The University of Pittsburgh at a Glance

The University of Pittsburgh of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education is a nonsectarian, coeducational, state-related, public research university. It is internationally respected as a center for learning and research. The University was founded in 1787 as a small, private school named the Pittsburgh Academy, renamed in 1819 as the Western University of Pennsylvania, and then renamed again in 1908 as the University of Pittsburgh. The University became state-related in 1966.

Since its founding more than 200 years ago, the University of Pittsburgh has been the most comprehensive educational complex in the tri-state area. The University enrolls 32,500 students, which is 5.5 percent of all students enrolled in institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania. It employs 9,800 faculty members, research associates, and staff. On an economic basis, it has an important impact on the area economy with approximately one billion dollars being contributed annually by Pittsburgh Campus students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The University is comprised of five campuses. Regional campuses are located in Johnstown, Greensburg, Titusville, and Bradford, with the 132-acre Pittsburgh Campus being located in Oakland, Pittsburgh's cultural and medical center.

There are approximately a hundred academic, research, and administrative buildings, and residence halls located at the Pittsburgh Campus. Of prominence is the 42-story Cathedral of Learning, which is one of the tallest academic buildings in the world. Visitors from around the world have toured the famed Nationality Rooms, located in the Cathedral of Learning, which are functional classrooms representing the heritages of the region's many ethnic groups. The Pittsburgh Campus is comprised of 16 undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. These schools include the Faculty and College of Arts and Sciences, the College of General Studies, the University Honors College, the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration, the Schools of Education, Engineering, Law, Social Work, Information Sciences, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and the University's six schools of the health sciences. The health sciences schools include the Schools of Dental Medicine, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Graduate School of Public Health.

As for academic offerings, the Pittsburgh Campus schools offer baccalaureate degree programs and certificate programs. The regional campuses offer associate and baccalaureate degree programs and certificate programs. In total, the University offers 378 distinct degree programs augmented by numerous dual, joint, and cooperative degree and certificate programs. During fiscal year 2000, the University conferred 6,809 degrees.

The University is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and additionally by various specialized accrediting agencies. The University is a member of the Association of American Universities, which is an organization comprised of 61 eminent doctorate-granting research institutions in the United States and Canada.

The UPMC Health System, which is affiliated with the schools of the health sciences, is the leading integrated delivery system for health care in western Pennsylvania, offering a full range of high-quality, geographically-convenient health care services. At the heart of the health system is an internationally renowned academic medical center. The health system's tertiary care hospitals, UPMC Presbyterian and UPMC Shadyside, provide advanced care for all human illnesses, as well as the opportunity to participate in clinical trials of the latest treatments. UPMC medical and surgical programs include the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, as well as comprehensive services in orthopaedics, geriatrics, occupational and environmental medicine, AIDS and immunology, trauma, ophthalmology and otolaryngology, neurosurgery, and critical care medicine. Psychiatric services are provided at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Additionally, the UPMC Health System is comprised of community hospitals and other health-related services including the management of physician practices, rehabilitation services, in-home services, retirement living options, a mail-order pharmacy, durable medical devices, technology transfer ventures, and international health care initiatives. UPMC's insurance division is developing a number of managed care insurance products to serve the needs of the region. UPMC's Health Plan insures more than 200,000 members.

Numerous athletic and cultural events are sponsored by the University throughout the year. Cultural events include art exhibits, theatre performances, music workshops, and concerts.

As the University enters the 21st century, it continues to make great strides in furthering its commitment to offering quality education, research, and public service to its communities locally and throughout the world.