

# LRDP Goals & Planning Principles



## 1 *Create a physical framework to support the teaching, research, and public service mission of the campus.*

UC Davis offers nearly 100 undergraduate majors and more than 70 graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the College of Engineering, the College of Letters and Science, and the Division of Biological Sciences. In addition, UC Davis has five professional schools: the School of Law, the Graduate School of Management, the School of Medicine, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and most recently, the School of Education. The campus is well-known for the high quality of undergraduate and graduate education, and an exceptional level of student involvement in campus and community service activities.

Research is an integral part of teaching at UC Davis. Faculty members share their research findings in the classroom, and students learn firsthand about discovery while working with professors in the laboratory and field.

Research at UC Davis supports California's economic, intellectual and social development. The varied research programs explore and seek solutions to problems in agriculture, resource management, the environment, health, medicine, engineering, business, the economy, and public policy. UC Davis scholars also explore the intellectual frontiers of the physical, biological and social sciences, as well as the humanities and arts.

Public service and community outreach are part of the campus' land-grant heritage and are fundamental to UC Davis' mission. Examples of these activities include: University Extension, a self-supporting program serving nearly 50,000 adult learners annually; the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, the only major trauma center in the northern California's Central Valley (subject to its own Long Range

Development Plan); the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, offering care for small and large animals; and Cooperative Extension, assisting Californians on a variety of nutritional, home, garden and farm-related topics.

As a regional activity center, UC Davis also plays a significant role in the economy and public life of the region.

The campus is the largest employer in the Davis area, providing more than six times the number of jobs of the next 10 largest employers combined. UC Davis is also one of the largest employers in the Sacramento Valley, second only to the State of California. In 2001-02, the campus employed approximately 10,500 non-student employees and 6,400 student employees who were based on the main UC Davis campus, or in campus owned or leased facilities in the City of Davis. The campus paid approximately \$519.6 million in wages to these employees. The campus' expenditures on goods and services (not including the hospital in Sacramento) were approximately \$400 million in 2001-02 (this number includes School of Medicine operations, some of which occur in the Davis area and some of which are based in Sacramento).



In addition to generating economic activity, the campus is also an attraction for a wide variety of cultural activities. *Mondavi Center Presents* at UC Davis brings internationally known artists in music, drama, dance and other art forms to perform on campus annually, and sponsors lectures by internationally known figures. The UC Davis music department and department of theater and dance offers a wide range of performing arts programs throughout the year. The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for Performing Arts is a special venue for concerts and other events. Galleries on campus feature permanent collections and travelling shows, including the Design Museum, Memorial Union Art Gallery, Richard L. Nelson Gallery, and the C.N. Gorman Museum.

The annual spring festivals draw tens of thousands of students, alumni and visitors to the campus. Celebrating ethnic diversity and campus tradition, these festivals mark a high point of activity at UC Davis.

The campus also hosts scores of public sports events as students participate in NCAA competition, club sports and intramurals. The integration of athletic activity with academic pursuits is a valued characteristic of the campus.

## PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The following five planning principles describe the desired character of future growth and development on the UC Davis campus.

- **Flexibility** The campus plan must provide a framework that is flexible enough to accommodate new initiatives and constantly evolving academic program needs, while still achieving a connected and cohesive campus environment.
- **Longevity** Campuses are lasting environments with long traditions, and generations of people who form positive lifelong memories of their experiences at the university. This long-range perspective should be an aspect of all campus planning efforts.
- **Dynamic teaching environment** The entire campus presents opportunities to create a positive learning environment. Classrooms, teaching labs, research environments, housing areas, shared interactive spaces, a diversity of outdoor spaces, all offer opportunities to express and reinforce the campus as a learning environment.
- **Accessible research environment** UC Davis is noted for its wealth of interdisciplinary research, and the ease with which students, faculty and researchers from varied disciplines cross academic boundaries to collaborate. The environment should foster this accessibility and promote interaction among members of the campus community, and among affiliated public and private sector research partners.
- **Interactive and welcoming public service environment** UC Davis serves as a valuable public place in California and the region. The campus should continue to foster a welcoming environment for the greater public to engage the University of California through education outreach, cultural activities, sporting events, festivals that celebrate the diversity of California's people, and many other activities. Campus development patterns should make it easy for people to connect with the many assets that UC Davis has to offer.





## 2 *Manage campus lands and resources in a spirit of stewardship for the future*

Set between the Coast Range to the west and the towering Sierra Nevada to the east in the heart of the Sacramento Valley, UC Davis is close to California's thriving state capital and the San Francisco Bay Area but cherishes its small-town culture and character. Encompassing approximately 5,300 acres, the UC Davis campus is physically the largest campus in the UC system. The campus is responsible for management of the diverse array of resources on this land.



### PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The following planning principles characterize the University's desire to maintain and strengthen its unique physical environment.

- *Healthy and interconnected natural and built environment.* The sustenance of UC Davis' built environment and natural resources are vital to the long-term viability of the university's unique academic environment. The built environment, agricultural lands, and naturalized areas should be strongly linked, but they should also be provided with transition areas that buffer and support both urban activities and the university's field teaching and research needs. Campus planning efforts should reflect a long-term vision for meeting growth needs and for connections between the urban and natural systems that influence the environment.
- *Conserve natural resources.* Universities are typically institutions with great longevity, proud tradition and future aspirations deeply invested in their locale. To assume a stewardship role is to recognize that the environment is an inheritance from past generations and that there is an obligation to preserve and enhance it for future generations. Stewardship of campus resources for the future should guide the management and use of these lands in support of the campus' academic mission.

### 3 *Provide an environment to enrich campus life and serve the greater community.*

A rich and varied campus life for students, faculty and staff relies upon a wide range of land uses and activities. Instruction and research, student housing, recreation and open space, cultural events and programs, administrative and support activity all combine to further the mission of the University and to give the campus its character.

#### PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The following four planning principles capture some of the positive and memorable qualities of the UC Davis environment that serve as a guide to future growth and development.

- *Meaningful and diverse connections* The spaces between, around and within campus buildings, provide important places for gathering, social engagement, civic discussions and advocacy, cultural programming and other types of co-curricular activity. They help to enliven the campus and create the "marketplace of ideas" that is so much a part of college traditions. Such spaces also promote casual exposure and interaction between groups of individuals. In so doing, they help to span the divides of culture, class or status, experience, or age, and build relationships between people who might not otherwise meet. The quality and character of these connections are fundamental components in fostering campus community.





- *A safe and welcoming place to grow* The degree to which students, staff and faculty members feel safe and welcome on campus reinforces their involvement in campus activities, both curricular and co-curricular. The extent to which the campus is perceived as accessible and inclusive contributes to the recruitment and retention of community members. A campus environment that supports the welfare of its members promotes an atmosphere of respect, productivity and personal growth.
- *An environment "worthy of our affection"* The generous landscape character of UC Davis is a distinguishing feature of the campus. This important characteristic significantly enriches campus life by offering the quietude for research, study and personal reflection, while also providing venues for student and academic programs and cultural expressions. The landscape tradition at UC Davis gives the campus its unique identity, expresses the campus' commitment to the environment, and makes visible the land-grant and agricultural traditions of UC Davis.
- *A residential character* UC Davis has always been a "residential campus," characterized by its "college-town feel" and nationally recognized traditions of student, faculty, and staff involvement in campus life. Maintaining UC Davis as a "residential campus" provides opportunities for members of the campus community to live locally and participate fully in the life of the campus. An engaged community also serves to foster environmental stewardship.