

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA WELCOMES
APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF
**DEAN OF THE SCHOOL
OF GRADUATE STUDIES**



Located in Grand Forks, North Dakota

Founded in 1883

NCAA Division I Athletics

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

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

UND UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA
LEADERS IN ACTION

Dean, School of Graduate Studies

The University of North Dakota is seeking candidates for the position of Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). Reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean will provide visionary leadership for graduate education at North Dakota's flagship university. This role offers an opportunity to advance UND's mission of excellence in research, scholarship and graduate student success in alignment with UND's strategic plan, [UND LEADS](#).

UND seeks an exceptional, focused, and creative leader who will build upon the School of Graduate Studies' strengths to continue its growth and expansion and provide world-class educational

experiences. The next dean will be a committed team member who is devoted to excellence and shared governance. The selected individual will be a consultative decision-maker and will work collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community and industry partners. The Dean will demonstrate the highest integrity and exemplary interpersonal and communication skills. The next dean of the School of Graduate Studies will also build extensive external relationships inside and outside of North Dakota, which boasts a robust industrial sector supported by the many graduate programs offered within the School.

The anticipated starting date of the new dean will be July 1, 2026, or as soon as reasonable thereafter.



THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The School of Graduate Studies supports more than 3,400 master's and doctoral students across a wide-ranging array of both on-campus and online programming. The School of Graduate Studies provides support and administrative leadership for more than 160 degrees and certificates across eight colleges and schools. In the past year, nearly 900 master's degrees and over 350 doctoral degrees were awarded at the University of North Dakota.

Graduate programming at UND is growing. The last ten years have seen a 21% increase in graduate enrollment. In part, this growth in UND's graduate enrollment and programming is aligned with significant growth in the university's research profile. UND received \$192 million in research funding last year, and that research funding helped generate \$300 million in state-wide economic impact. These achievements have been recognized with a Carnegie R1 designation for very high research activity and doctoral production.

Because the School of Graduate Studies prides itself on preparing graduate students for the dynamic economy of the state, students can benefit from UND's partnerships with a wide range of businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits to tailor immersive experiences that advance their educational goals. In addition

to these experiences and connections, the School of Graduate Studies fosters student professional development and opportunity through a number of initiatives. For instance, the School of Graduate Studies sponsors an annual Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD) with virtual and on campus programs to showcase graduate students' work and to offer them the opportunity to present their research and creative activities to non-specialists, including fellow graduate students, faculty, and other members of the campus community. Similarly, the SGS sponsors a Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, challenging students to present their research effectively in three minutes with the aid of only one PowerPoint slide.

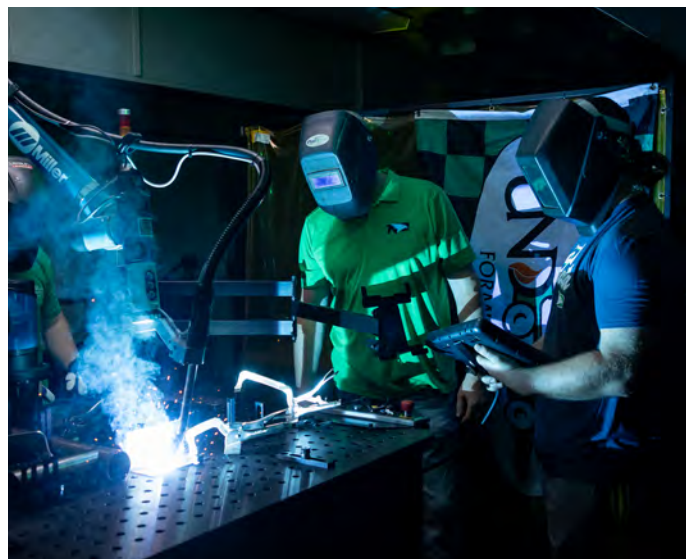
A unique asset of the School of Graduate Studies is the Dr. Kathleen and Hal Gershman Graduate Center, a building dedicated to graduate education and excellence at UND. At the Gershman Graduate Center, graduate students can connect to their peers in a relaxed environment with an indoor lounge and an outdoor patio. The Center also provides resources to support students' academic success, including educational technology and multiple spaces for collaboration, consultation, and individual research.

The Dean serves as the chief administrator over the School of Graduate Studies. Under the direction of the Provost and in partnership with the members of the Deans' Council, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies provides strategic leadership for shaping, growing, promoting, and administering initiatives that enhance the excellence of graduate programming and the graduate student experience at the university. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies works with campus leadership and the University Senate to support strategic graduate program development and initiatives designed to provide innovative and dynamic graduate student support structures across the units of the institution. The Dean will provide leadership and facilitate an environment for accomplishing strategic goals, as well as aligning the functioning of the School of Graduate Studies with UND's broader academic identity and strategic planning.

The Dean is responsible for the budget and resources of the School, and works with leadership across the university, as well as with the University of North Dakota Alumni Association and Foundation (UNDAAF), on the advancement and development of those resources. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies is a member of the Deans' Council and the Provost's Executive Team and represents the School of Graduate Studies to both internal and external constituencies as needed and appropriate.

The next dean of the School of Graduate Studies at UND will be joining the university during a period of momentum. Under the leadership of President Andrew Armacost since 2020 and Provost Eric Carl Link since 2021, the university has achieved record enrollment, advanced major campus improvements and secured substantial research activity. The Dean will build on these achievements by supporting and advancing UND's graduate enrollment and retention goals, fostering interdisciplinary research collaborations, and deepening external partnerships with industry, government and alumni to expand opportunities for graduate students.

The incoming Dean of the School of Graduate Studies will build on a long-standing tradition of excellence and work alongside both internal and external partners and stakeholders to increase and strengthen the mission of graduate education. Increasing access and opportunity for students and faculty through alumni and donor relations will be essential in the coming years as the university engages in robust, \$625 million, capital campaigning and relationship building, as will bringing key programmatic opportunities to the students within the school that will position them—and the school—for continued service to the state and the region.



Among the leadership and administrative functions of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies are the following core responsibilities:

- Providing vision and leadership for the School of Graduate Studies in alignment with the University's strategic plan and the leadership vision and objectives of the Office of the Provost.
- Partnering to grow enrollment in UND graduate programming, enhance the impact and reputation of UND's graduate programs across the region and nationally, and grow the reputation of the university as a leading flagship research institution both nationally and globally.
- Serving as the chief administrator for the School of Graduate Studies and directing the operations of the unit.
- Representing the School of Graduate Studies on North Dakota University System (NDUS) initiatives and ensure compliance with NDUS reporting requirements.
- Supporting the growth of the research profile of the university through graduate programming, student and post-doc support, resource development, and advocacy.
- Collaborating on the development of a strategic array of interdisciplinary programs and innovative curriculum that will enhance graduate recruitment, enrollment, and persistence at the university, and will prepare graduates for career opportunities across both public and private industry, enterprise, and higher education.
- Overseeing policies and procedures related to graduate education at the University of North Dakota and ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations and requirements.
- Successfully leading and supporting graduate program assessment and accreditation initiatives.
- Providing visible advocacy to develop and advance resources for graduate education, including fundraising activities and stewarding an involved donor network for the School.
- Overseeing the development and administration of innovative and dynamic student support services that recognize the unique needs of online and on-campus students, fostering a culture of engagement, belonging, and responsiveness for graduate students at the university.
- Providing strategic oversight of the Gershman Graduate Center, ensuring its mission and initiatives remain aligned with institutional priorities and strategy.
- Administering policy and procedure related to Graduate Faculty Status among the professoriate of the university. Providing mentoring and professional training opportunities for graduate faculty.
- Administering processes and policies on campus related to the creation and awarding of graduate assistantships and fellowships and awards.
- Cultivating internship, externship, and research opportunities for graduate students at the university.
- Leading, directing, or participating in any/all shared governance processes and/or committees as they intersect directly with graduate studies at the institution.



Minimum Requirements

- A terminal degree in an academic field related to the disciplines within the School of Graduate Studies.
- At least five years of administrative and leadership experience within a higher education, or closely related, setting. At least three of those years should be at the level of Department Chair, Vice Provost, Assistant or Associate Dean, Associate VP, or the equivalent.

Preferred Qualifications

- Necessary experience and credentials to be eligible to serve as a member of the Graduate Faculty at the University of North Dakota.
- Experience in graduate education as a faculty member, including teaching graduate classes, mentoring graduate students, and serving on dissertation and/or thesis committees or a discipline-specific equivalent.
- A record of accomplishment in higher education teaching, service, and research that would enable the candidate to hold the position of full professor in a department serving the School of Graduate Studies.
- Commitment to innovative teaching and program development across modalities and degree levels.
- A record of leading innovative and entrepreneurial efforts.
- Demonstrated leadership in fostering community and belonging and addressing the needs of underserved and underrepresented students.
- Experience in positively impacting student recruitment, enrollment, and retention.
- Demonstrated commitment to shared governance and faculty and staff development, and experience with, or a commitment to, team-based leadership and collaborative problem solving.
- Experience in recruitment, retention, supervision and mentorship of high-quality and diverse faculty and staff; administration of the promotion and tenure process; and staff development with a significant emphasis on succession and workforce planning.
- Experience working collaboratively with senior university leadership, state organizations, and/or legislative governing bodies.
- Commitment to establishing and growing internal and external partnerships.
- Experience with fundraising and/or engagement with external constituencies.
- An understanding of higher education finance, budgeting and resource allocation, as well as a record of responsible management of resources.

Core Competencies & Characteristics

The ideal Dean of the School of Graduate Studies should:

- Articulate a strategic, innovative, future-oriented vision, responsive to the needs of North Dakota, as well as the region.
- Foster strong collaborations within the university and with external partners, including commerce and industry.
- Actively engage with North Dakotans, be present across campuses, and establish relationships within various communities—urban, rural, and indigenous.
- Effectively communicate the School's achievements and needs to all stakeholders; advocate for its programs before policymakers; and maximize the tools of marketing, including social media.
- Demonstrate respect for the various disciplines, STEM and non-STEM; identify opportunities for new programs across modalities and interdisciplinary approaches; and align innovations with the demands of the market and the needs of students.
- Relying on a personal record of scholarly success, uphold high academic standards and inspire consistent policies and outcomes across all programs.
- Be an active listener with responsive and timely follow-up and follow-through skills.
- Prioritize strong support, fair treatment, and mentorship for graduate students.
- Demonstrate capacity to secure financial resources to support research for faculty and students within the programs.
- While pursuing clearly articulated strategy, strive for balance in allocating resources across programs and among graduate students.
- Lead with kindness, compassion, organization, and integrity.



Champion collaboration, expansion & innovation

Joining the University at a time of exceptional enrollment growth, impressive expansion of external funding and philanthropic support, and recent achievement of Carnegie's R1 status, the Dean will advance an ambitious agenda that builds upon this strong institutional momentum. UND excels in several distinctive fields, including aviation, aerospace studies, national security, forensic science, indigenous health, and more. Under the leadership of the next dean of the School of Graduate Studies, the University seeks to continue along a path of strategic growth across graduate programming and enrollment.

Consistent with the University's mission, the next dean will advocate effectively for the School of Graduate Studies by clearly communicating its achievements and opportunities to a wide variety of audiences, including public officials. The Dean will elevate the School's visibility and enhance its strong reputation across the state and beyond. Attentive to both the regional workforce needs and student aspirations, the Dean will champion growth that prepares students for meaningful and fulfilling careers.

Advance innovation across graduate education

Joining an innovative environment that values experimentation and cross-campus collaboration, the Dean will take the lead in identifying emerging fields of study and anticipating shifts in the broader marketplace. The Dean will pursue opportunities aligned with the University's values and coordinate initiatives that succeed across colleges and departments.

Imagining both disciplinary and interdisciplinary paths forward, the Dean will clearly communicate promising possibilities; convene and engage colleagues; foster cooperative relationships across administrative units; and make collaborative and creative decisions about the allocation of resources to realize the University's success. Working closely with other deans, as well as with faculty and other administrators, and in accordance with shared governance, the Dean of the SGS will lead and achieve impactful growth that advances the University's commitment to advance the state and the region.

Deepen & extend partnerships with governments, industries & communities

Arriving at a moment full of promise, the next dean will play a key role in securing resources to support graduate education. With substantial support from both federal and state governments, as well as from private philanthropy, UND has already developed significant assets, including the Mark & Claudia Thompson National Security Corridor and Center for Cyber Security Research in the College of Engineering and Mines, the UND Tech Accelerator, biomedical sciences facilities in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences,

and the many initiatives in earth and space science housed within the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Studies.

The University maintains longstanding partnerships with local, regional, and national stakeholders, including corporations, industries, communities, and school systems to advance and achieve mutually beneficial goals, from experiential learning for students to practically focused research. Significant opportunities remain across the state and region, and the next dean will be instrumental in realizing them.

Recent fundraising successes have delivered impressive capital investments that have transformed the campus and positioned UND for future opportunities. These successes also create a strong foundation for the next dean to expand engagement with donors in support of the School's mission.

Working with colleagues in the UND Alumni Association and Foundation, the next dean will pursue and secure funds to support existing and new programs; to expand support for student fellowships, scholarships, and assistantships; and to facilitate the interdisciplinary collaboration essential for the institution's future.

Foster graduate student success, research & impact

With UND's graduate enrollment growing and its research enterprise expanding, the next dean will strengthen and extend the University's culture of student support to empower every graduate student. The Dean will champion initiatives that strengthen community, promote belonging, and provide comprehensive academic, professional, and personal development resources for all graduate learners.

The Dean will work collaboratively with faculty, staff, and campus partners to ensure graduate programs use effective instructional tools and pedagogical practices; that faculty are supported in mentoring and teaching excellence; and that all students, regardless of delivery mode, are engaged in the intellectual and social life of the University.

Recognizing the diverse needs of UND's graduate population, including international, online, and on-campus students, the next dean will play a pivotal role in fostering environments where graduate students contribute meaningfully to North Dakota's workforce, regional innovation, and the University's research enterprise. The Dean will partner closely with Enrollment Management, the Division of Research & Economic Development, and other academic leaders to attract, retain, and empower talented graduate students who advance the University's mission and the vitality of the state.

The successful candidate will bring strategic vision to this work, addressing challenges proactively while cultivating opportunities that enable every graduate student to thrive and achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals.

Applications should include a letter of interest (not more than three pages) specifically addressing the applicant's background in relationship to the qualifications described, a current curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of the working relationships with each. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

Applications received by January 30, 2026, are assured consideration. The UND Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Search Committee is being assisted by Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Darrel Colson at darrelcolson@myersmcrae.com and Kenny Daugherty at kennydaugherty@myersmcrae.com.

Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in this application process should contact Darrel Colson at 319.830.4193.

Additional University information may be found at [UND.edu/careers](https://und.edu/careers).

Apply

Submit application materials online, preferably as PDFs. Additional information is requested with the submission of materials.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Nominate

Submit nominations with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



EEO Statement

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

Veterans Preference

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

Clery Statement

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

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

Confidentiality of Application Materials

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

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



The University of North Dakota, founded in 1883 — six years before North Dakota achieved statehood — is the state's flagship institution of higher education. UND enrolls more than 15,800 students from all 50 states and nearly 100 countries, making it the largest and most globally connected University in the region.

Offering more than 225 fields of study from bachelor's to doctoral levels, UND combines a strong liberal arts foundation with nationally

recognized strengths in professional fields including law, medicine, business, engineering, education, aerospace and the health sciences.

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

LEADS LEADS LEADS LEADS LEADS

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

Learning

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

Equity

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

Affinity

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

Discovery

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

Service

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

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

See the UND LEADS Strategic Plan in action at [UND.edu/leads](https://und.edu/leads).

LEADERS IN ACTION

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

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

Meet our leaders in action at [UND.edu/leaders](https://und.edu/leaders).



15,844

students from
all 50 states
and nearly 100
countries

178,000+

alumni worldwide,
shaping industries and
communities across
the globe



1 of only 55

public universities
with both law and
medical schools

Top 5

rural medicine
program
*U.S. News &
World Report*



Top 5%

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

Top 5%

of business
schools worldwide
AACSB International



1st

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

First-ever

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

Top 25

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

8

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



Top 10

military spouse friendly
school and gold status
military friendly school
MilitaryFriendlySchools.com

\$1.48B

in annual economic
impact on North Dakota
and the region

The University of North Dakota celebrated a historic milestone for fall 2025 with 15,844 students enrolled, the largest student body in UND's history.

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

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

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

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

800+

students in the
UND Honors Program

325+

student clubs and
organizations

30+

study abroad
programs

20

Greek life options
(13 Fraternities and
7 Sororities)

2

ROTC programs
(Air Force and Army)

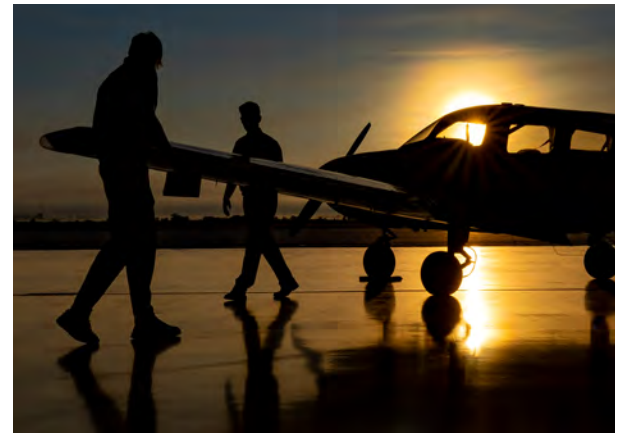


Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, UND offers more than **225 fields of study** – spanning the arts, sciences, professional studies and specialized fields – to prepare students for leadership in every profession.

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

John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

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



College of Arts & Sciences

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



Nistler College of Business & Public Administration

Accredited by AACSB International, UND is ranked among the top 5% of business schools worldwide. UND business graduates enjoy exceptional job placement rates, and students are consistently recognized for entrepreneurship and leadership in regional and national competitions.

College of Education & Human Development

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

College of Engineering & Mines

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



School of Graduate Studies

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

School of Law

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

School of Medicine & Health Sciences

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

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

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



LEADERS IN ONLINE EDUCATION

#1

best online college
in North Dakota
Forbes (2025)

#2

best accredited self-paced
online degree programs
Learn.org (2025)

#7

best self-paced online
colleges and courses
Research.com (2025)

15

of UND's professional, graduate
and online programs ranked in the
top 100 nationwide
U.S. News & World Report (2025)

235+

online degrees,
minors and
certificate programs

The University of North Dakota is a Carnegie R1: Very High Research Activity institution — **a designation shared with only 187 universities nationwide** and representing about 4.7% of the nearly 4,000 degree-granting institutions in the nation. UND reported more than \$192 million in annual research expenditures and secured over \$150 million in external research awards each year, placing it firmly among the nation's top research universities.

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

The Grand Challenges

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

Autonomous Systems

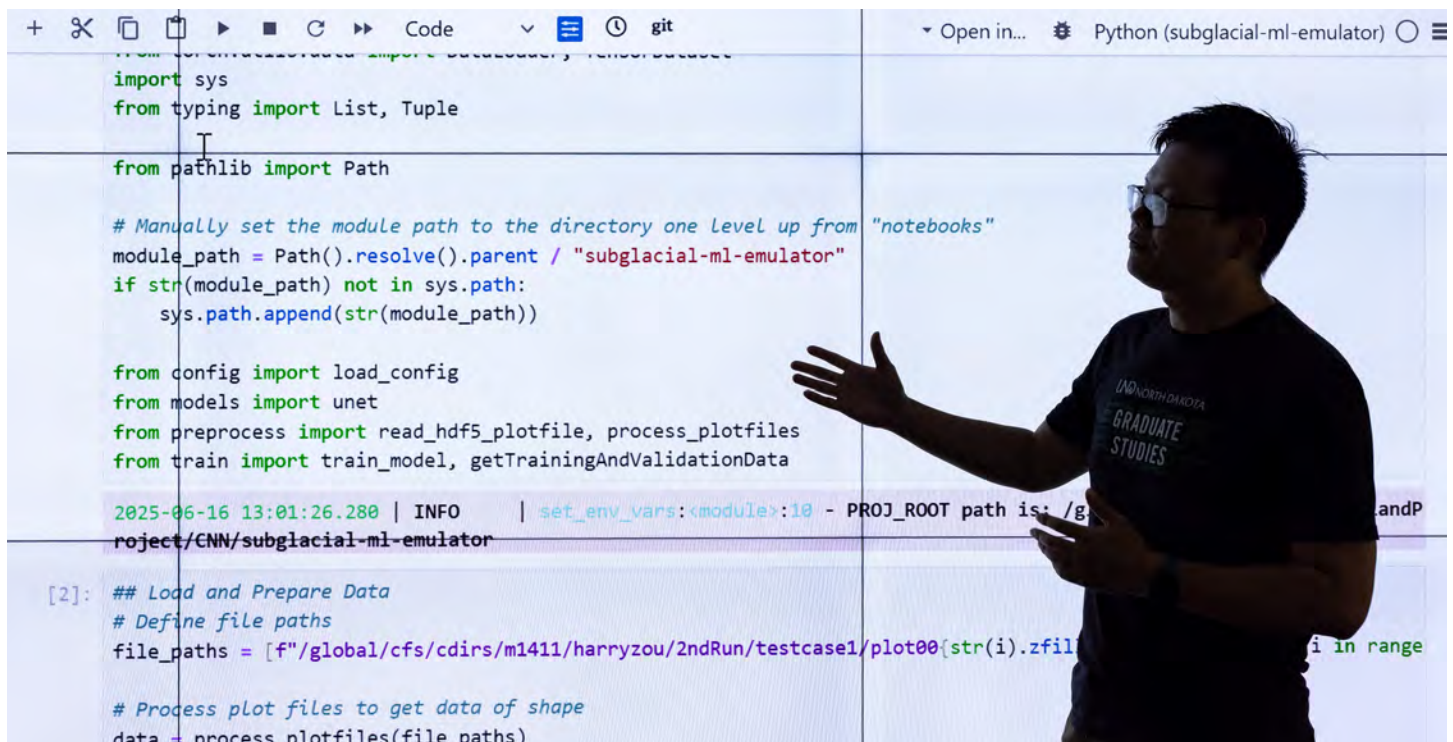
UND is a global leader in unmanned and autonomous technologies, advancing innovations that span ground, air, maritime and space systems. Through the Research Institute for Autonomous Systems (RIAS) and the first Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research, Education & Training in the nation, UND collaborates with the FAA, Department of War and NASA to develop next-generation technologies for safety, communication and human-machine teaming. The University's work in beyond-visual-line-of-sight flight, detect-and-avoid systems and AI-driven autonomy positions North Dakota as a national hub for this rapidly expanding industry.

Computational & Data Science

UND is harnessing the power of big data, artificial intelligence and high-performance computing to solve real-world challenges. The Computational Research Center supports projects ranging from climate modeling and digital agriculture to defense analytics and cybersecurity. Recent collaborations include the development of AI-driven predictive systems for Arctic operations and advanced machine learning applications in unmanned systems. With new investments in research computing infrastructure and partnerships across academia, government and industry, UND is building the capacity to turn data into discovery and insight that drives progress for North Dakota and beyond.

Energy & Environmental Sustainability

UND is advancing energy innovation and environmental responsibility through interdisciplinary research that strengthens both North Dakota's economy and global energy security. The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) and Institute for Energy Studies lead initiatives in carbon capture, enhanced oil recovery, hydrogen power, renewable energy and battery storage. Faculty are pioneering ways to extract rare-earth elements from lignite coal, reducing U.S. dependence on foreign suppliers, while also improving wind energy and smart grid technologies. With one of the nation's largest university-based energy enterprises and deep partnerships across industry and government, UND is shaping the future of clean, affordable and sustainable energy.



Human Health

UND is tackling today's most pressing health challenges through discovery, innovation and collaboration. UND's School of Medicine & Health Sciences leads research that improves the quality of life for North Dakotans and beyond, addressing diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, stroke, cancer and addiction. The University hosts one of only six USDA Human Nutrition Research Centers in the nation and has secured continuous NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) funding for more than 15 years. UND researchers are advancing understanding in neuroscience, infectious disease and epigenetics, while pioneering partnerships that connect clinical practice, public health and translational science to deliver real-world impact.

National Security & Space

UND is advancing the nation's defense and space capabilities through cutting-edge research, workforce development and strategic partnerships. The University's National Security Initiative (NSI) builds capacity in autonomy, space operations, medicine and energy — supported by millions in new UND investments and state funding for space-related research infrastructure. A new Nanofoundry for national security materials is developing advanced thin films for secure communications and quantum computing, while the College of Engineering & Mines has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research (CAE-R) through 2029. UND's collaborations with the U.S. Space Force, Space Command and the Department of War position North Dakota as a hub for next-generation national security innovation.

Rural Health & Communities

North Dakota leads national efforts to improve health outcomes and quality of life in rural and tribal communities. Through the Center for Rural Health, the Behavioral Health Initiative and the Department of Indigenous Health, UND addresses barriers to care, behavioral health needs and workforce shortages across the region. The School of Medicine & Health Sciences anchors these efforts through partnerships with more than 1,200 clinical faculty statewide. UND's research and outreach programs build healthier, more resilient communities across North Dakota and beyond.



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

- UND competes in 17 NCAA Division I sports, offering student-athletes opportunities to excel on the field and in the classroom.
- Student-athletes post strong graduation and GPA rates, while contributing more than 7,000 hours of community service each year – **ranking UND among the top 5 universities nationwide for student-athlete service.**
- The men's hockey program is one of the most storied in the nation, with 8 national championships and more than 100 players advancing to the NHL.
- The University boasts state-of-the-art athletic facilities including the Ralph Engelstad Arena, Alerus Center and Betty Engelstad Sioux Center. Recent additions highlight UND's momentum:

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

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

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

Experience the pride at fightinghawks.com.

Basketball (M, W)

Cross Country (M, W)

Football (M)

Golf (M, W)

Hockey (M)

Soccer (W)

Softball (W)

Tennis (M, W)

Track & Field Indoor (M, W)

Track & Field Outdoor (M, W)

Volleyball (W)



Embodying the University's tradition of leadership and service, UND's more than 178,000 alumni live in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries. Nearly 94% of recent graduates recommend UND to others, reflecting the strength of the UND experience and its lifelong impact.

Notable alumni include:

Phil Jackson – Winningest coach in NBA history

Karen Nyberg – NASA astronaut

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

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

Dave St. Peter – Former president of the Minnesota Twins

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

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

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

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



Phil Jackson



Karen Nyberg



DeAnna Carlson Zink
CEO, Alumni Association & Foundation

Andrew Armacost
President, UND

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

Major Completed Projects

Chester Fritz Library Renovations (2021)

Updated entrances, technology and study spaces.

Gershman Graduate Center (2021)

Dedicated space for graduate students.

Memorial Union (2021)

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

Nistler College of Business & Public Administration (2022)

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



Merrifield Hall



Chester Fritz Library



Nistler Hall



STEM Complex

Major Upcoming Projects

Flight Operations Building & Hangar (2025–26)

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

STEM Complex (2027)

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

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

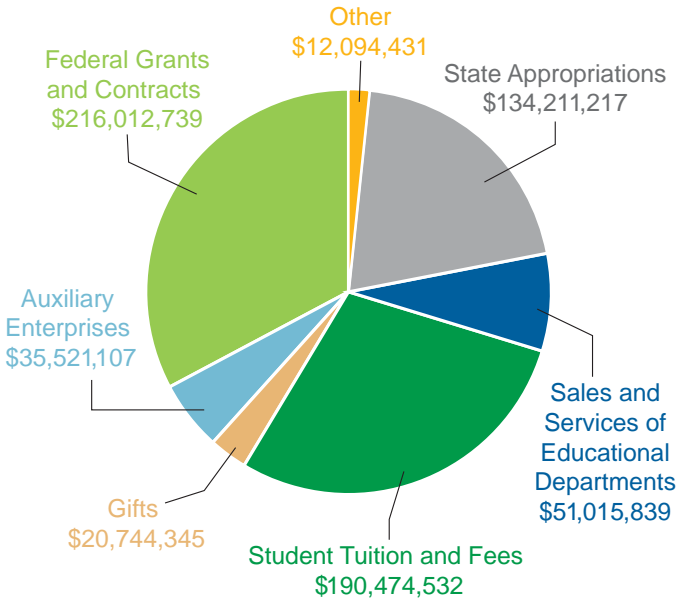
The University of North Dakota operates with a commitment to transparency, accountability and strategic investment. Annual revenues reflect a balanced mix of state support, tuition, federal grants and private philanthropy.

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

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

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

Fiscal Year 2024 Revenues: \$680,287,489*



*FY2024 Revenues (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) – Audited

UND’S ECONOMIC IMPACT & STATEWIDE ROLE

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

UND’s contributions reach far beyond its campus:

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

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

Diversification & Innovation: UND helps expand North Dakota’s economy through pioneering work in unmanned aircraft systems, autonomous technologies and national security research, partnering with agencies such as the FAA, Department of War, Department of Homeland Security and NASA. The new UND CONNECT program — funded by the N.D. Economic Diversification Research Grant — is a faculty-led program that fosters partnerships and delivers local impact through student learning.

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

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



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

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

Way Cooler Than You Think

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

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

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

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

#1
place to live in
North Dakota
Money

Top 5
best small
college towns
Preply

Best
college town in
North Dakota
Far & Wide

Top 20
most charming
cities in the Midwest
TravelMag.com



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

Economic Engines

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

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

Tourism & Natural Beauty

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

Rankings & Quality of Life

#1

in infrastructure
U.S. News & World
Report (2024)

#2

in fiscal stability and
#6 in opportunity
U.S. News & World
Report (2024)

#2

lowest
unemployment rate
U.S. Bureau of Labor
Statistics (2025)

#3

happiest workforce
Entrepreneur (2025)

#3

best state for
families
WalletHub (2025)

#5

nationally for job
opportunities
WalletHub (2025)

Learn how North Dakota is a better place to live,
work and raise a family at [ND.gov](https://nd.gov).





UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mission:

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

Vision:

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