

FACTS

University System of New Hampshire (USNH)

The University System of New Hampshire consists of:

University of New Hampshire (UNH)—Durham and Manchester
Keene State College (KSC)
Plymouth State University (PSU)
College for Lifelong Learning (CLL)

USNH is one of the smallest public university systems in the country, and our goal is to be one of the very best.

USNH is student oriented, understanding “student” to mean people of all ages and in all learning circumstances.

USNH is committed to excellence in selected programs and services.

USNH is efficient and effective in the use of its resources by collaborating among the four institutions and with the NH Community Technical College System.

USNH is recognized as the partner of choice by businesses, the people, and the communities of our state.

Each institution is led by its own president. The chancellor of the University System serves as the chief executive officer and executive agent of the Board of Trustees and is responsible for leading and coordinating the efforts of the presidents and their institutions.

STUDENTS

- USNH institutions enroll nearly 30,000 students—more than 20,000 of whom are NH residents—in two- and four-year undergraduate, graduate, and lifelong education programs. By trustee policy, the USNH institutions admit all qualified NH residents.
- Each year, USNH institutions award more than 4,000 associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. Excluding Dartmouth College, nearly 80 percent of the state’s bachelor-level degrees and essentially all of the advanced graduate-level degrees in science and engineering are produced by USNH institutions.
- The USNH institutions exceed the national average for similar colleges and universities in the percentage of their students who complete a four-year education and earn a college degree.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- For each dollar the state appropriates for use by the University System, the institutions contribute an additional three to five dollars to NH from out-of-state sources (e.g., nonresident student tuition, federal appropriations, research grants, and contracts).

- The benefits of a college degree are worth more than three and a half times more in lifetime earnings, with attendant social and economic benefits including increased tax revenues, decreased reliance on public assistance, increased voting and volunteering, and lower unemployment rates. (Source: The Institute for Higher Education Policy)
- The best-educated component of the NH labor force is nearing retirement age. The educational achievement of NH's older workforce is higher than that of the younger groups. As older groups exit the workforce, they leave behind a smaller and less-educated labor force which is less able to support productivity and income growth—unless NH can count on a consistent influx of well-educated in-migrants or can significantly increase the education level of young workers. (Source: Gottlob, B. TrendLines NH, Oct. 2003)
- An estimated 120,000+ USNH student volunteer hours per year are donated to NH groups and organizations. This represents an economic value to communities and nonprofit organizations of more than \$4.7 million.

FINANCIAL

- NH ranks 50th in the nation in its per capita financial support for higher education. The gap is wide. To overtake Massachusetts' 49th position, NH would have to increase its per capita contribution to public higher education by 39 percent.
- In fiscal 2004, the State of New Hampshire's \$83.1 million appropriation provided less than 24 percent of the USNH institutions' educational and general (operating) budget. The state's share has steadily declined since 1980, when state appropriations represented 41 percent of the USNH educational and general budget.
- Low state support of public higher education increases the institutions' dependence on student revenues. Tuition and room, board, and mandatory fees paid by USNH students provide nearly 65 percent of the operating core education and general income of the institutions—twice as much as in most states.
- USNH students receive more than \$150 million in total financial aid per year, with more than \$60 million coming from USNH institutional sources. More than 75 percent of total degree candidates receive some form of aid. During the last decade, USNH institutional grants/scholarships increased at twice the pace of tuition rates.
- The average debt for bachelor's degree recipients from USNH institutions in fiscal 2004 ranged from \$14,000 to \$23,000. The default rate for USNH students is among the lowest in the country.
- USNH trustees and institutions effectively control education costs. One measure of this effectiveness is the fact that annual operating costs per student average as much as 16 percent lower than the costs per student reported by comparable institutions.

OUTREACH TO THE STATE

- UNH leads a new state initiative that makes NH a member in the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). In partnership with NH business and industry, UNH will make significant strides in public-private partnerships to support economic growth in the areas of science and technology.
- UNH's Carsey Institute is a newly established center for innovative research in the social, behavioral, and health sciences. The institute will produce a "State of the Region" report every two years summarizing changes and analyzing trends in the northern New England states, including economic development, with trends around NH broken out.

- UNH was recently named one of the top 10 universities in the country for its entrepreneurial programs by Forbes.com and the Princeton Review. Students learn from real-world interactions with entrepreneurs, who serve as mentors, and work on industry-sponsored projects for both start-up and established businesses throughout the Granite State.
- UNH's Cooperative Extension works with families and communities in all 10 counties, from traditional agricultural and forestry programs and services to expertise in aquaculture, consumer education, family services, and the marine sciences.
- UNH faculty are engaged in partnerships with state government in areas such as criminal justice, health care, environmental sciences, small business development, and K-12 education.
- KSC's Safety Studies Institute is one of a few such centers in New England where research and training in industrial and environmental safety is offered to students and businesses.
- KSC's Community Research Center develops research and professional skills among its students while helping to meet the research needs of nonprofit and public agencies in the Monadnock Region. The center assists agencies with program and needs assessments, grant writing, and conducting local surveys. Recent organizations assisted include the City of Keene Community Goals Project and the Cheshire Coalition for Tobacco-Free Youth.
- PSU's nationally-ranked athletic training program involves its students in providing area NH high schools with athletic trainers for their football, soccer, hockey, and other high school sports teams.
- PSU's meteorology program provides undergraduate training in weather forecasting and research into weather-related phenomena and works closely with the skiing and tourism industry in the Granite State.
- CLL has partnered with the NH Department of Education to establish a Center for the Alternative Preparation of Educators (CAPE). CAPE provides innovative professional development resources, online courses, and mentoring to prospective educators wishing to become certified teachers.
- CLL's Special Education Teacher Training (SETT) program delivers an alternative path to certification for those who are already working in special education as teachers or para-professionals.
- The Knowledge Network programming of New Hampshire Public Television (NHPTV), with its studio at UNH in Durham, enhances learning in NH K-12 classrooms. NHPTV has expanded its collaboration with individuals, schools, government, business, and industry as it converts its equipment for digital programming.

For more information about these facts or for answers to any questions you may have, please contact:

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