

Academic Affairs UPDATE

August 21, 2026



INSIGHTS

From the Provost

This summer we've been focusing on modernizing the systems and tools that support the UConn community. One big initiative is an upgrade to our Nexus advising platform, a platform built by UConn for UConn with advising at its core.

The i3 team, led by Joel Salisbury is working on the redesign including building new capabilities into the system that respond to the suggestions of the student success professionals and the needs of our students. I recently had the opportunity to [sit down with the i3 team](#) and learn more about their work. What they are doing to modernize the platform, integrate systems, and build new tools is impressive. What impressed me more was how the project, and i3 more broadly is giving our students invaluable hands-on experience. It is student success coming full circle. You can read more about the Nexus redesign further down in this update.

We are also taking an important step forward in using data to evaluate and shape our academic programs. Gray Decision Intelligence (GrayDI) is a tool we will be implementing to help us better understand demand for our programs and how UConn compares with other institutions in our region.

Today, we are wrapping up a two-day workshop with leaders from the Provost's Office, schools and colleges, the Registrar, Admissions, and other academic leaders. The workshop gave us an opportunity to learn about GrayDI and have a comprehensive conversation about our academic program portfolio. It has already sparked ideas for emerging areas of study and ways we can strengthen our current offerings to attract more students.

In other news, Global Affairs will officially transition to the Division of Academic Affairs is effective next week. We've already begun working together with Dr. Ngozi Taffe, interim Vice President of Global Affairs, look forward to partnering with her and the entire Global Affairs team. They are already hard at work welcoming international students to campus and preparing for the busy semester ahead.

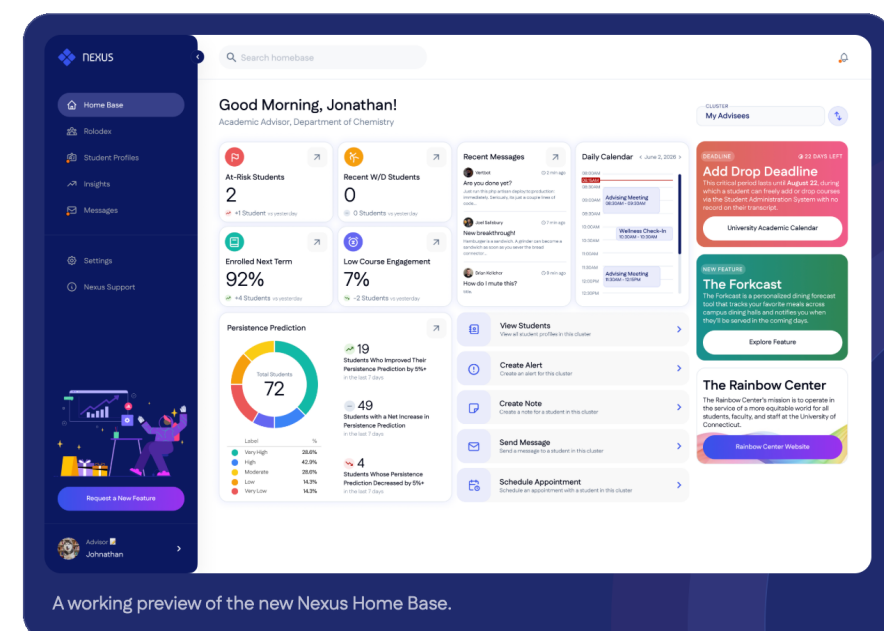
Finally, UConn Hartford marked an exciting milestone earlier this week with the [ribbon cutting for its new student housing on Pratt Street](#). Students, University leaders, trustees, and community and business partners gathered to celebrate the opening. About 200 students will move in this fall and will benefit from the sense of community and academic opportunities that living close to campus will provide.

The Storrs campus is showing signs of increased activity, reminding us that summer is nearing an end. I look forward to welcoming you back to our campuses for what promises to be an exceptional year.

With best regards,

Pamir Alpay
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

NEWS



The Future of Nexus

UConn is moving forward with Nexus 5.0, a major modernization of the university's student success platform. Earlier this year, approximately 300 of the most active Nexus users were invited to share their experiences with the platform and priorities for its future. Their feedback reinforced how important Nexus has become to advising and student support across the University and is helping shape what comes next.

Nexus 5.0 will build on what works well today, address limitations, and add new capabilities. The goal is to make Nexus a more comprehensive, one-stop source for student success information and services and expand support for the undergraduate and graduate student experience while strengthening its core capabilities as an advising platform.

The [Institutional Insights & Innovation \(i3\) team](#) is leading the rebuild in partnership with the advising community and other campus partners. Work is already underway. Users will be given opportunities to see, test, and provide feedback as new features are developed.

[Read the full message to the advising community](#) to learn more about the vision and plans for Nexus 5.0. You can also [visit the Nexus 5.0 project page](#) for a real-time look at what is in development, what has been requested, and where individual features stand.

UPDATES



AAC&U Professional Development Opportunities

UConn's membership in the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) provides our community with access to programming at a discounted rate. Upcoming events include workshops, institutes, and webinars exploring such topics as, "Teaching with AI," "The Science of Connection: Developing Meaningful Digital Exchange," and "The Human Advantage: Why Liberal Education Matters More in the Age of AI." Check out the full schedule of events [here](#).

AAC&U is a global membership organization dedicated to advancing the democratic purposes of higher education by promoting equity, innovation, and excellence in liberal education.

DATES and DEADLINES

Conferral Date for Summer 2026 Degrees

The conferral date for Summer 2026 degrees is **August 24**. Final examinations for Plan B Master's and Sixth-Year Certificate students must be completed by this date.

Fall 2026 Final Exams

During the week before the start of the fall term, the Registrar's Office will send emails to primary instructors teaching on the Storrs and regional campuses asking them to confirm which of their classes will require standard final exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during final exam week. The email will include a table that lists the instructor's classes (excluding classes that don't typically require exams, such as independent studies) along with our expectation of whether an exam will need to be scheduled. For more information, please see registrar.uconn.edu/2026/08/03/fall-2026-final-exams

First Day of Fall 2026 Classes

Fall 2026 classes begin on **Monday, August 31**. We look forward to welcoming our students and faculty for the start of a new academic year.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
Gulley Hall
352 Mansfield Road, Unit 1086
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1086
academicaffairs.uconn.edu

UConn
PROVOST'S OFFICE

Phone: (860) 486-4037
Email: provost@uconn.edu