

# Academic Affairs UPDATE

January 28, 2026



## FROM THE INTERIM PROVOST

Dear Colleagues,

I stepped into the role of interim provost amid significant challenges facing higher education and UConn and with deep respect for the work required to move our academic mission forward.

**UConn is a strong institution with a clear sense of purpose.** Our faculty and staff, who are the heart of our university, consistently produce exceptional research, scholarship, and creative work in disciplines across our institution and provide our students with an outstanding education. UConn attracts talented students from Connecticut and around the country and world, and your hard work ensures that our students' experience is exceptional. Years of capital investments by the state have made UConn's campuses the pride of Connecticut and the envy of other state universities. We have much to be grateful for. These and other assets provide a solid foundation on which to build as we confront the challenges ahead.

In December, I attended the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) conference, where university leaders and independent analysts shared their experiences and perspectives regarding the state of higher education. Across the board, university leaders discussed the decreasing public confidence in higher education, declining enrollments, loss of federal funding, challenges to academic freedom, concerns about the health and safety of students and faculty, and concerns from students and families about the return on investment of a college degree amid rising costs and uncertain job markets.

UConn is not immune to these challenges. You all know about the financial shortfall we face, and I understand your concerns about how we will address these deficits.

Like the University overall, the Division of Academic Affairs is supported through a mix of state funding, tuition, externally sponsored research, philanthropy, and other sources. Within the broader university budget, Academic Affairs represents the largest share of institutional spending, reflecting the importance of teaching, research, advising, and academic support to UConn's mission.

I recognize that budget constraints are being felt across the University and have significant implications for all faculty and staff who support our academic mission. Best attempts are being made by the University's budget office to predict the extent of budget cuts/revisions against a number of scenarios. Actual resources will be dependent on a number of factors, including collective bargaining outcomes, state block grant appropriations, federal funding, and fundraising.

To keep our community informed, the budget office provides regular updates at the public [Board of Trustees Financial Affairs Committee meetings](#), the [University Senate meetings](#), and [their website](#). Decisions regarding resource allocation, hiring, program development, and all others will be guided by our public mission, our responsibility to our students, our commitment to academic excellence, and state and federal priorities. Throughout the semester, I will share with you the University's messages regarding budget priorities.

I have recently implemented structural changes in the Provost's Office to reflect our commitment to the University's academic mission and increase our efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out the office's work. As part of this realignment, we welcomed the Registrar's Office and Institutional Research into the Division of Academic Affairs. This realignment brings together the people who guide UConn's academic mission with the teams who manage student records and provide the data we use to track student progress and institutional performance, including measures that inform rankings and external reporting. These changes position us well for the work ahead.

In my 25 years at UConn as a faculty member, department head, and administrator, I have seen us face similar financial challenges, but we have succeeded nonetheless. This long view gives me confidence that we will emerge a stronger and more agile university.

I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

With my very best regards,

Pamir Alpaz  
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## NEWS

### Early College Experience (ECE) Enrollment Exceeds 20,000 Students



In fall semester 2025, the Early College Experience (ECE) program set a record by surpassing 20,000 students in UConn courses through their high schools. For context, 17,847 of UConn's undergraduates are Connecticut residents. With over 20,000 students enrolled, ECE serves a student population larger than UConn's Connecticut-resident undergraduate student body.

Currently operating in 198 high schools across the state, the ECE program's size and reach make it one of the most impactful programs UConn offers to the citizens of Connecticut. UConn ECE accounted for 65% of all of Connecticut's public high school [dual credit](#) programs during the 2024-25 academic year, making it the state's largest. In the 2024-2025 academic year alone, ECE students attempted a total of over 114,000 credits.

ECE introduces students to college-level work and earns them college credits. Approximately 30% of students participating in the ECE program enroll in UConn each year. ECE alumni matriculating at UConn brought with them an average of 10.5 credits, positively impacting UConn's 4-year graduation rate.

For many students, these credits translate into savings on the cost of college and lead to early graduation. For others, ECE credits counted toward degree requirements give them freedom to explore elective courses, add a minor, take on a second major, or study abroad.

As the oldest concurrent enrollment program in the nation, the ECE program is celebrating its 70th anniversary during the 2025-26 academic year. Read more about the program [here](#) and [here](#).

### UConn Recognized as the 8th Most Sustainable University in the World



UConn has once again earned international recognition as one of the most sustainable universities in the world. This honor affirms our commitment to sustainability and challenges us to continue to prioritize our commitment to a better world for future generations. Thank you to our [Office of Sustainability](#) for leading UConn's our efforts. Read the UConn Today story [here](#).

## UPDATES

### A Reminder Regarding Faculty Trolling Support

The Provost's Office and the Office for Civil Rights and Inclusion have created a coordinated approach to help faculty facing targeted trolling based on their scholarship. These incidents often occur via social media, email, and phone, but can sometimes extend to physical locations. The University takes these situations seriously.

If you fear for your safety, contact UConn Police at (860) 486-4800. To report trolling, email [provost@uconn.edu](mailto:provost@uconn.edu) with a summary. The Provost's Office will notify key offices such as Public Safety, University Communications, and Office for Diversity and Inclusion for support and guidance.

Please see the [University of Connecticut Office of the Provost | Faculty Trolling Support](#) site for additional information.

### Provost's Outstanding Service Award

Nominations are open for the Provost's Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes UConn faculty and staff whose exemplary service has made a meaningful impact on the University's mission in teaching, research, service, or engagement. The award includes Emerging and Distinguished categories. Additional details, eligibility criteria, and nomination instructions are available on the [Provost's Outstanding Service Award website](#). **Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 30.**

## DATES and DEADLINES

### Catalog Deadlines / Publication of Program Learning Objectives

We are quickly approaching key catalog deadlines for the 2026-27 academic year. All course revisions—undergraduate and graduate—must be fully approved in the CIM system by **Thursday, February 5**. Undergraduate program revisions must also be approved by **February 5**, while graduate program revisions are due by **March 1**.

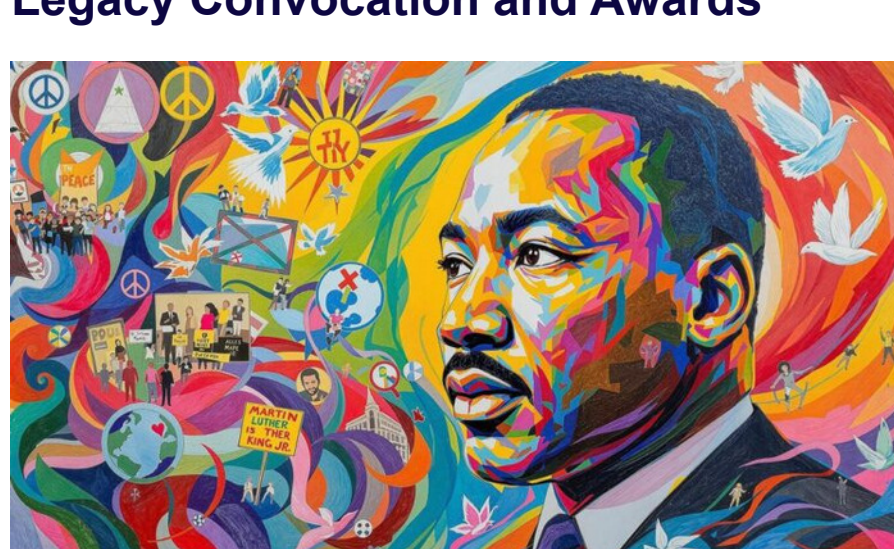
Looking ahead to our NECHE evaluation in fall 2026, all academic programs are required to have published learning objectives. Because these objectives appear in the academic catalog, programs must submit them in time to meet the same catalog deadlines: **February 5** for undergraduate programs and **March 1** for graduate programs.

If you have any concerns about catalog deadlines, please contact the Registrar's Office at [registrar@uconn.edu](mailto:registrar@uconn.edu) as soon as possible to discuss.

### PTR Forums

Each spring semester, the Senate Faculty Standards Committee, Provost's Office, and AAUP host two forums on faculty promotion, tenure, and reappointment. These forums aim to ensure that all faculty are aware of the University's PTR and PR procedures and expectations and have an opportunity to ask questions of the administration. The spring 2026 forums will be hosted on **Friday, April 17, 2026** and are currently open to registration on the [University Senate Event Calendar](#).

### 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Living Legacy Convocation and Awards



**Friday, Jan 30 at 6:30pm in Jorgensen**

*Rooted in Community, Rising in Joy: Honoring Dr. King's legacy through collective strength, creative expression, and the power of joyful resistance.*

This year's celebration will feature music, spoken word, and poetry from exceptional Connecticut and UConn talent. Congratulations to the [2026 MLK Legacy Awardees](#), who will be recognized at the convocation.

To [reserve tickets](#) and for more information on performers and awardees, visit our [2026 MLK Convocation page](#).

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST  
Gulley Hall  
352 Mansfield Road, Unit 1086  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1086  
[provost@uconn.edu](mailto:provost@uconn.edu)

**UConn**  
PROVOST'S OFFICE

Phone: (860) 486-4037  
Email: [provost@uconn.edu](mailto:provost@uconn.edu)