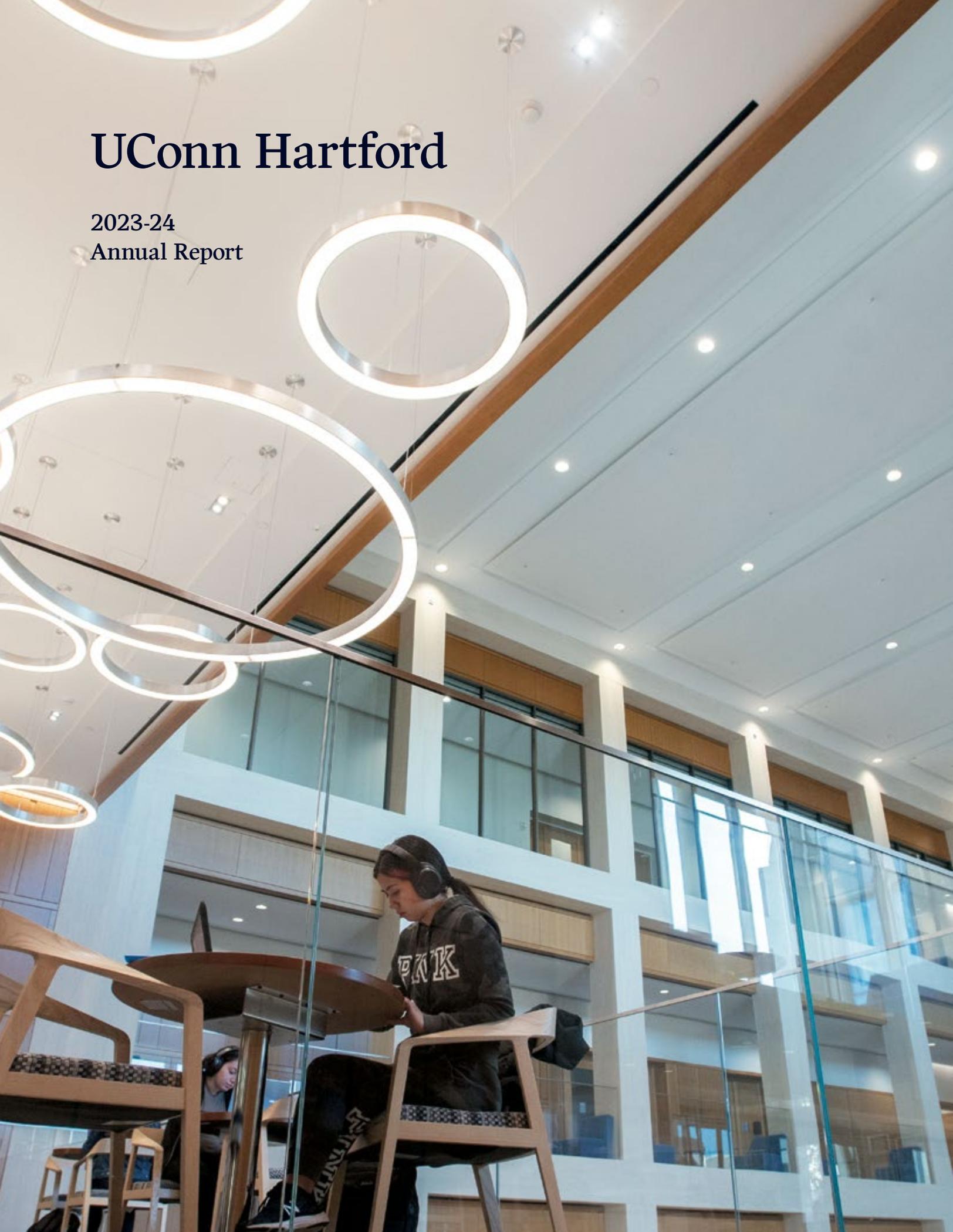


# UConn Hartford

2023-24  
Annual Report



Top-tier academic programs, unique educational and service opportunities, and an inclusive community: UConn Hartford leverages its metropolitan setting to provide a remarkable learning environment for a diverse student population.

## Welcome



Welcome to UConn Hartford's 2023-24 annual report. Our students, staff, faculty, and community partners have all helped to make this an exciting and transformative year for the University's capital city campus. With the growth in first-choice campus applications, expansion of a new interdisciplinary research initiative, and deepening of community and corporate partnerships, in its seventh year UConn Hartford continues its successes as an anchor institution in the City of Hartford.

The success of UConn Hartford over the past years is a product of having built sustainable collaborations with units and colleagues throughout the University and in the greater Hartford community. In the context of a limited and ever-tightening budget, drawing on new external funding sources and leveraging the scale of UConn's resources has enabled us to expand fundamental services for students, faculty, and the campus infrastructure. These strategies have contributed to our recognition as a top-ranked institution for socioeconomic mobility, helping to transform the lives of our students and their families.

As we continue to grow across campus, collaborate on a new strategic plan for the University, and advance student, program, and physical expansion of the campus, those collaborations will continue to be essential. We are an MSI/Asian American Pacific Islander Serving Institution and place our students and their extended communities first.

At a time of increased financial, enrollment, and reputational challenges across higher education in the United States, we are energized and excited about the vital, transformational role UConn Hartford plays at the University to support the learning and lives of our students and communities in the state and beyond.

I warmly encourage you to explore our collective work in this year's report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Overmyer-Velázquez".

**Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, Ph.D.**  
Dean and Chief Administrative Officer  
Professor of History and Latinx Studies

# Campus Overview

## Our Historic Building

UConn Hartford is anchored by The Hartford Times building, which was home to a daily newspaper that operated from 1817 to 1976. The original 1920 Beaux-Arts building was designed by architect Donn Barber, who also designed the iconic Travelers Tower across the street. Barber salvaged granite columns, massive oak doors, and marble steps from the Madison Square Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. He redeployed these elements in the Times' monumental portico, conferring a sense of the sacred. The high walls of the portico's arcade are decorated with murals depicting allegorical figures for Poetry and Prose, Time and Space, Insight, and Inspiration.

Preservationists view the Hartford Times building as a treasure. Its importance goes beyond architectural beauty because it carries Hartford's stories and history. Four U.S. presidents spoke from the terrace of the Times building — Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson, and John F. Kennedy, who gave the final speech of his 1960 campaign to 100,000 people there one day before he was elected.

## UConn in the Heart of Hartford

UConn Hartford opened in its current location in 2017 upon the completion of a campus design utilizing and preserving the exquisite, original beaux-arts facade of The Hartford Times building (see sidebar). Undergraduate and graduate students reap the benefits of enrollment in the state's flagship research university while learning in and benefiting from Connecticut's capital city.

Our campus mission emphasizes equity, justice, anti-racism, and community collaboration. UConn Hartford serves approximately 3,200 students (1,600 undergraduate; 1,600 graduate) and 300 full-time

faculty and staff, in addition to 100 adjunct faculty. As a federally designated Minority Serving Institution (AANAPISI, emerging HSI), the majority of UConn Hartford undergraduates are first-generation, students of color. They take classes in 36 different departments, and MA, Ph.D., and certificate programs exist in five different disciplines. With the benefit of small class sizes, liberal arts and professional academic offerings span across seven schools and colleges with definitive strengths in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the schools of Business, Social Work, Education, and Public Policy, all located at the Hartford campus.

Situated in downtown Hartford, the campus is composed of 10 buildings and sites with off-site residence halls for 17 percent of our students, including a growing number of out-of-state and international students. Our distinctive arrangement with the Hartford Public Library, which houses our UConn Library, yields dynamic, shared learning experiences and opportunities. Hartford City Hall and the Wadsworth Atheneum also share our campus neighborhood. The integration of UConn and these city institutions results in productive interactions and collaborations.

Our campus mission emphasizes equity, justice, anti-racism, and community collaboration.

### 4-Year Undergraduate Majors

#### School of Business

- Business Data Analytics
- Marketing Management

#### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- English
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Psychological Sciences
- Urban and Community Studies
- General Studies
- Fast-Track in Public Policy (graduate-level coursework towards the MA)

#### School of Social Work

- Social Work

### Graduate and Professional Programs

Based in Hartford are UConn's schools of Social Work and Public Policy and the Graduate Business Learning Center, which offers School of Business graduate, non-degree, and certificate programs. Graduate students can complete the Neag School of Education's Connecticut Teacher Certification and educational psychology and curriculum and instruction master's degree programs at UConn Hartford.



1,600  
undergraduate  
commuter students

52%  
racial and ethnic minority  
enrollment

# Development



## Development Plans Will Strengthen UConn's Ties to Hartford

UConn is deepening its Hartford roots with plans to offer 200 beds of student housing in a downtown building adjacent to bustling businesses, food and entertainment venues, and space that the University is also refurbishing for academic and research use.

The UConn Board of Trustees in May 2024 approved a plan to lease space at 242 Trumbull St., where the building's owner would develop about 50 four-person units in the building's rear area facing the vibrant Pratt Street and known as the Annex.

The units will be available for rent to UConn Hartford students starting in August 2026. Shelbourne Pratt Development owns the eight-story commercial

building and plans to convert the four-story Annex into modern, apartment-style units. UConn would then lease the space and offer it as student housing with a hall director and resident assistants, similar to the master lease and partnership in place at UConn Stamford.

The move is one of many in which UConn is working to deepen its ties with the capital city, where the University is also refurbishing space near the XL Center for academic and research use and opening a café for students in fall 2025 in the Hartford Times main campus building.

UConn opened the Hartford campus downtown in 2017 and has worked since then to position it as a centerpiece of a thriving capital city by bringing people downtown to learn, live, and support the regional economy.

"When UConn Hartford opened its doors seven years ago, the vision included developing deep ties to the city and its residents, synergies with local businesses and organizations, and fruitful connections with city

and state government agencies," says Anne D'Alleva, UConn's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

"Since that time, the campus has become both a center of learning and a center of community. The addition of student housing nearby would add to that vision immeasurably," she adds. "We're excited about what's ahead as UConn's roots continue to strengthen and deepen in Hartford in the coming years and decades."

Interest in student housing has grown along with the campus population. UConn Hartford's undergraduate enrollment grew by about 18% between fall 2017 and fall 2023, and an increasing number of students are choosing to start their UConn careers there.

In the most recent academic year, for instance, UConn Hartford had about 544 first-year students who entered in fall or spring; in the academic year that starts in August 2024, the University projects about 595.

UConn surveyed undergraduate students at the campus in 2023 to assess their potential interest in student housing, and the results were clear: About 70% of the respondents expressed interest. However, since most said they lived with their parents, about half of them said the rent would need to be affordable to make it a viable option.

In addition to being close to potential employers and local businesses, the new student housing would be adjacent to 229 Trumbull St., an office building that fronts the XL Center and is being renovated to house UConn's Research Innovation Center.

The University of St. Joseph leased the space from 2011 through 2022, so it already is mostly ready for UConn to use without major structural renovations to the exterior or the interior layout. It is expected to be

ready for use in the fall 2024 semester, once UConn installs telephone, data, wireless, security, and audio-visual systems and related amenities.

To support use of the space, UConn also is leasing parking spaces in the Church Street Garage nearby for staff, faculty, and students who will access it with assigned key cards.

While the refurbishments are done over the summer at the XL Center space, another project is planned for the main campus, in the Hartford Times building: a café where students can use a University dining plan to get meals and snacks between classes, helping ensure they have access to food without needing to go home if their schedules are tight.

The University originally envisioned operating a student-centric café there when it designed and opened the building but held off in hopes that more quick-service public cafes and takeout dining options might open adjacent to the campus.

The café is anticipated to open in fall 2025. It will operate separately from the Husky Harvest food pantry, which helps to address food insecurity by providing food and other items that people can take home to prepare meals.

"These new and exciting living, research, teaching, and dining spaces in Hartford will expand the opportunities for our students as they connect to and learn from the rich resources the capital city has to offer. They also underscore UConn Hartford's partnership commitment to the city as an anchor institution," says Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, UConn Hartford's dean and chief administrative officer.

This story originally appeared on UConn Today. Find University news at [today.uconn.edu](https://today.uconn.edu).

## Giving

Our prominence in the state capital and mission of transformational education for residents in the region has helped attract first-time philanthropic contributions. With no significant UConn Foundation support for the campus before it moved to Hartford, our work with our newly dedicated development team has cultivated exciting opportunities for private, corporate, and foundation-based philanthropic giving. We have devoted significant energy to building relationships and stewarding and growing more than \$14 million awarded in government, private giving, and corporate foundation support. Past highlights include two separate \$1 million gifts for student scholarships from The Mortensen Family Foundation and the Hartford Insurance Company and, this academic year, a \$1.9 million Department of Education grant for diversity and equity-focused student support.

## Board of Advocates



The UConn Hartford Board of Advocates helps UConn Hartford further our prominence and relevance in Connecticut and beyond. This Board partners with UConn Hartford to promote the campus' achievements, build and strengthen relationships with alumni and community members, and support philanthropic activities. Board members are leaders, presidents, and CEOs in the community and are active in projects and philanthropy that support and reinforce the campus vision and mission.

While allocation from the University is our principal budget driver, we also have furthered public-private partnerships to develop programs that support our students. Examples this year include working with the UConn Board of Trustees and state officials to secure a \$5 million bond for campus expansion and generating income through leasing space at our desirable city-center campus.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging



Our campus commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and belonging is intentional, ubiquitous, and integrated with UConn Hartford's engagement in and with the wider community. Central to UConn Hartford's mission is increasing access and academic excellence for a pluralistic and global student body. We recognize the holistic work that is necessary to achieve those goals.

Grounded in the celebration of the resistance, joy, and creativity of people of color, we have partnered with the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and staff and faculty experts on campus and in the Hartford area to build new practices and structures at UConn Hartford to strengthen our work in social justice and antiracist education. We have provided resources for all faculty, staff, and students to design their own diversity and inclusion initiatives, which now have a home in UConn Hartford's Office of Advocacy & Community Engagement (OACE).

Through collaborative programming with University and city partners, staff in the OACE have developed a community-based dialogue series, voter registration projects, and large-scale clothing drives for city residents experiencing houselessness, and have also launched a student food pantry in partnership with Connecticut Foodshare. Supported by the American Association of Colleges & Universities, we recently launched the UConn Hartford Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Innovation Hub. In addition, UConn Hartford is a founding partner in ICARE4Justice, a transnational scholar-practitioner collaborative advancing equity for racially and ethnically minoritized communities in education research, praxis, and policy.



# Finance and Operations

## Finance

Over the past fiscal year, UConn Hartford has welcomed additional resources to the campus budget via several external grants, including the:

- ▼ NTIA Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program,
- ▼ UConn Hartford Transformation, Equity, Access, and Sense of Belonging (TEAS) Project,
- ▼ Riverfront Recapture,
- ▼ Hartford Beautification Learning and Storytelling project, and the
- ▼ Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Love Your Block Grant.

This generous support has allowed the campus to expand programming for our student population and the Hartford community.

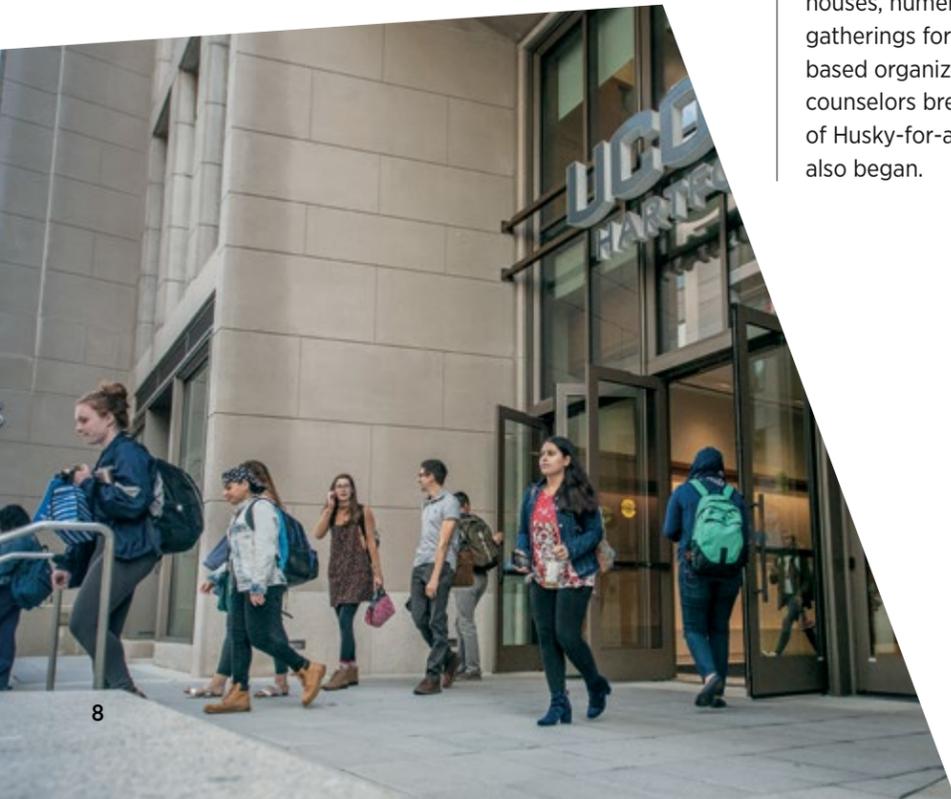
## UConn Honors

For the first time at UConn Hartford, we will be welcoming a cohort of first-year UConn Honors Program students to the campus. During this spring's UConn Hartford Bound Day, we formally introduced the prestigious program to accepted students and their families. At this event, Honors and Enrichment Programs staff, UConn Hartford staff and faculty, and a UConn Hartford Honors alum discussed the program offerings and the many benefits. In fall 2024, our students will have the chance to learn alongside Dean Overmyer-Velázquez in UNIV 1784, the University's first-year Honors seminar. We are looking forward to the implementation of many Honors and Enrichment Programs events in the fall.

## Admissions

The University received approximately 57,000 applications for fall 2024, surpassing previous records. First-choice applications to regional campuses saw an increase of 21.5%. The UConn Hartford Admissions team hosted prospective and admitted student open houses, numerous weekly family tour options, and gatherings for high school groups and community-based organizations, including a high school counselors breakfast/information session. Facilitation of Husky-for-a-Day classroom shadowing experiences also began.

**21.5%**  
increase in applications  
to regional campuses  
from fall 2023  
to fall 2024



# Student Services



The UConn Hartford Student Services department is dedicated to supporting the holistic development of our students through an intentional, student-first focus. We are committed to providing comprehensive services that cater to the diverse needs of our student body, ensuring their academic success, personal growth, and overall well-being. Through our comprehensive range of services and continuous efforts to innovate and expand, we aim to empower our students to achieve their full potential.

**Key services provided within our department and several significant achievements and initiatives carried out over the past year:**

### Center for Career Development (CCD)

The CCD plays a pivotal role in preparing students for their professional journeys. Our services include career counseling, resume building, interview preparation, and networking opportunities. This year, the CCD successfully conducted 66 career programs and presentations attended by 1,411 students, 448 career coaching sessions, and multiple career fairs attended by 45 employers and 182 students.

### Student Health and Wellness (SHaW)

SHaW is dedicated to promoting the physical and mental health of our students. Our services encompass nurse navigators, mental health counseling and wellness workshops. In response to the growing need for mental health support, we expanded our counseling services, resulting in a 23% increase in student utilization and an increase of 143% in student engagement with SHaW outreach events. This fall SHaW offices will move to a more accessible location on the Hartford Times' first floor.

### Academic Advising

Our academic advising team provides personalized guidance to help students navigate their educational paths with a holistic, student-first approach. Hartford advisors work with over 900 undergraduate students, rooting their advising in teaching, learning, and success. Professional advisors work with students accepted in or applying to 125+ majors and 120+ minors across UConn's schools and colleges and the Academic Center for Exploratory Students. This includes students exploring majors or those in pre-professional programs.

Advisors guide students in course selection, academic planning, and navigating the registration system and provide support for students facing academic and personal challenges. Advisors help students identify strengths and talents, explore experiential learning opportunities, and encourage engagement in co-curricular activities.



### Orientation

Orientation programs are designed to help new students transition smoothly into university life. We offer comprehensive orientation sessions that cover academic resources, campus facilities, and social integration. This past year, our orientation programs were attended by 654 incoming students, reflecting their effectiveness and popularity. Of note, 570 were first-year students, 72 were transfer students, 9 were international first-year students, and three were international transfer students.

### Bachelor of General Studies

The Bachelor of General Studies program offers a flexible degree option for students with diverse academic interests. This program is particularly beneficial for working adults and non-traditional students. Enrollment in this program increased to 19 students this year.

### Services and Support for Active Military, Veterans, and Their Families

We are committed to providing tailored support for active military personnel, veterans, and their families. Our services include an on-site "Oasis" lounge for military-affiliated students (room 207), a fully staffed and trained office to support and advise students, programming to include a targeted orientation and community building events, direct connection to the state and federal VA, and employment and internship opportunities.

# Student Services

## Student Activities

The Office of Student Activities at UConn Hartford enriches the intellectual, ethical, and social development of our students by engaging them in community involvement and leadership opportunities. We are committed to providing excellent programs and services that promote student self-governance and celebrate diversity, civic responsibility, and life-long learning. This year, we introduced several new clubs and expanded our event offerings, resulting in a 575% increase in club and organization formation. Joining staple student organizations such as the Undergraduate Student Government, Muslim Student Association, and Pre-Healthcare Organization, this past year saw the introduction of new clubs such as World Culture Club, Book Club, and the Gender & Sexuality Alliance — in addition to many others. These clubs and organizations have led to a higher student participation in extracurricular activities and student leadership.

The Office also co-facilitates the development, planning, and execution of our Undergraduate New Student Orientation for both incoming freshmen and transfer students, as well as the implementation of our Family/ Supporter Orientation.

## Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

The CSD ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to all university programs and services. We provide accommodations, assistive technology, and advocacy. CSD Hartford supports undergraduate and graduate students, as well as our professional program students in the School of Social Work. In addition to accommodation provision and furthering campus accessibility through our expansive education, training, and collaborative efforts, CSD Hartford ensures equitable access to the students' exam experience through coordination and proctoring for students with testing accommodations. CSD Hartford supported an 11% increase in exam coordination for 2023-24 over the previous academic year.

## Dean of Students

The Dean of Students office is a crucial resource for student support, advocacy, and development. This office addresses student concerns, promotes a positive campus environment, and ensures student rights are upheld. Key initiatives this year included the introduction of a student emergency fund. Additionally, we held walk-in hours in the Student Activities suite to meet students where they are and educate them on what we do.

# AANAPISI Grant

UConn Hartford was awarded a \$1.9 million, five-year Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant. The project, named Transformation, Equity, Access, and Sense of Belonging (TEAS), is directly aimed at aiding Asian students, a group that has steadily grown to encompass 17% of students on campus. Storrs and Hartford faculty and staff teamed up this fall to win the U.S. Department of Education grant through its Minority Serving Institutions program. The grant team comprises principal investigator (PI) Jason Oliver Chang and co-PIs Angela Rola, Jeffrey Alton, and Katie Martin.

## TEAS Project Objectives as measured by the following key indicators:

- ✔ Increase persistence, as measured by retention and graduation rates
- ✔ Increase access to wellness, as measured by service appointments, program participants, and trainings
- ✔ Increase sense of belonging, as measured by current survey instruments that focus on identity and creating inclusive campus environments
- ✔ Increase connection to academic programs, as measured by participation in TEAS programs

- ✔ Increase academic performance, as measured by DFW rates and enrollment in TEAS Learning Community
- ✔ Increase access to advising and financial literacy resources, as measured by appointments and program enrollments
- ✔ Increase economic opportunity, as measured by work/study person/hours, ECE credits earned
- ✔ Increase social networks, as measured by participation in student groups
- ✔ Increase student leadership, as measured by participation in peer and faculty mentoring
- ✔ Increase public school outreach, as measured by teachers certified/trained and K-12 student participation in programs
- ✔ Increase community connections, as measured by internships, research projects, and service-learning enrollments

## To carry out these objectives the TEAS Project brings to life five funded programs (carried out by these units):

- ✔ Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program (Asian American Cultural Center)
- ✔ Life Transformative Curriculum (Asian and Asian American Studies Institute)
- ✔ TEAS Learning Community (Academic Achievement Center)
- ✔ DEIJ Collaboration Room (Student Activities Center)
- ✔ Mental Health Clinician (Student Health and Wellness)



## School of Business Undergraduate Program

Providing specialized education and training for students pursuing careers in business, our program includes coursework in all business disciplines with a focus on marketing management and data analytics at UConn Hartford. This year we launched BUSN 1801, Contemporary Issues in the World of Business, a course for first-year business students that highlights resources and ways our programs prepare students for their professional careers. We also offered lunch and learns featuring School of Business alumni and employers in the region, as well as site visits

of companies in the area where students met with C-suite executives to identify transferable skills and ways to prepare for a career in specific industries. The Graduate Business Learning Center (GBLC) offers undergraduate students hands-on learning opportunities, including a variety of entrepreneurship programs hosted by the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CCEI) such as the BUILD Hartford program. BUILD Hartford brings undergraduate and graduate students into the city to learn about and engage with small businesses.

## Student Experience In Their Own Words

"I chose UConn Hartford for its high diversity rate and because some of my friends that are first gen like me were also coming here. The Academic Achievement Center has helped me learn the time-management skills I need to balance my studies with my full-time job. My professors are always willing to answer my questions during their office hours."

**Gary Hernandez '27**  
Major: Physiology and Neurobiology

"The intimate environment here meant I was able to step out of my comfort zone easily. I quickly understood what a sense of community and belonging means at UConn Hartford. I got involved in the Pre-Health Organization, the Empowered Women Collective, and the Undergraduate Student Government and have now served as president of all three."

**Ann Ibrahim '26**  
Major: Biology

"I went to high school in Wethersfield and took Early College Experience (ECE) courses and used resources on campus to help me when I was struggling academically. I fell in love with the community, and even though I'm a Storrs campus residential student, I plan to take my core business classes here."

**Amanda Pinedo '27**  
Major: Accounting

"I started at UConn Storrs, but ended up at UConn Hartford. I love the sense of diversity here and how intimate the campus is - it's easier to connect with people here than at a larger campus. It's easy to talk to your professors and other students and meet up in clubs and organizations."

**Gyasi Manu '26**  
Major: Psychology

"I love it here. I had Lone Ranger Syndrome when I arrived, and I wanted to do everything alone. My advisor pushed me to meet other people and join organizations, and from there I took on leadership roles to help other students navigate college and to ensure they have a great experience at the Hartford campus."

**Bhavindra Persaud '25**  
Major: Business Data Analytics

"I feel like I was quickly accepted here. Through the Student Activities office, I met cool people and found ways to get involved such as becoming an Undergraduate Student Government senator and working as an Orientation leader. I hope to become a lawyer, and I know USG will prepare me with the leadership skills I need."

**Xanadee Cristofaro '27**  
Major: Political Science

# Student Success

## Academic Achievement Center

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) expanded its services to UConn Hartford, opening the Hartford AAC in May 2019. The AAC provides students with strategic academic counseling through four signature programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of the student body.

- ✔ Academic Coaching
- ✔ Workshop and Presentations
- ✔ UConn Connects Mentoring Program Supplemental Instruction

The AAC is dedicated to creating transformative experiences to support all students at UConn, including first-generation students, and help them succeed. In the spring of 2020, UConn was recognized nationally as a First-Gen Forward Institution for its commitment to serving first-generation college students.

To enhance and demonstrate academic excellence among our students, programs established at the Hartford campus include:

- ✔ Research Connections
- ✔ First-Gen Week
- ✔ Inaugural induction of Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society
- ✔ The First-Gen Cord Ceremony

### Center for Access and Postsecondary Success (CAPS)

Since 1967, CAPS has advanced educational equity by increasing access to higher education and transformative experiences that support retention and graduation for students who are first-generation to college, from low-income households, and from other historically underserved populations. Our programs promote student learning and development by helping participants achieve their academic goals and receive high quality support services.

#### UConn Hartford houses two programs under CAPS:

- 1) the CAPS College Program and
- 2) the Resilience, Inclusion, Success, and Equity (RISE) program.

CAPS is a department under the Institute for Student Success.



## Measures of Success

**116**

students participated in UConn Connects in 2023-24

**80%**

of the fall cohort was able to come off academic probation

**462**

Supplemental Instruction sign-ins for 2023-24, double the number of students who participated the previous year

**5,274**

sign-ins for academic workshops, lunch and learns, First-Gen week, and drop-ins

**4**

SI leaders trained and supervised for Biology 1107, Biology 1108, Psychology 1100, and Chemistry 1128. AAC met with faculty to discuss academic strategies.

**462**

for 2023-24, double the number of students who participated the previous year.

**49%**

of the students who attended the AAC are first-generation college students

# Student Success

## CAPS 2023-24 Highlights

CAPS COLLEGE PROGRAM

**200+**  
active students

**150**  
received academic advising  
support from CAPS College  
Program staff

**4,000+**  
student contacts during  
academic year

FAFSA programming  
was held in January and  
February in collaboration  
with the Office of  
Financial Aid and the AAC

RISE PROGRAM

**28**

accepted RISE Scholars at  
UConn Hartford, spring  
2024 semester

**378%**  
increase in First Year  
Experience enrollment  
for spring 2024



### CAPS College Program

Modeled after the federal TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) program, the CAPS College Program at UConn Hartford each year accepts approximately 80 undergraduate students who are the first-generation in their families to attend college and/or from populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

CAPS students begin their college career by participating in the Hartford CAPS Summer Bridge Program, where they build community, enroll in courses for college credit, and engage in transformative experiences to prepare them for their first year at UConn.

### Resilience Inclusion Success and Equity (RISE)

UConn has launched a new student success initiative, now named Resilience, Inclusion, Success and Equity (RISE), that is focused on improving educational outcomes for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education while centering solutions through a justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) lens.

### RISE program goals are to improve:

- ▶ Academic performance (GPA) for targeted underrepresented students
- ▶ First-year retention rates
- ▶ Four- and six- year graduation rates, and
- ▶ Faculty and student research to support inclusive student experiences at UConn

# Community Engagement

## UConn Hartford Office of Advocacy and Community Engagement

This office supports student success, basic needs, and community goals. The office enhances education and justice as interdependent, inclusive, and collaborative values. Along with their City of Hartford partners, the award-winning team at UConn Hartford has established the campus as a hub for community engagement in the city, developing innovative programs that deliver place-based, authentic, and high-impact learning opportunities that resonate with students and community members. Here are some highlights from the year:

### One State, One Film

The Connecticut Collaborative on poverty, criminal justice and race, Connecticut Hall of Change, and UConn Hartford partnered to shed light on the experiences of formerly incarcerated members of the Connecticut Hall of Change.

### Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford Leadership Conferences

UConn Hartford hosted the Hartford Boys and Girls Club's 2023 and 2024 Leadership Conferences: Smart Girls/Passport to Manhood. In both years, over 200 girls and boys attended. Conference presentations included Taking Care of Yourself, Showing Up as Your Best Self, Your Circle, and Live Girl. All sessions had a mission of developing confident and inclusive leaders.



### Footwear with Care

In spring of 2024, campus and community partners served 300 guests who were experiencing homelessness, providing them with sneakers, Bombas socks, undergarments, Dignity Grows bags for men and women, and a bagged lunch. Along with UConn alumni, community partners included Dignity Grows, local podiatrists, the Black Nurses Association, and Hartford Hospital Neighbors Nurses. Participants had access to blood pressure and diabetes check-ups and the opportunity to receive COVID and flu shots and to share medical concerns with the nurses.

Associate Campus Director Nadine Brennan serves on the board of Footwear with Care. This was the third year UConn Hartford hosted this event.

### Institutional Transformation Award

A UConn Hartford and City of Hartford team including David G. Embrick, Cynthia Miranda-Donnelly, Kim Schwarz, Nadine Brennan, and Janice Castle were recognized for their successful commitment to supporting students through community engagement with this year's UConn Institutional Transformation Award, one of the Provost's Awards for Excellence in Community-Engaged Scholarship. This award recognizes internal or external individuals, teams, or organizations that transform UConn's ability to align teaching, research, practice, and values in service of the common good.



### UConn Hartford Husky Harvest Food Pantry

In partnership with Connecticut Foodshare, the Husky Harvest Food Pantries' mission is to address food insecurity across UConn. The food pantries are accessible to anyone with a UConn ID and provide the campus community with non-perishable food items, toiletries, and more.

UConn Hartford partners with Dignity Grows to provide menstrual products for our students. Data shows that if students cannot afford or access menstrual products, they often miss school and work. More importantly, it impacts their mental health and ability to be academically successful and meet their goals. Associate Campus Director Nadine Brennan was honored to speak at the "Period Poverty, Menstrual Equity and CT Students" symposium.

1,438

undergraduate and graduate students served in 2023-24, including more than 641 families

80

students and their families served meals for Thanksgiving

# 2023-24 Highlights

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

7

Faculty Research Cafes

Faculty-staff luncheons in the spring semester, fostering the development of new initiatives for the 2024-2025 academic year, such as Teaching Labs

Co-hosted 2-day STEM in Action summit with the UConn Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in October 2023

Hosted CETL for a sit-in visit, teaching workshop, and one-on-one consultations in spring 2024

Launched Teaching and Learning Equity Faculty Fellow Program

## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

27

students received scholarship awards

## FACULTY AWARDS

**John Cooley**  
Ecology and evolutionary biology associate professor-in-residence, received the UConn Hartford Faculty Award for teaching and research excellence.

**Pallavi Limaye**  
Molecular and cell biology assistant professor-in-residence, is the inaugural UConn Hartford Teaching and Learning Equity Faculty Fellow.

**Matthew Heinly**  
Psychological sciences assistant professor-in-residence, was nominated for the advisor of the year award.

# Academic Affairs

## Supporting Our Distinguished Faculty

Over the past academic year, the Hartford campus has achieved remarkable milestones in academic excellence, research innovation, and faculty development. We successfully welcomed seven new full-time faculty members to our campus and continue to support over 150 scholarly teaching and research faculty across various disciplines. Our majors continue to attract a diverse cohort of students and faculty to our campus. Our research initiatives have flourished, with faculty receiving prestigious awards, securing local and national grants, and publishing in top-tier journals.

Student success remains a cornerstone of our mission; our campus hosted its inaugural Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society induction ceremony with more than 120 first-semester students receiving a 3.5 GPA or above. Additionally, the campus has embraced innovation in teaching and learning, incorporating cutting-edge technologies and pedagogical strategies in our tutoring centers, the Quantitative, Writing and Biology centers. These accomplishments reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive, equity-minded, anti-racist, forward-thinking academic environment.



46  
New adjunct faculty

### We welcomed 7 new, full-time faculty hires.



Julie Choffel, English



Emre Gercek, Political Science



Sarah Gray, Psychology



Andy Horowitz, State Historian, History



Scott Pierce, Chemistry



Sharmishtha Roy Chowdhury, History



Lorena Solis, Psychology, El Instituto

# Academic Affairs

2023-24  
Check-ins

Q CENTER  
928

B CENTER  
562

W CENTER  
618

## Tutoring Centers

### Quantitative (Q) Center

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Q Center offered academic support for students in 1000-level math, chemistry, physics, and statistics courses. The Q Center had 928 check-ins by 209 unique individuals.

In the fall, the Q Center plans to start conducting post-session surveys to analyze the effectiveness of each session. Campus promotions such as the Academic Passport to Success and trick-or-treating will continue, in addition to in-class promotional visits.

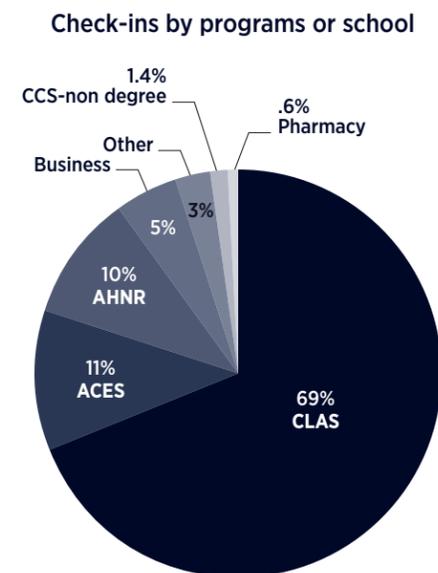
### Writing (W) Center

In spring 2024 the Writing Center held a total of 289 sessions, slightly above spring 2023. Of the students attending those sessions, 184 chose the new 30-minute session length, while the others were 60 minutes or more. Alongside tabling in the Atrium in the week before the beginning of the academic year and offering class visits to any instructors interested in using W Center services, individual consultants were tasked with creating individual outreach projects. The Center also ran a center-opening gift card raffle, hoping to engage students with the promise of money. In fall 2023, Center representatives visited Hartford High School twice as part of community engagement.

### Biology (B) Center

The genesis of the B Center was a perception that UConn Hartford students in certain classes were failing at unacceptably high rates.

The majority of B Center check-ins during the 2023-24 academic year were from CLAS students:



\*Distribution of B Center Check-Ins by program. Note that these data show check-ins, not numbers of unique individuals checking in. Some individuals with dual majors are counted in more than one category.



## A Commitment to Community

Research on Resilient Cities, Racism, and Equity (RRCRE), formerly known as the Sustainable Global Cities Initiative, is a research initiative at UConn Hartford that works closely with the University, the City of Hartford and its surrounding communities, and the State of Connecticut to facilitate discussions and actions that address mutually determined community needs and equip UConn Hartford students with research skills and opportunities to best serve their communities. RRCRE's mission is to make University people and resources more accessible to the surrounding community. In addition to scholarly research on city-related topics around the world, RRCRE encompasses a special focus on outreach involving the people and city of Hartford, Connecticut, where the campus is proudly located.

RRCRE community outreach and engagement helps residents of Hartford and its surrounding communities who want to improve their quality of life through collaborative use of UConn resources specific to urban-related research.

In the past few years, RRCRE has worked closely with several community and University partners to facilitate projects and bridge community, students, research, and service. Projects have been funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Riverfront Recapture, Connecticut Institute of Water Resources, Department of Commerce, and most recently the National Endowment of the Arts. RRCRE works closely with UConn Hartford cabinet leaders to inspire, create, and facilitate research and other scholarly collaborations between students, faculty, staff, and community.

One example of collaborative, community-engaged research is through the annual Anti-Racism, Education, and Community (AREC) Symposium that recognizes the good anti-racism and equity work being done by our community partners and builds space for discussions about social justice between UConn Hartford and the Hartford community.

Visit [cities.hartford.uconn.edu](http://cities.hartford.uconn.edu) for more information about RRCRE, its mission and vision, and current projects.

UConn alum Micaela Levesque '17 (CLAS) painted the two-story mural that adorns the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Empowerment Center in downtown Hartford to celebrate five prominent women's history trailblazers: former First Lady Michelle Obama, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Ginsburg, former Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso, and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Students participate in an RRCRE summer camp at the Hartford Times Building funded by a National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant.



# Library



## Hartford Campus Library

UConn Library Hartford connects students, faculty, and staff to over 500 databases, an extensive collection of physical and digital content, technology in support of coursework, and a global interlibrary loan network. In the past year — despite temporary displacement from library spaces at Hartford Public Library — the library hosted or participated in nearly 50 outreach events and connected over 2,000

students with library resources, and introducing them to diverse library collections in support of campus diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and justice initiatives.

Subject-specialist librarians offer course-specific instruction and general reference services virtually and in-person throughout the year to advance students' research skills and help them become savvy information consumers. UConn Library Hartford's partnership within Hartford Public Library (HPL) allows the University to better connect with the community, including recent initiatives in support of HPL's NIH All of Us and NEA Big Read grants.

# Events and Programs

## Engaging Our Community

Event Services started the 2023–2024 academic year with another successful Welcome Back Block Party and Resource Fair. With the support and collaborations of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), School of Business, School of Public Policy, School of Social Work, and the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, this event continues to grow. For the second annual block party, we added a resource fair to showcase campus services for students, as well as yard games and a fun photo program. More than 1,000 undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, and faculty participated in this community-wide event.

In line with our campus mission, Events Services continues to work with and support City of Hartford initiatives. Last May we partnered with the City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation to host their annual Rock Your Future event in May. This event is geared towards youth work readiness and completion of summer employment applications for Hartford residents ages 13-24. This exposed approximately 60 Hartford teens to our campus.

For the third year, we partnered with the City of Hartford Community Engagement office to host the Hartford Holiday Toy Giveaway in December, which gives the children of Hartford an opportunity to pick a holiday gift. While hosting the event is just one piece of this program, we are proud to support this city initiative to bring joy to local children.

**3,432**

non-academic room bookings

**337**

bookings for external customers

**21**

events hosted by Event Services for the campus community, some in collaboration with faculty and other administrative departments.

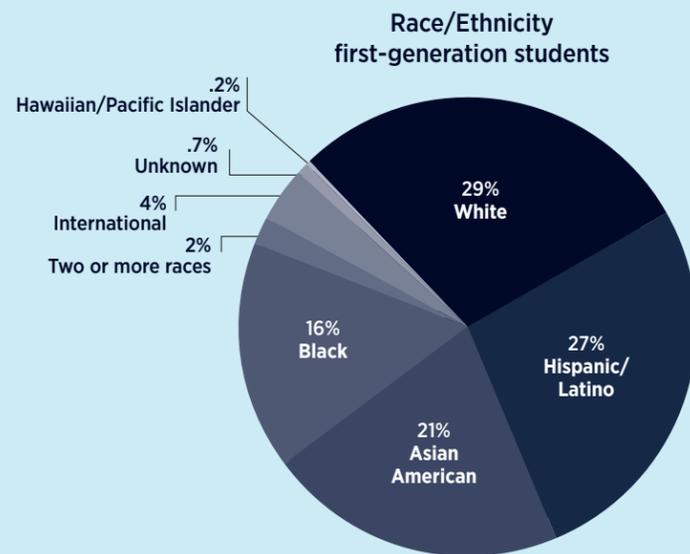
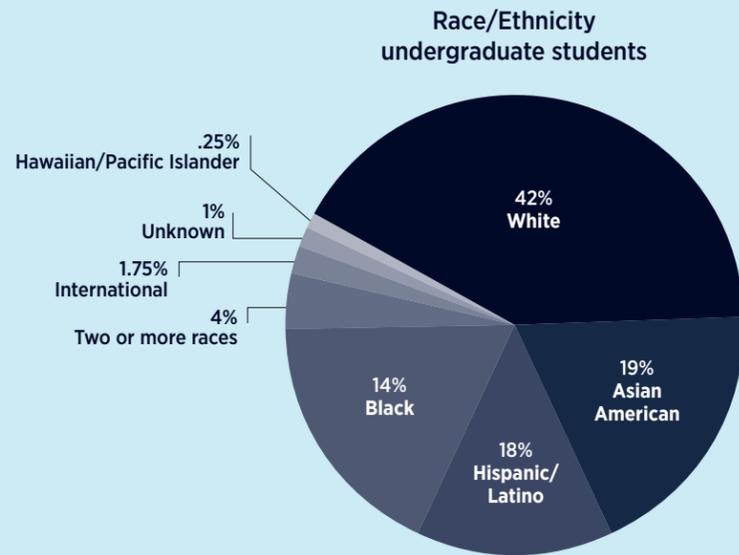


# Data Appendices

## Undergraduate Majors

- **19**  
Bachelor of General Studies
- **213**  
Business
- **44**  
Business Data Analytics
- **32**  
English
- **33**  
Human Development and Family Sciences\*
- **41**  
Marketing Management
- **152**  
Psychological Sciences
- **41**  
Social Work
- **10**  
Urban and Community Studies

\*21 minors  
3 public policy minors



## Retention Rates, Past Five Years

Fall	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	<b>83%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>78%</b>

## Six-Year Graduation Rates

Fall	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	<b>66%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>65%</b>

## Campus Change Rates (to Storrs)

2023-24 <b>22%</b>	Spring 2024 <b>127</b> students	Fall 2024 <b>200</b> students
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## Total Students (Fall 2023)

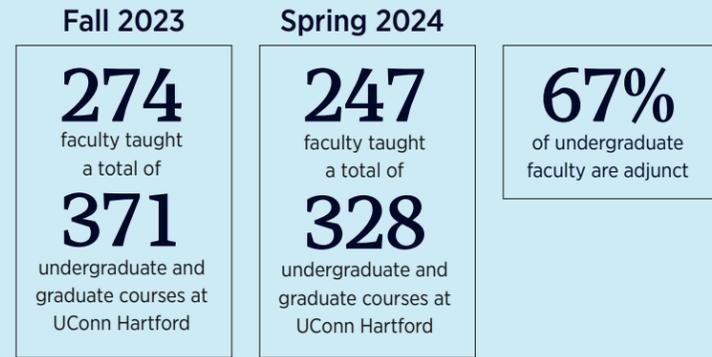
Undergraduate <b>1,515</b> Including non-degree students	Graduate <b>1,315</b> all graduate levels of education, Masters through Ph.D.
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## First-Gen Students

<b>46%</b> First-Gen students Including non-degree students
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# Data Appendices

## Faculty



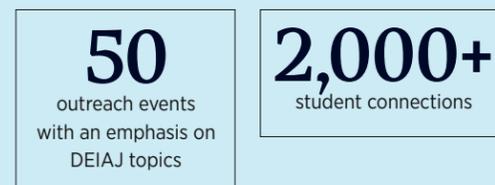
## Storrs Residential Students



## Student Health and Wellness

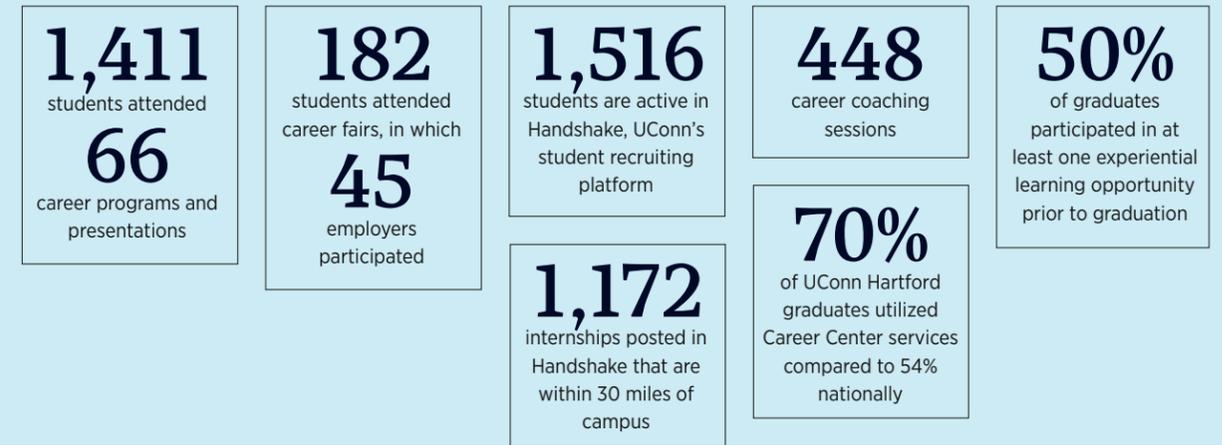


## UConn Library Hartford

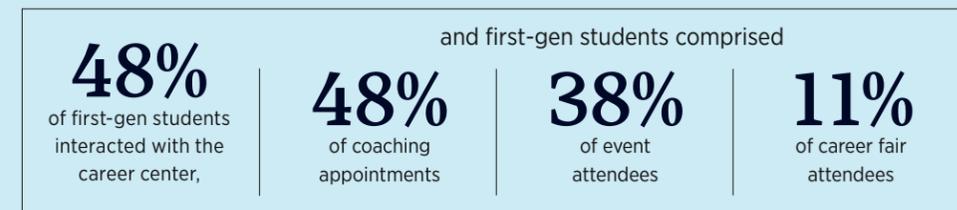


## Center for Career Development

Based on UConn Hartford data for FY23

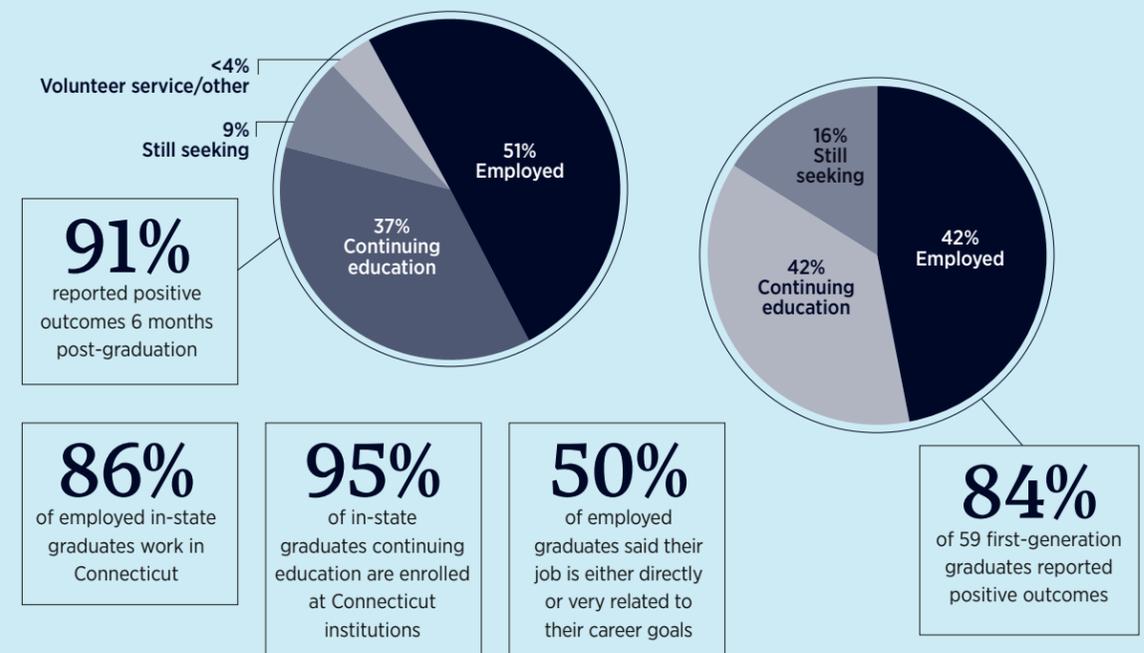


## First-Generation Student Engagement



## Career Outcomes — First Destination Survey Data

Based on UConn Center for Career Development Survey of August 2022, December 2022, and May 2023 graduates from UConn Hartford



# UConn

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