

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is a public research institution committed to rigorous educational programs and promoting well-being and achievement through education, research, scholarship, and creative activity.

Since its first classes were held in 1957, UNLV has transformed from a small branch campus into a thriving university. Along the way, UNLV has become an indispensable resource in one of the country's fastest-growing and most enterprising cities. UNLV has more than 33,000 students (source: [Facts & Stats](#)), over 4,450 faculty and staff (source: [Employee Counts](#)), and offers more than 275 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree and certificate programs. This includes the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, the William S. Boyd School of Law, a School of Dental Medicine, and internationally and nationally recognized programs in hospitality, engineering, business, creative writing, conflict resolution, legal writing, public health, nursing, and more.

UNLV attained R1 "very high research activity" status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education in 2018 and is now one of just over 180 institutions – or around 5-6% percent of all universities nationwide – which meet the gold standard for university research.

Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, UNLV is among the nation's most diverse campuses for undergraduates, with more than half of its students from racial or ethnic minority groups. UNLV is a Minority-Serving, Hispanic-Serving, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, as designated by the U.S. Dept. of Education. With over 1,850 active-duty military and veteran students, the university is also recognized as a military friendly university with a dedicated office to help students and their families navigate the academic and administrative pathways of a college education.

Academic Excellence

The university strives to create an environment conducive to academic success – from the day students arrive for orientation, during their time on campus, and into their chosen careers. This is accomplished through academic and student success programming that promotes retention, progression, timely degree completion, and career readiness while closing achievement gaps. A team of dedicated student success specialists within the Office of Academic Affairs works closely with professional staff, department chairs, and faculty across the campus to enhance student academic success efforts, implement equitable and student-centered academic advising practices, and deliver impactful academic support programming from the first year through graduation. Based in the Academic Success Center building, these specialists include academic advising leadership, Student Success and the First-Year Experience, The Rebel College Accelerator for Concurrent and Dual Enrollment, peer mentoring, academic coaching, in-person and online tutoring, and other holistic programs and services that promote connection, belonging, and progression toward graduation.

An array of research opportunities and supportive programs for undergraduate and graduate students strengthen the academic experience and allow students to tackle pressing real-world issues alongside top faculty.

Community Connections

UNLV is a proud recipient of the 2020 and 2026 [Carnegie Community Engagement Classification](#), a national distinction honoring the university for its exemplary community engagement practices. Coupled with the university's status as a Carnegie R1 "very high research activity" institution, UNLV is among less than 2% of postsecondary institutions nationwide to hold Carnegie's highest classification for both research and community engagement.

The UNLV [Office of Government and Community Engagement](#) collects and assesses community engagement activities each year to better understand the many ways the university connects with the community, as well as community partner perceptions of the university's community engagement activities. The UNLV [Community Engagement Dashboard](#) contains key indicators gathered from these efforts. The Office also facilitates recognition and rewards for faculty, staff, and students in support of academic community engagement activity through two annual programs - the [President's Public Purpose Grant Program](#) and the [Community Engagement Awards](#).

The UNLV [Office of Service Learning and Leadership](#) facilitates student service, learning, leadership, and community engagement opportunities, as well as formal [service-learning](#) course development.

Access to offerings from UNLV's memberships with [American Council on Education](#), [Campus Compact](#), and the [Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities](#) are promoted out to all UNLV faculty, staff, and students as free resources to support their professional development, a way to expand their community engagement networks, and a source of best practices and current trends.

The [Office of Undergraduate Research](#) provides students with the opportunity to present their community engaged research each spring, summer, and fall semester through poster presentations, oral presentations, and performances/exhibitions. UNLV also hosts the [Annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum](#). This conference-style event highlights the innovative research and creativity of UNLV's graduate and professional students, including activity that is community engaged, offering a dynamic platform that showcases groundbreaking work from across more than 45 disciplines.

UNLV graduates are dedicated to meeting the challenges brought on by rapid urban growth, economic and cultural diversity, and sustainability, and overwhelmingly choose to remain in Southern Nevada.

Nearly two-thirds of UNLV's 154,000-plus alumni reside in Southern Nevada, including thousands of K-12 teachers, hotel and tourism professionals, health care professionals, business owners, and managers (see [Alumni Statistics](#) and [Common Data Set](#) for the most up-to-date statistics).

Economic Impact

UNLV stimulates economic development and diversification through deepening and expanding connections with new and existing partners. Such collaborations create monumental impact in

the Silver State, and UNLV is partnering with industry to build degree and professional development programs and to conduct research that addresses today's challenges. UNLV generates more than \$3.2 billion in total annual economic output and supports more than 20,000 jobs across Southern Nevada. Nearly one in five bachelor's-educated workers in the region earned their degree at UNLV ([source](#)). According to 2021-22 fiscal year data, UNLV Athletics alone brings significant value, contributing an estimated \$109.2 million in added income to the Clark County economy while supporting nearly 1,400 jobs ([source](#)).

Additional economic value exists in the education provided to students, in the enduring effects of research and development, in advanced science and technology, and in a highly-trained and globally-competitive workforce, all of which help attract new industries that further diversify Nevada's economy. Benefits exist beyond the numbers as well: UNLV makes significant contributions through social and cultural events that connect us with each other, that create community, and that enhance our lives in a multitude of ways that can't be quantified.

Academic Highlights

UNLV is home to:

Brookings Mountain West, a partnership between UNLV and the prestigious Washington, D.C.-based Brookings Institution, brings high-quality, independent, and impactful research to issues facing the dynamic and fast-growing Intermountain West.

The Lincy Institute conducts and supports research focused on improving Nevada's health, education, and social services. This research builds capacity for service providers and enhances efforts to draw state and federal money to the greater Las Vegas. The Institute also highlights key issues that affect public policy and quality-of-life decisions on behalf of children, seniors, and families in Nevada.

The renowned **Black Mountain Institute** recently marked its tenth year as a literary center dedicated to promoting discourse on today's most pressing issues. Among its many programs, the institute operates the nation's first City of Asylum program, a safe haven for writers whose voices are muffled by censorship, or who are living with the threat of imprisonment or assassination.

The **Lee Business School** is one of the largest schools at UNLV. Accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, it is one of approximately 200 business schools worldwide to achieve accreditation for both its business school and accounting program, marking the highest standard of achievement for business schools ([source](#)).

The **College of Education** is committed to preparing professionals for diverse educational settings and contributing to educational and pedagogical knowledge through scholarly endeavors. The College stimulates an intellectual environment that promotes quality instruction, significant research, and professional service.

The **Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering** produces graduates who are well prepared to find real-world solutions to technical challenges. The undergraduate program affords students the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research and learn principles of entrepreneurship in

addition to the theory taught in the classroom. Faculty and students conduct research in areas such as renewable energy, transportation, nanotechnology and structures.

The **College of Fine Arts** is one of the most rapidly growing and largest fine arts programs in the country. Students are trained by some of the best professionals in the field of entertainment. Faculty and alumni of the fine arts program have won national acclaim, receiving Emmy, Grammy, and Showtime awards.

The **Division of Health Sciences** comprises the schools of Dental Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Integrated Health Sciences. Guided by a mission that demands UNLV serve its community, the division is using research, education, training and service to form unique public and private partnerships. These partnerships help provide quality healthcare to the underserved, educate future professionals, and explore ways to improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

The **Honors College** is a selective undergraduate college that offers a unique liberal arts and sciences experience for high-achieving and highly motivated students. Coupled with the extensive research and cultural opportunities of a large urban university, the Honors College offers an exceptional value in higher education. The College is an educational partner with the “discipline” colleges of the University in which Honors students pursue their academic majors. The combination of a central Honors intellectual core and specialized learning in a major discipline helps develop graduates who are fully prepared to succeed in graduate and professional schools and in rewarding careers.

The **William F. Harrah College of Hospitality** is a global leader in hospitality research and education, immersing its students in the art, science, and business of this dynamic industry. UNLV, with its location in Las Vegas, offers students world-class opportunities to acquire professional experience along with a highly ranked academic degree. The college consistently ranks as one of the world's best, according to QS World University Rankings.

The **William S. Boyd School of Law** at UNLV is a vibrant community of students and scholars who are developing conscientious, skilled, engaged lawyers who can tackle the multifaceted issues that confront cities throughout the Intermountain West and the rest of the country. The nation’s top-ranked legal writing program, its nationally ranked clinical program, the Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic, and the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, along with an outstanding faculty and a culture of student involvement and support are key opportunities available to students.

The **College of Liberal Arts**, the largest academic college at UNLV, offers a rich variety of majors and interdisciplinary programs in the liberal arts. Students develop an array of intellectual skills and a diverse understanding of broad and varied issues.

The **Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV** welcomed its charter class in summer 2017. The medical school's mission is to improve access to high-quality health care in Southern Nevada by increasing the number of physicians and trained specialists who are committed to serving the region. The accompanying academic health center serves as core infrastructure for the entire local medical community and generates top-quality research spanning basic and clinical sciences.

The **College of Sciences** develops students and nurtures faculty who generate knowledge at the forefront of science. The discovery and understanding of the physical world, including biological systems, the investigation of alternative energy resources and fundamental questions concerning the origin and evolution of the earth and the universe are key subject areas in the college's curriculum.

The **Greenspun College of Urban Affairs** emphasizes improvement of the quality of urban life through preparing students for professional practice in each of its disciplines. College faculty, students, and staff make a difference in the world by developing effective and original solutions for 21st century urban challenges. Students are developing unique solutions together with outstanding faculty and many local leaders.