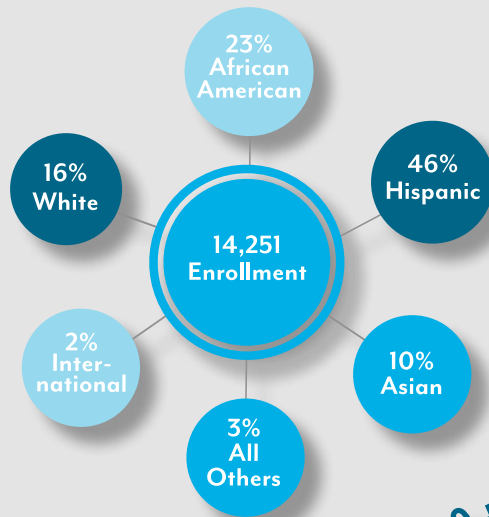


Points of Pride



415,113
Student Community
Engagement hours
in 2015



Federally Designated **H.S.I.**

Hispanic Serving Institution

Ranked in the top 16% nationally for graduating Hispanic students with bachelor's degrees

Federally Designated **M.S.I.**

Minority Serving Institution

Ranked in the top 12% nationally for graduating African-American students with bachelor's degrees

UHD

University of Houston
DOWNTOWN



**Legislative Appropriations Request
FISCAL YEARS 2018 and 2019**

85th Texas Legislative Session



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University of Houston-Downtown

The more than 14,000 students enrolled at UHD benefit from tuition that is among the lowest in the state, low student/faculty ratios and a student population whose diversity matches that of the city it calls home.

To fulfill its mission of providing 'strong academic and career preparation, as well as life-long learning opportunities', UHD must stay ever-focused on student success. Since the last legislative session, UHD has undertaken new initiatives to improve retention and graduation rates. The 2018-19 legislative requests will further support these efforts.

Special/Exceptional Items

■ Restoration of Institutional Enhancement Funding

At UHD, Institutional Enhancement Funding is used primarily to fund salaries for faculty and staff who have enabled the University to develop and implement effective student success strategies, such as:

- Faculty and peer mentoring programs
- Intrusive advising
- Evidence-based teaching strategies
- High impact practices that enhance opportunities for experiential learning.

In 2016, these programs resulted in a 9% increase in the total number of degrees awarded, as well as a 3% increase in the First Time In College graduation rate. UHD is on target to raise its FTIC graduation rate significantly over the next 5 years.

The restoration of Institutional Enhancement funds to maintain faculty and staff levels will provide the momentum needed to continue to improve the success of under-represented students.

■ Community Development Project

Community Development Project funds help to develop, scale, and sustain multiple community development projects, in partnership with several nonprofit organizations in the region. The funds are managed through UHD and support service learning projects that provide high impact educational experiences for students. These community projects are organized and implemented by students under the direction of UHD faculty and staff and provide students with opportunities to:

- Participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs.
- Reflect on the service activity to gain understanding and appreciation for course content.
- Develop a broader appreciation of their discipline and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability

The Center will support sustainable neighborhoods throughout Houston by encouraging a stable urban ecosystem. Funds will support the construction of a greenhouse and an outside agricultural laboratory to serve as an incubator for innovation in urban agriculture and sustainability. The Center will be a focal point to:

- Organize sustainability efforts through applied research with nonprofit organizations and local agencies dedicated to addressing issues of sustainable planning, food quality, and food availability.
- Support community and city efforts to secure federal research dollars with a sustainability focus.
- Connect with other sustainability programs, including the City of Houston sustainability office and nonprofit organizations, to collaborate, educate, and promote engagement in urban agriculture.