Welcome to the University at Buffalo!

On your self-guided walking tour of the North Campus, we invite you to visit the innovative facilities that demonstrate why UB is one of the nation’s top 50 public universities.

UB’s long and rich history dates back to 1846, when it was founded as a medical school. Now the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system, the University at Buffalo is a flagship public research institution that is globally recognized for its high-caliber graduates and academics.

Distinguished by its inclusion in the elite 2 percent of institutions in the Association of American Universities (AAU), UB attracts the world’s best faculty and scholars. Our students’ talent is on display in the lab, in the studio and out in the community, as well as in the number of Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall and other prestigious awards our undergraduates bring home every year.

A degree from UB commands respect and opens doors. And with manageable costs, hundreds of millions of dollars in merit and aid, and our signature Finish in 4 program, UB will provide you with an excellent education at an unmatched value.

And Buffalo, the city we’re proud to call home, has been named one of best cities in which to attend college and voted America’s Favorite City by Travel + Leisure magazine. Affordable living, a vibrant arts and music scene and food that certainly gets us noticed guarantee that you’ll be proud to call Buffalo home, too.

This tour will focus on the academic spine, the location of nearly all of the North Campus’ academic buildings — most of which are conveniently connected by hallways or enclosed bridges. Feel free to visit any buildings you like, as well as any empty classrooms.
Begin.

1. CAPEN HALL. Capen is a popular meeting spot and where you’ll find the Heart of the Campus, an innovative learning landscape that includes ICapen and the newly renovated Oscar A. Silverman Library. Capen is also home to the University Honors College, Capen Café and much more. To visit the Silverman Library, take the staircase or elevators from Capen lobby to the floor you’re on (ground floor now), where you’ll see the library’s entrance. Go inside to browse the James Joyce Collection, the George Kelley Paperback and Pulp Fiction Collection and more. Make a right and take the stairs or elevator to the popular third floor, where learning comes alive in our collaborative, state-of-the-art study spaces.

2. TALBERT HALL. Return to the Capen lobby. Head west past Capen Café and down the hallway to your left (by the ATM). Following signs for Bert’s, enter Talbert Hall. Talbert is home to Study Abroad Programs, Capen Café and down the hallway to Fronczak Hallways. Fronczak chalkboards and whiteboards line Demonstration stations and students (physics and economics). Go back into the lecture building and turn right at the sitting area to go outside, then head east through the glass corridor to walk toward the main section of campus.

3. FRONCZAK HALL. Continue through Talbert, past Bert’s food court, through the double doors and up the spiral staircase. (There’s also an elevator back down the hallway behind you that you can take to Talbert’s first floor, then straight into the Natural Sciences Complex [NSC].) At the top of the stairs, take a right into the NSC lecture hall building, then your next right into Fronczak Hall (physics and economics). Demonstration stations and students hard at work on the formula-filled chalkboards and whiteboards line the Fronczak hallways. Fronczak contains offices, a research library and 500 lab stations designed for study of theoretical, high-energy, low-temperature and solid-state physics. And after you explore a bit, return to NSC and turn right.

4. NATURAL SCIENCES COMPLEX. The Natural Sciences Complex comprises a lecture hall building and a lab building. You’re now in the lecture hall. Many different departments hold classes here. Feel free to check out any empty room! Next is the lab section of NSC, where students have real research experience worldwide. Renowned faculty. To find the labs, go past the lecture halls and workshops, vending machines, and Mrs. Rich’s Corner Café to the glass double doors at the end of the hallway. This is the lab section, with more than 125 active laboratories. If you circle through, you can peek through the windows at the research going on inside.

5. COOKE AND HOCHSTETTER. You’ll see this twin structure to your right. They’re home to the biology and geological sciences departments and even an underwater research lab. But your tour starts outside now. Cross through the vestibule and walk east toward the rest of the campus. The bus stop you see ahead is Flint Loop, where students catch buses to residence halls, the South Campus and more.

6. PARK HALL. Past the Flint Loop traffic circle, you’ll see Park on your right, housing a number of College of Arts and Sciences departments, research labs and classrooms.

7. O’BRIAN HALL. O’Brien is on your left, home of the School of Law and the Charles B. Sears Law Library, which boasts collections like the Morris Cohen Rare Book Collection, the Seneca Land Claims Records and the Watergate Collection.

8. BALDY HALL. Just past O’Brien is Baldy, centrally located on the academic spine and home to the Graduate School of Education and the Graduate School of Social Work, plus parts of the College of Arts and Sciences.

9. THE JACOBS MANAGEMENT CENTER AND THE ALFIERO CENTER. To your right, just past Park, these two buildings are home to UB’s globally recognized School of Management. Together Alfiero and Jacobs feature tech lecture halls, an internet café, a suite of offices for student organizations, multiple breakout rooms, computer and specialty labs and five conference rooms. The Alfiero Center was made possible by many generous gifts from donors, including its namesake, Sal H. Alfiero, and his wife, Jeanne.

10. LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY. Past Baldy is Lockwood, UB’s premier research library in the social sciences and humanities. To get to the library, go in the glass entryway near Baldy and up the stairs and make a right. Lockwood is home to one of the finest collections of books, periodicals and government documents in New York State, including the Government Documents Collection and the East Asian Collection.

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12. CLEMENS HALL. Back past the stairs, you’ll find the bridge to 10-story Clemens, housing UB’s English department and other humanities departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. It’s named for Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), who lived and worked in Buffalo from 1869 to 1871.

13. BAIRD HALL. Turn right in Clemens and take a left at the end of the hall to cross the bridge to Baird Hall, one of UB’s two music buildings. Baird has classrooms, faculty offices, two rehearsal halls, 64 practice rooms, a Broadway recital hall and a music library.

14. SLEE HALL. Walk down the first hallway in Baird and take a left. Cross the next bridge and either go down the stairs or take the elevator (which can fit a piano) to visit Slee Hall. Slee is home to UB’s Department of Music, rehearsal rooms, a recording studio and the Leijaren Hiler Computer Music Studios. The Lippes Concert Hall inside Slee houses a beautiful custom-made C.B. Fisk pipe organ.

15. ALUMNI ARENA. Continue through Slee and out the front doors by the box office. Across the traffic circle and past our signature bronze buffalo sits Alumni Arena, the world-class home of many of UB Athletics’ Division I events. Its central facility is a 6,100-seat gym for basketball, wrestling and volleyball, circled by a 200-meter track. The gym also is used for commencement and special guest lectures. Other arena facilities include a 50-meter Olympic-size pool, a fitness center, squash and racquetball courts and more, all free to students.

16. CENTER FOR THE ARTS (CFA). From the front doors of the arena you’ll see your next stop, the Center for the Arts (theatre and dance, art, media study). The CFA is a major cultural and artistic hub for the Buffalo region. Its facilities include the 1,748-seat Mainstage Theatre, the 210-seat Screening Room, video production and sound studio, UB Art Gallery, and dance/performance studios.

17. LAKE LASALLE AND BAIRD POINT. From the back of the CFA you’ll see Lake LaSalle and Baird Point, a Greek-style amphitheater where events like Spring Fest and Fall Fest are held. Its marble columns were once part of the old Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Buffalo and were dedicated here as a memorial to veterans. Visible across the lake is the Ellicott Residence Complex, where most UB undergraduates live, as well as our newest and greenest residence hall, William R. Greiner Hall, reserved for second-year students.

18. UB COMMONS. If you turn left, you’ll come to the Commons, a popular destination with stores, eateries, offices and an outdoor garden and fountain.

19. UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE. At the far end of the Commons courtyard stands the University Bookstore, where you can buy all of your books and supplies while stocking up on True Blue merchandise. It even has a post office!
STUDENT UNION. Opposite the Commons, you’ll see the three-story atrium of the Student Union, the heart of the university’s social life. It’s got a movie theater, student club offices, the student newspaper, Putnam’s food court, the Tiffin Room table-service restaurant and much more.

BELL HALL AND FURNAS HALL. Clustered outside the union are UB’s engineering buildings. Bell Hall (21) houses the Department of Industrial Engineering and lots of research space. Across the street, Furnas Hall (22) is equipped with a cutting-edge interaction computation laboratory and space for systems design research. The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering also live here.

JARVIS HALL. Behind Furnas sits Jarvis, with more space for the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, as well as the Great Lakes Program, the Center for Integrated Waste Management and the Buffalo extension office of New York Sea Grant.

DAVIS HALL. Beside Furnas is Davis Hall, a $75 million state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory building for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences — and especially the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Davis Hall features a clean room, a smart room, a cybertorium and more. The building has received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification. The Center of Excellence in Document Analysis and Recognition (CEDAR) and the Center for Unified Biometrics and Sensors (CUBS) are also located in Davis. Davis Hall was named in honor of Jack and Barbara Davis, recognizing their leadership gift toward the building.

KETTER HALL. Next is Ketter Hall, housing one of only five earthquake simulators in the world — part of MCEER, the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research. Ketter is also home to UB’s renowned Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

BONNER HALL. Back on the other side of the street is Bonner Hall, filled with labs devoted to nanoelectronics, materials processing and lasers.

KNOX LECTURE HALL. On your left, behind Bonner and connected to the union, is Knox Lecture Hall. Its halls and classrooms are equipped with everything from retractable screens to wet-lab demonstration benches. Many of the university’s larger lecture-style courses are held here.

NORTON HALL. The final building on your right before getting back to your starting point is Norton Hall, a mix of administrative, classroom and research spaces, and home to the Educational Opportunity Program, Student Advising Services and UB’s nationally recognized Finish in 4 program.

The circle is complete as you return to Capen Hall. If you’d like to visit South Campus, go out the doors by the library to the Flint Loop traffic circle. You can catch a free shuttle here. You can also get driving directions and a self-guided walking tour in Capen 12.

If you’d like to see where you might live as a UB student, the Ellicott Complex is a short walk or drive from Capen Hall or the Student Union. Ellicott, where most first-year students live, is open for tours 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily. Call 716-645-2171 or stop by 106 Red Jacket Quad in Ellicott.

While you’re in Ellicott, be sure to check out the Crossroads Culinary Center, our newest and very popular dining hall, featuring freshly prepared foods that include pho, Brazilian barbecue, wok and vegetarian.

UB is known as a leader in sustainability, from new LEED-certified buildings to vehicles powered by alternative fuels to our composting program. On Flint Road near Maple Road, you can visit the UB Solar Strand, a vast array of solar panels that can generate 750 kilowatts, enough to power hundreds of student apartments. It’s one of the largest ground-mounted solar arrays in New York State and provides innovative outdoor classroom space to students from pre-K to postgraduate.

Thanks for taking this tour of UB! We hope you enjoyed it, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. Please stop by the reception desk in Capen 12 if you need any help or have any questions.

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