enhance the college's reach and elevate its impact and recognition. The dean will prioritize and champion this important aspect of CFA's mission. The dean will leverage the new Performing Arts Center to advance Ball State's Village revitalization plan, supporting the arts, creative placemaking, and the economic vitality of Muncie and East Central Indiana.

Qualifications and Qualities

Ball State University seeks a strategic and collaborative leader with a record of accomplishment in the arts to serve as the next dean of the College of Fine Arts. The successful candidate will share Ball State University's enduring values: courage, integrity, and gratitude as well as a commitment to excellence, innovation, inclusiveness, and social responsibility.

Candidates must hold a terminal degree in a relevant discipline and possess a record of scholarly, creative, or professional contributions sufficient to qualify for tenure and appointment at the rank of professor in the College of Fine Arts.

In addition, the ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications and qualities:

- **Broad understanding of the visual and performing arts.** Experience in theatre, dance, music, art, and design, including both traditional fine arts and contemporary directions in a wide variety of creative disciplines and industries. Ability to support and advocate on behalf of a wide range of scholarly and creative activities across those fields.
- **Commitment to academic, pedagogical, and artistic excellence.** Deep commitment to innovation in teaching, scholarship, performance, and professional practice informed by personal experience as a teacher, researcher, and/or creative artist or designer.
- **Sophisticated understanding of the arts professions.** Understanding of the specific needs of artists, performers, designers, scholars, and educators. Knowledge of emerging trends in arts education, higher education, and the creative economy, and the ability to apply those insights to inform strategies and plans to advance the college.
- **Successful experience in arts education administration.** Prior academic administration experience in an arts environment. Experience with program development, outcomes assessment, and enrollment management. Proven record of recruiting, retaining, and supporting faculty and staff.
- **Commitment to students.** Authentic commitment to student success and experience with programming, mentorship, and support services that help students grow as creative professionals and engaged citizens.

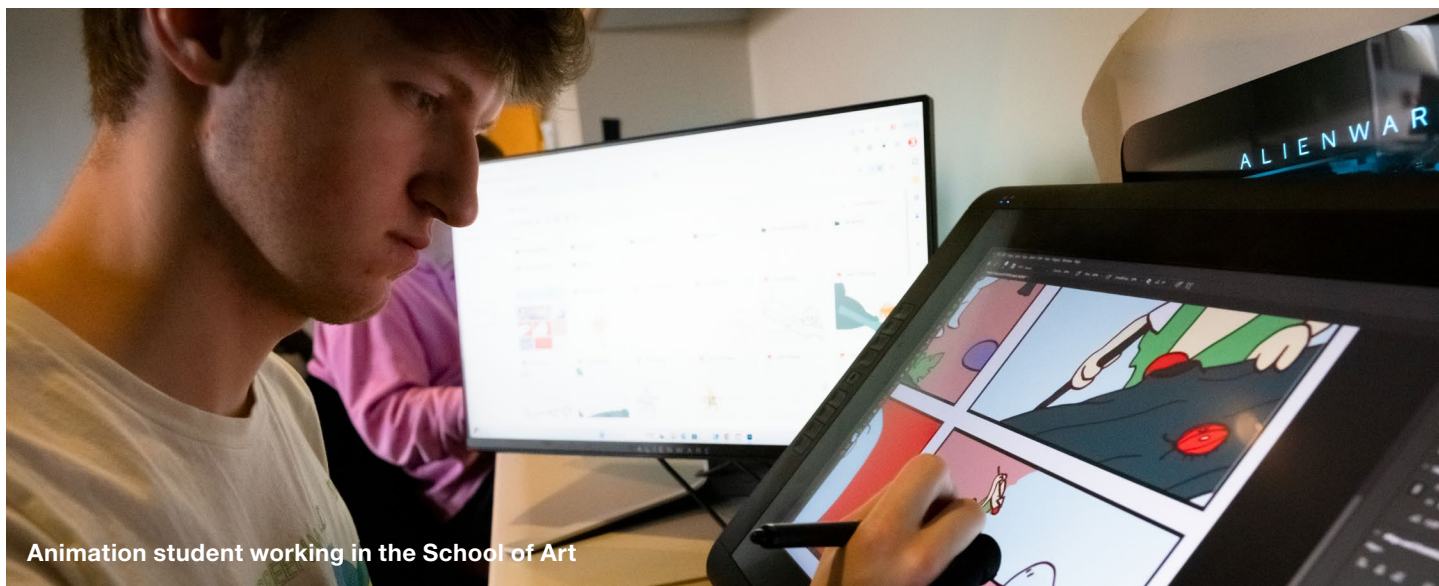
- **Collaborative and inclusive leadership style.** Desire to work with others and ability to build trust and consensus through dialogue. Demonstrable commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, belonging, and inclusiveness.
- **Effective communications and decision making.** Clear, direct, and transparent communication style. Inclination and ability to listen to others. Consultative, data-driven approach to decision making balanced with ability to make timely, principled decisions and to follow through on decisions.
- **Proven ability or demonstrable potential for success in fundraising.** Willingness and capacity to lead development efforts and philanthropic initiatives in support of the college's mission and goals.
- **Operational and administrative acumen.** Prior experience with financial strategy and budget oversight, incentive-based budgeting, and human resources management. Ability to build, motivate, and manage high-performing teams.
- **Relationship-building and external relations capabilities.** Demonstrable ability to build and maintain relationships with both internal and external constituents. In particular, capacity to foster effective collaborations with external partners, including community, civic, and cultural leaders.

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. WittKieffer is assisting Ball State University in this search.

Applicants should submit a CV or resume and a letter of interest using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#). For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by January 5, 2026.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to Philip Tang and Sarah Seavey at BallStateCFADean@wittkieffer.com.



Animation student working in the School of Art

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Anand R. Marri was appointed provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Ball State University in 2023. As the University's chief academic officer, he oversees the planning, development, implementation, assessment, and enhancement of academic programs, policies, and procedures across the institution. He works in partnership with **President Geoffrey S. Mearns** to develop and sustain a vision for Ball State's strategic priorities and collaborates closely with the college deans and other unit leaders to support a robust academic enterprise



Provost Marri oversees eight academic colleges, the Graduate School, University College, University Libraries, the Division of Online and Strategic Learning, Sponsored Projects Administration, and numerous academic centers, institutes, and units. Under his leadership, the [Office of the Provost](#) serves and supports Ball State faculty and students on matters related to curricula, teaching and learning, scholarship, student success, and strategic academic initiatives, including transdisciplinary research.

Prior to his appointment as provost, Dr. Marri served as dean of Ball State's Teachers College, the fifth-largest school of education in the nation. The College operates two public schools: the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics,

and Humanities and the Burris Laboratory School. As dean, Dr. Marri led Ball State's historic partnership with Muncie Community Schools, which continues to be a national model for the impact higher education can have on public K–12 education.

Before joining Ball State, he led the Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. Earlier in his career, he served 15 years on the faculty of Columbia University's Teachers College.

A champion for the transformational power of education, Dr. Marri previously served as vice president and head of outreach and economic education at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York where he led the largest community and economic development and education division in the Federal Reserve System.

An accomplished researcher, scholar, and thought leader in civic and economic education, he has been awarded more than \$12.5 million in grants and contracts from the Lumina Foundation, Spencer Foundation, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, and Teagle Foundation; the Indiana and New York departments of education; the U.S. Department of Education, and other organizations and agencies. He has published in leading education journals and been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and CNN.

He received a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, M.A. in Education from Stanford University, and Ph.D. in Education from University of Wisconsin–Madison.

WE FLY Spirited and motivated, we learn, grow, and take flight. Our faculty and staff—everyone in our community—embrace students as learning partners from day one. In classrooms and labs, in immersive learning projects, on the sports fields—with creativity and determination—Cardinals Fly. We are grounded in our values, lifted by our knowledge, and go confidently upward toward ever greater opportunities. Ours is a simple promise: to challenge each other to excel. And with Beneficence as our guide—We Fly.



Shafer Tower

Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning

The nationally recognized and highly ranked [Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning \(ECAP\)](#) brings together professional degree programs in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Interior Design, and Construction Management, plus interdisciplinary education in Historic Preservation and Urban Design.

ECAP is built on a fundamental belief in hands-on, experiential learning to give students a feel for the power of design, confidence in their abilities, and connections to the real world.

Students gain substantial experience in the latest areas of environmental design and planning with the study of community-based design and planning, complex digital architecture and landscape architecture, sustainable construction and interior design, social and environmental justice, and historic preservation. Students collaborate in hands-on studios and labs, real-world design-build projects, and nationally acclaimed field studies.

ECAP at Ball State: INDY provides special immersive learning and outreach opportunities in downtown Indianapolis. As a hub for innovative design and planning, the site hosts classes, events, and community programs and houses the college's Center for Civic Design.

The 2,500-square-foot Robert G. Hunt Center for Construction Management on campus simulates a teamwork-focused office environment found at top professional firms. In the University Design Center, Interior Design students gain practical experience while creating attractive and functional environments for commercial clients.

ECAP is committed to sustainability. The Center for Energy Research/Education/Service (CERES) has received awards from the U.S. Department of Energy, National Wildlife Federation, American Institute of Architects, Sustainable Buildings Industry Council, and State of Indiana for its innovative programs and projects in environmental education.

The college's students and faculty have a history of community engagement. Recent projects include:

- Transforming a community garden near Muncie's Maring-Hunt Library into an interactive urban green space with a market pavilion, outdoor kitchen, nature play areas, and more.
- Working with Habitat for Humanity to develop sustainable designed homes for local residents who need them.
- Building an affordable, net-zero energy, eco-friendly duplex family home in Indianapolis.

ECAP's five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree is the only professional undergraduate architecture program offered by a public institution in Indiana.

1

Architecture students and other disciplines partner with local community groups each year to create sustainable home concepts for a U.S. Department of Energy competition. All eight teams have been national finalists, with two placing first and second.

2



Miller College of Business

[Miller College of Business](#) embraces the future by exposing students to an innovative, collaborative learning experience. The college's vision is to create a nationally recognized model for being student-centered, community-engaged, innovative, and entrepreneurial—known for its undergraduate and graduate programs through the accomplishments of its students, faculty, and alumni.

Miller College has maintained consistent annual undergraduate enrollment for several years; its largest majors are Accounting, Finance, and Marketing. The college boasts an innovative curriculum in Business Analytics—the only standalone undergraduate program in the region. The Logistics and Supply Chain major, which requires student internship experience, achieved 100% placement at graduation.

Ball State's Property Management (RPM) program, one of only nine such programs in the country, is supported by the National Apartment Association. The Bachelor of Science in Finance participates in the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Institute University Recognition Program.

Miller College students complete the SOAR Professional Development Program (Success, Opportunity, Acumen, and Readiness), where they have the opportunity to build

confidence and gain an edge in the competitive job market. This program incorporates alumni volunteers as speakers and mentors.

The Entrepreneurial Management Program prepares students for career fulfillment through its business plan development process. Students present their plans to a board of alumni and entrepreneurs who assess the plan's strengths and weaknesses.

National recognitions include:

- Our Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was ranked 16th in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025 "Best Online Programs."
- The Entrepreneurial Management program was ranked 13th in the Midwest in 2023 by the Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine.
- Ball State is one of only 36 universities worldwide to be designated a Global Center of Insurance Excellence by the International Insurance Society.

Alumni and donor engagement is a top priority. Miller College seeks to engage alumni and business leaders to sponsor site visits, experiential learning projects within and outside of courses, and to provide internships.

Miller College is accredited by AACSB International and was the first state-supported institution in Indiana to hold separate AACSB accreditation for the Accounting program. The Fashion Industry Studies program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

1

Miller College offers a robust Executive Education program that addresses real-world needs and challenges to enable meaningful, measurable improvements in organizations. It delivers a mix of customized online modules and in-person workshops. Consulting is also offered to help solve unique problems such as improving financial acumen, stimulating innovation, enhancing communication effectiveness, and creating custom programs.

2

The Center for Professional Selling is one of only 45 full-member schools with the University Sales Center Alliance. The center's annual Sales Career Fair is one of the largest in the country.

3



College of Communication, Information, and Media

The [College of Communication, Information, and Media \(CCIM\)](#) prepares students for fulfilling careers as ethical practitioners and scholars through exceptional educational and experiential learning opportunities. CCIM redefines the intersection of communication and technology while emphasizing the importance of human interaction.

Students in the Center for Information and Communication Sciences, Department of Communication Studies, Department of Media, and School of Journalism and Strategic Communication gain essential skills to procure the best jobs prior to graduation. The Ball State Public Media program has also formally joined CCIM. This has deepened the already rich engagement Ball State PBS, Indiana Public Radio, and CCIM have shared.

The CCIM Office of Student Success and Belonging is fully committed to enhancing student outcomes and experiences throughout their academic journey. CCIM students know how to adapt quickly to a diverse and everchanging global job market to ensure fulfilling careers and meaningful lives.

CCIM students:

- Operate a wide spectrum of media organizations focused on broadcast news (NewsLink Indiana), long-form journalism (*Ball Bearings Magazine*), multi-media news/features (*Byte*), newspaper publication (*The Ball State Daily News*), and radio (WCRD).
- Create films, produce sports content and telecasts of sporting events for ESPN and other media partners, and work with Ball State's National Public Radio and PBS stations.
- Operate their own strategic communication, public relations, and media sales agency (The McKinley Avenue Agency).
- Develop exceptional argumentation, advocacy, and research skills by participating in nationally competitive speech and debate teams.
- Provide outreach and leadership in the technology industry.

CCIM hosts a cutting-edge esports program, serving as the cornerstone of Ball State University's comprehensive esports strategy. This strategy encompasses recreational play, club and varsity competitions, academic programs, and community and industry partnerships.

A clear example of CCIM's dedication to hands-on, collaborative learning is the Radiance Cinema project, a joint venture with the College of Fine Arts. This initiative, culminating in a notable showcase at the Indy Shorts International Film Festival, united students from both colleges in an immersive filmmaking experience.

Beyond its emphasis on collaborative, experiential learning, CCIM is at the forefront of future technology. The college integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) across its curriculum, equipping students with the advanced skills necessary for navigating a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This forward-thinking approach ensures that CCIM graduates are well-prepared to lead and innovate in an increasingly digital world.

Ball State Sports Link earned the No. 1 ranking for Top Winning Sports Program in the 2025 Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts School Rankings. The Department of Media's broadcast program was ranked sixth overall, including tenth for documentary production. Media projects have earned 55+ Emmy® statuettes awards and 66+ student production awards.

1

The Center for Information and Communication Sciences was ranked 27th in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025 "Top Online Information Technology programs."

2



Housed in our accredited School of Journalism and Strategic Communication, *The Daily News* placed sixth nationally among weekly news publications in the "Best in Show" competition in the 2023 Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Awards.

3

CCIM Esports is home to the first- and second-place winners of the 2024 CiL Formula College Championship. The Esports Center is the hub of the integrated University esports engagement strategy that includes recreation, club and varsity competition, curriculum, and community and industry partnerships.

4

College of Health

The [College of Health \(CoH\)](#) brings together seven academic units—Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology, and Counseling; Kinesiology; Military Science (ROTC); Nursing; Nutrition and Health Science; Social Work; and Speech Pathology and Audiology—and 14 clinics, centers, and labs. The college's programs hold 14 health accreditations among them.

CoH embraces an innovative, collaborative, and interprofessional environment for learning, discovery, and engagement. The learning environment is shaped by core content that enhances understanding of health and well-being throughout the life span. Discovery occurs across health-related disciplines and readily engages students and faculty in a collaborative manner. The commitment to interprofessional development and community engagement unites faculty and students while strengthening educational programs and serving the needs of the region, state, and nation.

The majority of our programs are housed in a \$62.5 million Health Professions Building, which opened in 2019. In August 2020, the building achieved a LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. This contemporary teaching, research, and clinical facility provides a unique learning environment to foster collaboration and problem-solving across the health sciences disciplines. The 165,000-square-foot building houses classrooms, laboratories, offices, simulation labs/suites, and clinical spaces.

The Interprofessional Community Clinics provides East Central Indiana and beyond with a variety of services featuring Audiology, Counseling Practicum, and Speech-Language clinics, and the Healthy Lifestyle Center. In 2021, it partnered with the Delaware County Health Department to serve as a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. These offerings provide immersive and rewarding educational experiences for students to focus on interprofessional collaboration. All services are provided by our students under the supervision of licensed professionals.

Ball State's Doctorate in Audiology is the country's oldest existing four-year program and the Bachelor of Social Work program is the oldest accredited undergraduate program in Indiana, and the largest.

Faculty in CoH's departments have attracted competitive federal funding such as grants from the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, NASA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Numerous programs have contributed to the cultural environment and health and wellness of the community through services and events, including the Adult Physical Fitness Program, health screenings, nutrition assessments, and pediatric gait screenings.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Nursing 37th in its 2025 "Best Online Programs" in the country.

1

Ball State offers Indiana's only advanced generalist Master of Social Work to fill the need for professionals at nonprofits, community mental health centers, hospitals, community corrections institutions, and long-term care centers.

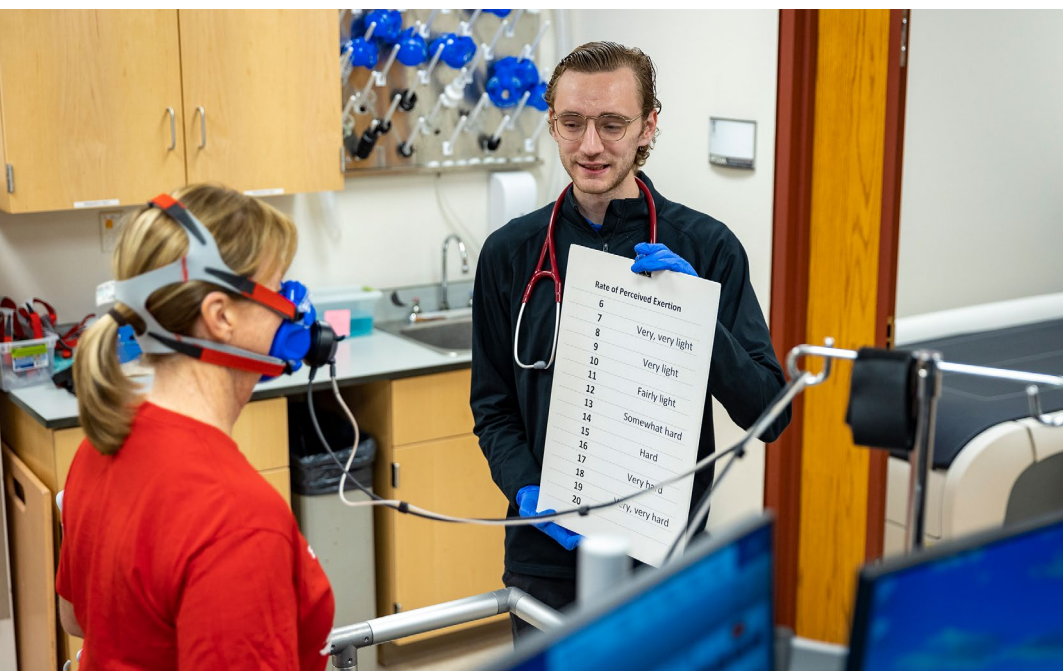
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Seventy percent of the licensed certified speech language pathologists in Indiana are Ball State graduates.

3

Students in the Interprofessional Community Clinics deliver more than 13,000 hours of speech pathology, audiology, and counseling services, as well as healthy lifestyle coaching, to 2,300 community residents annually.

4



College of Sciences and Humanities

The [College of Sciences and Humanities \(CSH\)](#) spans the physical, life, mathematical and computational sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities. Through its majors, minors, and certificates, and by delivering three-quarters of the University Core Curriculum, CSH enhances students' abilities to think critically, solve problems creatively, and communicate clearly.

In addition to excellent academics, the University provides premiere facilities, including an \$87.5 million Foundational Sciences Building that opened in Fall 2021. Housing the departments of Biology and Chemistry, this five-story, over 200,000-square-foot structure consists of immersive learning classrooms, 28 teaching and 44 research laboratories, a research library, an imaging suite, conference rooms, computer labs, collaborative space, and faculty offices. Renovations to the Cooper Science Building, home to the departments of Geography and Meteorology, Physics and Astronomy, and Environment, Geology, and Natural Resources, were completed in 2025. The new facilities include a weather lab, green roofs, and state-of-the-art classrooms.

All students are provided with a progressively deeper understanding of disciplinary and interdisciplinary content, theories, and methods. The college ensures its graduates have "learned how to learn" and understand the value of lifelong intellectual development as preparation for success in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

Faculty scholarship, often accomplished in collaboration with students, expands human knowledge and contributes to the solution of contemporary problems. Together, faculty and staff model behaviors promoting team collaboration, human respect, and engaged citizenship for students.

CSH is the University's liberal arts college. It is developing basic and applied research and engaged public service programs to challenge both students and faculty to become innovative leaders in the expansion and application of knowledge for the benefit of humankind. The college strives to develop alumni who embrace creative risks as they confront today's rapidly changing, globally competitive world.

1

The Charles W. Brown Planetarium has 148 seats and a 52-foot-diameter dome, making it the largest in Indiana. The state-of-the-art projector can simulate a night sky with 10 million stars, and its audience can take a virtual trip through space—they can "fly" through Saturn's rings, land on Mars, or travel to distant stars and galaxies.

2

The Compass Advantage is an integrated approach to helping humanities majors find their "True North." The Compass Advantage assists students in navigating from college to career by providing them with alumni connections, visible post-college career pathways, exploratory curriculum, events, and workshops.

3

Ball State's Field Station and Environmental Education Center, comprised of six properties totaling 425 acres, provides hands-on learning and observation of nature and encourages exploration of natural processes by students of all ages. Our research activities are directed towards understanding human impact on ecological processes and communities, and we share our resources and data. The Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse is part of the Field Station and hosts visitors from regional schools, garden clubs, alumni groups, and more.

4

Partnering with Old National Bank in Indianapolis, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University conducts the annual Hoosier Survey to provide Indiana policymakers with a measure of public opinion on current issues facing our state and nation. The results are delivered to every member of the Indiana General Assembly at the beginning of the calendar year so that lawmakers can gauge public views about issues they are likely to face in the coming session.



Charles W. Brown Planetarium

Teachers College

Teachers College (TC) is committed to excellence in P–12 and adult/higher education through its student-centered and community-engaged preparation of outstanding professional educators and human service providers, supporting their induction and continuing education, promoting research and development, and influencing policy that enables high-quality educational outcomes.

Our college faculty, staff, and students make an indelible impact on their surrounding communities through our graduate and undergraduate programs. They play an integral role in the University's historic partnership with Muncie Community Schools, providing support and student enrichment both in and outside the classroom. More than 97 percent of Ball State University graduates received an "effective" or "highly effective" rating on the state-required evaluation in their first three years.

Teachers College students are engaged through programs such as Schools Within the Context of Community, which immerses preservice teacher candidates in a historically African-American neighborhood. Matched with community mentors who serve as cultural ambassadors, students participate authentically in the life of the community, enabling them to enact culturally responsive pedagogy. The program has received national awards as an exemplary model of community-engaged teacher preparation, including the C. Peter Magrath Community Engaged Scholarship Award, a W.K. Kellogg North Central Community Engagement Scholarship Award, and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's Best Practice

Award in Support of Multicultural Education and Diversity.

Through the Muncie P3 program, faculty and students partner with a local elementary school serving a significant population of low-income students to provide after-school enrichment, weekend field trips, and a three-week summer program to help them meet a state standard of reading proficiently before fourth grade.

During the past decade, the project has garnered nearly \$2.5 million in support from the Indiana Department of Education, the Ball Brothers Foundation, and the Heart of Indiana United Way.

Teachers College has a century-long legacy of preparing educators across Indiana through student-centric learning experiences. It is home to groundbreaking research advancing the field of education. The college has launched several new undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs on campus and online to meet the changing needs of both the job market and adult learners.

As Ball State University's Educator Preparation Provider (EPP), Teachers College is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Continuous Improvement (CI) model at the initial preparation level and is accredited at the initial and advanced preparation level through the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). Full accreditation has been granted through 2025.

The Department of Special Education has the only deaf education teacher-training program in Indiana. Students complete a one-year residency at the Indiana School for the Deaf in Indianapolis. TC also offers programs specializing in autism, with course content approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

1

The college includes two public schools: Burris Laboratory School, a K–12 school for approximately 670 students that provides a model clinical setting for preservice teachers at Ball State, and the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities, a residential high school for approximately 215 gifted and talented juniors and seniors from across the State of Indiana.

2

A \$1.45 million commitment from a Ball State University alumna and her husband in 2020 represents the largest single gift in the history of Teacher College. To date, Michelle (Asby) and Jim Ryan have committed approximately \$2 million. They established the Michelle A. and James T. Ryan Family Scholarship and the Ryan Family Navigators Program. The initiatives assist students with economically-challenged backgrounds by providing them with financial assistance and comprehensive services.

3



Honors College

Ball State's [Honors College](#) provides a stimulating and comprehensive academic, leadership, and social experience for high-ability students in any major. This innovative and selective program inspires highly curious, intellectually engaged, and motivated scholars to challenge themselves and expand their thinking.

At its core, the Honors College is a vibrant living-learning community that connects bright, inquisitive students who have diverse interests and backgrounds but share a passion for learning. They live together in a residence hall, build relationships with one another and with the faculty who teach them, and integrate academic programming with social and recreational activities.

Education in the Honors College is built around a specially designed, four-year liberal arts curriculum that rivals top private schools. Small, highly interactive classes explore meaningful themes in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, literature, and popular culture through lively discussion and creative projects rather than lectures and exams. Students

get to express their opinions, debate important ideas, consider the perspectives of others, and steer course work in a direction that interests them.

The Honors College also offers students exclusive opportunities for paid research fellowships with faculty, special study abroad programs, immersive learning experiences, and scholarly publications and presentations. Before graduation, they complete an individualized capstone project or thesis working in-depth with a professor on a chosen topic.

Honors College students gain important skills for personal and professional growth, boosting their career advancement and leadership potential. They also win major national and international scholarships and fellowships to fund advanced study and research in their major, including prestigious Fulbright and National Science Foundation awards. With personalized support and advising from day one, they graduate on time and earn a special designation on their transcripts that is highly regarded by employers and sets them apart from their peers.

New students in the Honors College compete for some of Ball State's most prestigious freshman scholarships, including the Whiting, Presidential, and Emens Leadership awards, which may cover one-half to full tuition and more. The college also offers several other special scholarships.

1

The Honors College has been part of Ball State for more than 60 years. It began as a program in 1959 and was designated as the University Honors College in 1979. Today the college thrives in the intimate setting of the historic Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Honors House.

2



Ball Honors House

Graduate School

Graduate study at Ball State supports the University's mission by seeking to develop the intellectual breadth and specialized training necessary for careers in teaching, in research, and in the professions. Graduate programs emphasize the knowledge, methods, and skills needed for scholarly teaching, problem solving and original research, creative inquiry and expression, and intellectual leadership to prepare responsible civic and professional leaders for our community, the state, the nation, and the world.

The problems facing society require new knowledge and new ways of using existing knowledge. To meet these challenges, the University provides, through its graduate programs, an atmosphere that fosters scholarship and creative activity.

The Graduate School promotes student success in a variety of ways: providing a thorough orientation for new students; constantly examining graduate curriculum and policies via the Graduate Education Committee (GEC); through our Graduate Student Wellness Initiative, our Pathways Project, and our GOLD program.

Ball State's Fall 2024 graduate enrollment is 5,900. Our robust online enrollments have placed us in the top 4% of the largest providers of online graduate education in the country for many years. For example, the Master of Applied Behavioral Analysis, for those who help children and adults on the autism spectrum and with related developmental disabilities, has shown phenomenal growth in the past five years and currently enrolls more than 2,000 students.

We have also recently partnered with Coursera to offer our Master of Data Science and Master of Computer Science programs on their platform, a move that will make our offerings even more accessible and significantly increase our graduate enrollments.

Ball State's graduate programs have earned national attention from *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025 "Best Online Programs." Four of our programs are ranked in the Top 50:

- Master of Business Administration (16th)
- Master's in Information and Communications Sciences (27th)
- Master's in Nursing (37th)
- Master's degrees in Education programs (38th)

Students have flexibility at Ball State. The dual degree policy allows students to earn two master's degrees congruently with shared credit. And the Accelerated Master's Program allows qualified undergraduate students to begin taking graduate courses while they complete their bachelor's degree.

1

Ball State offers more than 100 graduate degrees and certificate programs on campus, at centers in Indianapolis and Fishers, and online.

2



University College

[University College](#) is an interdisciplinary, collaborative academic unit that offers student-centered programs and services that enhance students' success.

University College serves as a hub for student academic support. It is home to Academic Advising, Student-Athlete Support Services, the Learning Center, Student Success Coaching, and the First-Year Experience. Each service area works collaboratively to provide a menu of services for students to promote academic excellence and enhance student retention and persistence.

Academic Advising

The mission of Academic Advising is to provide all the academic pieces needed to complete every student's journey, from their first registration in college to the day they apply for graduation and look ahead to applying the expertise gained from choices they have made.

Academic advisors seek to help students make those choices in the best way possible by opening the possibilities of the University's programs, putting a plan for graduation in place, helping students plan schedules, using the tools to track progress, and working with students and faculty advisors beyond the first-year experience with their freshman advisor.

First-Year Experience and First-Year Seminars

At Ball State, we recognize the importance of providing students with a solid foundation upon which to launch their collegiate experiences. Student success, year-to-year persistence, and retention through to graduation require more than foundational orientation. Thus, we intentionally focus on incoming students' [first-year experiences](#). One way we do this is through first-year seminars designed to help students learn how to be successful in college. First-year seminars provide students with rich opportunities for deep reflection, experiential learning opportunities, and access to peer mentors.

Learning Center

The Learning Center offers drop-in, appointment-based, group, and satellite tutoring in many academic courses at Ball State. Students can also use online video workshops and other group learning experiences that will help them achieve academic success.

Each year, thousands of undergraduate and graduate students use the center's services. These students earn higher grade point averages and report being highly satisfied with the assistance they receive.

Student Athlete Support Services

Student-Athlete Support Services (SASS) coordinates advising and comprehensive academic support for student-athletes while assisting with their transition as freshmen through graduation. By focusing on integrity, accountability, transparency, and having a sense of program, SASS strives to build relationships with its stakeholders and across campus as well as communicate and report accurate and timely information, while remaining organized and centered on its mission.

Student Success Coaching

The [Student Success Coaching](#) office was established in 2022 and has embraced opportunities for supporting student care and well-being through the use of positive psychology, well-being, and holistic student support. Coaches embrace a model embedded in positive psychology where students are guided through thoughtful inquiry to discover their strengths, interests, passions, and purpose. Whether through an individual appointment setting, group coaching sessions, or skill sessions, coaches work to empower students to create fulfilling results in their lives, both academically and personally. Through dialogue, self-reflection, assessments, and personal exploration, students build upon their strengths to deepen their learning and ability to thrive.



Division of Online and Strategic Learning

The [Division of Online and Strategic Learning \(DOSL\)](#) serves Ball State students, faculty, and staff by pursuing, developing, and providing innovative best practices in technology-enhanced teaching, learning, and service. This is done through an adaptive culture of rigorous assessment and evaluation of techniques and approaches that benefit Ball State students both near and far.

The division houses Ball State Online, which offers more than 100 online degrees, certificates, and educator licenses. With a history of offering online programs since the 1990s—and distance courses off-campus since the 1920s—Ball State now has an online graduate enrollment that puts it into the largest nationally, according to EAB. And, DOSL has a growing portfolio of online undergraduate programs in high-demand fields.

DOSL serves about 5,000 online-only graduate students and nearly 1,000 online-only undergraduate students each semester. In addition, the division provides online courses that support the needs of on-campus students with busy schedules and varying needs. DOSL also has a dual credit program that allows about 1,100 Indiana high school students to earn University and high school credit via courses at their own schools or online.

Faculty have been at the center of our innovations in online education. The Division of Online and Strategic Learning empowers them with tools, skills, and pedagogical support for engaging students in quality learning experiences.



Faculty members and instructional consultants work together in the creation of exciting and meaningful online and blended courses.

The division provides a full range of services to Ball State's seven colleges including student support, advising, recruiting, and marketing services for adult learners, faculty support for onsite and online teaching, marketing support for online programs, market research and budget planning for new or significantly revised online programs,

and state authorization support.

DOSL's mission is to establish an institute of good practice that faculty will find useful, formidable, and essential to their aspirations of excellence in teaching. Students will look to DOSL as advocates for their learning process. The division promotes and embodies the highest quality in educational experiences, no matter the technology and barriers, pride in the Ball State brand, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Ball State has earned top rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* since it started ranking online programs in 2013. Ball State Online programs recognized for 2025 include degree programs in Master of Business Administration (16th); Bachelor's degrees (25th); and Master's in Information and Communications Sciences (27th).

1

Ball State Online has been named Military Friendly by VIQORY Media every year since 2009—a designation given to less than 15% of more than 4,000 colleges nationwide and is based on input from veterans and surveys of participating institutions.

2



Office of Immersive Learning

According to the [Ball State strategic plan](#), immersive learning is one of four high-impact practice activities students should take before graduation. Immersive learning classes allow student teams and faculty mentors to partner with community organizations on projects that address local challenges.

Whether an instructor is new to immersive learning or has been teaching this way for some time, this office can provide

the support needed to implement a successful class. The Immersive Learning Project Support Team assists faculty and their departments before, during, and after an immersive semester. Services include certification and individualized training, internal grant opportunities, a vast network of community partners, and access to resources available on and off campus.

Global Affairs

The [Rinker Center for Global Affairs](#) promotes cultural diversity and understanding, enriches the Ball State student experience, and encourages and supports global citizenry on all levels. With the support and engagement of faculty, staff, students, and the local community, the Rinker Center is at the heart of Ball State's commitment to global learning.

The Rinker Center comprises four teams: International Services, Study Abroad, Academic Engagement and Global Initiatives, and the Intensive English Institute.

International Services strives to create an environment that enhances the academic experience of international students, scholars, and faculty by providing the highest levels of knowledge and expertise in advising, immigration services, advocacy, and programming to the Ball State campus community. In Fall 2024, Ball State hosted 398 international students and scholars from 68 countries. From orientation to cultural acclimation, International Services facilitates students' and scholars' experiences at Ball State.

The Office of Study Abroad oversees programs that provide a myriad of opportunities to explore intercultural issues outside the classroom and around the world. Study abroad opportunities—open to all Ball State students—are available in about 50 countries, ranging from 10 days to 10 months.

Academic Engagement and Global Initiatives (AEGI) facilitates institutional internationalization and global partnerships including cooperative enrollment linkages, curriculum, research, and development. AEGI supports the academic success of at-risk international students and students transitioning from the Intensive English Institute (IEI) to academic programs. This unit provides administrative oversight of Ball State's cooperative and dual degree programs (including the CHEPD 1+2+1 Program with partner institutions in China).

The mission of the Intensive English Institute (IEI) is twofold, with both elements having equal importance. One goal is to facilitate international students' progress in English proficiency and the knowledge of U.S. culture necessary for success in academic course work in the United States. The IEI aids students in the acquisition of English for students to begin their course work as soon as possible. The second purpose is to encourage the development and research of best practices in language teaching and learning. Therefore, participation in classroom-based research, inquiry, and reflection is encouraged for all IEI faculty. Additionally, the IEI provides University students, in appropriately related graduate programs, opportunities for hands-on teaching experience and practical training in a supportive environment.



THE FOUNDATION

Since the establishment of the [Ball State University Foundation](#) in 1951, generous alumni and friends have contributed more than \$597 million through the Foundation to benefit Ball State students, enhance their learning experiences, and boost their future careers. In fiscal year 2024, the Foundation secured more than \$79 million in new gifts and commitments, which accounted for the largest fundraising year on record, and contributed to a current endowment balance of nearly \$300 million.

In 2015, the Foundation underwent an organizational unification of staff and programs to provide enhanced service to the University, students, donors, alumni, and friends. Based on best practice, the unification joined the Alumni Association, Development, and Advancement Services with the Ball State University Foundation to create the University's all-inclusive philanthropic and engagement partner.

The Foundation leads the efforts for the University's award winning One Ball State Day, the Top 100 Student Award program, Homecoming, and other signature events that unite and engage Cardinals from around the world.

Currently, the University is in the public phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, "Our Call to Beneficence," with more than \$330 million already raised towards the \$350 million goal.



OUR CALL TO *Beneficence*

The Campaign for



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**



National Recognition for Ball State

Ball State University is nationally recognized for its academic quality, research impact, and commitment to student success. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education has designated Ball State as both a Research 2 (R2) university—indicating high research activity—and an Opportunity College & University (OCU)—recognizing strong student access and earnings outcomes. Ball State is one of just 27 institutions nationwide, and the only one in Indiana, to receive both distinctions. Here is a sampling:

- The Princeton Review has named Ball State one of the best universities in the Midwest for 20 years.
- Ball State earned the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Forbes in 2023 ranked Ball State University as the fourth-best midsize employer—and the only recognized education institution—in the State of Indiana.
- In 2023, Ball State President Geoffrey S. Mearns was named the recipient of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Champion Award.
- Ball State has received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *Insight into Diversity* for nine years running. This honor is for exemplary initiatives focusing on all aspects of diversity, and inclusion, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Ball State Sports Link in the College of Communication, Information, and Media earned the No. 1 ranking for Top Winning Sports Program in the 2025 Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts School Rankings.
- Recent Ball State graduates Imani Brissett and Sawyer True participated in the 2023 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C. Imani won The College of Fellows Jane Alexander Award for Acting.
- Ball State was the winner of the 2022 Ryan Moser Reilly Award for Excellence in Community Engagement Institutional Leadership award.
- The actuarial science program in the College of Sciences and Humanities has been awarded the Center of Actuarial Excellence designation by the Society of Actuaries, making Ball State one of only two universities in Indiana to hold this distinction.
- The Drawings + Documents Archive (now the Andrew Seager Archives of the Built Environment) and the Architecture Library were honored to receive the 2012 Walter S. Blackburn Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Indiana Chapter. This award is given annually to a non-architect person or organization that has contributed time and service in support of the architectural profession.
- The U.S. Department of Energy declared Ball State's Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning (ECAP) as the 2023 International Build Challenge winner in the Solar Decathlon competition. The team of students and faculty from Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Interior Design, and Construction Management designed and built an affordable house near downtown Indianapolis that excelled across 10 energy and design categories.

May Commencement
on the Quad



- For more than 15 years, Ball State has been named a Military Friendly School by VIQTORY. In 2019, VIQTORY also ranked our online programs seventh in the country.
- Ball State students, faculty, and staff have won 55+ regional Emmy® Awards and 66+ Student Production Awards from the Lower Great Lakes Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
- The Department of Chemistry has been ranked by the American Chemical Society (ACS) as one of the largest producers of ACS-accredited chemistry majors in Indiana and in the top 10 percent in the nation in the number of graduating ACS-accredited chemistry majors.
- Schools Within the Context of Community (SCC) has won many national honors. The most recent are the inaugural Excellence in Faculty Community Engagement Award from the Engagement Scholarship Consortium and one of four regional W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Awards from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.
- The University earned a STARS Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS—for Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System—takes into account, among many other factors, social responsibility and an institution's overall environmental stewardship.
- Ball State's honors for providing a healthy workplace include the Health Champion designation from the American Diabetes Association, a Fit-Friendly Worksites Gold Award from the American Heart Association, and Five Star AchieveWell recognition from the Wellness Council of Indiana.

Finances

The University has a long history of fiscal responsibility. S&P Global classified the financial risk profile of Ball State University as extremely strong and the Enterprise Risk Profile as strong, observing that the University's "strong credit quality reflects its solid market position and brand strength as a regionally important provider of higher education" in January 2025. For more than five years, notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic on enrollment and state appropriations, the University produced positive operating margins every year. In February 2025, S&P Global noted that Ball State "has a history of weathering operating and capital appropriations cuts and has been able to fund strategic projects with internal funds while maintaining healthy (operating) surpluses." Moody's assigned Ball State University a rating of Aa3 (stable) in May 2024.

For fiscal year 2025, the University budgeted \$388 million in general fund revenues and expenses. One measure of institutional financial health is the expendable financial resources to operations ratio, which measures the ability of the University to cover annual operating expenses with expendable resources. This ratio was 1.30 to 1 as of June 30, 2024. The University has exceeded like-rated institutions in this measure for more than five years.

Construction

The State of Indiana and the University have significantly invested in the campus physical infrastructure. Since 2015, the University has completed, started construction on, or approved

to begin \$806 million in projects. These projects have allowed the University to maintain its beautiful campus and invest in strategic priorities, including:

In Progress

1. North Campus renovation, \$81.6 million
2. The Village revitalization plan, \$193 million
 - Performing Arts Center, \$69.9 million
 - Center for Innovation, \$21.3 million
3. Eric Foss Championship Performance Center, \$7.8 million
4. Shebek Stadium (Baseball/Softball Clubhouse and Locker Building), \$8.8 million

Completed

1. Cooper Science renovation, \$59.9 million
2. Health Professions Building, \$62.5 million
3. Foundational Sciences Building, \$87.5 million
4. Jack Beyerl Hall, \$50 million
5. North Dining, \$35 million
6. Northwest Residence Hall, \$51.2 million
7. Vivian V. Conley and Hurley C. Goodall Jr. Multicultural Center, \$4 million
8. Geothermal conversion, \$83 million
9. Brown Family Amphitheater, \$4.7 million



Enrollment

Ball State University’s total Fall 2025 enrollment of more than 20,000 students exceeds pandemic-adjusted projections, with 15,148 attending on campus.

Students come from all 50 states, 74 countries, and every county in Indiana. Out-of-state students represent approximately 24 percent of enrolled students. Almost 6,000 students are enrolled fully online.

The Class of 2029 comprises 3,733 full-time students, of whom 38 percent are men, 62 percent are women, and 29 percent are African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Pacific Islander, or identify with two or more races.

The average high school GPA was 3.58, and more than half of the class earned the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma. More than 600 students enrolled in the Honors College with an average entering GPA of 4.06.

The University’s Strategic Enrollment Plan guides our ongoing efforts to enroll and retain a highly qualified and diverse student population. This includes a policy to make submitting standardized test scores optional for undergraduate admission.

The retention rate for Ball State students is 78 percent. The four-year graduation rate for the Fall 2018 student cohort was 49 percent, exceeding the state average. The University is closing the achievement gap among all the students we serve. Ball State administers almost \$250 million in merit- and need-based aid each year.

Fall 2025 Enrollment

- 20,241 total students
- 14,399 undergraduate and 5,842 graduate students
- 3,733 freshmen
- 55.3% earned the Academic Honors Diploma
- 3.58 average GPA

Enrollment by College

(includes associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees by highest degree being pursued, undeclared and non-degree-seeking not shown)

Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning.....	1,184
College of Communication, Information, and Media	1,573
College of Fine Arts	1,637
College of Health	2,923
College of Sciences and Humanities	4,074
Miller College of Business	2,400
Teachers College	4,945

Career Outcomes

Students who graduated in May 2024 reported the following placement outcomes:

- 91% career placement rate
- 80% employed in their field of study
- 78% work in Indiana



THE STATE

About Muncie

With a population of about 70,000, [Muncie](#) is a dynamic midsize city 55 miles northeast of Indianapolis. Consistently ranked by realtor.com as the No. 1 most affordable college town and described by several national studies as a typical American community, Muncie offers the advantages of larger cities without the hassles and costs of living in major metropolitan areas.

Ball State's cultural venues—including Emens Auditorium, Sursa Performance Hall, the David Owsley Museum of Art, the Charles W. Brown Planetarium, the Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse, Brown Family Amphitheater, and The Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass—provide ample opportunities for arts and entertainment. The campus and surrounding community benefit from thought-provoking art exhibitions, top-flight theatrical performances, prominent speakers, and visits by well-known musical acts.

Muncie is home to many unique attractions including Minnetrista and Oakhurst Gardens, the National Model Aviation Museum, and Cardinal Greenway—a recreational trail for athletes of all kinds. The Muncie Symphony Orchestra offers first-rate programs featuring nationally known artists, and the Muncie Civic Theatre produces plays for all audiences. Downtown Muncie offers a lively arts scene along with shops and dining.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Prairie Creek Reservoir is a 1,252-acre man-made lake surrounded by 3,000 acres of rolling hills. The lake is stocked with a variety of fish. Boat docks are available, and a beach provides a popular summer swimming spot. Residents also have easy access to big cities. Muncie is about an hour away from Indianapolis. Other cities within a few hours of driving include Chicago, Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit, Louisville, and St. Louis.



Prairie Creek Reservoir



Minnetrista Cultural Center



Downtown Muncie



Indianapolis

Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana, is the 16th-largest city in the United States. Located on land set aside for a state capital in the early 19th century, it was modeled after Washington, D.C., with streets radiating outward from the seat of government. Although it is not situated on a navigable body of water, the city's central location—in relation to the state and to much of the country—has made it an important transport and distribution center since the 19th century.

Since the 1970s, Indianapolis, home to the NFL's Colts, the WNBA's Fever, and the NBA's Pacers, has established a reputation as a sports center by constructing major athletic and visitor facilities and energetically promoting

itself as a venue for a wide variety of amateur sporting events. The city has hosted the NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball championships and the 2012 Super Bowl. However, its most famous athletic event remains the Indianapolis 500, held annually at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The city is also known for its outstanding dining and cultural options. Among its offerings are The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Newfields—A Place for Nature and the Arts, White River State Park, the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Murat Theatre.



Our Enduring Values

Excellence. We commit to excel in all that we do.

Innovation. We commit to be creative, responsive, and progressive.

Courage. We commit to set ambitious goals and to take the risks necessary to achieve those goals.

Integrity. We commit to be honest, ethical, authentic, and accessible.

Inclusiveness. We commit to respect different cultural experiences and intellectual perspectives in all people.

Social responsibility. We commit to act for the benefit of society at large.

Gratitude. We commit to express appreciation to other people and to demonstrate our gratitude through our actions.



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Beneficence, Ball State's institutional icon, symbolizes the generosity of the five Ball brothers whose land donation to the State of Indiana allowed the University to flourish.