

## *UD Facts & Figures 2023-24*



# MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

## UNIVERSITY VALUES

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

- **Academic Freedom.** We each have the responsibility to foster an atmosphere that promotes the free exchange of ideas and opinions. Everyone has the right to benefit from this atmosphere.
  - **Diversity and Inclusion.** We welcome and value different backgrounds, perspectives and learning experiences; this is essential for educating global citizens, developing knowledge and advancing and enhancing our world.
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- **Innovation.** Revolutionary thinking is part of our DNA—our first students in 1743 helped found this nation. We want to make a significant difference in the world, and we are collaborating across disciplines with risk-taking, creativity and innovation to address the biggest challenges of our time.
- **Community.** Our supportive, friendly campus community advocates for each individual's voice to be heard. We encourage respect and civility toward everyone, knowing that mutual appreciation and dialogue leads to greater learning.
- **Service.** As an engaged University, we create and capitalize on innovative partnerships with government, industry and the community for economic and civic development. These connections enrich our scholarship, research and creative activity, enhance the curriculum and ultimately contribute to the public good.

The University of Delaware's Values, as well as Mission Statement, Student Values Statement, and Statement of Respect & Responsibility are located at [udel.edu/about/values/](https://udel.edu/about/values/).

## UNIVERSITY VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

After a year-long process of discussion and planning involving Trustees, senior leaders and working groups comprised of more than 150 faculty, staff and students from across the University, as well as public forums, the Board of Trustees approved a refreshed [institutional strategic plan](#) on March 16, 2022.

Its five strategic pillars are:

- **Expanding student access and success.** The University of Delaware inspires students in their pursuit of knowledge and guides them in their development of the skills necessary for success, both personally and professionally. We prepare our students to be competitive, collaborative, curious and informed so they can navigate an increasingly complex world. The University is committed to ensuring affordable access to educational opportunities for Delawareans.
  - **Building a social justice foundation to support a diverse, inclusive and intercultural campus.** The University of Delaware remains deeply committed to building a campus community that reflects the rich and complex diversity of the human experience and that nourishes a culture that promotes and celebrates excellence for every individual.
  - **Expanding interdisciplinary and global opportunities.** We are fully engaged in the challenges of the state of Delaware and the world, contributing our resources and expertise in an integrated manner in order to find solutions. As a land-, sea- and space-grant institution, UD is committed to strengthening the economic and cultural bonds between Delaware and the world.
  - **Redefining creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.** Our students, faculty and staff find creative and innovative solutions to difficult challenges and apply entrepreneurial thought and approaches in everything they do. The ideals of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are built into all curricular and co-curricular programs, a mindset that prepares students succeed in the global economy.
  - **Reimagining intellectual and physical capital for a sustainable and boundless campus.** Expanded use of online tools is continually reshaping ideas about teaching, learning, collaboration and providing services to our students, faculty and staff, even as we reinforce the power of face-to-face relationships in cultivating a sense of place and community. We are investing in our intellectual and physical capital in a synergistic, interdisciplinary and sustainable way that promotes excellent education, research, scholarship and engagement.
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