

Northern Vermont University

A LEARNING AND WORKING COMMUNITY



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Northern Vermont University will be a vibrant **Learning and Working Community** for lifelong learners. Students will gain professional skills and a liberal arts foundation through integrated work and academic learning. The NVU curriculum, in collaboration and in alignment with partners from diverse industry sectors, will connect students, faculty, and career professionals in hubs of work, action, service, and learning, on-campus, at the work site, and across the region. With some partners locating on our campuses, new synergies will develop as students work with nonprofits, businesses, and agencies in new and innovative ways, and these organizations benefit from all that a university campus offers.

NVU degree programs will integrate academic objectives with career-oriented learning, requiring students to engage in hands-on experiences through internships, cooperative learning, and on-campus jobs. A range of stackable credentials and degrees and an array of delivery models will provide the flexibility learners need. In turn, a thriving NVU Learning and Working Community will strengthen and revitalize the region's economy and workforce.

Be Known. Do North.

- Cutting-edge, relevant degree programs with integrated work experiences will attract students from within Vermont and beyond.
- By working closely with key industry sectors to develop curriculum for certifications and academic degrees, NVU will be poised to offer in-demand and innovative programs for college students, career professionals, and retirees seeking new knowledge and skills and embracing lifelong learning.
- On and off ramps mean students can access the education they need when they need it.
- Creative use of technology will ensure NVU can offer the flexibility to meet the students where they are at with a commitment to in-person, hybrid, and online delivery modes.
- The collocation of some partners on campus will generate energy with the campuses and use campus facilities and resources in new and exciting ways. Students will engage in mutually beneficial work experiences and research with partnering businesses—in the classroom, physically or virtually.
- NVU will deliver professional development for mid-career professionals on behalf of partnering businesses.

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Additional Key Components of the NVU Working and Learning Community

- Stackable credentials and degrees with on and off ramps with certificates, associates, bachelors, master's degrees along the way.
- Enhanced graduate certificate and degree offerings, including 3+2 or 4+1 programs that set clear pathways to graduate studies.
- A learner centric focus throughout all aspects of the university—from the types of programs offered to how programs are delivered to how students receive assistance in academic support services, registration, financial aid, billing, etc.
- A one-stop model with a student-focused help desk will blend live and remote means to address concerns quickly and efficiently. Chat, scheduling software, and in-person meetings will blend to support and serve students outside of normal business hours.
- Partnerships will be formalized – with defined pathways and learning objectives embedded in curriculum to meet emerging and future workforce needs
- A partner services position will manage all aspect of partner relations.
- Academic degrees and certificates will align to career pathways, offering on and off ramps from certification through to master's degrees, as well as mid-career skills certificates as students pursue their interests, careers, and education.
- Partnerships will encourage students to stay and work in Vermont,

Bringing the NVU of Today to the Next Level

- This vision takes existing elements of NVU and strengthens them—formalizing a commitment to our current practice of internships and research and placing the Vermont workforce squarely front and center.
- NVU will deepen its relationships with our local and regional communities, including businesses, nonprofits, the creative economy, the tourism and ski industry, and more
- The liberal arts will encourage soft-skills development employers demand—such as critical thinking, oral and written communication, leadership, professionalism, and teamwork while serving the needs of NVU partners and communities in which they serve.
- NVU will continue as a critical access institution—playing a social justice role in providing access to education for Vermont's most-vulnerable, opening the doors to relevant career opportunities
- By working closely with local businesses, nonprofits, and industry sectors, NVU will be ready to respond to regional and national workforce needs to train students and transform Vermont's workforce.
- A streamlined university—NVU will complete unification by bringing departments together across campuses to best support and serve our students.
- As NVU completes its program review, identifying programs to be closed, combined, and/or moved to a sister VSCS institution in a mutually beneficial manner, it will open up space to create new programs meeting industry needs.