



The UNIVERSITY *of* VERMONT

FY 2026 Appropriation Request to the State of Vermont

UVM General Fund Appropriation



Amplifying Our Impact: Strategic Vision for UVM

The University of Vermont is poised and ready to build upon our reputation as a premier research institution focused on sustainable solutions with local, national, and global applications and impact. Our distinctive strengths align with the most pressing needs of our time: the health of our societies and the health of our environment. And we pursue these interconnected issues through cross-disciplinary research and collaboration that comes more easily at a public research university of our size and scale. Our setting in the state of Vermont, with its deep-seated commitment to the interplay between education and a healthy democracy, enables us to be nimble while still providing the depth of analysis that contemporary challenges demand.

To more fully realize our significant potential, we must view all our endeavors through the lens of enhancing student success – on campus and beyond – while drawing upon our unique strengths as one of the nation's first land grant universities. This will require steadfast focus, discipline, and the pragmatism for which Vermont is known. The approach will be three-pronged, but the efforts will be interrelated, working in concert with one another.

Ensuring Student Success

UVM has historically served its students extremely well. We have a culture of strong faculty mentorship, and staff dedicated to our students' growth. The connection between health and well-being and academic achievement is promoted holistically. UVM is among the top 5% of public universities to graduate students in four years, a responsibility that we take seriously to ensure that students can enter the workforce efficiently and affordably. We must continue to build on that legacy by making their success and that of our alumni a core measure of all we do. This means offering a vibrant educational experience, ensuring that UVM is affordable and accessible for a broad and diverse population, and providing support and meaningful opportunities well beyond graduation day.

To ensure that we extend UVM's appeal to a wide cross-section of talented students, while enhancing the quality of education offered and safeguarding our financial stability and sustainability, we must:

- Provide an unparalleled educational experience for our students by continually enhancing course offerings through rigorous evaluation and evolution, and alignment with a liberal arts foundation and societal demands. Exposure to the humanities—and the critical thought this engenders—will position our graduates for success in the broadest range of pursuits.
- Carefully evaluate expenses to minimize costs and make a UVM education more affordable and accessible.
- Grow corporate, foundation, federal and philanthropic partnerships to develop new internship, research, study-abroad and service-learning opportunities, while strengthening existing programs.
- Heighten online offerings and programs that promote efficient course and degree completion with targeted support for first-generation and non-traditional learners.
- Attract a larger cohort of graduate students by enhancing their academic experience and research opportunities.
- Accelerate our success in recruiting students from areas beyond the Northeast, as well as internationally. As the number of students graduating from high school in New England continues to decline, attracting students from across the nation and the world becomes even more critical to UVM and Vermont's success. By bringing students into Vermont and providing them with the highest quality education and unparalleled access to internships, we are creating new Vermonters, who choose to stay in the state to live and work upon graduation.
- Provide an environment that fosters diversity of all kinds, including diversity of thought.

- Envision programming that leverages campus assets on a year-round basis to increase and strengthen connections to UVM while building financial resources.
- Welcome nontraditional students to new professional, certificate, and online programs.

Investing in our Distinctive Research Strengths

UVM benefits from the powerful combination of a liberal arts core and the comprehensive academic resources of a major research institution. This dual nature has also positioned our faculty as leaders across multiple disciplines that support investigation and discovery in areas key to the university's reach and reputation.

In particular, UVM has built distinctive research strengths that align with the urgent – and interdependent – need to support the health of our environment and our societies:

- **Healthy Societies:** Our cross-disciplinary work is strengthened by collaboration and research in areas ranging from immunobiology and microbiology, to data mining, mapping and analysis, to ethics, historical context and communication. This work drives actions with broad application including substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation; immunobiology, microbiology, infectious disease treatment; vaccine testing, and public health campaigns.
- **Healthy Environment:** Faculty, researchers, and practitioners throughout UVM collaborate to create new knowledge and establish best practice in areas related to sustainable farming, food systems and business solutions, and the protection of water systems. Leveraging our strength in engineering, machine learning and complex systems will provide pathways for the development of scalable solutions.

Strategic investment of available resources will accelerate and amplify these distinctive strengths, positioning us as the preeminent institution for innovative and sustainability-focused solutions. At the same time, the intersections between these areas provide opportunity for investigation, innovation, and impactful discovery in areas dedicated to the associated economic, ethical, and policy considerations. Targeted support will create research opportunities that span disciplines and foster pathways for collaboration. Our students will be among the greatest beneficiaries of this focused investment.

Cultivating these areas of research strength will leverage the unique characteristics of the state of Vermont. As one of the smallest states in the nation, with a thriving participatory democracy, Vermont offers a microcosm for national programs to be piloted at a manageable scale. To that end, the University of Vermont has invested in a number of new institutes and centers that will continue to enhance our research capability and provide

valuable data and expertise for the state and the nation. These include the UVM Institute for Agroecology (<https://www.uvm.edu/instituteforagroecology>) that enables a program of research, learning and action and is seeding transformations to regenerate the environment, cool the planet and provide healthy food for all; the UVM Food Systems Research Center (<https://www.uvm.edu/cals/food-systems-research>) which is the first USDA-funded research center to study the interconnectedness of all parts of a regional food system, from farm practices to food access; and the Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology (CIROH@UVM) (<https://www.uvm.edu/ciroh/>) which is a national consortium of science and services to provide actionable water resources intelligence that lead to an improved national water model and flood forecasting.

Articulation of our distinctive strengths will also grow corporate, philanthropic, foundation, and federal partnerships to enhance UVM's research portfolio, impact and recognition, and make enriching new opportunities available to faculty and students.

Fulfilling our Land Grant Mission

As one of the nation's first land grant institutions, the University of Vermont's alignment with the state is fitting. We are nationally acclaimed for helping Vermonters tackle everything from farm viability to complex environmental issues to business growth. We support commercialization and job creation initiatives in the state, and our partnerships with large corporations enable the possibility of attracting satellite operations, jobs, and a talented workforce to the state.

UVM's partnership with the state includes more than 200 programs designed to help Vermont and Vermonters. For example, the Rural Center of Excellence on Substance Use Disorders confronts the opioid epidemic with innovative new approaches, while Vermont Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VT EPSCoR) and the Vermont Biomedical Research Network attract millions of dollars in federal funding and make sophisticated technology and learning opportunities available throughout the state. But to better realize the vision of the Land Grant College Act's author Vermont Senator Justin Morrill, we have created a more streamlined gateway for Vermonters to learn about and access the many resources UVM offers. To assist in enhanced engagement with Vermont communities, UVM has created the Institute for Rural Partnerships. Under the umbrella of the new institute, as the state's land-grant university, UVM will bring to bear the combined resources and expertise of multiple UVM entities to help find solutions to the most pressing problems that rural communities are facing—whether it's a qualified workforce, broadband access, clean water, sustainable energy, suitable housing, food production, supporting more welcoming and inclusive communities, or mitigating the stresses placed on the region's lakes, rivers and forests. The institute aims to serve as a convening space for the

understanding of issues and economic and policy opportunities facing rural communities, to fund collaborative research, to incubate emerging partnerships, to support an internship program across the region, and to collaborate with similar institutes being established at the University of Wisconsin and Auburn University in Alabama.

Engaging with the state not only helps Vermont, but also benefits the university by strengthening its connection to entrepreneurship, hands-on learning, problem-solving and critical thinking, all ideals championed by alumnus, educator, and noted philosopher John Dewey. This enriches the educational experience of our students and broadens our faculty's research portfolios.

Summary

The University of Vermont's future success will be assured by following these three strategic imperatives: student success and experience; focusing on and expanding upon our distinctive research strengths; and better-realizing our land grant mission by partnering with our communities, businesses, and state. Doing so effectively will require insightful leadership, unprecedented collaboration, and our decisive collective action. This commitment to explore without reservation while working as one, resonates with our state motto, "*freedom and unity*." And it will enable us to amplify our impact for years to come.

Relationship to our Strategic Vision of UVM's Appropriation Request

UVM is sharply focused on delivering this strategic vision as evidenced by the fact that: tuition remained level for five years (six for Vermont students) with some fees being reduced, we are attracting ever more federal and out-of-state funding for our growing research outcomes in support of the people and economy of the state, and the university's land grant mission is being prioritized, in part, through the establishment of our Office of Engagement and our Institute for Rural Partnerships. The outcomes below describe how the state appropriation will be allocated to help realize this vision.

OUTCOMES FOR THE STATE FROM ITS APPROPRIATIONS SUPPORT FOR UVM

The state appropriation is used to support the following areas of activity at UVM and in the projected amounts indicated.

EPSCOR (\$380,362)

The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a program designed to fulfill the National Science Foundation's (NSF) mandate to promote scientific progress nationwide and is directed at those jurisdictions that have historically received lesser amounts of NSF Research and Development funding. This includes Vermont, and we are required to allocate some state support to be eligible for federal funding. These funds serve as required state cost sharing administered through the university.

Vermont Technology Council (\$136,079)

The Vermont Technology Council is a catalyst for the creation of science- and technology-based business in Vermont and is funded, in part, from the state appropriation to UVM.

Larner College of Medicine (\$9,770,751)

The university applies \$5.9 million directly to the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) programs. \$3.8 million is allocated to support LCOM infrastructure and facilities. This funding helps to support the provision of state-of-the-art education for future medical researchers and doctors, contributing to outstanding medical services for Vermonters.

Agriculture and Extension (\$9,563,925)

UVM uses these funds to meet its matching obligations as a land grant university, including its partnership with Extension (Smith Lever Act) and USDA Agricultural Experiment Station (Hatch Act). The money is also used to support agricultural infrastructure and programming. This funding will help to avoid the reduction of vital services for Vermont farmers and businesses that would stem from continued shortfalls.

Vermont Cancer Initiative (one-time support of \$5,000,000 distributed across five years)

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Vermont with four out of every ten Vermonters developing cancer in their lifetimes. Additionally, the overall incidence and death rates for cancer in Vermont are higher than the national average. Vermont also has an insufficient and aging oncology workforce in the state (especially in our rural areas), as well as insufficient research on Vermont-specific cancer issues (melanoma, carcinogenic chemicals in our water and soil, etc.) that are resulting in suboptimal outcomes for patients.

Thus, the University of Vermont seeks state support in the amount of \$1 million a year for the next five years (\$5 million in total) for a bold new Vermont Cancer Initiative through which the UVM Cancer Center will implement programs and efforts to achieve the goal of reducing the burden of cancer for all Vermonters, improve the health and longevity of the people of Vermont and achieve cancer health equity by addressing rural/urban cancer disparities.

These funds will support the universe of cancer research and care statewide by improving access to clinical trials, providing extensive training for a wide range of providers to ensure the highest level of care in all communities, augment current cancer prevention efforts, provide nutritional support to patients, use telemedicine to reach those in the most isolated areas of the state, and investigate and implement cutting-edge rural care in order to achieve health equity in Vermont. We are confident that investing in the Vermont Cancer Initiative will prove to be a wise, targeted investment of the state's resources. The funds will allow the UVM Cancer Center to address workforce shortages, reduce overall cancer mortality, promote retention of primary care providers throughout the state, support the VT Department of Health in achieving State Cancer Plan goals and provide Vermont with a significantly positive economic impact through program implementation.

State Investment in the VGAN TechHub (\$1,000,000)

The University of Vermont is proud to have worked in close conjunction with the State of Vermont and many corporate partners to become designated by the US Department of Commerce in the TechHub program. This program aims to incent development of new and innovative economic development technical business initiatives in regions across the country. The VGAN TechHub seeks to grow the development of gallium nitride technology in the production of microelectronics. While the project did not receive investment funding in the first round, EDA has provided us with valuable feedback and encouraged us to seek funding in the second round this year.

Meanwhile, we are moving ahead with building this industry in Vermont with the encouragement of the EDA. There are three projects that are underway: the Design Computing Center, the Device Prototyping Center, and the Test & Characterization Lab, which are referred to collectively as the 'Innovation Core.' They comprise the technical heart of the program, and they are the carrots that will attract new businesses to our region, allowing them to develop high power and high frequency applications on GlobalFoundries new GaN Substrate at ¼ the cost and ½ the time it takes with resources available on the open market today.

The Design & Computing Center will provide Electronic Design Automation software, used to design modern semiconductor integrated circuits, to organizations in our region at academic pricing levels (~10% of retail cost). This is a savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. We are working with the EDA providers and the Northeast Microelectronics Coalition (NEMC) to secure access to these tools for Tech Hub members in the short term, at least on a limited basis. NEMC has expressed intent to fund the Test and Characterization Lab in full for its first two years of operation.

Funding the prototyping center is the final leg of the stool. The assets available at GF would normally be largely inaccessible to startup companies, both due to lack of access, contacts, and affordability. The V-GaN Tech Hub ecosystem and agreements enable members access to design, prototyping, characterization, and high-volume manufacturing at an estimated 80% cost reduction compared to completing the same runs outside of the Hub.

We respectfully request a \$1 million investment that will be available over 2 years for any organization doing business in Vermont to fund their work at the prototyping center. We have also asked GlobalFoundries to match these funds.

Tuition Support (\$37,526,987)

UVM provides reduced tuition, need-based aid, scholarships, and other support which our current appropriation helps to fund. However, those costs have increased significantly over the past decade. Additional funding being requested would be dedicated to these purposes.

FY 2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

General Appropriations	\$57,378,104
One-time appropriations	\$6,000,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$63,378,104
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Internal Allocation:

EPSCOR	\$380,362
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VT Tech Council	\$136,079
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Larner College of Medicine:

Programs/Physician Education	\$5,908,945
Facilities/Infrastructure	\$3,861,806

Agriculture and Extension	\$9,563,925
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Vermont Cancer Initiative (\$1,000,000/yr x 5 years)	\$5,000,000
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State Investment in the VGAN TechHub	\$1,000,000
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VT Undergraduate and Graduate Tuition Support	\$37,526,987
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Expenditures (base budget)	\$57,378,104
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Expenditures (one-time)	\$6,000,000
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<u>Total request FY 2026</u>	\$63,378,104
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State funding of UVM's base state appropriation is essential for the university to continue to provide essential services to our students and to the state of Vermont. The university stresses the importance of educating individuals, thereby providing the state with strong leadership, good citizens, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility. In addition to high quality education, the University of Vermont is a distinguished, comprehensive research institution of nationally renowned reputation—a critical driver for enhancing the state's economy, health, and well-being. The newly educated professionals entering the workforce, research dollars generated, businesses created, and the hundreds of millions of dollars brought into Vermont from other states and countries by the University of Vermont are essential to Vermont's future vitality. UVM's return on investment of the state appropriation is clear as it advances economic development and jobs in Vermont.

For FY26, UVM requests an addition to our general fund appropriation in the amount of \$7,671,207. Per the FY26 budget instructions, we have included a 3% increase to the UVM FY25 state appropriation (\$1,671,207) as well as *\$2,000,000.

The vast majority of the UVM student body receives some form of need-based aid, and we are hopeful the state of Vermont will continue to invest in the education of our students. National inflation has increased costs significantly, and in order to keep up with that burden we respectfully request a 3% base appropriation increase.

STATE OF VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY BY MAJOR OBJECT

Appropriation	FY 2024	FY 2025		FY 2026
	Actual	Appropriated	Estimated Expenditure	University Request
University of Vermont (General Fund)	\$54,084,366	\$55,706,897	\$55,706,897	\$63,378,104
TOTAL	\$54,084,366	\$55,706,897	\$55,706,897	\$63,378,104

**the first \$1 million installment of a five-year commitment for the Vermont Cancer Initiative and \$1 million state investment in the VGAN Techhub)*