

“We aspire to be a preeminent, public liberal arts and sciences university.”

President Paul Tribble

Vision

Christopher Newport University, a small academically selective public university, is grounded in the principles of liberal learning and dedicated to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. We celebrate the values inherent in the liberal arts and sciences and live as a community of honor to inspire our students to lead lives of significance. We aspire to be a preeminent, public liberal arts and sciences university. We will pursue excellence in all that we do and dedicate ourselves to those initiatives that will strengthen our teaching, our scholarship, our academic programs and disciplines, and our campus community. We will build an intimate, diverse, residential community which will attract the most academically talented, inquisitive, and intellectually adventuresome students. We will ignite in our students a love of learning and instill a sense of responsibility and civic duty that will give our graduates the knowledge and confidence to engage as responsible leaders and citizens in their communities, the nation and the world.

Mission

The mission of Christopher Newport University is to provide educational and cultural opportunities that benefit CNU students, the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation. CNU provides outstanding academic programs, encourages service and leadership within the community, and provides opportunities for student involvement in nationally and regionally recognized research and arts programs.

Our primary focus is excellence in teaching, inspired by sound scholarship. At CNU, personal attention in small classes creates a student-centered environment where creativity and excellence can flourish. Our primary emphasis is to provide outstanding undergraduate education. We also serve the Commonwealth with master’s degree programs that provide intellectual and professional development for graduate-level students.

We are committed to providing a liberal arts education that stimulates intellectual inquiry and fosters social and civic values. CNU students acquire the qualities of mind and spirit that prepare them to lead lives with meaning and purpose. As a state university, we are committed to service that shapes the economic, civic, and cultural life of our community and Commonwealth.

History

CNU was authorized and established by the Virginia General Assembly in its 1960 session as a two-year branch of the College of William and Mary. The University derives

its name from Captain Christopher Newport, the English mariner who was among the most important men connected with the permanent settling of Virginia. It was Captain Newport who was put in sole charge and command of the small squadron of three ships that made the historic voyage, culminating with the landing at Jamestown in 1607. Christopher Newport University became a four-year, baccalaureate-degree-granting institution in 1971 and, in July 1977, became totally independent from The College of William and Mary. The University began offering graduate programs in July 1991.

The University first enrolled 171 students in September 1961 at its initial home, a former public school building in downtown Newport News, provided through the generosity of the city of Newport News and its school board. In 1963, the city of Newport News purchased and deeded to the Commonwealth the 75-acre tract where the present campus is now located.

The University derives its financial support from the Virginia General Assembly and from the tuition and fees paid by its students. The affairs of the University are directed by the Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University, appointed by the governor of Virginia. The president of the University, appointed by the Board of Visitors, is the delegated authority over the administration and the courses of instruction.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

H. Westcott Cunningham

1961-1970

James C. Windsor

1970-1979

John E. Anderson, Jr.

President Emeritus

1980-1986

Anthony R. Santoro

President Emeritus

1987-1996

Paul S. Tribble, Jr.

1996-Present

Accreditation

Christopher Newport University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award degrees at the baccalaureate and master’s degree levels. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4501 for questions about the accreditation of Christopher Newport University.