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 a log cabin near the confluence of Pittsburgh's three rivers 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 216 years ago, the University of Pittsburgh has established itself as the most comprehensive educational complex in the region. It provides a wide range of academic programs and services for the Pittsburgh metropolitan area's population of 2.4 million. With an enrollment of 34,000 students, the University accounts for approximately 5.5 percent of all students enrolled in institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania. Supporting the needs and interests of the University are 11,600 faculty, research associates, and staff. From an economic standpoint, the University has an important impact on the area economy with approximately one billion dollars being contributed to the region annually.

The University comprises five campuses. The 132-acre Pittsburgh Campus is located in Oakland, which is the City of Pittsburgh's cultural and medical center. The University's four regional campuses are located in western Pennsylvania, in Johnstown, Greensburg, Titusville, and Bradford.

There are approximately one 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, and Information Sciences; the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and the University's six schools of the health sciences. These schools include the Graduate School of Public Health and the Schools of Dental Medicine, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

As for academic offerings, the Pittsburgh Campus schools offer undergraduate and graduate certificate programs and baccalaureate, master's, and first professional degree programs while the regional campuses offer undergraduate certificate programs and associate and baccalaureate degree programs. Overall, the University offers nearly 400 distinct degree programs, augmented by numerous dual, joint, and cooperative degree program options. Each year, the University confers approximately 7,000 degrees.

The University of Pittsburgh is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and additionally by various specialized accrediting agencies. It is a member of the Association of American Universities, which is an organization that comprises 62 leading doctorate-granting research institutions in the United States and Canada.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh’s schools of the health sciences, is the premier health care system in western Pennsylvania and is one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the country. UPMC, rated as among the “best of the best” health care systems in the country, is dedicated to providing exemplary patient care, educating the next generation of health care professionals, and advancing biomedical research. The health system includes 20 tertiary, specialty, and community hospitals; more than 300 community-based treatment locations; and a wide range of health-related services such as: rehabilitation services, in-home services, senior living options, durable medical equipment, technology transfer ventures, and international health care initiatives. UPMC Health Plan provides a range of commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare products.

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

The University 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.

University of Pittsburgh, Fact Book 2003