President Position Profile
The University of Connecticut (UConn) seeks an experienced leader who has demonstrated bold, strategic leadership for the position of president to lead the state’s flagship higher education institution and sole public research university at a time of enormous growth and momentum.

More information at presidentsearch.uconn.edu
UConn is one of the top public research universities in the nation, and an unprecedented commitment from the state of Connecticut ensures UConn attracts internationally renowned faculty and the world’s brightest students.
32,000+ students

276,000+ alumni

14 schools and colleges

Students from nearly 50 states and 113 countries

#23 in the U.S. News and World Report rankings of national public universities

264% increase in the number of first-year applications since fall 1996

Nearly $5 billion in capital investments from the state since 1995

1318 Average SAT score for fall 2021 freshman class

Nearly 70% of the Storrs campus student body lives on campus, many in living learning communities

92% freshmen retention, among the highest in the nation

Enrollment grew 46% in the last 25 years, with each class more academically talented and diverse than the last

4.1 Years Average time to graduation, which ranks 1st among the 58 public research universities ranked as UConn’s peers

130 new tenure or tenure-track faculty recruited in the last 10 years

$376.6 Million in sponsored research awarded in 2020-21

$603 Million endowment at the end of FY21

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UConn is a student-centered university that is increasingly attractive to talented applicants locally, nationally, and globally. Connecticut residents comprise 76% of the undergraduate students and 67% of the graduate students on UConn’s campuses. With a student-to-teacher ratio of 16:1, undergraduate students have a vibrant experience. Undergraduate freshmen applications now exceed 40,000, which has nearly doubled over the last decade.
The University has medical and dental schools and owns its own hospital and outpatient practice plan. This entity, called UConn Health, has a budget of more than $1.4 billion and is based on a Farmington, Connecticut, campus. Every year, the schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine train 650 students and over 800 residents, and the medical and dental schools do approximately $170 million in sponsored research and are hitting record highs year after year. UConn Health’s clinical enterprise handles over 1.3 million patient visits and over 70,000 dental visits annually.
UConn enrolled over 8,300 doctoral, masters, and professional students in 2021, including more than 560 in the School of Law and more than 650 medicine and dental medicine students enrolled at UConn Health. The programs in psychology, linguistics, kinesiology, and engineering have gained national distinction.

UConn has over 1,600 full-time faculty at the Storrs and regional campuses. Of those, 54% are tenured, 18% are tenure track but not yet tenured, and the remaining are non-tenure track faculty. UConn Health has 566 full-time faculty members.

The University faculty has grown considerably within the last 10 years. Efforts continue to ensure a diverse faculty. Of full-time faculty in fall 2021, women constituted 45% of the faculty at the Storrs and regional campuses, and 43% at UConn Health. People of color (including non-U.S. citizens) constituted 26% of faculty at the Storrs and regional campuses and 40% at UConn Health as of fall 2021.

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UConn’s scholar-athletes have inspired the University and captured state and national attention for decades. Since 1995, UConn has garnered 19 of its 22 NCAA national championships, with the men’s and women’s basketball programs winning dual national championships in 2004 and 2014 (an accomplishment no other Division I school has matched). Additionally, the UConn football team has been to six bowl games since 2004, including a berth in the Fiesta Bowl following the 2010 season.

In July of 2020, 17 of UConn’s 21 athletics programs rejoined the Big East Conference. The move has helped to reenergize a fan and alumni base and has breathed new life into many programs that have enjoyed decades of success as members of the Big East. With a big program, athletics revenue is vital to a sustainable future.

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UConn Foundation

Over the past three years, the UConn Foundation has overseen record-setting philanthropic support for the University, with gifts and commitments exceeding $250 million over this period. Coupled with the Foundation’s strong investment returns, which have also set historical records, these fundraising results have grown the total endowment to $603 million at the end of FY21.

Alumni

UConn has a large, loyal, and local alumni body. Currently there are more than 276,988 alumni, with about 49% living within the state and the New York area and many more in surrounding areas. The UConn Foundation assumes all alumni engagement responsibility, having merged with the Alumni Association several years ago.
To fulfill the confidence that has been placed in the University by the residents of Connecticut and to enhance the University’s role in the economic, social, and cultural well-being of Connecticut’s citizens, the 17th President of UConn will address various opportunities.

Inspire the University of Connecticut community to achieve the eminence it deserves
The University has a magnificent opportunity in a time of significant challenge. The state of Connecticut will wrestle with demanding finances and the demographics of the Northeast will pressure enrollment. UConn needs to sustain and enhance its national and international presence, take advantage of the magnificent investments of the last 25 years, and aspire to achieve even greater academic excellence at the level of an AAU institution.

Building a sustainable economic model for UConn
The University has a range of schools and programs, regional campuses, and a large health care enterprise. While all are well-positioned in their marketplaces, there are opportunities for significant revenue enhancement across the institution. The University has a geographic advantage it can use to grow a wide range of programming that will drive revenue, faculty growth, and the funds needed for academic distinction.

Support and advance strategies for UConn Health to explore public-private partnerships to strengthen the clinical enterprise
UConn has an exceptional but small academic health center, located in a prosperous suburban county with an attractive payer mix. It is not positioned to compete with large systems of the current age. The University has developed and continues to explore a variety of alliances and public-private partnerships that will allow for a stronger competitive position and greater support for the academic mission.

Enhance the scholarly and research capacities of the University
For UConn to further distinguish itself as a great public university, investment in research is essential. The president will lead a strategic effort, working closely with the provost, deans, and faculty, to identify possibilities that will build on UConn’s strengths and build the critical mass of faculty across all disciplines to improve both faculty recruitment and retention.

Enhance excellence through diversity, equity, and inclusion
The president will lead the University’s efforts to increase diversity in admissions and employment and support student, faculty, and staff success. It is expected that the president will embrace students, staff, and faculty from diverse backgrounds and will clearly demonstrate a personal commitment to their own deep value of diversity and inclusion.

More information at presidentsearch.uconn.edu
Cultivate donor relationships while enhancing a culture of philanthropy across the University

The president will have the opportunity to work with a new Foundation CEO, a dedicated Foundation Board, and staff to connect with donors and align their passions with University priorities. There is tremendous potential to further build the endowment and lead the institution to a shared responsibility for University advancement. The president will help to build a culture of philanthropy, engaging other senior leaders, especially deans, and faculty to establish fundraising objectives and to raise the significant sums that are essential to support the academic mission.

Provide strategic leadership to all campuses of the University and leverage strengths of the regional campuses

The University has the unique opportunity to provide access to a UConn education across the state. In recent years there have been efforts to enhance the undergraduate potential at the Stamford and Hartford campuses. There is an enormous opportunity for the next president to work with academic leadership to capitalize on the growing popularity of the Stamford and Hartford campuses and to develop signature programs at the other regional campuses and Farmington that will differentiate UConn from other institutions in a highly concentrated market.

Represent the University with external audiences

UConn plays a critical role in the economic development of the state of Connecticut, and the president has a public, civic, and moral leadership role to fulfill. The president will be visible not only to the University campuses, but throughout the state in the governmental, corporate, media, and education sectors. The President will join the institution in a period of gubernatorial transition and will ensure the University is fulfilling its mission and commitment to the economic and social prosperity of Connecticut and its citizens.

Further strengthen sustainable initiatives and build upon existing emphasis around climate, energy and buildings, environmental justice, and grounds, open space, and conservation areas

UConn is a global and national leader in sustainability. The president must demonstrate an understanding of environmental issues and propel the university forward to meet current challenges surrounding climate change and environmental justice.

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The University of Connecticut seeks in its new president an experienced leader with bold vision, extraordinary energy, and the personal and diplomatic skills necessary to guide UConn to new levels of excellence. Candidates should have a history of organizational leadership, a demonstrated ability to build and cultivate financial support for the University and its programs, and accomplishment in creating and supporting a climate of community, diversity, understanding, integrity, and mutual respect. Further desired qualifications include:

• An earned doctorate, appropriate terminal degree, or demonstrated record of successful executive leadership with experience sufficient to warrant the respect of the academic community;

• A powerful affinity for and commitment to the mission and values of a public university; enthusiasm for UConn and the various communities in which the University has a presence; an ability to bring campus constituencies to actionable consensus;

• A clear vision of the challenges and opportunities facing public higher education, and how they have an impact on a competitive research university;

• Demonstrated aptitude for financial strategy and decision-making in a complex environment; significant experience in building a culture of entrepreneurship and managing allocations and incentives in a complex budget;

• Successful experience as a strategic leader; an understanding of the full range of strategic issues in complex organizations and the ability to execute large and ambitious plans;

• An appreciation for the importance and challenge of maintaining a healthy, productive balance between research and high-quality teaching; understanding of, sensitivity to, and respect for the concerns and interests of faculty;

• An appreciation for the mission of an academic medical center, the business operations of academic medical centers and other major healthcare providers, and the challenges and opportunities providers are faced with in the current marketplace;

• Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills; the ability to engage in informative and productive dialogue across diverse audiences; the ability to effectively and successfully communicate with elected officials and the news media, and a recognition of the important role both play in the life of the University as a public institution;

• A track record of working with community leaders, local businesses, and local and state government, including experience with elected officials and state legislature;

• A proven, demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with faculty governance and an openness to collaborative relationships with campus unions;

• A commitment to diversity, including individual action and institutional leadership to advance diversity;

• A commitment to environmental and social sustainability;

• Proven success in fundraising; the capacity to represent UConn compellingly to donors and to lead a substantial ongoing development campaign;

• An understanding of and commitment to sustaining a strong athletic program that will confer the goodwill of the state in the University and will deliver a message of the role athletic programs play in developing ethics and integrity;

• A demonstrated ability to understand, lead, and inspire multiple geographically dispersed campuses; and

• Experience working with boards and assisting them in utilizing their full potential to advance institutional goals.

More information at presidentsearch.uconn.edu
The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, complete CV, and references) or expressions of interest to be submitted to the search firm assisting the Board. Confidential review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to August 1, 2022:

Laurie C. Wilder, President
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The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.