

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



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: Very High
Research Activity (R1)

UND UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA
LEADERS IN ACTION

Dean, School of Law

The University of North Dakota is seeking candidates for the position of Dean of the School of Law. Reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the leader of the state's only law school. The Dean will provide leadership and facilitate an environment for accomplishing strategic goals, as well as aligning the functioning of the School of Law with UND's broader academic integrity and strategic planning: UND LEADS. The dean is responsible, in cooperation with the Provost, for the academic and administrative planning; budgeting; administration and implementation of school and university policies; and fundraising and external relations. The Dean, in partnership with the faculty, is responsible for academic program development and review; faculty and staff recruitment; development and evaluation of faculty; and student relations.

UND seeks an exceptional, focused, and creative leader who will build upon the School of Law's strengths to continue its growth and expansion, provide world-class educational experiences, recruit and develop outstanding faculty, and promote faculty-driven scholarly and creative endeavors within the school. The next Dean will be a committed team player 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 have unquestioned integrity and exemplary interpersonal and communication skills.

The anticipated stating date of the new Dean will be Jan. 1, 2026, or as soon as reasonable thereafter.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA



Established in 1899, the University of North Dakota School of Law is a public law school, located on the main campus of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. The UND School of Law has more than 3,000 alumni and an annual total enrollment of approximately 250 students, with over half of the students coming from North Dakota and the rest coming from Minnesota, across the nation, and Canada.

Enrollment is rising in the School of Law. In fall 2025, the School will welcome its largest incoming first-year class in 30 years. The School of Law offers the J.D. degree; an accelerated law degree; and joint degree programs in law and public administration (J.D./M.P.A.), law and business administration (J.D./M.B.A.), and law and public health (J.D./M.P.H.) In addition, the School of Law offers three certificate programs: one in Indian and Tribal Law;

one in Aviation Law; and one in Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources. The School of Law is also home to the Northern Plains Indian Law Center and is nationally recognized for its excellence in Indian and Tribal Law, as well as law in rural settings.

As the only School of Law in the state of North Dakota, the School plays the leading role in the preparation of students for participation across the entire spectrum of law-related professions in North Dakota and throughout the region. The School of Law has been accredited by the American Bar Association since 1923 and has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1911. The School maintains very close ties with the judiciary and practicing bar of the state of North Dakota, of which approximately 80 percent of the judiciary and 75 percent of the practicing attorneys are alumni.



The University of North Dakota is seeking candidates for the position of Dean of the UND School of Law. Reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the chief executive officer of the School of Law and is responsible for its effective administration. The Dean will provide leadership and facilitate an environment for accomplishing strategic goals, as well as aligning the functioning of the School of Law with UND's broader academic identity and strategic planning. The Dean is responsible, in cooperation with the Provost, for academic and administrative planning; budgeting; administration and implementation of department, school, and university policies; and fund-raising and external relations. The Dean, in partnership with the faculty, is responsible for academic program development and review; faculty recruitment; development and evaluation of faculty; and student relations. The Dean should secure and develop relationships with key stakeholders of the School of Law, including alumni, supporters, and members of North Dakota's legal community.

UND seeks a dynamic and visionary leader who will build upon the School of Law's strengths to provide exceptional professional educational experiences, recruit and develop outstanding faculty, and promote faculty-driven scholarly and creative endeavors. The next Dean will be a committed team player 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, and administrators. The next Dean should have a keen understanding of the changes facing the legal profession and legal education and be able to develop a future-oriented vision of the Law School's contributions to national and state legal institutions in this shifting and dynamic landscape. The Dean will have unquestioned integrity and exemplary interpersonal and communication skills.

The next Dean of the UND School of Law will be joining the University during a dynamic period. Under the leadership of President Andrew Armacost (who joined UND in 2020) and Provost Eric Carl Link (who joined UND in 2021), the campus is experiencing enrollment growth and major campus improvements with several buildings currently under construction and/or renovation. Significant investments in terms of research development in critical areas are propelling the University forward as the flagship research institution in the state of North Dakota. Meanwhile, the University's ongoing commitment to student success at both the undergraduate and graduate levels continues to elevate the tradition of educational excellence at the institution.

The incoming Dean of the School of Law will have the opportunity to build on the long-standing tradition of excellence within the School; to work alongside both internal and external partners and stakeholders to increase and enhance the mission of the School; and to lead the School through a period of enrollment growth, program expansion, and increasing visibility across the state of North Dakota. Enhancing 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 capital campaigning and relationship building, as will bringing key programmatic opportunities to the students of the school that will position them — and the School — for ongoing service to the state and the region.

The following is an abbreviated list of the responsibilities associated with this position:

- Promoting high-quality academic programs and supporting high-quality teaching.
- Fostering collaborative academic planning and innovative curricular development.
- Promoting student success and retention.
- Advancing research, scholarship, and creative activities.
- Creating an inclusive campus climate that demonstrates a commitment to inclusiveness and encourages service to underserved populations.
- Attracting support for the University and the School through active engagement of alumni, community, industry, and other external constituents, and effectively participating in fundraising activities/alumni relations.
- Maintaining accreditation standards.
- Managing the budget in accordance with the University's Model for Incentive Resource Allocation, including the preparation, submission, disbursement of, and working within the budget of the School.
- In collaboration with others, creating and supporting a plan that results in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff and faculty.
- Leading the coordination of School governance.
- Maintaining and strengthening partnerships within and outside of the University.
- Building relationships that engender trust through open communication across the campus and within the staff.



Minimum Requirements

- A Juris Doctor (J.D.) or other terminal degree in law.
- At least ten years of accomplishments in progressive and increasingly complex leadership roles in higher education, the practice of law, or a related field.
- Licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Preferred Qualifications

- A record of excellence and achievement in teaching, service, and scholarship in the legal academy or an outstanding record of accomplishment in the practice of law or the judiciary that demonstrates a level of intellectual leadership and accomplishment that would qualify the candidate for holding a tenured faculty position within the School of Law.
- Experience creating innovative approaches that provide faculty and staff with the resources to support, maintain, and enhance excellence in teaching, scholarship, and student support.
- Experience working closely and collaboratively with executive leadership teams and establishing strong working relationships with key internal and external stakeholders, such as alumni, the judiciary, and local state bar associations and legislative governing bodies.
- Proficiency with data and data analytics to assist in strategic decision making.
- Experience overseeing recruitment, hiring, retention, supervision, and mentorship of high-quality faculty and staff or equivalent experience recruiting, retaining, and supervising employees.
- Experience with fundraising and identification of creative and atypical revenue streams, securing external support, and building donor relationships.
- A record of sound budgetary management with good financial acumen.
- Dedication to working with, understanding, and addressing the needs of nontraditional and underrepresented students and other historically underserved populations.
- Experience with, or knowledge of, the accreditation processes.
- Proven record of providing direction and advocacy for research and creative endeavors.
- Demonstrated leadership in fostering community, belonging, and consensus among diverse groups.
- Experience with academic administration of the promotion and tenure process, faculty hiring and appointments.

Core Competencies & Characteristics

The ideal Dean of the School of Law should:

- Have excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to communicate complex or technical information clearly to a range of audiences.
- Be an effective and engaging public speaker.
- Be able to work effectively with small groups and to communicate one-on-one with a variety of constituencies.
- Be an active listener with responsive and timely follow-up and follow-through skills.
- Be a visible, servant leader who leads by example.
- Demonstrate humility, flexibility, and skillful delegation.
- Be able to make well-informed decisions.
- Be an effective agent of positive change with the ability to motivate and inspire others to support and engage in proactive and visionary change.
- Have an appreciation for and proactively involve others in the shared governance process that exists between the law school's administration and its faculty, staff, and students.
- Have a commitment to fostering community, belonging, and consensus building in faculty, staff, and student populations.
- Have interpersonal skills that lead to respectful and effective interactions both inside and outside the University.
- Have a deep commitment to student learning and a positive student experience.
- Be a strategic, critical thinker who leads with candor, sound judgment, empathy, and transparency.
- Demonstrates high integrity and emotional intelligence, as well as a commitment to high professional standards and ethics.

Opportunities & Challenges

- Positioning UND School of Law students for success with the new NextGen Bar Exam, which has been adopted in North Dakota and will be administered beginning July of 2027.
- Leading the School of Law forward in a swiftly evolving technological landscape that will have far-reaching impacts on legal education and the legal profession.
- Addressing the ongoing workforce needs of the state of North Dakota in the legal professions, particularly in rural regions in the state.
- Maintaining and strengthening the robust relationship between the School of Law and the state's judiciary, Bar Association, and legislature.
- Responding to legislative initiatives, such as expanding experiential learning opportunities and legal clinics.

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, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to:

UNDDeanLaw@academicsearch.org

Applications received by Monday, Aug. 4, 2025, are assured consideration. The UND Dean of the School of Law Search Committee is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Ann Hasselmo at Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org and Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org.

Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in this application process should contact Academic Search at 202.332.4049.

Additional University information may be found at 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.

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 offers bachelor's to doctoral degrees in more than 225 fields of study, nurturing a strong core of liberal arts and sciences with special missions in life sciences, law, fine art, education, business, aerospace, unmanned flight operations, engineering, health care, and energy disciplines. UND focuses on creating world-class campus and online academic programs responsive to the needs of not only the state and its residents but also the nation. Students come from all 50 states and nearly 100 countries.

As the state's flagship institution, the University of North Dakota was founded in 1883, six years before the state itself was established. Today, it is a busy 516-acre campus with a student enrollment of over 15,000 — the state's largest — located in Grand Forks, a vibrant college town of nearly 60,000 residents.

The University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and has achieved the Carnegie classification of Very High Research Activity (R1). UND is a member of the North Dakota University System (NDUS).



LEADS
LEADS
LEADS
LEADS
LEADS



AT UND, WE LEAD.

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.

For full details, visit [UND.edu/about/strategic-plan](https://und.edu/about/strategic-plan).

More than simple buzzwords at the University of North Dakota, they stand as the core values for our UND LEADS Strategic Plan — the road map that's central to everything we do to drive opportunity for our students and our state.

They define our ambitious vision for infinite innovation, lifelong learning, and leadership. UND is pioneering discoveries in unmanned flight, harnessing the power of big data, and changing the game in energy exploration and environmental sustainability. We're fighting the nation's raging opioid epidemic, waging war against deadly cancers, and debilitating deep-brain diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. On campus and beyond, in all sorts of ways, we're proud to take the lead.



LEADERS IN ACTION

UND students and graduates are creating new success stories every day.

The University's first graduates — a class of six women and two men — were our first leaders in action. Most notably, Dr. Cora Smith King was the first woman to receive a medical license in the state and was a fierce advocate for women.

Today, that same resilience remains in our students, who are achieving great things every day. We know strong individuals make a stronger community. As a people we are independent thinkers, but as a community we are forever family.

And just like Smith, the storied successes of our 170,000+ alumni are a testament to our belief that results matter. We lead not by telling, but by doing.

Read and hear — in their own words — some of the success stories of our modern-day leaders in action.

[UND.edu/leaders](https://und.edu/leaders)



Nation's First
 institution to formally join the U.S. Space Force's University Partnership Program



84% highest fall-to-fall retention rate for first-time, full-time freshmen among all 11 NDUS schools since tracking began in the 1990s

\$400M+
 investment in campus renewal with limited state funds



\$150M+
 received in external research awards for FY24, focused in areas of national security, human and rural health, energy, autonomous systems and computational science



\$1.48B
 overall economic impact to the state and region



10+ Years Named as a Military-Friendly School
 (MilitaryFriendlySchools.com, 2024)

World's First
 doctoral program in Indigenous Health

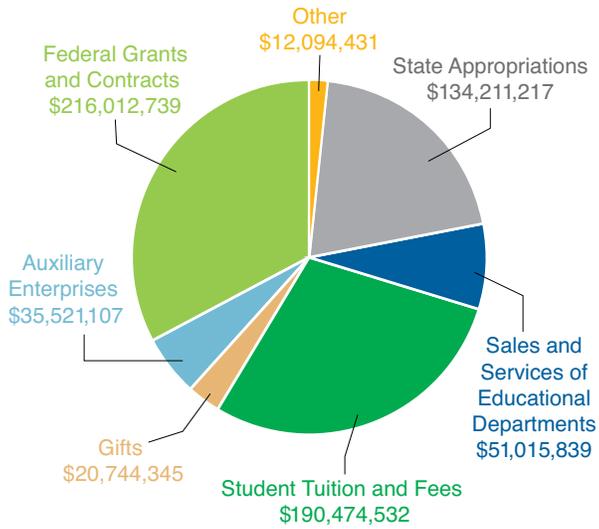
1ST
 beyond-visual-line-of-sight design for broad commercial use

Top 20
 Rural Medicine Programs
 (U.S. News & World Report)

\$422.1M
 total UND endowment market value

225+
 online degrees, minors and certificate programs

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



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

Research

In FY2024, UND received more than \$202M in total external awards, including over \$150M in research awards. In FY2023, UND’s reported research expenditures totaled \$182M. More than \$65M of those FY2023 expenditures were from federal sources, over \$12M higher than any other NDUS institution. These awards

come from disciplines across UND but are focused in UND’s Grand Challenge areas of National Security, Human & Rural Health, Energy, Autonomous Systems and Computational Science. The success of research at UND is a tribute to our faculty and staff but also reflects the strong support provided by the state through investments in National Security and the Economic Diversification Research Fund. In addition, UND researchers involve undergraduate and graduate students in their efforts on a daily basis, providing life-changing experiential learning opportunities to our students.



Visit UND.edu for the most recently available facts and figures.



Students

- For fall 2024, UND posted an **overall student headcount** of 15,019 students, an increase of nearly 6% (847 students) over fall 2023. That tally represents third highest total in the University's history and marks the first time since 2013 that enrollment has surpassed 15,000 students.
- The number of new freshmen at UND for fall 2024 increased by 439 students, to 2,205. That's represents a **24.86% increase** over the fall 2023 new-freshmen figure of 1,766.
- UND is home to **high achieving students**, with the average incoming freshman high school GPA of 3.61. UND also had a 27.43% increase in its new freshman Presidential Scholars for fall 2024, plus 11 new National Merit scholars.
- The University's fall 2024 retention rate of first-time, full-time students also has **increased to 84.02%**, up from 82.96% for the previous year's cohort. Throughout the North Dakota University System, that's the highest such rate recorded since the system started keep track of that statistic in the 1990s.
- With a strong focus on health and wellness, UND's **Student Wellness Center** is ranked nationally as one of the best college recreation centers. In fact, *The Princeton Review* ranks UND as the Top 25 in the nation for its recreational and athletic facilities.

Research & Academics

- In 2025, the Carnegie Foundation designated the University of North Dakota as a **Carnegie R1 ("very high research activity") institution**, placing UND in a peer group of 187 universities, including Yale, Stanford, Harvard and the University of Minnesota.
- The **Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)** was awarded \$38 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 2023 for a carbon capture and storage project. The project aims to characterize and permit a geologic carbon dioxide storage hub in central North Dakota to store up to 200 million metric tons of CO₂, which would contribute 10% of the 2 billion metric ton CO₂ storage capacity goal of the DOE's CarbonSAFE Initiative Program.
- A team of researchers at the **College of Education & Human Development** has been awarded a National Science Foundation Discover Research K-12 Grant worth nearly \$3 million in order to provide teachers with professional learning opportunities in science and engineering education. The goal is to retain more rural teachers by helping them use new instructional approaches in the classroom instead of reverting back to old methods.
- **Mechanical Engineering** and **Atmospheric Sciences** received \$750,000 from the Office of Naval Research to study how ice crystals form in the atmosphere and how they impact hypersonic vehicles including certain missiles, military vehicles, and spacecraft reentering earth's atmosphere. Purdue University's School of Aeronautics & Astronautics will join UND researchers on this project.
- UND's **Institute of Energy Studies** was awarded more than \$1.25 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to study the feasibility of using industrial residues to capture carbon dioxide in a solid form — and then using that solid in a beneficial way. UND will be assisted by Envergen LLC, a Massachusetts-based company that specializes in technology development and commercialization.
- In Sept. 2022, the **College of Education & Human Development** launched a new Teacher Recruitment & Retention initiative to address teacher shortages throughout the state and nationwide. Among other goals, it will provide support to current teachers and actively address underlying causes of teacher stress and dissatisfaction.
- The National Science Foundation selected a consortium of eight universities – including UND – in the Great Plains region to implement a five-year, \$14 million program to provide training to scientists and engineers using the **NSF I-Corps curriculum**. This curriculum is a proven methodology that provides immersive, entrepreneurial training for scientists and engineers with the goal of moving ideas to commercialization.
- In 2024, the College of Engineering & Mines was designated as a **National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research (CAE-R) institution** through 2029. This marks the first time the University has received such a designation and comes on the heels of increased cybersecurity research projects on campus.

- UND is part of a four-year, \$17 million cold-weather research effort in collaboration with Virginia Tech – the project’s principal investigator – as well as Stonybrook University, the University of Minnesota, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab to conduct Arctic research and develop the **Defense Resiliency Platform Against Extreme Cold Weather**.
- UND’s Space Studies department has a new lab located at the **Space Life Sciences Laboratory at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center**. The goal is to increase the number of internships available to students in this lab, thereby bringing both distance and on-campus students to the Kennedy Space Center.
- In 2024, the UND School of Aerospace Sciences was one of the very first institutions accepted into the **Federal Aviation Administration’s Enhanced Air Traffic - Collegiate Training Initiative**. This new program helps UND meet the nation’s need for more air traffic controllers entering the workforce.
- UND is home to the **Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research, Education & Training**. It’s the first program of its kind in the nation.
- In fall 2022, UND was the **first in the state to offer a Bachelor of Science in Esports**. Housed in the College of Education & Human Development, the interdisciplinary degree includes kinesiology, public health, sports business, computer science, and communication curriculum.
- Faculty and students from aerospace, engineering, arts and sciences, nursing, and medicine do significant work in the development of payload systems and sense-and-avoid technologies, and in thinking through philosophical and protocol issues. For example, the **UND Department of Biology** incorporates UAS vehicles as a tool in wildlife management.
- Placement rates for accounting graduates from the **Nistler College of Business & Public Administration** seeking jobs in the field continue to be exceptional – close to 100 percent.
- UND is the regional leader for online education, with more than **225 online degrees, minors and certificate programs**.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks 14 of UND’s online, graduate and professional programs in the **top 75 nationwide**, including in the categories of top Primary Care Medicine in Rural/Underserved Areas, Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy, Nursing-Anesthesia, Psychology and Best Online Programs for Veterans.
- The College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines has responded to the region’s shortage of professionals in the fields of nursing, nutrition, and social work by offering online and distance graduate-level programs. The College posted a **97% first-time pass rate on the most recent nursing licensing exam** (compared to a national NCLEX average of 92%).



UND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



8
Division I National Championships in Men's Hockey, and producing 100+ NHL players



33 consecutive semesters with 3.0+ overall student-athlete GPA

17
NCAA Division I Athletic Teams

- 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)
- Volleyball (W)
- Track & Field Outdoor (M, W)



Athletics

The UND Athletics Department is an integral part of the University community, fostering school spirit, providing opportunities for student-athletes to compete at a high level, and bringing excitement and entertainment to fans.

Fighting Hawks Facilities:

- UND boasts modern and well-equipped **athletic facilities** to support its sports programs, including the Ralph Engelstad Arena, the Alerus Center, the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center, Albrecht Field, the Frederick "Fritz" D. Pollard Jr. Athletic Center, Choice Health & Fitness and Ray Richards Golf Course.
- The new **Memorial Village**, completed in 2024, provides a new space for student-athlete academic services, new offices for football, track and field, men's and women's golf, and softball, and pays tribute to the history of North Dakota Athletics through a public-private partnership.
- UND Athletics prepares to unveil the **Nodak Insurance Company Sports Performance Center** in winter of 2025. The facility will feature brand new training facilities, locker rooms, nutrition station and more!
- North Dakota Softball unveiled a brand new state-of-the-art softball field, **Albrecht Field**, on UND's campus in fall 2024.

Fighting Hawks Highlights:

- **Hockey:** UND lead the nation in fan attendance for the 2023-24 season and captured it's 21st conference title and 6th Penrose Cup.
- **Football:** Home field advantage holds true in the Alerus Center! The Hawks hold a 23-5 record at home over the last five seasons!
- **Track & Field:** During the 2024-25 season, Indoor Track & Field added a new All-American in Jadyne Keeler, 5000m, and saw Kenna Curry become a 2-time All-American in the weight throw!
- **Community Service:** Ranked amongst the Top 5 schools in the nation for community service in five of the last six years. The 2023-24 season saw 7,436 hours of service with an economic impact of \$236,467.

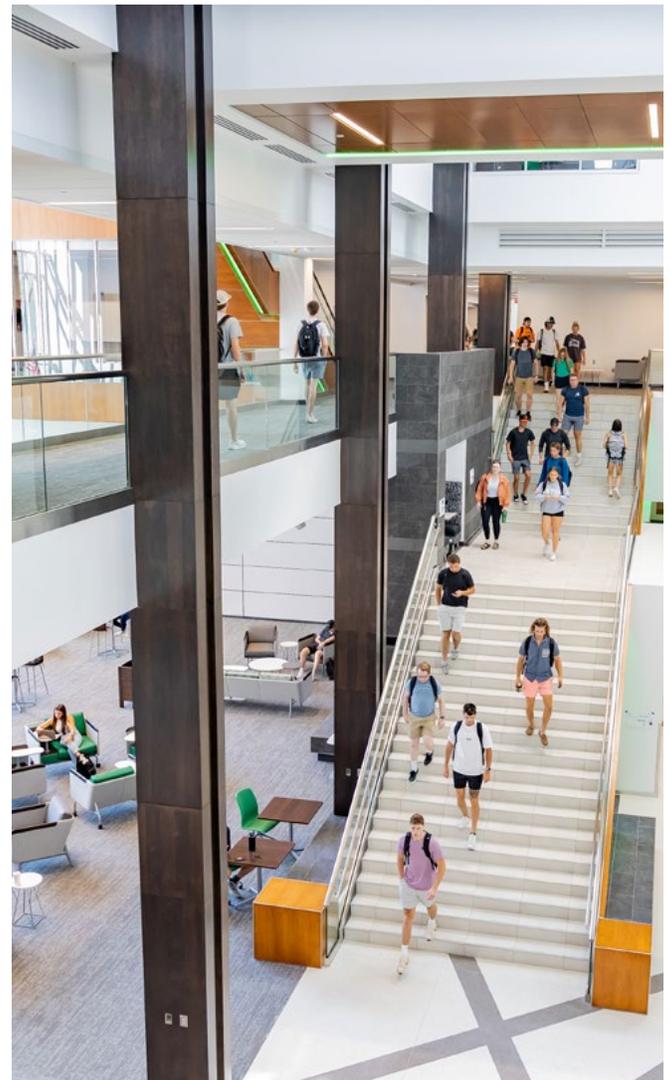
Alumni

- In fall 2023, UND launched the public phase of a major capital campaign with the goal to raise **\$500 million**.
- Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the UND Alumni Association & Foundation had a **record-breaking fundraising year** with \$100.2 million raised in FY2024. The previous all-time record of \$80.1 million that was raised in FY2020.
- In FY2024, UND had 8,804 donors, including 1,786 first-time donors, make 12,753 fundraising commitments bringing UND's total endowment to a record value of **\$422.1 million**. A total of **104 new endowments** were created.
- The **Gorecki Alumni Center** serves as a “front door” to the University, not only for alumni but also new students and their parents. Featuring numerous exhibits and a large gathering space, it is home to the UND Alumni Association & Foundation and the Office of University Admissions. In 2012, the building was the first in North Dakota to achieve “Platinum” Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Its construction was made possible by a major gift from Ben and Dorothy Gorecki of Milaca, Minn.
- According to the latest graduation survey, nearly 94% of our newest alumni would recommend UND to others. Some of UND's **most notable alumni** include a NASA astronaut (Karen Nyberg), the president of the Minnesota Twins (Dave St. Peter), and the winningest coach in NBA history (Phil Jackson).

New Campus Projects

Few times in history has the University experienced such expansive, simultaneous, and exciting growth.

- UND's \$80 million **Memorial Union** — a home away from home for students — opened in August 2021. Students voted to fund the project through student fees. Project architects were recognized with a 2022 Association of College Unions International Facility Design Award.
- In 2022 the new **Nistler College of Business & Public Administration** opened. Fundraising for the \$70 million building was spurred by a generous lead gift of \$20 million from UND alum and donor, Werner and Colleen Nistler. Matching gifts from the state of North Dakota, more than 102 donors and friends, as well as a \$1.3 million capstone installment from the City of Grand Forks paved the way for this historical project.
- UND graduate students also are enjoying a new space to call their own on campus — the **Gershman Graduate Center**. The renovated Center was made possible by the generosity of Hal and Kathleen Gershman and opened fall 2021.
- Our **Chester Fritz Library** has undergone major renovations with improved building entrances, technology, and study spaces in 2021.
- To significantly improve the on-campus living experience for students, UND recently renovated **Brannon Residence Hall** and built two new **McVey** and **West Residence Halls** in fall 2023.
- Upgrades to the **University Avenue corridor** aim to improve pedestrian flow and increase safety with new lighting, landscaping, controlled crossings, and raised medians.
- Renovations of two historical buildings, **Carnegie Hall** and **Merrifield Hall**, were completed in early 2025 to bring modern technology, accessibility, and gathering spaces into a new era.



Subscribe to UND Today at UND.edu/today for more stories about our people, places, and programs.

Economic Impact

As the chief opportunity engine for North Dakota and North Dakotans, the University of North Dakota is the state's most comprehensive, research-intensive university and the primary center for professional education and training. It is one of approximately 55 public universities in the nation with accredited professional schools of both law and medicine. According to the 2023 North Dakota University System (NDUS) Economic Impact Report, UND's economic impact on the state and region is \$1.48 billion. Levels of business activity resulting from UND expenditures and student spending supported 9,656 direct and secondary jobs in FY2021. Moreover, UND's in-state and student expenditures, and subsequent secondary business activity was estimated to generate \$13.7 million in state and local tax collections.

UND also exerts an economic impact through its students and alumni. Seventy-nine percent of family medicine physicians practicing in North Dakota either graduated from the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences or completed an in-state residency.* Additionally, UND has educated a significant number of the engineers and oil and gas experts working in the energy industry that is so critical to the state's economic health.

The Division of Research & Economic Development works closely with the city of Grand Forks, the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, The Chamber of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, the Red River Regional Planning Council, and other economic development entities. The EDC staff includes an employee with specific responsibility for business development in the UAS sector, which complements a strong UAS program at the University.

**UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences' Vital Signs 2023 report*

The Budget Model

UND's Model for Incentive-Based Resource Allocation (MIRA) is a transparent and decentralized approach to budgeting that promotes outcomes valued by the University community. Instead of an incremental budget based on the budget from the previous year, MIRA establishes budgeting based on need, growth, and the promise of development. Guiding principles ensure the budget model:

- Aligns with the University's mission.
- Provides a clear link between resource allocation and strategic goals.
- Creates incentives for promoting flexibility, efficiency, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- Promotes fiscal trust, responsibility, accountability, and transparency.
- Balances economic reality with simplicity.

Under MIRA, college/school budgets are based on a formula that takes into consideration teaching and research activities, space, and other operational factors, and our values for a higher education institution. When applied to revenue distribution, cost assessment, and UND's values, the formula provides transparency in the budgeting process. Successful implementation of MIRA also facilitates funds set aside for the purpose of strategic investments, such as research, new program development, and school initiatives.



The Greater Grand Forks area (Grand Forks, its sister city of East Grand Forks, Minn., and nearby Grand Forks Air Force Base) and UND are well connected. In fact, our relationship is award winning. UND won the Larry Abernathy Award from the International Town & Gown Association two years in a row and the American Council on Education’s / Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation in 2022. Together, we have a clear desire to collaborate for the betterment of the campus and community. Many cite the people as their favorite thing about the college town, but there’s plenty to see and do. It’s a safe and friendly community that’s as passionate about UND as its students are.

With grassland prairies to the west and Minnesota lakes and forests to the east, Grand Forks has been ranked as one of the most livable cities in the country. Short commutes, a great public school system, a new state-of-the-art hospital, low crime, ample parks and theaters, and a cost of living almost 10% below that found in the average American city are some of Grand Forks’ advantages. Grand Forks consistently ranks high in comparative surveys for business, education, quality of life, and community safety, making it an excellent choice for families and professionals alike.

- No. 1 Place to Live in North Dakota — *Money*
- Top 20 Most Charming Cities in the Midwest — *TRAVELMAG*
- Top 5 Best Small College Towns — *Preply*
- The Best College Town in North Dakota — *WorldAtlas*
- Best College Town in North Dakota — *Far & Wide*
- Top 100 Best Cities to Live in the USA — *Liveability (2022)*

Way Cooler Than You Think

Greater Grand Forks offers plenty of outdoor recreation, restaurants, nightlife, and shopping opportunities. A wide variety of arts organizations, symphony orchestra, galleries, museums, and exceptional athletic facilities ensure a vibrant cultural and sporting community.

Grand Forks hosts many fun activities year-round. ArtsFest, an outdoor festival held every June, draws about 30,000 people to view art, listen to live music, play games, and enjoy the summer weather. Each fall, the community comes together for Potato Bowl week. Activities include the UND Potato Bowl game and the French Fry Feed, where more than 2.5 tons of french fries were served in University Park, setting a new world record in 2015.

The city-owned Alerus Center, home of the UND football team, hosts a variety of major events, including conventions, conferences, and big-name concerts. Along with the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center, located on UND’s campus, and the Ralph Engelstad Arena, Grand Forks has hosted some of the biggest names in music — among them, Elton John, Cher, Chris Stapleton, Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood, Luke Combs, Metallica, and Aerosmith.

The Greenway along the Red River offers 2,200 acres of open, natural settings for four-season recreation. Parks, bike trails, golf courses, tennis, and pickleball courts, and swimming pools provide summer recreation, while favorite winter activities and sports include cross country skiing, sledding, snowmobiling, skating, and ice hockey. State and national parks and picturesque lakes are found throughout the region, providing excellent hunting and fishing. Plus, Grand Forks is near major metropolitan areas— just under five hours from Minneapolis/St. Paul and about two hours from Winnipeg, Manitoba.



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

With a growing population of more than 796,000, North Dakota's primary economic engines have traditionally been energy and agriculture. Innovative extraction of oil and natural gas production, bolstered by UND research, made North Dakota the third-leading energy producer in the nation and led to establishment of the Legacy Fund — a savings account for the people of North Dakota worth billions.

In addition to oil, there are also significant lignite coal reserves beneath the western counties, and these are actively mined and turned into electricity at the power plants that dot the shoreline of Lake Sakakawea. The state also contributes to energy production with ethanol, wind, hydro-power, and synthetic fuels. UND's Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) and College of Engineering & Mines contribute significantly to the development of the state's energy industry through research, services, and the education of skilled professionals. With its expertise in clean-coal technologies, carbon-capture methods, enhanced oil recovery, and the commercialization of rare-earth minerals, UND is an important player in the nation's energy future.

UND also is helping to diversify North Dakota's economy and enhance national security at the same time through its pioneering efforts in unmanned aircraft and other autonomous systems as well as collaborations with the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and NASA.

North Dakota ranks first in the nation in the production of a number of agricultural products, including spring wheat, durum, beans, canola, flaxseed, and honey. Manufacturing industries have grown, especially in support of food processing and farm equipment. Additionally, unmanned aerial systems business has become, perhaps, the fastest-growing industry with considerable investments in private-public partnerships.

Tourism is North Dakota's third-ranking source of revenue, behind agriculture and energy production. The top tourist destination is the historic town of Medora, which also will be the future home of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. The state is known far and wide for its waterfowl, grouse, pheasant, and deer hunting opportunities, as well as its popular fishing destinations sporting an abundance of walleye and northern pike. North Dakota has 20 state parks and recreation areas, and other points of interest include the International Peace Garden near Dunseith, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site near Williston, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in Stanton, the State Capitol in Bismarck, the Badlands, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

Government

The state is governed by its 1889 constitution, and the Legislature consists of 47 senators and 94 representatives. Gov. Kelly Armstrong succeeded Doug Burgum in 2024. North Dakota is represented in Congress by U.S. Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Julie Fedorchak. The state has three electoral votes.

North Dakota's Success Indicators

- According to *U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best States Ranking*, North Dakota received high rankings for Infrastructure (No. 1), Natural Environment (No. 12), Fiscal Stability (No. 2), and Opportunity (No. 6) as well as other factors for an overall ranking of No. 15 in terms of how well the state performs for its citizens.
- North Dakota continues to have one of the nation's lowest unemployment rates, ranking second in the nation as of January 2025. — *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*
- North Dakota ranks No. 5 in the nation for finding a job. — *WalletHub*
- North Dakota ranks No. 3 in the nation for having the "Happiest Workforces." — *Entrepreneur*
- North Dakota was ranked No. 3 in the nation for the "Best State for Families" for factors such as socio-economics, education and child care, and health and safety. — *WalletHub, 2025*





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.