



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Central Oklahoma**

*Report to the  
Community  
2019*





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to present this year's update on the University of Central Oklahoma and some of our current initiatives.

For 129 years, UCO has consistently championed educational creativity and change in Oklahoma, providing our citizens with relevant and effective tools and learning opportunities to build meaningful, successful futures.

We know exactly why we are here. We are committed to helping students learn and to encouraging their development as productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders. Our values are grounded in student success, transformative learning, value and place. UCO is here to serve.

We embrace the dynamic future of the Oklahoma City metro and the state of Oklahoma as we actively

partner with education, industry, government and nonprofit organizations. We understand the power of connection — connection to purpose, confidence and opportunity. We embrace the collaborative innovation to fuel the future of OKC and its residents.

At Central, we envision an Oklahoma comprised of an abundance of citizens with enhanced critical thinking, communications and collaboration capacities to imagine, create, innovate and solve problems. In this way, Oklahoma will be a valued partner in this knowledge-driven, global era.

UCO is creating Oklahoma's future, the educated workforce and the responsible, engaged citizens required for a sustained economic development and a vibrant, equitable society.

I sincerely hope you find this concise overview of UCO's current profile and initiatives informative and useful.

My best wishes,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Don Betz'.

Don Betz  
President

## OUR DRIVING FORCE:

Like so many students, Donovan Cousan arrived at UCO already financially overwhelmed. "I felt the load on my back before classes had even begun," he said.

After moving to Oklahoma City on his own, Cousan's resources were minimal, and he struggled to find ways to make ends meet. "I had to figure out how I could work and go to school full-time, without slacking on my academics. I understood work paid the bills, but school secured the future that I sought to have."

With financial assistance and several scholarships, he was able to experience an active career at Central. Alongside his pursuit of a bachelor's degree in community and public health, he served on Central's President's Leadership Council, the UCO Black Student Association, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and UCO Student Ambassadors.

Cousan also serves peers and future students through his work with the Black Male Initiative and Fellows Program and the Black Male Summit, which aim to motivate, engage, inspire, educate and support young black males at Central and within the community.

After graduation, he will continue his education, pursuing a master's degree in health education and promotion, an opportunity that he may not have chosen if not for his time at Central.

"Coming to college was a tough decision and experience for me; however, the faculty, staff, students and organizations truly accepted me as a family member."

## Who are our students?

TOP  
5

### Undergraduate Majors

- Nursing • Forensic Science • Psychology
- Accounting • Criminal Justice

### Graduate Majors

- Educational Leadership • Business Administration
- Business Analytics • Bilingual Education/TESL
- School Counseling

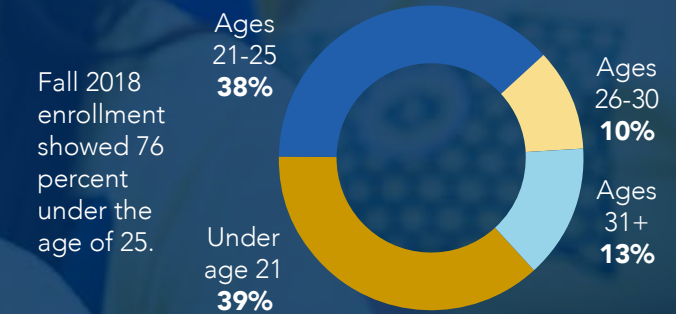
More than half of UCO undergraduates (53 percent) will graduate with an average of

**\$26,564**  
in debt.

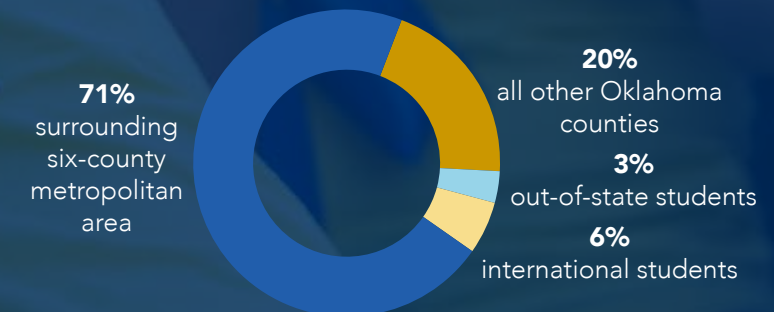
The Volunteer Service and Learning Center reports that UCO students and faculty donated about

**125,000**  
hours to community causes in 2018-19.

## How old are they?



## Where are they from?



# A METROPOLITAN MISSION:

As Oklahoma's only metropolitan university, UCO is committed to serving as a collaborative partner and leader for the educational, business and community goals of the Greater Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area. The symbiotic connection between Central and its surrounding metropolitan community contributes to the cultural, social, economic and intellectual life of the region.

A report by the Oklahoma State Chamber Research Foundation provides greater detail into UCO's tangible impact within the metro and establishes that Central has the largest impact among regional universities in the state.

For every dollar of state appropriations, UCO produces \$14.80 in economic output.

Within Oklahoma, UCO provides:

- \$685 million in total economic output;
- 4,900 jobs; and,
- \$170 million in employee compensation in the Oklahoma City region.

As is evidenced through its connection to community, Central is a driving force for success and growth within the metropolitan area and beyond.





## THE FIGHT FOR FUNDING:

As the surrounding community and the needs of students and their families evolve, state funding for higher education remains stagnant.

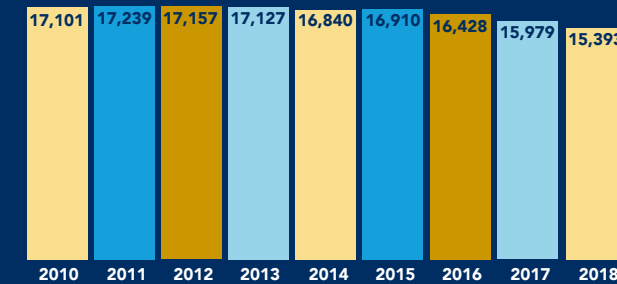
In order to fill the growing budget gap, the price of tuition and mandatory fees continues to rise. This increase in student costs further contributes to additional declines in student enrollment, while more than half of bachelor's degree graduates leave school with additional student debt.

Using our resources to the fullest of our ability, we return more than \$14 to the state's economy for every dollar we receive. However, a decade of shrinking appropriations has taken its toll and continues to do so.

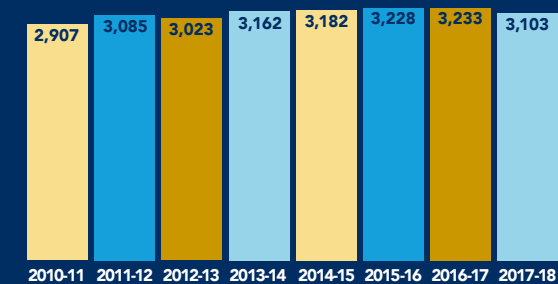
- Since 2010, UCO's state funding has decreased from 45% of our budget to less than 22%.
- Over the course of the past three years, we've lost 6% of our state funding.
- Student enrollment at Central decreased by nearly 4% between the Fall 2017 and Fall 2018 semesters, as our students became priced out of higher education.
- Decreasing student enrollment further stretches the university's budget, as fewer students contribute to tuition and fees.

With a dropping number of students pursuing degrees, the shortage of college-educated workers expands, putting community and economic growth on hold and leaving the state's future hanging in the balance.

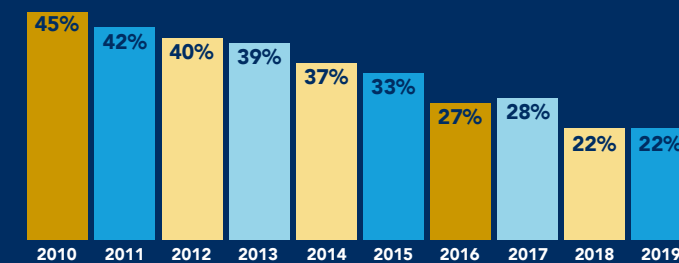
### FALL ENROLLMENTS



### DEGREES GRANTED



### STATE FUNDING AS PERCENT OF EXPENSE BUDGET



## CULTIVATING INNOVATION:

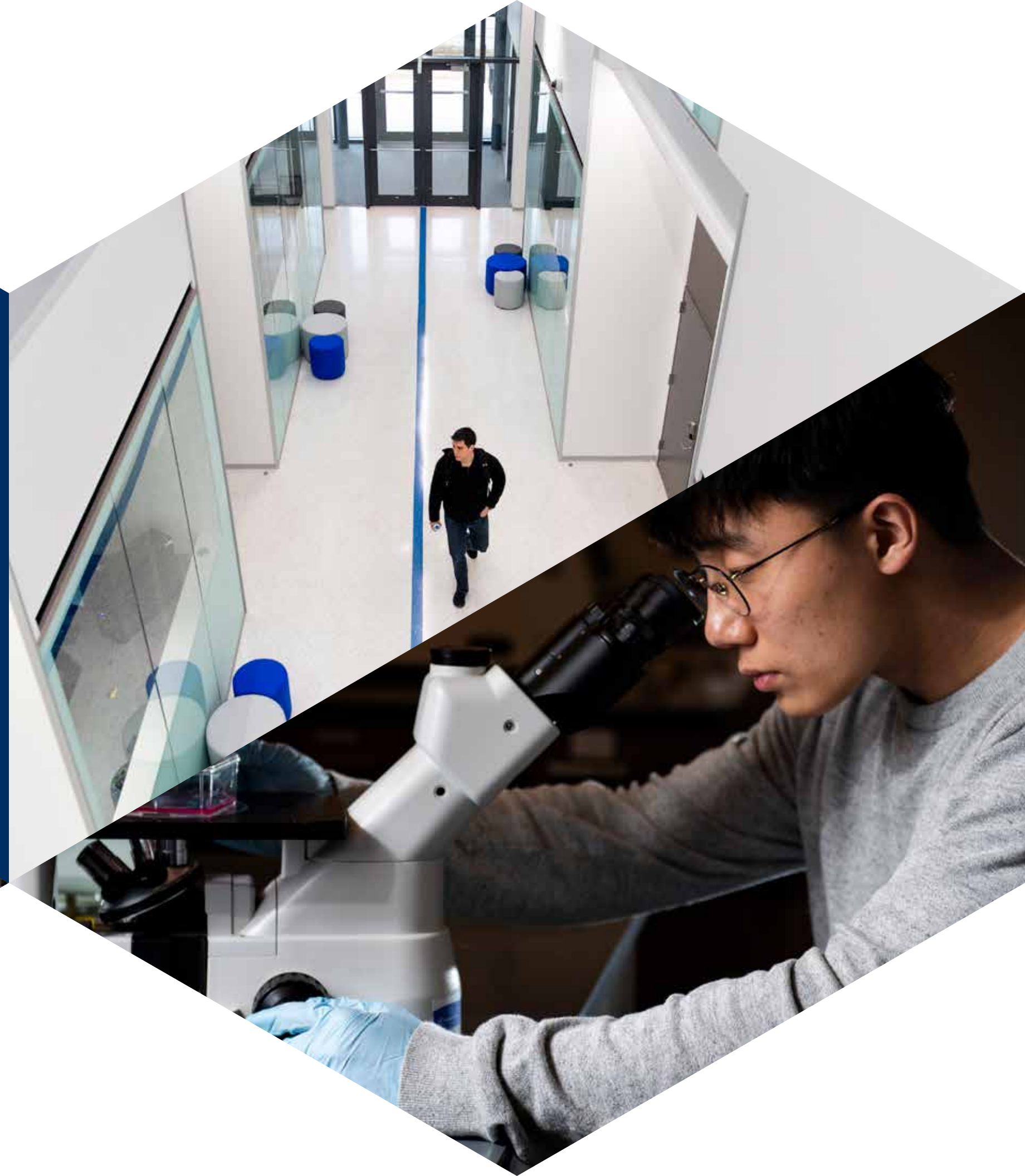
In striving to be a steward to the present and future needs of our students and community, Central has forged a connection to innovation.

With the opening of the Donald Betz STEM Research and Learning Center, a furthered commitment to science, technology, engineering and math education and research came to fruition.

The 56,000-square-foot building, funded through generous donors and bond financing, houses a variety of labs, classrooms and collaborative spaces, all emphasizing interdisciplinary learning.

Alongside classrooms focused on STEM-related discipline knowledge, the facility is home to research projects in engineering, physics, nanotechnology, biomedicine and data analytics. Additionally, the STEM Center facilitates state-of-the-art nursing education, advancements in forensics and the continuation of groundbreaking cancer research.

As we continue to prioritize transformative and innovative learning experiences on campus, UCO is prepared to answer Oklahoma's growing need for STEM-educated graduates.



# AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

Serving students in the metropolitan area and beyond means keeping up with their changing needs, as well as those of the university's programs, faculty and staff.

New buildings and campus projects at Central are made possible through fundraising, donor contributions and bond financing, allowing the university to grow with its students.

### Sports Performance Center – Complete

Opened in September 2018, the center provides space and support for student-athletes to achieve fitness, nutrition and academic success.

### Donald Betz STEM Teaching and Research Center – Complete

Named in honor of Central's 20th president, the STEM building opened its doors November 2018, boasting cutting edge research labs, classrooms and collaborative spaces.

### Liberal Arts Addition – Nearing Completion

Scheduled to host its first classes for the fall 2019 semester, the expansion will add a lecture hall and an atrium, new classrooms and several communal areas.

### North Hamilton Annex – In Progress

The addition to Hamilton Field House will include much-needed locker rooms and practice space for many of Central's varsity sports teams.

### Bausher Place – In Progress

The new UCO dining center will focus on providing healthier meal options, prepared fresh, to students, offering a range of serving stations and more seating.



Sports Performance Center



Liberal Arts Addition



Donald Betz STEM Teaching and Research Center



Bausher Place



North Hamilton Annex

## CONTINUED EXCELLENCE:

- UCO ranked as the most affordable public university in Oklahoma, and No. 75 nationally, on College Consensus' list of the "100 Most Affordable College and Universities."
- U.S. News and World Report again ranked UCO as the top public regional university in the state on its 2019 Best Colleges list. Central ranked No. 24 on the list of Tier One institutions in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities – West" category and No. 77 in the overall list of regional universities in the west.
- For the fourth consecutive year, The Military Times recognized UCO for its dedication to veterans, ranking Central as No. 9, among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., on its "Best for Vets: Colleges 2019" list.
- The U.S. Department of Education awarded UCO a seven-year, \$6.1 million grant, under Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), to help serve low-income students in their pursuit of a college education.
- UCO maintained its status as a Certified Healthy Campus for its seventh year, garnering the excellence designation – the highest level of certification.



- According to a national ranking by LendEDU, Central is a top institution for Federal Work-Study Financial Aid, ranking No. 2 out of 409 schools that were analyzed for the report.
- UCO's industrial safety program earned accreditation as a Graduate Safety Practitioner Qualified Academic Program from the National Board of Certified Safety Professionals, allowing students to bypass the Associate Safety Professional Exam upon graduating from Central.
- The American Association of State Colleges and Universities named UCO one of its Excellence and Innovation Award winners, recognizing the university's Student Transformative Learning Record and its role in student success and retention.
- The UCO Foundation and the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being received a three-year, \$147,054 grant from Eckerd Connects to support Central's Fostering Youth Success – an initiative that provides college planning support to youth in foster care.



# UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



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Officer

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Vice President  
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**Don Betz, Ph.D.**  
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of Graduate Studies

**Catherine  
Webster, Ph.D.**  
Dean, College  
of Liberal Arts



## MISSION:

The University of Central Oklahoma exists to help students learn by providing transformative education experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical, and engaged citizens and leaders serving our global community. UCO contributes to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves.

## VISION:

UCO will be one of the nation's top metropolitan universities, serving our community while providing our students the opportunities to achieve their highest level of leadership potential.

In compliance with Title VI and Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of The Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, The Civil Rights Act of 1991, and other Federal Laws and Regulations, the University of Central Oklahoma does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures; this includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Students with disabilities who wish special accommodations should make their requests to the Coordinator of Disability Support Services at 974-2549.  
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