

UD Facts & Figures 2017-18



MISSION, VALUES 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 VALUES

The University of Delaware embodies its motto—"Knowledge is the light of the mind"—and to spread that light requires a community that nurtures intellectual curiosity and free inquiry, where everyone is empowered to learn and to flourish. This is a community where we celebrate our individual and collective achievements, where we respect diverse backgrounds, values and viewpoints. The values of the University of Delaware are woven throughout the institution and include:

- **Academic Freedom.** We each have 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.** We welcome and value different backgrounds, perspectives and learning experiences; this is essential for educating global citizens, developing knowledge and advancing and enhancing our world.

- **Innovation.** Revolutionary thinking is part of our DNA—our first students in 1743 helped found this nation. We want to make a significant difference in the world, and we are collaborating across disciplines with risk-taking, creativity and innovation to address the biggest challenges of our time.
- **Community.** Our supportive, friendly campus community advocates for each individual's voice to be heard. We encourage respect and civility toward everyone, knowing that mutual appreciation and dialogue leads to greater learning.
- **Service.** As an engaged University, we create and capitalize on innovative partnerships with government, industry and the community for economic and civic development. These connections enrich our scholarship, research and creative activity, enhance the curriculum and ultimately contribute to the public good.

The University of Delaware's Values, as well as Mission Statement, Student Values Statement, and Statement of Respect & Responsibility are located at <http://www.udel.edu/about/values/>.

UNIVERSITY VISION AND STRATEGIC 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.
- **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.
- **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.