THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

URI College of Business Strategic Opportunities





The University of Rhode Island has been ranked as the #1 public university in New England by The Wall Street Journal *for two years running.*

The College of Business is the second-largest college in the University.

As Rhode Island's leading public business school, the URI College of Business educates our students to become globally informed, innovative, ethical, and socially conscious business leaders who are lifelong learners.

The College prepares future leaders across industries by combining a strong foundation in business fundamentals with hands-on learning and access to emerging technologies.

To enhance educational opportunities and achieve greater student impact, the College of Business focuses on three strategic pillars:

- **Student Success**
- **Academic Centers of Excellence**
- **AI and Innovation**

Philanthropic support will accelerate this vision.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Expanding access to experiential learning, professional networking, mentorship opportunities, career guidance, and technological resources will strengthen career readiness and build meaningful industry connections for our students, leading to entry-level success and career growth over time. Numerous existing programs would benefit from additional resources to expand their reach.

Learning and Networking

- **Rhody on the Road – Business Student Industry Trips** provide immersive industry exposure through curated travel experiences to major business hubs.
- **Global Internship Funding and Study Abroad Scholarships** offer students invaluable cultural experiences and learning.
- **Rhode Island Business Leadership Academy** is a selective, cohort-based program that develops undergraduates into confident, capable leaders.
- **Student Scholarships** are among the most powerful and transformational investments donors can make in the lives of students.

Mentorship and Career Guidance

- **Additional academic and career professionals** can directly improve outcomes by providing personalized guidance for academic direction, internships, and career transitions.
- **Business-to-Business (B2B) Student-Peer Mentoring** could offer more training to student mentors through a new, centralized mentoring hub.
- **Career readiness technology platforms** are powerful, expensive digital tools that offer mock interviews, AI-driven feedback, job search support, and employer engagement.













RI's top public business school for undergraduate education; #24 best online M.B.A. program *(U.S. News & World Report)*

79%

of students complete an internship

93%

of graduates engaged in a career outcome within six months of graduation with $59K average starting salary

ACADEMIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

The College of Business plans to expand its academic centers of excellence by adding faculty, staff, executives in residence, programs, new technologies, and space renovations. These investments will provide more experiential learning and networking opportunities for students and strengthen the bridge between URI and industry.

Expand the Ram Fund

- Increase the Ram Fund Endowment, which is currently valued at $1 million, to enable more students to participate, increase the size of the portfolio, and diversify investment strategies.
- Modernize the Trading Room with cutting-edge financial software and upgraded data terminals that reflect a modern investment management environment.
- Add instructional staff and programming to ensure that more students receive the highest level of mentorship and financial training.

Expand the Executives / Entrepreneurs / Professionals-in-Residence program to bring industry leaders to campus to mentor students, advise faculty, and contribute to classroom learning by providing real-world insights and discussing emerging industry trends.

Expand the Rhode Island CFO Roundtable to implement more events, research reports, and networking opportunities to grow the influence of this group and the College.

Expand URI's Consulting Club by increasing the number of faculty and staff who connect students with businesses and organizations to solve real-world problems.



"With our robust enrollment numbers, expanding corporate partnerships, and strong internship and job placement rates, the college is well-positioned to lead in workforce development and build a dynamic future for businesses in Rhode Island and beyond.

—MARC E. GOULART, CHAIR, DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

AI AND INNOVATION

The College of Business seeks to enhance its position as a leader in the development and implementation of innovative technology and artificial intelligence (AI) across the University, the state, the region, and the business ecosystem. We must invest in developing strategic educational programming that meets learning needs inside and outside the University.

Establish "Business in Tech" Conferences to convene business leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, and students to discuss technologies shaping the future of business.

Develop a Tech Trends Annual Report compiled by undergraduate and graduate students for widespread distribution.

Create an Applied AI Degree, Certificates, and Academic Programs, including curriculum development, faculty recruitment, and cross-campus collaboration initiatives.

Create a Faculty Externship Program in AI and technology that would embed faculty in companies to strengthen their teaching and research activities.

Expand the AI Co-Lab to fully realize the potential of the current Lab.

- **Add dedicated faculty** leadership and technical staff.
- **Update physical space** with advanced computing resources, collaborative workspaces, and cutting-edge AI technologies.
- **Expand programming,** research initiatives, and applied AI projects to ensure that the lab operates as a vibrant center for innovation and collaboration.

BOLD OPPORTUNITIES

We look forward to exploring your personal aspirations and priorities for supporting the College of Business. Below are several transformational opportunities you could consider that would have an immediate and significant impact.

- **Create and Name the School of Accounting**
- **Create and Name a School of Fashion Business, Design, and Innovation**
- **Modernize the Historic Textiles Gallery and Lab**
- **Expand Faculty Industry Immersion Trips in Various Specialties**

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION

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