

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA WELCOMES  
APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF  
**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
FINANCE & OPERATIONS/CHIEF  
OPERATING OFFICER (VPFO/COO)**



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

## Vice President for Finance & Operations/ Chief Operating Officer (VPFO/COO)

The University of North Dakota (UND) – the state's flagship public research university, a Carnegie R1 institution, and member of NCAA Division I athletics – seeks a strategic, ambitious, and highly collaborative leader to serve as its next Vice President for Finance & Operations/Chief Operating Officer (VPFO/COO). UND is also home to North Dakota's only law school and medical school, underscoring its unique role in educating the state's professionals and serving communities across North Dakota. This is an extraordinary opportunity to join a university experiencing significant momentum, marked by sustained enrollment growth, expanding research activity, major investments in facilities and infrastructure, and a strong statewide reputation among policymakers, industry leaders, alumni, and communities across North Dakota and the nation.

Guided by the [UND LEADS](#) strategic plan, the University has achieved five consecutive years of enrollment growth, expanded its research enterprise, strengthened partnerships across North Dakota and beyond, and continues to invest significantly in academic excellence, research infrastructure, and campus transformation. Today, UND enrolls nearly 16,000 students, employs approximately 1,500 faculty and more than 2,300 staff, and offers a comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate, graduate, professional, and research programs. The University is nationally recognized for excellence in aviation and aerospace, housing one of the premier collegiate aviation programs in the United States, as well as strengths in health sciences, nursing, medicine, engineering, energy, unmanned systems, national security research, and the ecology of the Northern Plains. UND is also the host of a nationally-recognized Writers Conference.

Reporting directly to [President Andrew Armacost](#) and serving as a member of the University's Executive Council, the VPFO/COO is UND's chief financial and operating officer and one of the institution's most influential strategic leaders. The VPFO/COO works closely with the President, Provost, deans, and senior administrators to align financial planning, workforce strategy, facilities, capital investment, public safety, compliance, and operational effectiveness with the University's strategic priorities.

UND operates with annual revenue in excess of \$720 million, manages approximately \$953 million in capital assets, and has grown into one of the nation's newest Carnegie R1 universities with annual research expenditures approaching \$250 million. The University is currently advancing more than \$390 million in active and planned capital projects, including major investments in STEM facilities, research infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and student-centered campus improvements. These initiatives create an exceptional opportunity for a leader energized by institutional growth, operational excellence, and long-term stewardship.

The VPFO/COO leads a broad and complex portfolio encompassing Finance, Human Resources, Procurement, Treasury, Resource Planning and Allocation, Facilities and Operations, Capital Planning and Construction, Public Safety, Emergency Management, Risk Management, Civil Rights and Title IX, Disability Resources, Community and Belonging, and the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center. The division includes eight senior leaders reporting directly to the VPFO/COO and approximately 750 staff across these areas. Through this talented team of leaders and professional staff, the VPFO/COO ensures that the University's financial, physical, and human resources are aligned to advance UND's mission and strategic aspirations.

A distinguishing aspect of the VPFO/COO role is its visibility and influence both on campus and across North Dakota. The VPFO/COO serves as a key liaison to the [North Dakota State Board of Higher Education](#), the [North Dakota University System](#) (with 11 public institutions), state agencies, legislative leaders, and university-affiliated nonprofits (such as the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, the Center for Innovation and its Foundation, the Ralph Engelstad Arena, and the Energy & Environmental Research Center), and acts as one of the University's principal advocates for funding, capital investment, research growth, and institutional priorities. North Dakota's uniquely collaborative environment, across a range of state agencies and partners, provides an unusual opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with policymakers and leaders within the System to help shape the future of higher education throughout the state.

UND seeks a leader who embraces partnership and shared governance, understands the intersection of academic priorities and financial strategy, promotes a welcoming and pluralistic campus community, and is committed to by the university's strategic goals and aspirations. The successful candidate will be a disciplined financial steward, exceptional communicator and public speaker, and trusted relationship builder who can navigate complexity, foster innovation, champion transparency and accountability, and leverage emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to strengthen institutional effectiveness while preserving the human-centered culture that defines UND. Most importantly, UND seeks a leader who is eager to join a highly collaborative executive team and help shape the future of one of the nation's fastest-rising public research universities.

UND has engaged Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

The University of North Dakota's Division of Finance & Operations serves as the institution's principal administrative and operational enterprise, providing leadership and oversight for the financial, physical, human, and operational resources that support the University's mission of teaching, research, service, and community engagement. UND operates with annual revenue more than \$720 million, manages approximately \$953 million in capital assets; annual research expenditures exceeding \$250 million and is currently advancing more than \$390 million in active and planned capital projects. Supporting this complex enterprise, the VPFO/COO oversees eight direct reports and approximately 750 staff across a broad portfolio of administrative, financial, facilities, and operational functions.

Under the leadership of the VPFO/COO, the division implements UND's financial and operational priorities and manages the allocation of resources that advance the University's strategic goals. The division is dedicated to stewarding institutional resources, maintaining fiscal integrity, ensuring operational excellence, and providing a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Finance & Operations works closely with academic and administrative leaders throughout the institution to align financial planning, capital investments, workforce strategy, risk management, and operational priorities with the UND LEADS strategic plan, and continued momentum as a leading public research university.

## Departments and Units

The Division of Finance & Operations includes the following major functional areas:

- **Finance:** Includes Accounting Services, Procurement & Payment Services, Resource Planning & Allocation, the Treasury, and Shared Services.
- **Public Safety:** Oversees campus police services, environmental health & safety, and emergency preparedness.
- **Human Resources:** Manages talent management, payroll, benefits, talent acquisition, compensation, staff professional growth and development, and student employment.
- **Facilities Management:** Handles campus physical plant operations, maintenance, and capital projects.
- **Civil Rights & Title IX:** Ensures an equitable, safe environment compliant with federal mandates, including oversight of disability support and resources.
- **Community & Belonging:** Provides support for programs and initiatives for belonging and inclusion on campus.
- **Policy Office:** Coordinates university-wide policies to minimize institutional risk.
- **Chester Fritz Performance Arts Center:** Managed under the division's broad cultural and operational umbrella.

Through these interconnected functions, the division oversees critical institutional priorities, including financial planning and budgeting, campus facilities and infrastructure, capital construction, workforce development, safety and security, compliance and risk management, policy development, and external relations. The division also serves as a key liaison to the North Dakota University System, State Board of Higher Education, legislators, community partners, and other external stakeholders.



## Financial Oversight

The VPFO/COO provides leadership and oversight for the development and execution of the University's long-range financial plans, ensuring alignment with the UND LEADS Strategic Plan and the institution's R1 research priorities in collaboration with the Associate Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer. The VPFO/COO oversees the University's annual operating and capital budgets; manages the institution's debt portfolio, investment strategies, and capital financing plans; and provides oversight of debt issuance and debt compliance activities. The VPFO/COO is responsible for ensuring the integrity of all financial systems, internal controls, and reporting mechanisms, providing transparent and accurate information to internal and external stakeholders. The role also oversees, negotiates, and enforces the formal agreements that define the legal, financial, and administrative relationship between the University and its affiliated foundations.

As a key member of the President's Executive Council, the VPFO/COO provides the financial, facilities, personnel, and analytical resources needed to facilitate effective forecasting and decision-making by the President and university leadership. The VPFO/COO provides leadership and guidance on the implementation, modification, and evaluation of the University's Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) system, ensuring resource allocation practices support institutional priorities and long-term sustainability. In partnership with campus leaders and external stakeholders, the VPFO/COO formulates and executes comprehensive financial advocacy strategies to secure state appropriations, capital funding, and research infrastructure investments that advance the University's strategic priorities and continued growth as a leading public research university. In addition, the VPFO/COO drives institutional strategy through the development, modernization, implementation, and evaluation of university policies, anticipating emerging regulatory, financial, and higher education trends to ensure the University remains strategically positioned for future success.

## Facilities Oversight

The VPFO/COO oversees the planning, development, construction, maintenance, and operation of the University's physical plant, campus facilities, and grounds in collaboration with the Senior Director of Construction Management and the Senior Director of Operations and Infrastructure. The VPFO/COO provides strategic leadership for the implementation of the [Campus Facilities Plan](#), engaging stakeholders across the institution to ensure facilities investments support the University's strategic priorities while sustaining efforts to reduce deferred maintenance and preserve the long-term functionality and value of campus assets.

The VPFO/COO partners with the [UND Alumni Association & Foundation](#) to structure financing for major campus construction projects, research facilities, and real estate acquisitions, including the use of public-private partnerships (P3s) and foundation-backed debt issuance as appropriate and provided by law. The role coordinates the acquisition, holding, and development of real estate property managed by the UND Alumni Association & Foundation for the ultimate benefit and expansion of the University. In support of these responsibilities, the VPFO/COO manages the reputational, financial, and legal risks associated with blended public-private operations, ensuring clear separation of liabilities while maximizing operational efficiency and advancing institutional priorities.

## Operational Oversight

The VPFO/COO provides strategic leadership for enterprise-wide human resources programs and initiatives affecting faculty, staff, and student employees in collaboration with the Associate Vice President for Human Resources. The VPFO/COO oversees workforce planning, compensation, benefits, employee relations, talent management, and organizational effectiveness, while driving strategic workforce planning efforts that optimize talent management and support the University's long-term priorities.

In partnership with the Associate Vice President for Public Safety, the VPFO/COO oversees enterprise risk management, public safety, and university police operations. The VPFO/COO collaborates with university leaders to develop and implement proactive risk mitigation and safety strategies that protect institutional assets, ensure regulatory compliance, and promote the safety and well-being of the university community. The role also drives institutional strategy through the development and modernization of university policies, anticipating emerging regulatory and academic trends and proactively realigning policy frameworks to ensure the University remains competitively and strategically positioned for future success.

In collaboration with the Assistant Vice President for Civil Rights & Title IX, the VPFO/COO oversees all areas of civil rights compliance, equal opportunity, discrimination and harassment prevention, Title IX administration, and ADA compliance, including the coordination of accommodations, policy implementation, investigations, training, and risk mitigation efforts to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws and university policies. The VPFO/COO also oversees and provides strategic direction for the [Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center](#), ensuring effective operations, financial sustainability, community engagement, facility stewardship, and alignment with the University's mission and strategic priorities.

## Internal and External Relations

The VPFO/COO develops, sustains, and nurtures external partnerships on behalf of the University, including relationships with the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), [North Dakota University System](#) (NDUS), industry partners, boards, commissions, and other key stakeholders. Serving as a primary university liaison to the SBHE, North Dakota Legislative Body, legislative staff, and committees, the VPFO/COO translates complex R1 institutional finances, restricted research funding, and university budgets into clear metrics that support informed decision-making and advance institutional priorities.

Working closely with the University President and Chief Government Relations Officer, the VPFO/COO helps ensure a unified institutional voice and strategic alignment on legislative outreach and advocacy efforts. The role aligns university funding requests and capital projects with SBHE strategic goals, emphasizing workforce development, regional economic impact, and measurable return on investment. The VPFO/COO also formulates and advances strategies that support state appropriations, capital funding, and research infrastructure investments critical to the University's long-term success.

The VPFO/COO regularly represents the University before legislative appropriations committees, education committees, and other legislative-related bodies regarding university budget requests, tuition structures, and fiscal and capital matters. The role cultivates ongoing and transparent relationships with state fiscal analysts and lawmakers during both interim and legislative sessions to build institutional trust and provide early visibility into the University's financial health. In addition, the VPFO/COO collaborates with campus leaders to create a positive and engaging environment where stakeholders, visitors, and members of the broader community are welcomed to campus and connected to the University's mission and impact.

## Leadership

As a member of the [President's Executive Council](#), the Vice President for Finance & Operations/Chief Operating Officer (VPFO/COO) serves as a core advisor to the President and Executive Council on the financial sustainability, operational health, and risk profile of the institution. The VPFO/COO ensures that finance and operations priorities and goals support the success and vision of UND's Strategic Plan while providing leadership across a broad portfolio of administrative and operational functions.

The VPFO/COO nurtures, mentors, and leads members of the division to strengthen teams, individuals, and the overall University. In partnership with the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the VPFO/COO works to optimize Indirect Cost Recovery (F&A rates), manage complex federal compliance requirements, and support funding for core research facilities and faculty start-up packages that advance the University's research mission and R1 aspirations. The VPFO/COO also ensures strict compliance with state and federal mandates, ranging from financial allocations and federal compliance requirements to state procurement laws and institutional policies.

As a member of the President's Executive Council, the VPFO/COO represents UND's interests through service on various committees and affiliated organizations, including the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, the [Center for Innovation](#) and its Foundation, and other strategic institutional partnerships. Through these leadership responsibilities, the VPFO/COO serves as a key steward of the University's financial sustainability, operational effectiveness, and long-term success.



## Minimum Requirements

- A bachelor's degree
- Ten years of progressively responsible administrative and leadership experience in a complex and multifaceted institution

## Preferred Qualifications

- A master's degree in accountancy, finance, business administration, or related field; an advanced credential such as a CPA, CMA, or equivalent professional certification; or a terminal degree in a related field such as a PhD in Accounting, Finance, or DBA
- 10+ years of experience, including four years in senior administrative roles
- Demonstrated experience building positive relationships with internal and external stakeholders, governance boards, legislative bodies, or public agencies
- Demonstrated experience managing complex financial structures and executing strategic financial modeling and decisions
- Demonstrated experience working with budget models and corporate financial planning & analysis
- Leadership experience managing, administering, or leading organizational operations such as environmental safety, emergency management, public safety, or police units
- Working knowledge of complex compliance, regulatory, or accountability frameworks
- Experience with diversified capital assets or facilities planning
- Oversight of human capital management or organizational development

## Core Competencies & Characteristics

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to speak to complex financial information in lay terms
- Proven financial planning and operational excellence
- Proven analytical skills
- Demonstrated negotiation skills
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a member of a leadership team
- Demonstrated experience building relationships and synergies among different groups and boards
- Possess an understanding of the issues that confront public institutions of higher education, as well as an ability to articulate the teaching, research, and service missions of the University
- Possess an understanding of unique challenges and opportunities for universities
- Ability to manage change through innovation
- Ability to make decisions on priorities when resources are scarce.
- Possesses high standards in professional excellence, honesty, accountability, and integrity



## Lead UND's Continued Growth, Strategic Advancement, and Long-Term Sustainability

The University of North Dakota has entered a period of significant momentum characterized by sustained enrollment growth, increasing research activity, and recent achievement of Carnegie R1 status. Guided by the UND LEADS strategic framework, the next VPFO/COO will play a central role in helping to align institutional resources, operations, and people strategies with the university's long-term priorities. The breadth of the portfolio creates a unique opportunity to influence nearly every aspect of the university's operations and campus experience, extending beyond traditional administration to encompass the systems, services, and culture that support the UND community. As a key strategic partner to the president, provost, and executive leadership team, the VPFO/COO will help advance the principles embodied within UND LEADS while ensuring resource decisions, organizational practices, and investments remain aligned with the university's mission, values, and people-centered culture.

With research expenditures approaching \$250 million annually and higher education facing significant demographic, financial, workforce, and NCAA Division I athletics shifts, the VPFO/COO will help inform decisions related to enrollment planning, research growth, evolving state funding models, diversified revenue streams, and continued refinement of the university's Responsibility Center Management (RCM) framework. The successful candidate will help shape the university's long-range financial strategy through thoughtful forecasting, disciplined stewardship of resources, and evaluation of complex financial and operational investments while preserving the agility and entrepreneurial spirit that have been hallmarks of its recent success.

The VPFO/COO will also serve as a highly visible ambassador, advocate, and spokesperson for the university, cultivating strong relationships with the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, legislators and state leaders, community partners, business stakeholders, university-affiliated nonprofits, and colleagues across the North Dakota University System. Success will require the ability to clearly communicate UND's priorities, articulate the impact of its teaching and research mission, and effectively advocate for the resources, partnerships, and policy support necessary to advance the university's future.

## Advance a Comprehensive Strategy for Campus Infrastructure, Facilities, and Long-Term Capital Investment

UND is actively shaping the future of its physical campus through implementation of its campus planning efforts, major STEM investments, ongoing facility modernization, and continued attention to deferred maintenance and accessibility improvements. The next VPFO/COO will have the opportunity to influence the long-term development of a complex and evolving campus environment while ensuring operational excellence across facilities, utilities, public safety, and auxiliary services.

This work extends beyond traditional facilities management and capital planning. The university has successfully utilized innovative partnership models to advance key initiatives, and the next VPFO/COO must thoughtfully evaluate opportunities involving public-private partnerships, debt financing, and long-term capital commitments. They will need to assess complex financial structures, understand long-range financial implications, and ensure major investments deliver lasting value in support of the university's strategic objectives.

The VPFO/COO will also play an important role in overseeing major athletics-related facilities and capital obligations, helping ensure investments are evaluated within the broader context of institutional needs and financial stewardship.



## Strengthen Workforce Strategy, Organizational Effectiveness, and Human Capital Investments

Employee recruitment, retention, development, and support are critical institutional priorities. The next VPFO/COO will have the opportunity to strengthen workforce operations, enhance planning strategies, and ensure the institution remains competitive in attracting and retaining talented faculty and staff and in sustaining an inclusive and pluralistic campus community. This work will require thoughtful leadership around organizational capacity, employee engagement, compensation strategies, succession planning, and service delivery while helping build a culture that values collaboration, accountability, adaptability, and continuous improvement.

UND is currently implementing a new job architecture framework designed to create greater consistency, transparency, and alignment across the institution. The next VPFO/COO will have an opportunity to help guide this important work while continuing to strengthen Human Resources as a strategic, service-oriented partner for academic and administrative leaders. Success will require balancing institutional consistency with operational flexibility, and ensuring managers are equipped with the tools, guidance, and support needed to lead their teams effectively.

More broadly, the VPFO/COO will help identify opportunities to modernize business processes, leverage emerging technologies, utilize data-informed decision-making, and strengthen organizational effectiveness across the university while maintaining the collaborative culture that distinguishes UND.

## Foster a Collaborative, Transparent, and Service-Oriented Leadership Culture

UND's leadership team is highly collaborative, relationship-driven, and committed to shared governance. The next VPFO/COO will join an institution where success depends on building partnerships across academic and administrative units, engaging constructively with faculty, staff, and students, and serving as a trusted member of the executive leadership team. The VPFO/COO will have an opportunity to cultivate a culture of communication, accountability, customer service, and shared problem-solving while helping ensure that administrative and operational functions are responsive to the evolving needs of the institution and its stakeholders.

Given the breadth of the portfolio and the diversity of the workforce, the VPFO/COO must be a highly visible and engaged leader who builds trust, develops relationships across campus, and supports teams at all levels of the organization. The VPFO/COO will be expected to work effectively with fellow vice presidents, academic leaders, and staff while fostering a culture characterized by transparency, responsiveness, and shared accountability. The VPFO/COO must have the ability to navigate competing priorities, connect diverse perspectives, and bring people together around common 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 resume or curriculum vitae.

UND has engaged the executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in the recruitment of the Vice President for Finance & Operations/ Chief Operating Officer. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website using the following link: [imsearch.com/open-searches/university-north-dakota/vice-president-finance-operationschief-operating-officer](https://imsearch.com/open-searches/university-north-dakota/vice-president-finance-operationschief-operating-officer).

- Dan Rodas, Partner
- Stephanie Simon, Senior Associate
- Tiffany Hendren, Senior Search Coordinator
- Isaacson, Miller

Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in this application process should contact Isaacson, Miller via the search webpage provided above.

*This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of North Dakota. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of North Dakota would supersede any conflicting information in this document.*

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

### 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).

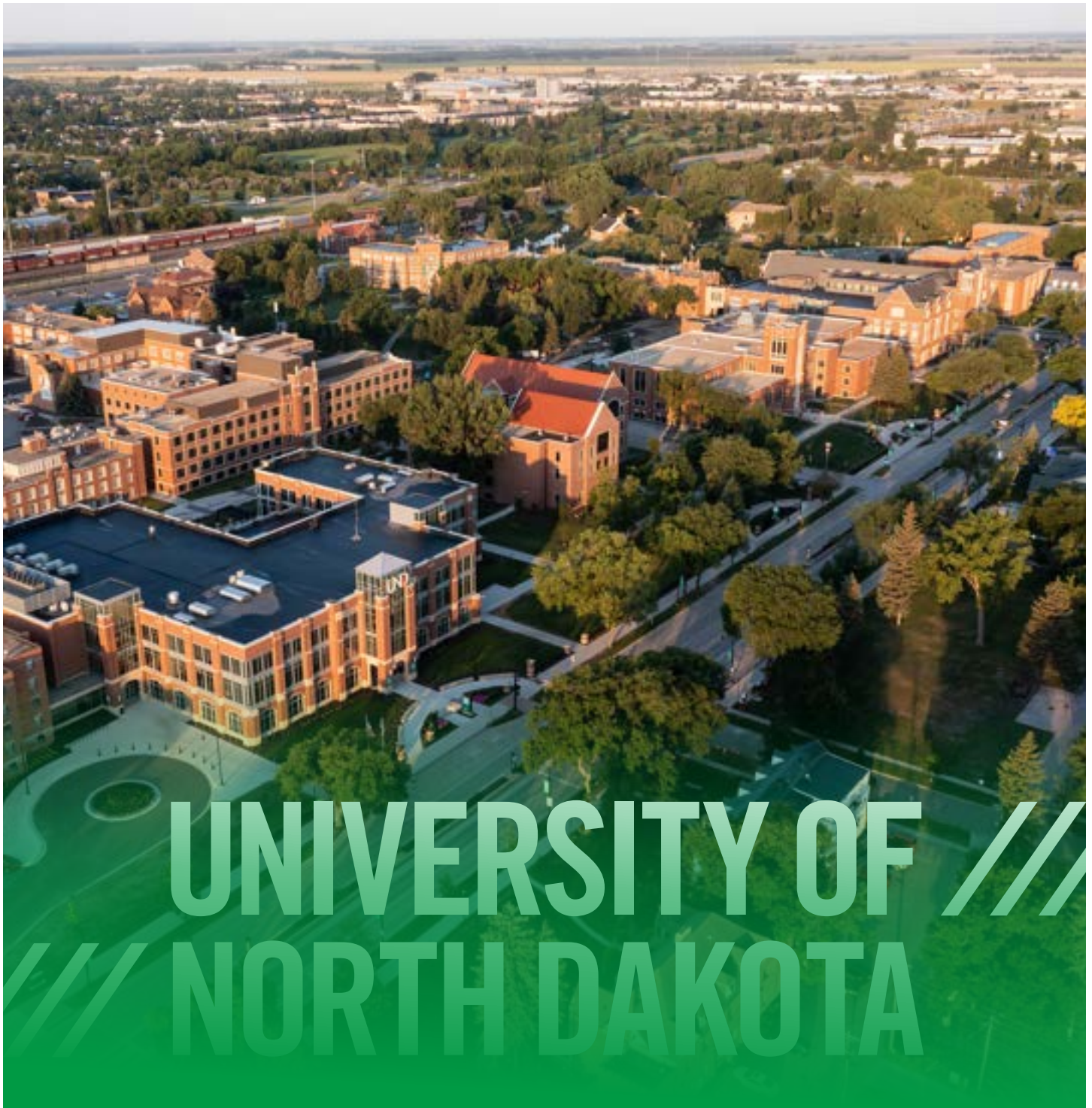
A paper copy of the report may also be requested from the UND Police Department located at 3851 Campus Road, Grand Forks, N.D. 58202.

### 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 more than 100 countries, making it the largest and most globally connected University in the region.

Offering more than 250 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.

*Current as of September 2026.*

# 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 more than  
100 countries

**179,000+**

alumni worldwide,  
shaping industries and  
communities across  
the globe

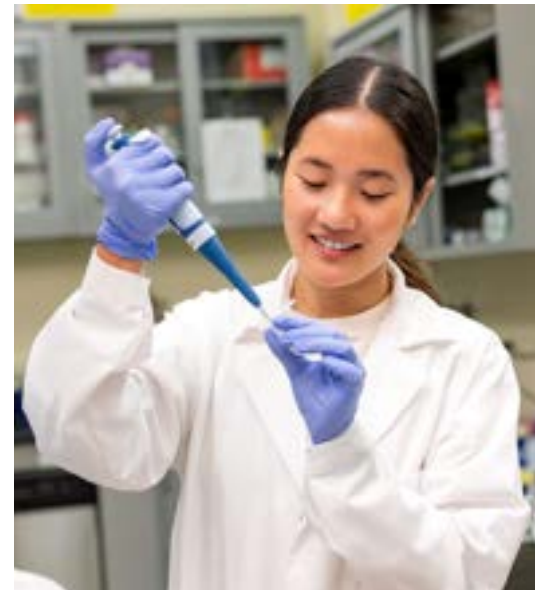


**1 of only 34**

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 6%**

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



**15+ Years**

ranked as one of the  
most military-friendly  
schools in the nation  
*Military Friendly*

**\$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 more than 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

**350+**

student clubs and  
organizations

**30+**

study abroad  
programs

**19**

Greek life options  
(12 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 **250 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 bring 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 6% 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 and NIH 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  
*Learn.org (2026)*

# #4

best self-paced online  
courses and certificates  
*Learn.org (2026)*

# 7

of UND's professional, graduate  
and online programs ranked in the  
top 100 nationwide  
*U.S. News & World Report (2026)*

# #20

most innovative  
online colleges  
*College Consensus (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. In fiscal year 2025, UND reported \$244 million in research expenditures, reflecting the University's rapidly expanding research enterprise and 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, advance discovery and address challenges of regional and national importance.

## The Grand Challenges

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

### Autonomous Systems

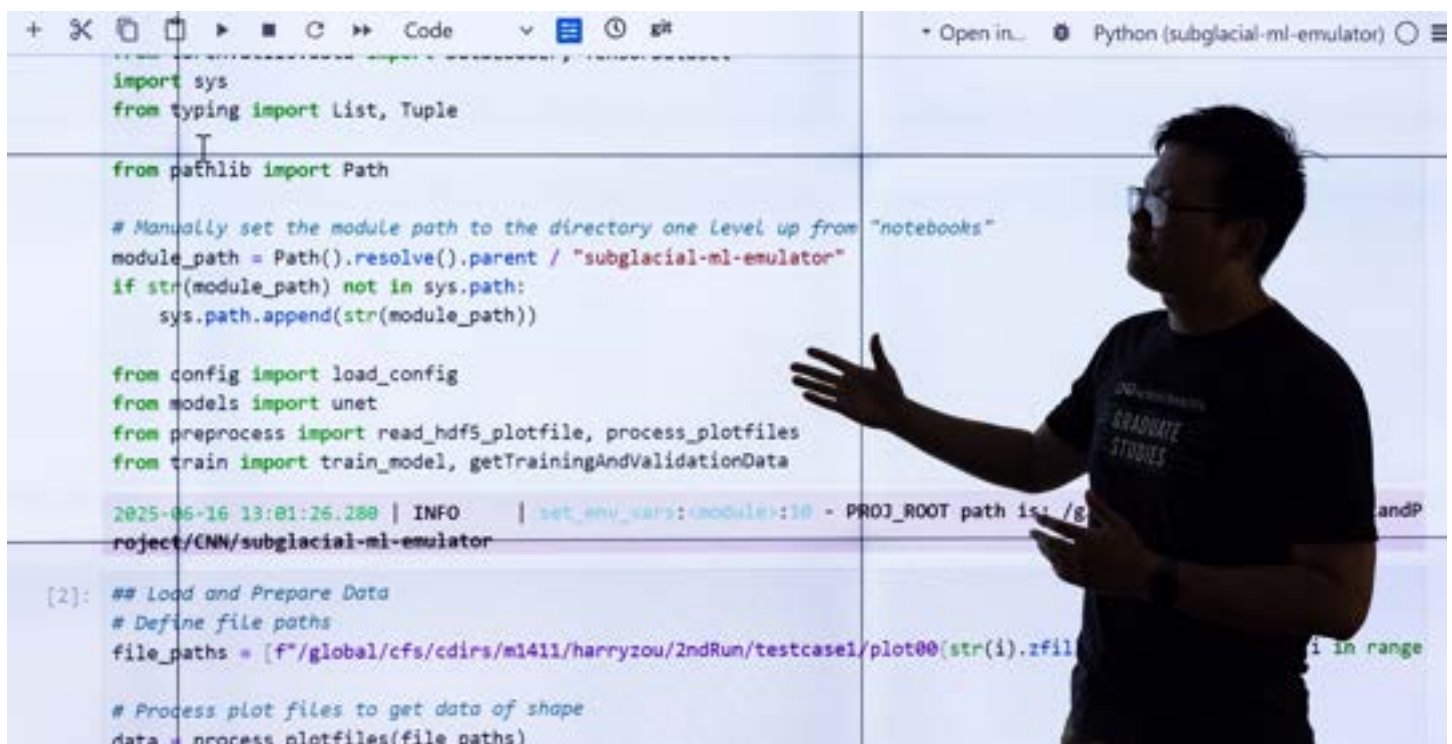
UND is a global leader in unmanned and autonomous technologies, advancing innovations that span ground, air, maritime and space systems. Through the Research Institute for Autonomous Systems (RIAS) and the first Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research, Education & Training in the nation, UND collaborates 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 15 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.
- UND student-athletes compete and train in state-of-the-art facilities, including the Ralph Engelstad Arena, Alerus Center and Betty Engelstad Sioux Center. Recent investments in athletics include:

**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](https://fightinghawks.com).

Basketball (M, W)

Cross Country (M, W)

Football (M)

Golf (M, W)

Hockey (M)

Soccer (W)

Softball (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 179,000 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 December 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](https://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.

### Residence Hall Renewal (2023)

Two new halls (West and McVey) and renovation of Brannon Hall, enhancing the student living experience.

### Carnegie and Merrifield Halls (2025)

Renovated historic buildings now featuring modern technology, accessibility and collaborative spaces.



Merrifield Hall



Chester Fritz Library



Nistler Hall



Engineering & Science 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.

### Engineering & Science Complex (2028)

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

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.

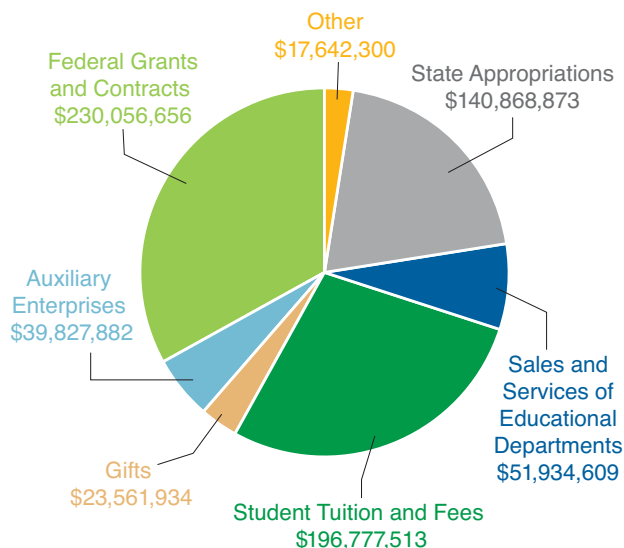
The University of North Dakota operates with a commitment to transparency, accountability and strategic investment. Annual revenues reflect a balanced mix of state support, tuition, federal grants and private philanthropy.

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 2025 Revenues: \$721,394,900\*



\*FY2025 Revenues (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) – 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 while fostering entrepreneurship and business growth across the state. The University partners with agencies such as the FAA, Department of War, Department of Homeland Security and NASA. The UND Center for Innovation and Nistler College's Center for Business Engagement & Development help launch startups, support entrepreneurs and strengthen North Dakota's economy. The new faculty-led UND CONNECT program — funded by the N.D. Economic Diversification Research Grant — fosters community partnerships and delivers 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](https://www.visitgrandforks.com) and [grandforksiscooler.com](https://www.grandforksiscooler.com) to see why Greater Grand Forks is simply grand.

### 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 (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**

state in the nation  
for business  
friendliness  
*CNBC (2026)*

**#2**

in the nation for  
lowest cost of living  
*CNBC (2026)*

**#2**

lowest  
unemployment rate  
*U.S. Bureau of Labor  
Statistics (2026)*

**#3**

best state for  
families  
*Wallethub (2026)*

**#3**

best state for  
fiscal stability  
*U.S. News &  
World Report (2026)*

**#4**

best state overall  
*U.S. News &  
World Report (2026)*

**#4**

happiest workforce  
*Wallethub (2026)*

**#7**

best state for  
infrastructure, higher  
education and  
opportunity  
*U.S. News &  
World Report (2026)*

**#8**

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.