

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Provost
Leadership Profile
May 2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of Delaware (UD), the State's flagship public research university and a distinguished Land, Sea, and Space Grant institution, seeks a principled, visible, and forward-looking academic leader to serve as provost. This is a rare opportunity to shape the academic future of a research intensive university at a moment of renewed momentum, institutional clarity, and leadership transition.

UD enrolls more than 24,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and is home to a deeply engaged community of faculty and staff committed to excellence in teaching, research, service, and public impact. Recognized as a Carnegie R1 institution with very high research activity, UD combines national research stature with a distinctive commitment to undergraduate education, faculty governance, and student success. With campuses and programs spanning the State of Delaware and strong connections to government, industry, and community partners, the University plays an outsized role in the educational, economic, and civic life of the state.

The provost will join UD during an important period of institutional alignment and opportunity under the leadership of President Laura Carlson, whose appointment in January 2026 marked the beginning of a new chapter defined by transparency, collaboration, and a strong, human centered leadership culture. Together with President Carlson and a newly appointed executive vice president for finance and administration, the provost will form a collaborative senior leadership triad charged with translating institutional vision into strategy and execution.

As the University's chief academic officer, the provost will lead a comprehensive academic enterprise that includes undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctoral education; research and scholarly activity across disciplines; faculty affairs and development; libraries and academic support units; global and experiential learning; partnerships that advance the University's public mission; and enrollment management. The provost will be central to sustaining and strengthening UD's academic quality, research momentum, and student outcomes while navigating a dynamic higher education landscape shaped by fiscal pressures, evolving student needs, technological transformation, and heightened public scrutiny of higher education.

UD seeks a provost who brings intellectual gravitas, operational finesse, and a deeply relational leadership style—someone who is visible, forthright, and engaged across the campus community. The successful candidate will value and practice shared governance; communicate with clarity and follow through; support the full breadth of UD's academic disciplines; and foster a culture of trust, innovation, and collective responsibility. Above all, the next provost will be excited by the distinctive opportunity to lead at the University of Delaware and committed to partnering with its community to advance a bold, inclusive, and sustainable academic future.

Role of the Provost

Reporting directly to the president, the provost serves as the University of Delaware's chief academic officer and a key member of the president's senior leadership team. The provost is responsible for the academic integrity, vitality, and strategic direction of the University and for advancing excellence across teaching, research, and service in alignment with UD's mission and values.

The provost provides intellectual, strategic, and administrative leadership for a complex academic enterprise that spans 10 colleges, multiple campuses and sites across the state, and a broad portfolio of undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctoral programs. Working in close partnership with the deans, faculty, academic leaders, staff, and shared governance bodies, the provost ensures the quality, relevance, and coherence of academic programs; supports the recruitment, development, and retention of outstanding faculty; and advances a culture of inclusive excellence and academic rigor.

As a senior institutional leader, the provost plays a central role in aligning academic priorities with university-wide planning, budgeting, and resource allocation. The provost is responsible for academic budgeting and planning and works collaboratively with the president, executive vice president for finance and administration, and vice president for research, innovation, and scholarship to ensure that resources, policies, and systems effectively support the academic and research missions. In this role, the provost must balance strategic ambition with transparency and fiscal responsibility, clearly communicating priorities, tradeoffs, and decisions to the campus community.

The provost is also the University's principal steward of shared governance and faculty relations, including leadership in a partially unionized environment. This includes working constructively with the Faculty Senate, the AAUP, and other governance bodies; honoring the [Faculty Handbook](#) and collective bargaining agreements; and fostering an environment of mutual respect, trust, and accountability. The provost must be comfortable leading through influence and persuasion, while also able to make and own difficult decisions in service of the University's long-term interests.

In addition, the provost serves as a visible ambassador and advocate for the academic mission—on campus, across the State of Delaware, and nationally and internationally. The provost supports fundraising and external partnership efforts related to academics and research, engages with alumni, donors, and public officials as needed, and helps articulate a compelling narrative about UD's academic strengths, public value, and future direction.

Central to this role is the expectation that the provost will be an engaged, accessible, and present leader. The provost is expected to be regularly visible across campus, actively listen to diverse perspectives, and foster open, honest dialogue with faculty, staff, and students. By modeling transparency, integrity, and optimism, the provost will help cultivate a cohesive academic culture in which faculty and staff feel valued, students are supported holistically, and the University is positioned to thrive amid ongoing change.

Reporting to the provost are the deans of the 10 colleges, vice provost for faculty affairs, vice provost for academic programs and university initiatives, vice provost for undergraduate education, vice provost for libraries, museums and press and university librarian, vice provost and dean for the graduate school, vice president of enrollment management, chief community engagement officer, and chief of

staff. Together, this leadership team works in close partnership with the provost to inform decision-making, advance shared priorities, and foster a culture of collaborative leadership across the institution.

An organizational chart can be found [here](#).



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The University of Delaware is at an inflection point. With new presidential leadership, a re-envisioned senior leadership team, and a campus community eager to move forward together, the next provost will have an extraordinary opportunity to shape UD's academic trajectory and institutional culture for years to come.

Beyond the day-to-day oversight of academic affairs, the provost will be expected to lead across the following strategic priorities, among others:

- **Champion a Clear, Compelling Academic Vision Aligned with UD's Mission**

The provost will serve as the chief steward and architect of UD's academic enterprise, translating institutional vision into academic priorities that are coherent, credible, and actionable. In partnership with the president, deans, faculty, and shared governance bodies, the provost will articulate a clear academic direction that reflects UD's Land, Sea, and Space Grant mission; its joint identity as a research intensive and teaching intensive R1 institution; and its responsibility to serve the State of Delaware. This includes setting and communicating academic priorities that balance innovation with continuity, growth with quality, and aspiration with realism—while ensuring that all disciplines are valued and supported as integral contributors to UD's academic strength and public purpose.

- **Sustain Research Momentum While Reducing Obstacles**

UD has made significant and impactful contributions in research over the past decade, growing its commitment, platform and visibility of its research enterprise, and it remains poised for purposeful growth. The provost will be expected to advance research momentum by aligning faculty support, administrative systems, and resource decisions with the realities of contemporary research and graduate education. This includes:

- Encouraging interdisciplinary and collaborative research across colleges
- Strengthening graduate education as a cornerstone of research vitality
- Reducing unnecessary administrative friction and duplicative processes
- Ensuring that systems, staffing, and structures support faculty productivity

The provost must understand research as both an intellectual endeavor and an institutional infrastructure that requires intentional stewardship.

- **Elevate Teaching Excellence and Pedagogical Innovation**

As a teaching-intensive R1 institution, UD's distinction rests on the strength of its academic experience. The provost will champion teaching excellence as a core institutional priority, ensuring that pedagogy is valued, supported, and continuously advanced across all disciplines. The provost will position teaching not as a static responsibility but as a dynamic, evolving practice essential to undergraduate and graduate student success and institutional distinction.

- **Advance Student Success Through Integrated, Holistic Academic Leadership**

The provost will lead academic efforts that place student success—undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctoral—at the center of institutional decision making, recognizing faculty as central to advancing this work. This includes working closely with student life, faculty senate, and

other partners to ensure that academic policies, curricula, learning environments, and support systems reflect the evolving needs of today's students. Key priorities include:

- Supporting innovative pedagogy and effective use of instructional technology
- Addressing student mental health and well-being as integral to academic success
- Ensuring clarity and coherence in academic pathways and outcomes
- Preparing students not only for first jobs, but for meaningful lives and careers

▪ **Strengthen Trust Through Transparency, Follow Through, and Shared Governance**

A central expectation for the next provost is to deepen trust across the academic community. Faculty, staff, and students seek a leader who communicates clearly, explains decisions and tradeoffs candidly, and consistently closes the loop—demonstrating that input is heard, weighed, and reflected in outcomes. The provost will:

- Practice shared governance as a lived commitment, not a formality
- Work constructively within a unionized environment, honoring collective bargaining agreements and the [Faculty Handbook](#)
- Foster confidence that academic decisions are made fairly, consistently, and with integrity

This role calls for a leader who can listen broadly, decide thoughtfully, and stand by decisions with clarity and conviction—especially when choices are difficult.

▪ **Be a Visible, Accessible Leader of Academic Culture**

The UD community places high value on leadership presence. The provost is expected to be visible and engaged across campus—attending events, hosting conversations, engaging informally with faculty, staff, and students, and helping cultivate a shared sense of purpose and belonging. By modeling approachability, curiosity, and authenticity, the provost will play a central role in shaping a positive academic culture—one that values people, respects contributions across roles, and reinforces UD's identity as a connected, caring academic community. Consistent with the UD's identity as a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant institution, this presence should extend beyond campus to include meaningful engagement with communities, partners, and stakeholders across the state and region.

▪ **Lead Thoughtful Change and Institutional Renewal**

As higher education continues to undergo rapid transformation, the provost will be expected to lead change with both urgency and care—streamlining structures where appropriate, reassessing long standing practices that no longer serve the institution well, and creating space for innovation without destabilizing core strengths. This includes partnering with shared governance and union representatives in the thoughtful examination and reconsideration of:

- Academic and administrative structures
- Faculty roles and workload models
- The use and alignment of academic systems and technologies

The provost will be a systems thinker who can identify barriers to progress, reduce unnecessary complexity, and help UD remain nimble, resilient, and future-focused.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of Delaware seeks a provost who brings intellectual authority, operational strength, and a deeply human, values driven leadership approach. The successful candidate will demonstrate many if not all of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- **Senior Academic Leadership Experience and Readiness:** Significant experience in senior academic leadership with the ability to assume responsibility for university-wide academic issues, structures, and decision-making. The ideal candidate will be prepared to step into the role with confidence and momentum, rather than requiring a prolonged period of orientation.
- **Comprehensive Understanding of the Academic Enterprise:** Deep familiarity with undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctoral education; faculty recruitment, evaluation, and promotion; research and graduate education; and the interdependence of teaching, scholarship, and service in a research intensive public university.
- **Research Leadership and Intellectual Breadth:** A strong understanding of the contemporary research landscape, including sponsored programs, graduate education, interdisciplinary scholarship, and the infrastructure required to sustain research excellence. The provost will value research across all disciplines and appreciate diverse scholarly and creative models across the full spectrum of the academic enterprise.
- **Operational and Financial Acumen:** Demonstrated ability to manage complex academic budgets, understand resource drivers such as enrollment and research funding, and align resources with strategic priorities under real financial constraints. The provost must be able to make difficult tradeoffs transparently and fairly while maintaining institutional trust.
- **Commitment to Shared Governance and Faculty Partnership:** A deep respect for shared governance and a demonstrated ability to work effectively with academic leadership and faculty governance bodies in a partially unionized environment, as well as with staff and students. The provost must view shared governance as a strength rather than an obstacle.
- **Clear, Honest, and Consistent Communication:** An exceptional communicator who listens carefully, communicates plainly, and provides clear rationale for decisions. The provost must be committed to closing the loop—ensuring that faculty, staff, and students understand not only what decisions were made, but why.
- **Trust Building Leadership with Conviction:** A leader who earns trust through collaboration, integrity, follow-through, and fairness; who says what they mean and stands by their decisions; and who can exercise authority with restraint and confidence, particularly in moments of tension or uncertainty.
- **Collaborative and Relational Leadership Style:** A relationship centered leader who values collaboration across faculty, staff, students, deans, and senior leaders; who treats colleagues as partners rather than problems to manage; and who is skilled at working productively with people who hold differing perspectives.
- **Systems Thinking and Change Leadership:** A strategic, systems-oriented thinker who understands how academic, administrative, financial, and human systems intersect. The provost must be capable of identifying and reducing unnecessary complexity, removing barriers to

effectiveness, and leading thoughtful, inclusive change in a rapidly evolving higher education environment.

- **Student Centered and Holistic Orientation:** A genuine commitment to student success across undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctoral programs, with an understanding of the changing needs of today's students. The provost will appreciate the connection between academic policy, pedagogy, student life, mental health, and post-graduation outcomes.
- **Visibility, Accessibility, and Campus Presence:** A leader who is regularly present and engaged across campus—visible, approachable, and invested in the daily life of the University. The provost should value informal connections as much as formal leadership and see presence as essential to credibility and culture building.
- **Emotional Intelligence, Resilience, and Judgment:** High emotional intelligence, sound judgment, and the resilience to lead through complexity, disagreement, and pressure. The provost must bring empathy, perspective, and steadiness to a role that requires balancing competing demands and expectations.
- **Integrity, Ethics, and Moral Courage:** A strong ethical compass and the courage to uphold academic values—including academic freedom and institutional integrity—even in complex political or external environments. The provost must be willing to advocate for faculty, staff, and students when it matters most.
- **Joy, Humility, and Sense of Purpose:** A leader who brings energy, optimism, and a sense of humor to demanding work; who does not lead from ego; and who finds genuine joy and meaning in advancing the mission of public higher education.
- **Understanding of the Land-Grant Mission and Public Impact:** A deep appreciation for the mission and responsibilities of a land-grant institution, including its commitments to access, applied research, and service to the public good. The provost must value and support the distinctive roles of land, sea, and space-grant programs in advancing outreach, extension, community engagement, and translational research, ensuring the University remains meaningfully connected to the needs of the community.
- **Academic Credibility and Scholarly Stature:** An earned doctorate or terminal degree and a distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and service that merits appointment as a tenured full professor. The provost must possess the academic gravitas to earn the respect of faculty across disciplines and appointment types and to serve as a credible steward of the academic mission.
- **Authentic Commitment to the University of Delaware:** Above all, a provost who is genuinely excited about the University of Delaware—its mission, people, and potential—and who views this role as an opportunity to make a lasting, meaningful impact on an institution and community poised for its next chapter.

About the University of Delaware

Overview

The University of Delaware (UD) is a research intensive, technologically advanced public university with global impact and deep roots in the State of Delaware. Home to more than 24,000 undergraduate, graduate, professional and continuing studies students from across the nation and around the world, UD combines the scale and ambition of a leading R1 institution with a strong sense of community and long standing commitment to access, student success, and public service.

In addition to its vibrant main campus in Newark, the University maintains locations across the state in Wilmington, Dover, Georgetown, and Lewes, reinforcing its role as a statewide institution serving diverse communities and regional needs. A Land Grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant institution, UD is state-supported yet privately governed—a distinctive model that enables both public accountability and institutional agility.

Founded in 1743 and chartered by the State of Delaware in 1833, the University was designated one of the nation's historic Land Grant colleges in 1867. UD celebrated its 280th anniversary during the 2023–2024 academic year, reflecting a long tradition of academic excellence, innovation, and service to society.

Classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as an R1 institution with very high research activity—a distinction held by fewer than five percent of U.S. colleges and universities—UD ranks among the nation's top 100 universities in federal research and development expenditures. In FY 2025, sponsored research expenditures totaled \$361.5 million. UD also holds the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, recognizing its sustained commitment to extending scholarship beyond campus through partnerships with more than 300 community organizations.

UD is consistently recognized among the nation's leading public universities. It ranks #38 overall among 584 colleges and universities nationwide and #14 among public universities in *The Wall Street Journal's* 2026 WSJ/College Pulse Best Colleges in the U.S. Rankings. *U.S. News & World Report* places UD among the top 100 national universities and #43 among public universities, and *Forbes* ranks UD among the top colleges in the Northeast. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed UD's accreditation in 2022, commending the institution for its progress and direction. The next Self-Study Evaluation is scheduled for 2028-2029.

The University is deeply committed to fostering a campus community that reflects the richness and complexity of human experience. UD seeks to recruit and retain students, faculty, and staff from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, identities, and life experiences and to cultivate learning environments that are inclusive, respectful, and intellectually vibrant. Through academic excellence, civic engagement, and a strong sense of shared purpose, UD aspires to prepare graduates who will lead and contribute meaningfully in an increasingly interconnected world.

Facts and Figures

Enrollment

24,564 Total Enrollment

19,385 Undergraduate Students

4,252 Graduate Students

927 Professional and Continuing Studies Students

Academics and beyond

150+ Majors and Minors

250+ Graduate and Post-baccalaureate programs

10 Colleges and Schools

13:1 Student-Faculty ratio

34: average class size

Employees: 4,700

94% of 2024 bachelor's degree graduates are employed or pursuing further education

200,000+ alumni around the world

Rankings and Honors (US News)

#1 Physical Therapy Graduate Program

#4 Chemical Engineering Undergraduate Program

#7 Chemical Engineering Graduate Program

#11 Online Master's in Educational/Instructional Media Design Programs

#25 Best Graduate Public Affairs Schools

#25 Online Master's in Education Programs

#26 Best Graduate Schools of Education

#26 Online MBA Programs

#35 Online Master's in Nursing Programs

#36 Best Graduate Engineering Schools

#40 Nursing Undergraduate Program

#43 National Public Universities

Global Impact

First US institution to offer study abroad (1923)

30% of students study abroad each year

100+ study abroad programs in over 40 countries

200+ global partnerships with institutions on six continents

Research and Innovation

1 million square feet of teaching, industrial and clinical space being developed at STAR Campus

80 Research Centers which has led to 148 patents and 30 startups in the last 10 years

Top 3% in US for research activity

Economic Impact (FY2022)

\$3.1 billion in economic impact in Delaware supporting 26,040 jobs

\$5.4 billion in economic impact on the Northeast Corridor supporting 35,320 jobs

Athletics

22 NCAA Division I teams

34 Intramural Sports Leagues

36 Club Sports

Mission and Vision (to be updated Fall 2026 as part of strategic planning)

The University of Delaware exists to cultivate learning, develop knowledge, and foster the free exchange of ideas. State-assisted yet privately governed, the University has a strong tradition of distinguished scholarship, which is manifested in its research and creative activities, teaching, and service, in line with its commitment to increasing and disseminating scientific, humanistic, artistic, and social knowledge for the benefit of the larger society. Founded in 1743 and chartered by the state in 1833, the University is a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant university.

A major research university with extensive graduate programs that is also dedicated to outstanding undergraduate and professional education, the UD faculty is committed to the intellectual, cultural, and ethical development of students as citizens, scholars, and professionals. Its graduates are prepared to contribute to a global and diverse society that requires leaders with creativity, integrity, and a dedication to service.

UD also promotes an environment in which all people are inspired to learn, and encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, free inquiry, and respect for the views and values of an increasingly diverse population.

An institution engaged in addressing the critical needs of the state, nation, and global community, the University of Delaware carries out its mission with the support of alumni who span the globe and in partnership with public, private, and nonprofit institutions in Delaware and beyond.

Values

Embodying its motto "Knowledge is the light of the mind," the UD community nurtures intellectual curiosity, free inquiry, and the empowerment of people to learn and flourish. They celebrate individual and collective achievements and respects diverse backgrounds, values and viewpoints. They are guided by five key values.

Academic Freedom

UD believes that each person has the responsibility to foster an atmosphere that promotes the free exchange of ideas and opinions. Everyone has the right to benefit from this atmosphere.

Diversity and Inclusion

At UD, diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and learning experiences are valued; this is essential for educating global citizens, developing knowledge, and advancing and enhancing the world.

Innovation

Revolutionary thinking is part of UD's DNA—its first students in 1743 helped found the United States. In present times, its students, alumni, faculty, and staff make a significant difference in the world, and collaborate across disciplines with risk-taking, creativity, and innovation to address the biggest challenges of our time.

Community

UD's supportive, friendly campus community advocates for each individual's voice to be heard. It encourages respect and civility toward everyone, knowing that mutual appreciation and dialogue lead to greater learning.

Service

As an engaged university, UD creates and capitalizes on innovative partnerships with government, industry, and the community for economic and civic development. These connections enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity, as well as the curriculum, and ultimately contribute to the public good.

Strategic Plan

In the December 2025 meetings of the [Board of Trustees](#) and the [General Faculty](#), President Laura Carlson described a vision for OurUD that emerged from multiple town halls and conversations throughout the fall semester. The underlying declarations of that vision are:

- **Inquire with Impact:** by starting with the needs of the state, the nation, and the world, and then generating, translating, and refining knowledge and solutions.
- **Create with Connections:** by leveraging UD's unique assets, nimbleness, and partnerships to strengthen the UD community.
- **Innovate with Intention:** by infusing entrepreneurial thinking into UD's cross-disciplinary research, scholarship, teaching, and learning.
- **Grow with Purpose:** by sustaining the advances of the past while building excellence within new frontiers.
- **Welcome with Promise:** by fulfilling UD's obligation to enable a transformative education for all students, taking them from where they are to where they need to be.

- **Educate with Outcomes:** by opening doors to Blue Hens to thrive and succeed throughout their whole life's journey.
- **Work with Trust:** by assuming good intent, encouraging diverse viewpoints, and respecting and valuing everyone's contributions.
- **Belong with Joy:** by living out UD's conviction that its community is worthy of its attention and its intention.
- **Stand with Pride:** by being confident to define UD and stand in an image of its own creation.

These declarations will provide an initial framework for UD's new strategic plan, as well as revised mission and vision statements.

Innovation and Partnerships

- The University fosters an entrepreneurial spirit that runs deep in all its colleges through academic programs, mentors, startup incubators, and community engagement. Horn Entrepreneurship, a campus-wide enterprise, emphasizes experiential learning and active engagement with business leaders. Its courses and programs give students the knowledge, skills, connections, and access to resources needed to successfully manifest innovation and thrive in a rapidly changing world.
- The Office of Economic Innovation and Partnerships is centered on long-term productive partnerships, and it facilitates access to space, capital, counsel, and connections that empower entrepreneurs and innovators to accelerate their ideas to market, grow their businesses, and form partnerships. UD is also a key partner in the new NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Northeast Hub, which provides researchers with entrepreneurial training, mentoring, and resources to form startup companies that translate laboratory discoveries into breakthrough products and services.
- Other partnerships include the Delaware Innovation Space, Inc., a nonprofit organization designed in conjunction with the state of Delaware and DuPont to help science-based businesses grow in Delaware and connect students to the work of the most talented innovators. This partnership focuses on key science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas that align with the strengths that both DuPont and UD bring to the venture.

Academics

As a major research university, UD provides students with rich opportunities for discovery-based learning in the laboratory and in the field, preparing them for rewarding careers. UD offers a broad range of degree programs: four associate programs, 140 bachelor's programs, 115 master's programs, and 44 doctoral programs, which are offered through the University's 10 colleges.

The University's academic culture reflects a distinctive balance: a strong commitment to undergraduate education alongside robust graduate and doctoral programs, and a research enterprise that spans the sciences, engineering, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Faculty are deeply engaged as teacher scholars, mentors, and public contributors, supported by a governance structure that values faculty voice, shared responsibility, and academic freedom.

U.S. News and World Report includes 30 of UD's graduate programs among the top 100 in the nation, including the #1 ranked Physical Therapy Program and 12 others in the top 50, including but not limited

to chemical engineering (#7), criminology (#18), nonprofit management (#16), public finance and budgeting (#21), public affairs (#34), public management and leadership (#18), and clinical psychology (#37).

College of Agricultural and Natural Resources

The [College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) is a vibrant, research-driven community dedicated to tackling the grand challenges shaping the future of global agriculture and our relationship with the natural world. With over 75 faculty across four academic departments, the college prepares students to become leaders and innovators through more than 20 programs related to science, technology, business, and economics within four academic departments — Animal and Food Sciences, Applied Economics and Statistics, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, and Plant and Soil Sciences. In addition, the College is home to the University of [Delaware's Cooperative Extension program](#).

College of Arts and Sciences

The [College of Arts and Sciences](#) is the intellectual and cultural heart of the University of Delaware, bringing together dedicated artists, scholars, scientists, and professionals committed to teaching, mentoring, and creating new knowledge. It offers a broad and dynamic academic environment that spans the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and interdisciplinary fields, fostering critical thinking, free inquiry, and an appreciation for diverse perspectives. With over 550 faculty members across 24 academic units, the college provides students with flexible pathways that cultivate creativity, scientific and quantitative literacy, and global citizenship through more than 170 majors and over 100 minors.

Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics

The [Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics](#) is a dynamic hub of innovation, scholarship, and real-world business education, bringing together dedicated educators, researchers, and industry-engaged professionals committed to preparing students for leadership in a rapidly evolving global marketplace. All Lerner students receive an experience-driven, technology-informed business education taught by full-time faculty who are experts in their fields. 156 faculty support five academic units at Lerner's, offering a total of 18 undergraduate majors, ten master's programs, and three doctoral programs designed to meet the changing needs of students, employers, and the global economy. Over 3,850 undergraduate and 737 graduate students are enrolled in the college. Additionally, 692 students participate in the SWUFE-UD Institute of Data Science, a collaboration between the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China, and the University of Delaware's Lerner College of Business. The College is home to several centers as well.

College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment

The [College of Earth, Ocean and Environment](#) is a globally engaged, research-driven community dedicated to advancing the understanding of Earth's natural systems and the complex interactions between people and the environment. The College brings the latest advances in technology to bear on both teaching and conducting ocean, earth, and atmospheric research. Through its three academic units and over 60 faculty, the College strives to educate well-rounded scientists and policy specialists with the broad vision needed to address today's global problems. Concerns such as climate change, globalization and migration, marine pollution, watershed degradation, energy independence, and

fisheries decline are at the heart of the College's nine undergraduate majors, nine master's programs, and nine doctoral programs.

College of Education and Human Development

The [College of Education and Human Development](#) (CEHD) at the University of Delaware offers programs that integrate classwork with extensive field experience to prepare students to address the most pressing social and educational issues of the time. More than 100 faculty members guide 1,400 undergraduate and graduate students to become educators, researchers, advocates, and leaders in their fields, locally and around the globe. The College houses six undergraduate programs, eight master's programs, five doctoral programs, and several minors and graduate certificates.

College of Engineering

The top-ranked [College of Engineering](#) is home to seven academic departments devoted to building a community of problem-solvers focused on challenges associated with sustainability, energy, health care, and the environment. Students get hands-on classroom and laboratory experiences, innovative research, internships, study-abroad opportunities, and teaching and mentoring from world-class faculty. In 2025, 179 faculty educated 2,595 undergraduate and 991 graduate students in the College's academic programs spread across eight academic departments.

College of Health Sciences

The [College of Health Sciences](#) is a hub of multidisciplinary research, education, patient services and public outreach. From classroom experiences, clinical opportunities, study abroad, and more, students learn interdisciplinary approaches that will help develop the knowledge and skills to be part of the next generation of health-focused leaders. The College houses 126 faculty across seven departments encompassing 12 undergraduate programs, 21 graduate programs, and several minors across a broad and dynamic collection of healthcare specialties. The College enrolls approximately 2,850 undergraduate and 554 graduate students.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy & Administration

Named for the 46th president of the United States, the [Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration](#) prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to engage in research and public service activities to improve the quality of life in communities around the world. The Biden School ranks #27 overall among 268 national public affairs schools and houses several centers related to research and public service. The College houses one undergraduate program, seven master's programs, and four doctoral programs.

Graduate College

Established in 2019, the [Graduate College](#) is an expression of the will of the faculty and administration at the University of Delaware to dedicate itself to the needs and aspirations of their graduate and postdoctoral students. Currently, more than 3,600 graduate students are enrolled at UD. UD currently offers 60 doctoral and 145 master's degree programs. Of these programs, 16 are dual degrees, 14 are interdisciplinary, and 20 are online, many of which are ranked by the National Research Council at the top of their fields.

Honors College

The Honors College, ranked #11 in the nation by College Transitions, offers a vibrant set of co-curricular leadership opportunities designed to strengthen community, support academic success, and enrich the Honors student experience. Through roles such as Munson Fellows, First-Year Fellows, Writing Fellows, and Teaching Fellows, students gain hands-on experience in mentoring, community-building, academic support, and course enhancement. The College values students who are academically motivated, strongly engaged in on- and off-campus activities and high-impact practices, and interested in immersing themselves in a strong living and learning community.

Research

The University of Delaware is driving discovery for the future. More than 90 research centers, institutes, and core facilities reflect the breadth and depth of the University's research portfolio and its commitment to addressing pressing societal challenges. UD faculty conduct impactful research in areas ranging from biotechnology and materials science to education, public policy, data science, and the humanities.

UD is a national leader in sustainability and energy research, with centers and institutes focused on renewable energy, climate change, environmental policy, and resilience. Faculty are engaged in groundbreaking work in solar cells, wind power, green hydrogen, catalysis, plastics innovation, and vehicle-to-grid technology. UD is home to two U.S. Department of Energy funded Energy Frontier Research Centers and one of the National Science Foundation's Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and strong external partnerships, UD's research enterprise contributes to economic development, workforce preparation, and public problem solving across Delaware and beyond.

STAR Campus

UD's Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus brings together leading-edge research and top academic programming with industry and community partnerships. It serves as a bold vision for the future where people come together to live, work, and learn. The Tower at STAR, home to the College of Health Sciences as well as partnering organizations from the health-care sector, was named one of the nation's most "amazing university buildings" by *USA Today*.

UD's biopharmaceutical research and education initiatives, along with many top resources in biotechnology and data science, are co-located with The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) headquarters in the new, state-of-the-art Ammon Pinizzotto Biopharmaceutical Innovation Center at the heart of UD's STAR Campus.

The newest project on the STAR Campus is the FinTech Innovation Hub, a partnership with Discover Bank and Delaware Technology Park, with the ultimate goal of improving access to financial systems for the underserved. FinTech is a burgeoning employment sector for Delaware and the region. More than 300 people will work in the 100,000-square-foot facility, using data analytics, visualization and artificial intelligence for research, education and community engagement.

Also nearby is the new Chemours Discovery Hub, where UD students and faculty are collaborating on research projects with Chemours, a global leader in titanium technologies, thermal and specialized solutions, advanced performance materials, and chemical solutions.

Student Life

The University of Delaware serves over 24,000 students, of which roughly 19,000 are undergraduates. Just under 10% of its undergraduates hail from Delaware with a large proportion of students coming from the mid-Atlantic region. Campus life is active and thriving including residence halls, living and learning communities, two major dining halls and a multitude of retail food options located in two food courts as well as scattered throughout campus. Approximately 7000 students choose to live on campus in more than 40 buildings. The Perkins and Trabant Student Centers are home to more than 400 student groups, Creative Leadership, Innovation and Service, Fraternity and Sorority Leadership & Learning, and Blue Hen eSports. Student wellness as well as support services are also centrally located in the student centers. Students are involved in athletics at the NCAA Division I level and compete in 23 sports in Conference USA.

Supported by an online seat reservation and location system, UD's state-of-the-art Morris Library includes study rooms, lockers, carrels, technology loans, printing and scanning, and a Research Data and Design Commons in addition to its research resources. UD also hosts the Mineralogical Museum, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Old College Gallery, and the Special Collections Gallery.



Leadership

Dr. Laura Carlson, President



Laura Carlson, Ph.D., was appointed the 29th president of the University of Delaware effective January 1, 2026, following her service as interim president beginning in July 2025. She previously served as provost of the University of Delaware, where she was widely recognized for her transparent leadership style, deep engagement with the campus community, and commitment to academic excellence, access, and student success.

As provost, Dr. Carlson focused on strengthening the academic enterprise by expanding pathways to the University of Delaware, growing enrollment, empowering faculty, and fostering a culture of collaboration and shared governance. She led the development and implementation of a multi-year academic strategy that integrated enrollment planning, financial stewardship, and faculty hiring, helping the University navigate a complex post pandemic environment while maintaining academic quality and institutional momentum. Her leadership emphasized clarity in decision-making, openness in communication, and a strong commitment to the holistic student experience.

Prior to joining the University of Delaware in 2022, Dr. Carlson spent more than two decades at the University of Notre Dame, where she held a series of senior academic leadership roles, including vice president, associate provost, and dean of the Graduate School. Earlier in her career, she served as director of Graduate Studies and later associate chair in the Department of Psychology. Her leadership at Notre Dame was marked by sustained attention to graduate education, faculty development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and institutional planning.

Dr. Carlson joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor of psychology and was promoted to full professor in 2008. A Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, she has received multiple teaching awards, including the Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

An accomplished scholar, Dr. Carlson's research focuses on spatial cognition—how people mentally represent and navigate the world around them. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation and is notable for its interdisciplinary reach, incorporating collaborations across psychology, computer science, engineering, architecture, geography, and linguistics.

Dr. Carlson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from Dartmouth College with a special major in the psychology of language. She received a Master of Arts degree from Michigan State University and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

As president, Dr. Carlson is leading the University of Delaware into its next chapter with a focus on academic excellence, inclusive leadership, financial sustainability, and a renewed sense of community and shared purpose.

Newark, Delaware

The University of Delaware's main campus is in Newark, Delaware, a welcoming and highly livable community in the heart of the East Coast—perfectly positioned midway between New York City and Washington, D.C. Known for its extensive green space and pedestrian-friendly layout, Newark blends the charm of a suburban college town with the energy of a dynamic, award-winning downtown that runs directly through the center of campus. The city is surrounded by more than 12,000 acres of protected parkland, offering abundant opportunities for hiking, cycling, and outdoor recreation just minutes from academic buildings.

Delaware is known for tax-free shopping, but the financial advantages extend much further. Residents benefit from a comparatively lower cost of living across housing, property taxes, transportation, and everyday amenities—making the state an attractive option for individuals and families seeking both affordability and quality.

Newark provides easy access to Mid-Atlantic and Northeast destinations:

- 45 minutes from Philadelphia
- 55 minutes from Baltimore
- 2 hours from New York City
- 2 hours from Washington, D.C.
- 6 hours from Boston

This ideal positioning enables residents to enjoy small-town ease of living while staying closely connected to some of the nation's most influential cultural, political, and economic centers.

Newark sits just a short drive from Wilmington, the region's urban hub. Wilmington is the Corporate Capital of America and home to the state's largest downtown, a major center for banking, fintech, and innovation. Its vibrant urban setting includes a flourishing culinary scene that appeals to food lovers, riverfront attractions, notable museums, such as the Delaware Art Museum, and renowned performing arts venues, including The Grand Opera House and The Queen.

Delaware's exceptional quality of life has made it a magnet for major corporations. More than 67% of Fortune 500 companies call Delaware their corporate home, underscoring the state's economic vitality and its appeal as a place to live, work, and build a future.

Other Campus Locations and Facilities include:

Wilmington

- Community Education Building

Dover

- Paradee Center/Kent County Cooperative Extension
- DelOne Conference Center
- Modern Maturity Center (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)

Georgetown

- [Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center](#)

Lewes

- [Hugh R. Sharp Campus](#)
- [Virden Retreat Center](#)
- [Marine Operations & Harbor](#)
- [Fred Thomas Building \(Osher Lifelong Learning Institute\)](#)

Procedure for Candidacy

This search is led by Robin Mamlet, Sandra Chu, and Tyler Workman of WittKieffer.

Nominations and inquiries may be directed to Sandra Chu (schu@wittkieffer.com) and Tyler Workman (tworkman@wittkieffer.com). To receive the fullest consideration, candidate materials should be submitted through the [WittKieffer Candidate Portal](#) by August 10, 2026. Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile.

The University of Delaware is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups. The University's Notice of Non-Discrimination can be found at <http://www.udel.edu/aboutus/legalnotices.html>