

UD Facts & Figures 2016-17



MISSION AND VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

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, research, teaching, and service that is grounded in a commitment to increasing and disseminating scientific, humanistic, and social knowledge for the benefit of the larger society. Tracing its origins to 1743 and chartered by the state in 1833, the University of Delaware today is a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant university.

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

The University of Delaware 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.

UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

With input from a 2014 self-study and strategic planning initiative, University President Dennis Assanis has identified five top priorities for the institution:

- **Enhance the success of our students.** This theme is fundamental to all that is done at the University. As educators, we have the responsibility to engage and cultivate knowledge among our students, not only in school but throughout their lives, as they encounter a connected and increasingly more complex world.
-

- **Invest in intellectual and physical capital.** The University will continue to grow the faculty in signature areas of strength, building clusters of excellence that lift the entire institution. In expanding our faculty, we will cultivate an ethos that values education, research, scholarship and engagement, as well as their integration across the University. At the same time, the University's physical space will be evaluated, renewed and expanded. This priority is essential to ensuring the success of our students as they work to realize their limitless potential.
 - **Foster a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.** The world needs creative thinkers and big dreamers, and we must nurture our students' imaginations. Our graduates must be able to introduce entrepreneurial thought and approaches in everything they do. This innovative spirit is also crucial to the University's fundamental role as an economic engine for the state and region.
 - **Build an environment of inclusive excellence.** Our students must know how to live and work in a society that is increasingly more diverse in all areas, including gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic background, sexual orientation and religion, physical ability and intellectual perspectives. Valuing diversity is about appreciating the dignity and worth of every single human being and ensuring an open and welcoming atmosphere.
 - **Strengthen interdisciplinary and global programs.** We have an obligation to develop in our students a strong interdisciplinary and global perspective. The complex problems of today do not adhere to national borders or the boundaries of single disciplines. Every field must contribute its unique expertise in an integrated manner to address our greatest challenges. Recognizing the transformative impact that travel and global study of diverse cultures can have on our students, we will strengthen strategic partnerships in education, research and engagement around the world.
-