NAU Charter

NAU aims to be the nation's preeminent engine of opportunity, vehicle of economic mobility, and driver of social impact Arizona and beyond.

NAU transforms lives and enriches communities through high-quality academics and impactful scholarships, creative endeavors, and public service.

NAU educates, supports, and empowers all students to reach their full potential.

NAU's strategic roadmap: Elevating Excellence

Our work is guided by the Elevating Excellence strategic roadmap, which articulates seven priority areas that define how NAU pursues its vision.

Academic excellence

NAU's high-quality academic programs, general studies curriculum, and the teaching excellence of our faculty foster students' knowledge and competencies necessary for professional success, informed civic engagement, global citizenship, and lifelong learning.

Student success

Grounded in a student-centered institutional culture of care, NAU provides accessible and affordable educational opportunities, with tailored support services that enable students to complete their academic credentials and realize transformative outcomes from their collegiate experience.

Commitment to Indigenous Peoples

In recognition of the unique sovereign status of Native Nations and the sacred land on which the university was built, NAU continues its intentional support for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff, building mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous communities that position NAU as the nation's leading university serving Indigenous Peoples.

Impactful scholarship

NAU's teacher-scholars engage in impactful research, scholarship, and creative activities that provide transformative learning opportunities, engage our students and communities, advance disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge, and contribute to solving problems of regional, national, and global relevance.

Mission-driven faculty and staff

NAU supports the recruitment, retention, development, and promotion of a highly qualified, mission-driven workforce.

Community engagement

NAU engages locally, regionally, and globally with public and private partners to foster mutually beneficial relationships that enhance our students' educational experiences, contribute to broad social impact, and increase cultural and economic vitality.

Sustainable stewardship of resources

NAU effectively utilizes our physical, technological, and financial resources in support of our vision and mission, with a commitment to the responsible use of resources, innovative use of technology, and mission-driven financial investments and philanthropic activity.

NAU 2030 goals

Our 2030 goals sharpen focus and have clear indicators of success focused on increasing access, promoting student achievement, and growing impact in Arizona and beyond. Together, these shape a bright future for NAU.

Goal #1: Advanced educational attainment and career preparedness

NAU expands access to higher education, promotes student success, and prepares all students for post-graduation achievements.

Indicators of success:

- Over 12,500 first generation and lower-income students enrolled at NAU
- Over 85% of students continue their studies at or graduate from NAU
- More than 50,000 people earn an NAU credential

Goal #2: Enhance economic mobility and community impact

NAU fosters economic mobility for graduates and contributes positively to communities across Arizona and beyond.

Indicators of success:

- A majority of graduates are employed in Arizona three years after graduation.
- Over 8,600 graduated in Health and Behavioral healthcare fields to address Arizona's workforce needs.
- A sustained, strong reputation for strategic research and public service addressing key challenges in Arizona and beyond.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1899, Northern Arizona University is a vibrant community committed to teaching as learning, research as innovation, and service as shared leadership. Northern Arizona University along with the University of Arizona and Arizona State University are governed by the constitutionally authorized Arizona Board of Regents and together constitute the Arizona University System. Northern Arizona University is a four-year public, Research 1 university, recognized for Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production. It is also classified as a Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Doctorate Large institution with Lower Access and Higher Earnings, according to the 2025 Institutional and Student Access and Earnings Classifications (Carnegie Classification 2025). Its main campus located on an 883-acre site in Flagstaff, Arizona. NAU Statewide sites are located throughout the state and online.

Flagstaff is a growing city of an estimated 77,539 residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024), located on the Colorado Plateau at an elevation of 7,000 feet. Immediately north of the campus are the 12,633 foot-high San Francisco Peaks, which feature a major winter sports center. The university is at the junction of two interstate highways, I-40 and I-17, less than a three-hour drive from Phoenix and about five hours from Tucson; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Las Vegas, Nevada. Flagstaff is served by the Amtrak transcontinental mainline, one major bus line, and a regional airline. In addition, Flagstaff is the home of such renowned scientific institutions as Lowell Observatory, the U.S. Naval Observatory's Flagstaff station, the U.S. Geological Survey's Branch of Astrogeology, and the Museum of Northern Arizona. These institutions are active participants in the university's educational and research programs. The university campus is surrounded by an environment of mountains, canyons, forests, deserts, lakes, and streams. Two major national parks, including the Grand Canyon, and six national monuments surround the Flagstaff area.

Northern Arizona University is dedicated to providing an outstanding undergraduate residential education strengthened by research, graduate and professional programs, and sophisticated methods of distance delivery. NAU has achieved national distinction as a leader in a number of areas, including environmental sustainability, innovative educational approaches, allied health professional education, and Native American educational partnerships. The university is also committed to student success, offering a number of academic planning tools to help students finish in four years.

Northern Arizona University also partners with a variety of community colleges in an initiative called 2NAU to make it easier for students to complete their bachelor's degree. Students can be admitted to NAU while completing their associate's degree at their local community college. The Arizona community college partners for 2025-2026 include Arizona Western College, Central Arizona College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Cochise College, Coconino Community College, Dine College, Eastern Arizona College, Estrella Mountain Community College, GateWay Community College, Glendale Community College, Mesa Community College, Mohave Community College, Northland Pioneer College, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix College, Pima Community College, Rio Salado Community College, Scottsdale Community College, South Mountain Community College, Tohono O'odham Community College, and Yavapai College. The community college partners outside of Arizona include Chaffey College, Cuyamaca College, Glendale Community College, Grossmont College, Imperial Valley College, Irvine Valley College, Palomar College, Saddleback College, and Dodge City Community College.

THE ORGANIZATION

Northern Arizona University is comprised of 9 academic colleges/divisions and offers 103 Baccalaureate, 71 Master, and 21 Doctoral Degrees. In 2025-2026, degree programs were organized into the colleges/divisions listed below:

College of Arts and Letters
College of Education
College of Health and Human Services
College of Nursing
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences
Provost Office
Steve Sanghi College of Engineering
The W. A. Franke College of Business

THE STUDENTS

In Fall 2025, Northern Arizona University enrolled 27,184 students, with 20,459 located on the Flagstaff Campus in Arizona, and the remaining 6,725 students enrolled at 22 other instructional sites throughout the state and online. There were 22,443 full-time students and 4,741 part-time students enrolled which translated into 27,185 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.

The university's enrollment for Fall 2025 consisted of 17,013 females, 10,039 males and 132 unknowns. Of these students, the majority (73%) were Arizona residents while 27% were from out-of-state, which includes 790 students from foreign countries. Undergraduate students made up 82% of the total student population. Another 4,981 students were enrolled in graduate programs.

Based on IPEDS race/ethnicity counts, the largest ethnic minority in the student population is Hispanic with 7,188 students, or 26% of the total enrollment. There were 1,467 students (5%) of the total enrollment who declared two or more races. Native American students attending NAU in Fall 2025 were affiliated with 132 separate tribes, the largest tribe being Navajo (Diné).



THE FACULTY

For the 2025-2026 academic year, Northern Arizona University employed 1,106 full-time instructional faculty members. Tenured faculty made up 32% of the full-time instructional faculty. The number of full-time, ranked, instructional faculty included 16 Regents' Professors, 324 Professors, 315 Associate Professors, 393 Assistant Professors, 54 Lecturers, and 4 Instructors. For Fall 2025, Northern Arizona University employed 447 part-time instructors who taught courses serving students at the Flagstaff Campus and across NAU's Statewide campuses and online.

THE BUDGET

The fiscal year 2026 state budget expenditure authority totals $246,744,900. About half of the budget, $121,294,400 came from general fund state appropriations. State tuition and fees and miscellaneous revenue accounted for $125,450,500 of the budget.

Half of the state operating budget, or $132,348,801 was designated for Instruction. The second largest program, Institutional Support, was budgeted to receive $37,368,233. The remaining state operating funds were budgeted such that Academic Support was estimated to receive $34,611,156; Student Services $15,104,907; Operation and Maintenance of Plant $18,595,723; Public Service $4,759,271; and Organized Research $3,956,810.

UNIVERSITY FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

NAU's University Finance and Business Services (UFBS) division is comprised of Campus Services and Activities; Comptroller's Office; Contracts, Purchasing and Risk Management; Internal Audit; Office of Sustainability; and the University Budget Office (UBO). UFBS's mission is to serve and collaborate with University units to ensure the stewardship of the University's resources through effective and accurate processing, monitoring, reporting, auditing. UFBS departments are committed to enabling our university to excel through the actions taken and the team they develop.