Description of East Carolina University

Overview

East Carolina University (ECU), a public, four-year university established in 1907, is located in Greenville, North Carolina. ECU has 11 colleges/schools/institutes, 10 of which are degree-granting. Serving a largely rural population in the coastal region of the state, ECU is one of 17 constituent institutions within the University of North Carolina (UNC) System. ECU accomplishes its mission - to be a national model for student success, public service, and regional transformation - through education, research, creative activities, and service.

As of Fall 2020, ECU is the fourth largest institution in the UNC System. ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. The UNC System is governed by a Board of Governors, which delegates significant responsibility to ECU’s Board of Trustees. The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education classifies ECU as a Doctoral University: High Research Activity. In 2010 and 2015, ECU received the Community Engagement Classification from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education.

Facts and Figures

ECU offers 87 baccalaureate degree programs, 68 master's degree programs, five professional practice doctoral programs, 13 research/scholarship doctoral programs, 85 certificates, and two specialist degree programs. In Fall 2020, ECU employed over 6,700 personnel (including graduate assistants); almost 2,000 of these employees held a faculty appointment. In 2019-2020, ECU conferred more than 7,500 degrees and, in the most recent data reported to the National Center for Educational Statistics (for academic year 2018-2019), had core expenses exceeding $921 million.

ECU’s total enrollment in Fall 2020 was 28,798 with 23,056 undergraduates and 5,742 graduate students. All 100 counties in North Carolina, 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 99 countries were represented in the student body. Ethnic minorities made up 33 percent of undergraduate students, 26 percent of graduate students, 46 percent of medical students, and 44 percent of dental students. Over 36 percent of all students were enrolled in online courses only.

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