Student Success: Transformative educational experience

The University of Iowa has identified the following indicators as key to monitoring our effectiveness in delivering high-quality education and providing clear pathways for students to achieve their educational and career goals.

Current Status
The university continues to make student success a key priority in its programs and plans. Provost Fuentes has indicated that through a new strategic planning effort, the university will continue to improve retention and graduation rates with a target to reach or exceed the peer median. A top priority will be to close the gap in graduation rates for under-represented minority and first generation students as compared to the rate for majority students. Working with the undergraduate colleges and central support areas, new efforts and initiatives will be launched to help more students achieve their degrees in a timely fashion.

Selected Accomplishments
• 1-year retention and 4- and 6-year graduation rates remain close to record levels.
• U.S. News and World Report ranks SUI 34th among the nation’s best public universities, and ranks 11 SUI graduate programs among the top 10 in the nation.
• SUI was named one of the top producers of Fulbright Students for the fourth year in a row, with an all-time record of 19 student awards for 2019-20.
• SUI was designated as a First Forward institution by NASPA’s Center for First Generation Student Success. First Forward is a consortium of 80 institutions across the country that implement and share practices to improve educational attainment for first-generation students.
• The Graduate College was selected by the Association of American Universities to participate in the PhD Education Initiative, where diverse career pathways for PhD students are visible, valued, and viable.
Engagement: Broaden education, improve health, enhance economic development

The University of Iowa, particularly in its role as a state university, thrives on its commitment to public partnership and seeks to expand our public engagement to contribute to economic and cultural vitality and to the health and quality of life of the people of Iowa. Below are selected indicators that highlight just a few of the ways the university engages with its larger community.

Current Status

Statewide outreach and engagement efforts have expanded as university faculty, staff, and students share talents and skills in the arts, humanities, and sciences with an increased number of Iowans. An increasing number of community engaged courses help students better understand course material and teach core skills like communication, critical thinking, and working across differences. Providing state-of-the-art health care services to over one million clinic visitors each year has a tremendous positive impact on the lives and well-being of people throughout Iowa. Study abroad activities are one way the university helps students engage with the world and understand their role as global citizens.

Selected Accomplishments

- In 2018-19, more than 130 communities worked with the Office of Outreach and Engagement and campus partners, and more than 4,000 students were involved in community outreach and engagement activities in connection with the Office.
- University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics is listed among the nation’s best hospitals in six adult care specialties, according to 2019-20 rankings released by U.S. News & World Report. UIHC also has six nationally ranked children’s specialties, and is ranked as the best hospital in Iowa.
- The Hardin Library’s Greater Midwestern Regional Office of the National Library of Medicine (GMR/NLM) supported more than 30 health information outreach projects across a 10-state region, amounting to over $500,000 in redirected grant funding.
- The College of Nursing offers an online nurse residency program and works with critical access hospitals and other partners to provide support for nurses as they transition to their first nursing position. Most critical access hospitals are not able to provide resources for this critical transition period without the support provided by the college.

Cultural Values:
Diversity, Innovation, Collaboration

In setting priorities and carrying out every aspect of its mission, the University of Iowa is guided by the values that have shaped us as an institution and as a community over time. These include our foundational commitments to diversity, innovation, and collaboration. Below are indicators related to our efforts to uphold those values.

Underrepresented Minority Students at AAU Publics (All Levels)

- About 16% of the incoming fall 2019 class identifies as underrepresented minority (up from 14% in fall 2018), and about 22% are first generation college students (up from 21% in fall 2018).
- In summer 2019 the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion relocated to a newly renovated central space, allowing for two of its offices, the Center for Diversity and Enrichment and Diversity Resources, to share space for the first time. The relocation allows for greater campus-wide collaboration and increased student access to services.
- UI hosted the 2019 Iowa Regents Institutions Disability Awareness Summit on Thursday, October 3, 2019. The Summit focuses on raising awareness of disability issues throughout the state.
- In fall 2019 the Center for Diversity and Enrichment is offering an experiential learning first year seminar course titled “Identity, Culture, and Metacognition” designed to support students’ identity development and cultural wealth. The course objectives promote student leadership, community building, faculty and student connections, and creating a college success tool kit.
Student Success
Our goal is to provide a transformative educational experience that educates all UI students to be engaged citizens.

- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** continues to be effective for student learning and retention. There were over 22,000 student visits to SI in 2018-19. Students who attended once per week, on average, had a 1/3 letter grade increase. Students who attended SI were also 6% more likely to be retained the following fall compared to their peers, after controlling for ACT, high school GPA, and 1st generation status.

- The university implemented the Hawkeye Talent Initiative for a cohort of 25 students from low income communities throughout Iowa. The initiative bundles multiple evidence-based practices including on-campus employment, peer mentoring, academic coaching, and engagement in service learning via a first year seminar experience.

- In summer 2018 the Pomerantz Career Center launched a new career management software called Handshake (Handshake@UIowa). This software has dramatically increased student access to and engagement with employers, as well as access to postings for internships, jobs, student employment, volunteer opportunities, fellowships, and co-ops. Annual postings went from 12,960 to 40,444 and applications through the system went from 28,573 to 72,730.

- The Honors Program developed and implemented a new, holistic admissions process designed to increase retention rates for those in the program, increase diversity, and attract more high ability and engaged students.

- The Board of Regents approved two new majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), Sustainability Science and Screenwriting Arts.

- In summer 2019, CLAS, the Graduate College, and International Programs collaborated to offer the 2nd annual two-week grant writing seminar for PhD, MFA, and DMA students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Research and Discovery
Our goal is to perform high-impact research.

- A team led by associate research scientist Scott Bounds in the CLAS Department of Physics and Astronomy won $3.5 million from NASA to study electrical currents between the Earth’s magnetosphere and an active, upper layer of its atmosphere that can yield auroras.

- College of Education faculty secured 3 HRSA training grants in the last 3 years that will support 37 MA and Ph.D. students over the next 4 years.

- A team led by H.S. Udaykumar, professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded a five-year, $7.5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Defense. The research will apply machine learning to the design of energetic materials, and will make important contributions to the science of materials under extreme conditions, with critical national security and safety implications.

- Three of the College of Law’s four student-edited publications were included in Washington and Lee University’s annual rankings for law journals.

- CLAS faculty members Ned Bowden and Erin Irish and College of Pharmacy faculty member Aliasger Salem received a $750,000 NSF PFI-RP grant to develop a new fertilizer that is expected to improve the harvest yields of corn and soybeans, helping farmers in Iowa and beyond.

- Last year the College of Public Health had over $1.3 million in partnerships with state and local governments to improve the health of Iowans across the state.

- Anne Helene Skinstad, clinical professor in the College of Public Health, received $9.5 million over the next five years to help reduce drug and alcohol addiction among American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

- UI Health Care is investing $10 million per year in new research initiatives in aging, metabolism, immunology and cancer.

- International Writing Program director Christopher Merrill was one of 168 winners of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation’s 2019 Fellowships. This prestigious award provides 12 months of funding to pursue a creative project. The Foundation receives between 3,500 and 4,000 applications every year.

- The UI Libraries’ new Scholarly Impact Department brings together research data, scholarly communications, and research analytics experts in support of campus researchers.
Engagement
Our goal is to engage with Iowa and the world to broaden education, improve health, and enhance economic development.

- Through the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) in the Office of Outreach and Engagement, over 150 students and faculty completed 25,000 hours of work in Webster City, IA. The partnership brings together students in service-learning courses from numerous colleges and disciplines on campus to complete projects in one community over one year. Included in this partnership were two public art projects where art students and faculty created murals and a solar sculpture for downtown Webster City.
- The renowned Iowa Summer Writing Festival (ISWF) is now housed in CLAS, in the Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing. The ISWF has been in existence for thirty-four years, and it is a noncredit continuing education program for adult learners. This past summer alone, the Festival held 106 weekend and weeklong workshops in Iowa City, and had almost 900 participants enrolled in its classes.
- During 2018–2019 the Baker Teacher Leader Center in the College of Education conducted 300+ workshops, seminars, and professional development opportunities.
- The College of Engineering celebrated 10 years of our support of the FIRST Tech Challenge which encourages critical thinking and teamwork for middle and high school students as they build robots for competition. We support competitions across the state which reach more than 200 teams and 2500 students.
- A pair of new legal clinics at the University of Iowa College of Law offer students unique learning opportunities related to transactional and criminal law, as well as hands-on experience in working with clients and appearing in federal court.
- The UIHC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health to secure a $10 million federal grant to create and implement innovative strategies to address disparities in maternal health and improve maternal health outcomes in rural Iowa. UIHC has added two new telehealth sites to provide maternal fetal medicine care in underserved parts of the state so that high risk pregnant mothers do not have to travel for needed specialty care.
- Six student organizations within the College of Pharmacy coordinated an immunization campaign in fall 2019, with more than 230 pharmacy students administering a record number of flu vaccinations (8,400) between September and November.
- Share Public Health is a new podcast from the College of Public Health’s Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP) Midwestern Public Health Training Center (MPHTC). The podcast connects busy, on-the-go public health practitioners to topics, issues, and colleagues throughout the country, highlighting that we all share in public health.

Cultural Values
Diversity, Innovation, Collaboration

- The Diversity Resources unit partnered with the College of Dentistry to host a series of National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) training sessions with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year professional students. The ultimate goal is to integrate intentional, progressive learning related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and dentistry at the beginning of each academic year to create more culturally conscious professionals.
- The Center for Diversity and Enrichment (CDE) is offering an experiential learning first year seminar course in fall 2019 titled “Identity, Culture, and Metacognition” designed to support students’ identity development and cultural wealth. The course objectives promote student leadership, community building, faculty and student connections, and creating a college success tool kit.
- The Center for Diversity and Enrichment partnered with Educational Testing Consultants to offer low income CDE eligible students free online GRE test prep courses and related GRE study course materials. The partnership is in the pilot stage, and students have shown great interest. The pilot concludes May 2020 at which time, CDE will revisit allocated resources to determine feasibility of offering this again and expanding to cover entrance exams for professional schools.
- Through proactive strategies for diversifying applicant pools, and through opportunity hires, CLAS has added 20 new full-time faculty (on tenure, clinical, and instructional tracks) from U.S. underrepresented groups and 25 women. With these additions, the percentage of underrepresented minority full-time faculty in CLAS is now almost 21%. About 50% of full-time faculty in CLAS are women.
- This fall the Tippie College of Business hosted its first program to promote careers and professional development for Women in Analytics (STEM). There were 101 registrants from eight universities in three states.