About the University of Notre Dame

The nation’s preeminent Catholic university, the University of Notre Dame is known for excellence in undergraduate education, research, and scholarship. The University’s programs draw students and scholars from across the US and around the world.

Founded in 1842, the University is dedicated to the pursuit and sharing of truth for its own sake. One of its distinctive goals is to provide a forum where Catholic thought may intersect with knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship and creativity.


The University’s academic excellence stems from its faculty. Notre Dame faculty members have won 42 fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities since 1999, the most among the nation’s leading research universities. Twenty-one Notre Dame faculty members, including current President Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, and Kellogg Institute Director Scott Mainwaring, have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the nation’s leading learned academy.

At Notre Dame, education has always been linked to values, among them volunteering in community service. About 80 percent of Notre Dame students engage in some form of voluntary community service during their years at the University, and at least 10 percent devote a year or more after graduation to service.

With a new vice president for internationalization, the University is also focused on studying and making connections to the rest of the world. Notre Dame ranks eighth in the percentage of undergraduates studying abroad among major US research universities.

Admission to the University is highly competitive, with five applicants for each freshman class position. In addition to academics, Notre Dame is known for its beautiful campus as well as its long tradition of enthusiastic support for its athletic programs.

The University is located in Notre Dame, Indiana, adjacent to the city of South Bend and approximately 90 miles east of Chicago.