The university curriculum is composed of a diverse set of academic offerings and requirements, each designed to build high-quality learning environments both in and outside of the classroom.

Curricular development and improvement, a continuous responsibility of the university’s faculty, is the primary function of the Academic Affairs sector administered by the Office of the Provost.

Undergraduate Education
A baccalaureate education exposes students to a diverse array of academic areas. Our undergraduate program includes requirements and electives to enhance intellectual capabilities and stimulate intellectual curiosity.

In addition to completing course work for a specific major, students must complete an extensive general education program to sharpen writing, speaking, computation, and critical thinking skills needed to ensure knowledge of the sciences, humanities, fine arts, and social sciences — the basic subject areas upon which all academic endeavors are based. Improved understanding of ethnic minorities, broader knowledge of non-western cultures, and an understanding of United States history, constitution, and American ideals are further goals of the undergraduate education program. This diverse curriculum is designed to stimulate a lifelong interest in learning.

Graduate Education
Built on the foundation of the baccalaureate, graduate education offers the master’s degree to students who successfully complete a program of advanced study, scholarly investigation, and research in a specific academic field. While the acquisition of knowledge is a major task of undergraduate education, the utilization, synthesis, and advancement of knowledge are the major goals of graduate study.

Through a coherent pattern of courses, graduate students develop research methods appropriate to their discipline and culminate their studies with a thesis, project, or comprehensive examination. Students who have earned the master’s degree have acquired sufficient mastery of a discipline for further study in a doctoral program and/or for significant professional careers in industry, education, research, government, or private organizations.

The Colleges, Schools, and Departments
Within Academic Affairs, subject disciplines are grouped into various administrative units based on commonality of the curriculum. There are seven colleges, each representing a major segment of the academic community and administered by a dean; and two interdisciplinary units: Undergraduate Education and the School of Graduate, International, and Sponsored Programs. Within the colleges are individual departments that define the specific disciplines and several schools that either link together departments (Schools of the Arts, Communication, Education, and Engineering) or operate in lieu of a department (Schools of Nursing and Agriculture).

The colleges of the university are organized into two broad categories: liberal arts and sciences, and professional studies. In the following information, these two categories are used to define the colleges, schools, and departments that comprise the administrative structure of Academic Affairs.
The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts

The College of Natural Sciences
The School of Nursing. Additional departments and programs in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Microbiology, Nutrition and Food Science, and Physics.

The College of Professional Studies
The professional colleges within the university provide a career emphasis built upon a strong liberal arts background. The courses of study include Agriculture, Business, Communication, Education, Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management. Students may select career options from a variety of specialties.

The professional programs emphasize concepts fundamental to both current and future practice in the selected field. Global acculturation taking place in all fields and rapid development of economic, management, and technological processes require professional studies to provide a lifelong learning approach.

The programs stress development of communication and analytical skills in preparation for careers in corporations, government agencies, or private practice. Education in the professional fields beyond graduation continues to be a hallmark of our modern society. Our professional studies curriculum provides a broadly based program of study that places a premium upon the ability for future growth of the individual and an understanding of the place of the professional in a civilized and complex world.

The College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management
Departments and programs in Computer Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Mechatronics, Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing Management, and Construction Management.

Special Undergraduate Programs and Research
Under the auspices of the Office of the Provost, the following programs can be found: General Education, General Education Courselink, and University Honors. The Provost also oversees sponsored projects, grants, and contract activities which facilitate faculty development, faculty and student research, scholarship and creative activity.