

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF THE VISAYAS



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Community Partnerships

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2025 Sustainability Report
University of the Visayas



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ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF THE VISAYAS



The University of the Visayas was founded by the late Don Vicente A. Gullas in 1919 as the Visayan Institute (V.I.) in Cebu City. In 1948, the Visayan Institute was awarded university status, the first to become a university in Cebu, and was renamed the University of the Visayas (UV). Don Vicente Gullas also brought education closer to the people as the school opened a total of eight satellite campuses across Cebu Province making it the private University in Cebu with the greatest number of external campuses.



PHILOSOPHY

Amor, Servitium, Humanitas
Love and Service to Humanity

VISION AND MISSION

The University of the Visayas envisions to be an internationally recognized private non-sectarian university committed to academic excellence, transformational and innovative education.

Build and embrace a sustainable research culture among students, faculty and non-teaching staff in support of its academic programs and community extension thrusts.

Develop the talents and potentials of the students towards the practice of professions to be responsive to the changing local and global industry requirements.

Capacitate a community guided by the university extension program and be a catalyst for social transformation.

Develop a community of God-centered, nationalistic, and globally competitive professionals with proactive values and attitudes.

CORE VALUES

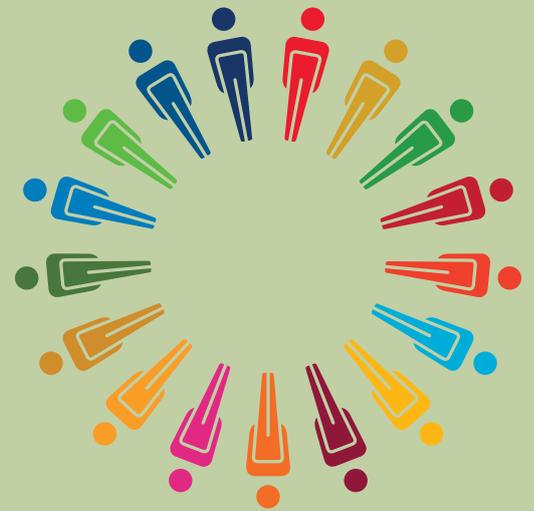
- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Leadership | Service |
| Empathy | Environmentalism |
| Achievement | Respect |
| Discipline | Virtuousness |
| | Excellence |

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Leadership Skill
- Entrepreneurial Skill
- Analytical and Creative Thinking Skill
- Digital Proficiency Skill
- Data Analytics Skill
- Communication Skill
- Proactive Attitude Skill
- Artificial Intelligence Skill

ABOUT THE REPORT

In 2024, the University of the Visayas articulated its long-term commitment to sustainable development through a strengthened institutional agenda that consolidated its environment-focused and resilience-building initiatives into a comprehensive sustainability framework. This commitment was formalized in the University's Ecological Sustainability and Resilience Program, which advances two core thematic thrusts: Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Together, these pillars guide a wide range of programs, policies, and community-based initiatives that embed sustainability into instruction, research, extension, and campus operations.



We are builders of impact.

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

The University of the Visayas commits to sustainability as a core institutional value rooted in environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and concern for present and future generations. Sustainability shall guide the University's internal operations, external engagements, and its functions in instruction, research, and community extension. In advancing this commitment, the University adopts the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its overarching framework to ensure responsible, inclusive, and resilient development across all levels of the institution.



ABOUT THE REPORT

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS AND INCLUSIVE WELL BEING

Advancing community care, awareness, and inclusive wellbeing is at the heart of the University of the Visayas' commitment to sustainable development. Through integrated health, education, and social initiatives, UV promotes equitable access to services, fosters a safe and supportive environment, and strengthens community resilience. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, these efforts ensure that wellbeing remains central to UV's role as an engaged and socially responsible institution.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Inclusive Education and Support Services reflects the University of the Visayas' commitment to ensuring equitable access, diversity, and a safe learning environment for all. Through non-discriminatory policies, targeted support programs, and accessible educational resources, UV fosters an academic community where every learner is respected, supported, and empowered to succeed.

UV'S EQUITY AND INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

The framework affirms the University of the Visayas' commitment to fairness, diversity, and equal access to education. Through non-discriminatory policies, inclusive admissions and recruitment, robust support services, and safe learning environments, UV ensures that all members of the community are respected, protected, and empowered to thrive.

COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY LINKAGES

The framework highlights the University of the Visayas' commitment to building meaningful partnerships across local, national, and international stakeholders. Through coordinated collaboration with communities, institutions, and organizations, UV advances internationalization, knowledge exchange, and shared solutions that create sustainable and inclusive impact.



2025 Sustainability Report
University of the Visayas

UV AT A GLANCE

106
years
of academic excellence

60+
degrees, diplomas and
certificates

300+
dedicated and highly
qualified faculty
members

10,000+
student population

300+
international students
community

80
international academic
partners across the
globe

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSIVE WELLBEING

Through integrated health services, education and awareness campaigns, mental health and wellness initiatives, and inclusive policies, UV ensures equitable access to care while promoting a culture of compassion, prevention, and shared responsibility for wellbeing.



Health Initiatives and Collaborations Aligned to the HEART Framework: The Flagship Program of the University of the Visayas

The University of the Visayas (UV) advances community health and wellbeing through its **HEART Framework**, a flagship institutional program that integrates instruction, research, and extension to address the needs of deprived, depressed, and underserved communities. Anchored on its mission of human development and social responsibility, the HEART Framework organizes UV's initiatives into five thematic clusters—Health and Wellness, Ecology and Spirituality, Arts, Culture and Literacy, Resiliency Law and Order, and Technology and Livelihood—serving as strategic platforms for inclusive and sustainable community upliftment.

Under the Health and Wellness component, UV contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by expanding equitable access to essential health services through sustained, multi-sectoral partnerships.



Key initiatives included international and local medical and dental missions in Tuburan and Compostela, as well as large-scale outreach programs such as Halad Pasalamat, collectively providing preventive, diagnostic, mental health, and primary care services to underserved and geographically isolated populations



854
Direct Community Beneficiaries



1,621
Students with Healthcare Access



9
Active MOAs



3
Research Studies

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSIVE WELLBEING

These collaborative efforts resulted in **854 direct community beneficiaries** served within one year and ensured continuous healthcare access for **1,621 university** students through a formal medical services partnership. Beyond service delivery, UV reinforced the sustainability of its health initiatives through trust-building, preventive care measures, and the generation of empirical evidence, with three published research studies aligned with SDG 3 informing public health improvement and systems strengthening. Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate UV's concrete contribution to SDG 3 and positioning the University as a reliable academic and community partner in advancing inclusive, preventive, and sustainable health outcomes

Advancing Community Health Services: The Outreach and Wellness Programs of the University of the Visayas



The University of the Visayas advances community health and wellbeing through its Outreach and Wellness Programs by expanding access to essential and preventive health services within the university and surrounding communities.

Leveraging institutional resources, student volunteerism, and partnerships through the **College of Allied Health Sciences and the University Medical Clinic**, UV provides free medical consultations, treatments, referrals, and preventive screenings such as bone and uric acid testing and influenza vaccination. In 2024, these initiatives served 4,596 individuals, strengthened early detection and preventive health-seeking behaviors, and reinforced public safety during large-scale events and routine community engagements.

Complementing service delivery, UV integrates experiential learning, partnerships, and research to ensure sustainable public health impact. Medical volunteer deployments during major events such as the Sinulog Festival strengthened emergency preparedness while equipping students with practical public health skills, and collaboration with BOMBO Radio secured 200 voluntary blood donors to support local health systems. Together with SDG 3-aligned research and sustained volunteer commitment, these efforts position UV as a reliable partner in preventive care, community resilience, and long-term public health outcomes.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSIVE WELLBEING

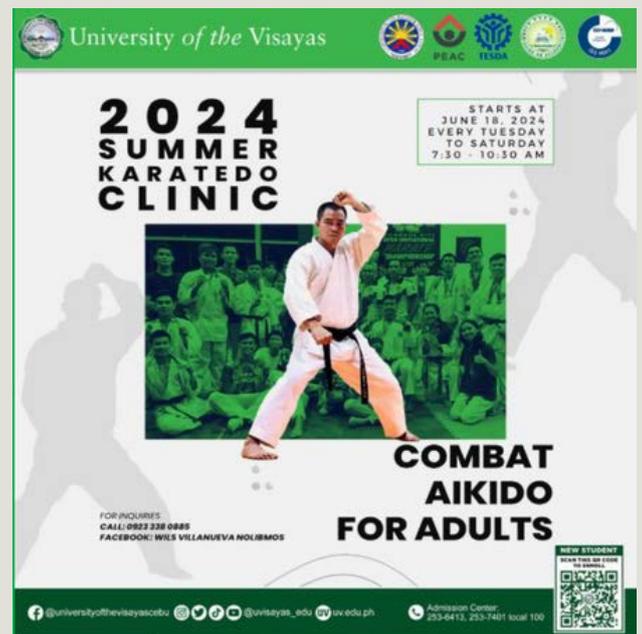
The University of the Visayas (UV) demonstrates its commitment to inclusive community resource sharing through its Guidelines on the Use of Facilities, which institutionalize the University's long-standing practice of opening its campuses as community health, development, and engagement hubs.



Guidelines on the Use of Facilities: UV's Commitment to Inclusive Community Resource Sharing

Grounded in UV's philosophy of **"Love and Service to Humanity,"** the guidelines formalize free and non-discriminatory access to university facilities for local government units, NGOs, private organizations, and community groups, enabling the conduct of health-promoting, cultural, educational, and governance-related activities. The 2024 utilization data confirms that UV's physical infrastructure—such as gyms, auditoriums, and multimedia centers—actively supports SDG 3 by facilitating medical missions, vaccination drives, physical fitness programs, cultural events, and public safety initiatives that benefit the broader community.

Beyond access, the guidelines ensure sustainability, equity, and trust by embedding inclusivity, oversight mechanisms, and protection against discrimination into institutional policy.

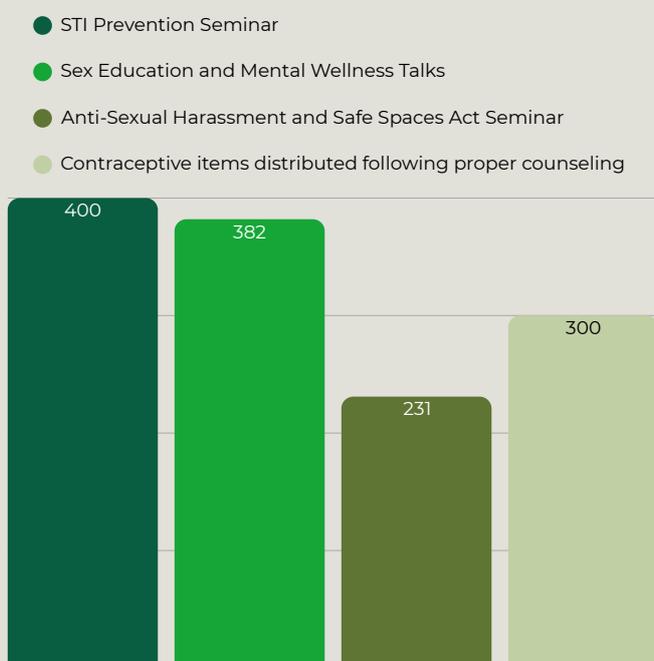


Facilities were utilized by diverse sectors for activities ranging from sports and mental wellbeing events to cybersecurity training and formal government ceremonies, demonstrating UV's role in promoting physical health, social cohesion, public safety, and digital resilience. By institutionalizing free and inclusive use—rather than relying on discretionary goodwill—UV guarantees consistent community access to essential spaces, strengthens partnerships, and reinforces its position as a reliable and socially responsive academic institution committed to long-term health equity and community development.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSIVE WELLBEING

The University of the Visayas promotes access to reproductive health information through its Health Education Awareness Campaign, an interdisciplinary initiative led by the University Medical Clinic, College of Allied Health Sciences, and the Student Affairs and Services Center.

The program provides targeted preventive education on sexual and reproductive health, including STI and HIV prevention, responsible sexual behavior, and legal awareness under the Anti-Sexual Harassment and Safe Spaces Act.



Access to Reproductive Health Information and Services: The Health Education Awareness Campaign of the University of the Visayas

By ensuring access to accurate, non-discriminatory health information and promoting rights awareness and legal compliance, UV empowers students and employees to make **informed and responsible health decisions** while fostering a safe and respectful learning environment.

The campaign integrates experiential and interdisciplinary learning through regularly conducted seminars and talks, demonstrating strong engagement and measurable impact. In 2024, **400 students** attended STI prevention seminars with 300 contraceptives distributed following proper counseling, **382 participants** joined sex education and mental wellness discussions, and **231 attendees** were educated on legal protections and responsibilities under the Safe Spaces Act.

These efforts are reinforced by access to contraceptive materials, research-informed programming supported by three SDG 3-aligned studies, and sustained institutional scheduling, establishing a culture of prevention, safety, and trust that strengthens long-term wellbeing across the University community.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY CARE, AWARENESS, AND INCLUSIVE WELLBEING

The University contributes to SDG 3 through the implementation of its 100% Smoke-Free Campus Policy, a decisive public health intervention that goes beyond awareness-raising to institutionalize a healthy and safe learning environment.

Anchored on Cebu City Ordinance No. 2241 (Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance), the guideline eliminates exposure to tobacco and vape emissions across all campuses, protecting students, employees, and visitors from second-hand smoke and addressing key risk factors for non-communicable diseases.

UV's Smoke-Free Campus: A Public Health

By enforcing a total ban with no designated smoking areas, UV aligns its campus standards with national and local health laws, demonstrating strong stewardship and compliance in public health policy implementation

Beyond health protection, the policy reinforces education, accountability, and sustainability through clear enforcement mechanisms and support systems. All stakeholders are covered under the guideline, with confidential reporting channels and sanctions complemented by cessation counseling and referrals through the University Medical Clinic. The ban on selling, advertising, and promoting tobacco and vaping products further prevents normalization and youth initiation, while annual policy review ensures relevance and public trust. Collectively, these measures strengthen community resilience, reduce environmental and safety risks, and position **UV as a proactive institutional leader in promoting a clean, safe, and health-supportive campus environment.**



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Inclusive education and support services at the University of the Visayas reflect the institution's commitment to equity, accessibility, and lifelong learning for all. These initiatives strengthen an inclusive academic environment that empowers diverse learners, supports research and knowledge-sharing, and upholds the University's role as a socially responsive and learner-centered institution.



Access to Educational Resources

The University of the Visayas promotes inclusive access to education resources through its **Guidelines on Alumna/Alumni and Other Researchers**, which govern the use of the Academic Resource Center (ARC). The policy opens ARC resources not only to current students but also to alumni, the general public, and external researchers, thereby extending educational opportunities beyond the university community. By clearly defining eligibility, access requirements, and scope, the guidelines ensure that academic resources are made available in an orderly, equitable, and transparent manner, supporting lifelong learning and research engagement.

By implementing clear, non-discriminatory policies and opening academic resources to students, alumni, researchers, and the wider community, **UV ensures that learning opportunities and support mechanisms are accessible beyond traditional classroom boundaries.**

The guidelines establish standardized procedures to balance accessibility with resource protection and institutional accountability. Alumni are required to present a valid Alumni ID, while external researchers must secure a referral letter from their institution, with all users conducting research onsite during designated hours. By encouraging public use of the ARC while maintaining clear rules on supervision, non-loan usage, and compliance with library protocols, UV strengthens its role as an inclusive academic hub that supports research, knowledge-sharing, and continuous learning for diverse stakeholders in alignment with SDG 4's commitment to equitable access to quality education.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Through targeted interventions that address learning gaps, strengthen foundational skills, and extend educational support to marginalized learners, UV advances inclusive, learner-centered education that reaches beyond the classroom and into the community.



Project REACH: Advancing Inclusive Education Through Community-Based Literacy and Learner Empowerment

Project REACH (Reading for Empowerment, Achievement, and Comprehensive Holistic Development) 2025 is a collaborative literacy initiative led by READucate in partnership with the University of the Visayas, Barangay Day-As, Zapatera Elementary School, and the Zonta Club of Cebu 1. Anchored on UV's HEART Framework and its commitment to access, equity, and excellence, the project targeted 34 Grade 3–6 learners identified as struggling readers and provided structured, small-group literacy instruction over a three-month period. Learners received five to ten hours of weekly reading support delivered by trained Reading Coaches using the READucate methodology, resulting in measurable improvements in literacy, communication skills, confidence, wellbeing, and engagement in learning, with 41% of participants advancing to independent reader levels by the end of the program.



Beyond learner outcomes, Project REACH strengthened inclusive education systems by building local teaching capacity and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration. University student volunteers and staff serving as Reading Coaches demonstrated significant gains in teaching practice, confidence, and service ethos, while community partnerships ensured shared ownership and sustainability of the initiative. Despite challenges related to attendance, scheduling, and coach retention, the program delivered meaningful academic and psychosocial gains and highlighted the transformative impact of targeted literacy interventions. Project REACH thus stands as a concrete example of UV's commitment to inclusive education and support services, advancing SDG 4 by **expanding access to opportunities** and **quality learning for underserved communities**.

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INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES



The University of the Visayas extends learning opportunities beyond formal degree programs by opening academic, skills training, and research platforms to the wider community.



Opening Pathways to Lifelong Learning: UV's Inclusive Programs for Community Skills, Research, and Public Engagement

Through accessible, community-oriented programs and events, UV ensures that learners from diverse backgrounds—students, professionals, educators, and the general public—can continuously develop knowledge, competencies, and research capacity in support of lifelong learning and inclusive growth.

These initiatives include TESDA-accredited technical and vocational programs such as Housekeeping NC II, Food and Beverage Services NC II, Cookery NC II, Bread and Pastry Production NC II, Tourism Promotions NC II, and related skills training courses, which provide accessible pathways for skills development, employability, and professional advancement. By opening these programs to non-UV participants, UV supports short-term certifications, industry-aligned training, and practical learning opportunities for workers, career shifters, and community members.

In addition to skills training, UV strengthens inclusive access to higher learning through **research conferences, workshops, and academic forums open to educators, students, and external researchers.** The 2nd Regional Research Conference, organized by the College of Education and Graduate School of Education, served as a key platform for knowledge exchange on innovation, inclusion, and impact in education, with strong participant satisfaction and demonstrated learning gains. By combining open-access skills programs with inclusive academic events, UV reinforces its role as a socially responsive institution that promotes lifelong learning, professional development, and equitable access to quality education for the broader community in alignment with SDG 4.

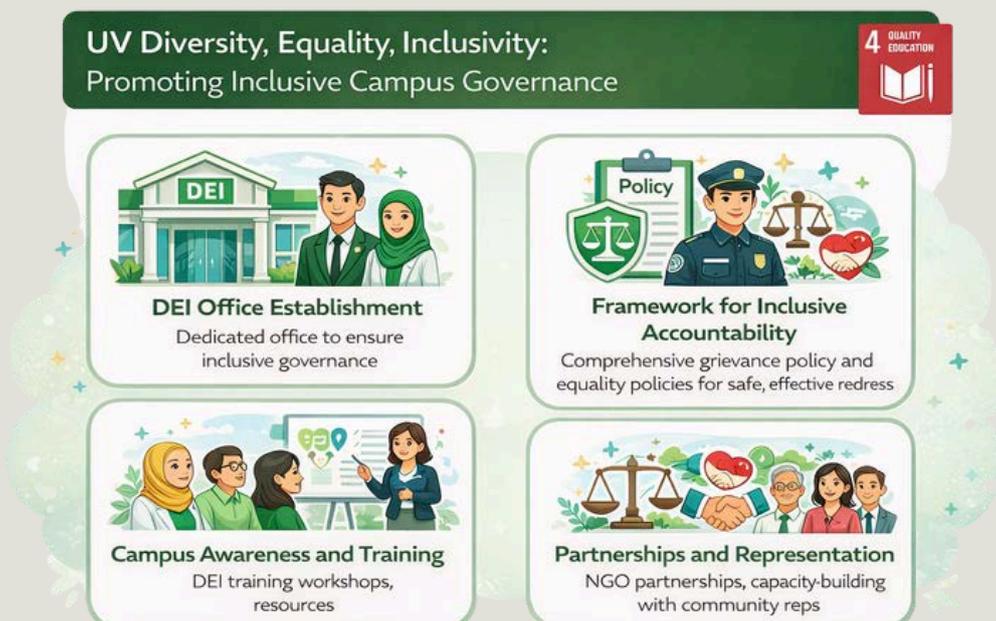
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The University is anchored on the principles of equity, dignity, and respect for diversity, ensuring that all members of the academic community are able to participate fully and safely in learning and campus life.

Through institutional policies, dedicated governance structures, and accessible support mechanisms, UV fosters an environment that actively removes barriers, protects rights, and promotes equal opportunities for students, employees, and community stakeholders.

Embedding Equity in Education: UV's Institutional Framework for Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

The University of the Visayas advances through the institutionalization of its Diversity, Equality, and Inclusivity (DEI) Framework, highlighted by the establishment of the Diversity and Inclusivity Office in July 2024. This office serves as the central advisory and monitoring body for inclusive policies and programs, ensuring that all members of the university community—regardless of gender, religion, economic status, disability, ethnicity, or other protected characteristics—are respected, supported, and fairly treated. The framework integrates inclusive governance, campus-wide awareness programs, partnerships with NGOs and community organizations, and structured mechanisms for reporting and addressing discrimination, reinforcing UV's commitment to accessible and inclusive education



UV'S EQUITY AND INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

UV's Equity and Inclusion Framework anchors the University of the Visayas' **commitment to fairness, dignity, and equal opportunity across admissions, employment, and campus life**. Guided by clear non-discrimination principles and proactive inclusion strategies, the framework ensures that historically underrepresented and marginalized groups are not only protected by policy but are actively supported through transparent systems, data-driven monitoring, and responsive institutional practices.



Equity in Practice: Advancing Inclusion, Dignity, and Equal Opportunity at the University of the Visayas

The University of the Visayas advances SDG 10 through a comprehensive set of interlinked policies on non-discriminatory admission, equitable recruitment, and anti-discrimination, institutionalized through its **Guidelines on Equal Employment Opportunity and General Admission Policy**. These policies categorically prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status, political affiliation, and other legally protected characteristics, ensuring that admissions and employment decisions are grounded solely on merit and qualifications. Accessible online and onsite admissions systems, reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, and clear grievance mechanisms collectively reinforce fairness, transparency, and trust in institutional processes.



Beyond policy commitments, UV operationalizes inclusion through evidence-based monitoring and proactive recruitment and admissions strategies for underrepresented groups. The University maintains a Matrix of Representation that tracks enrollment data for persons with disabilities, solo parents and their dependents, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ++ students, working students, and women, ensuring visibility and accountability in access to education. Complemented by inclusive recruitment practices, reporting channels, and gender and development programs, these measures demonstrate UV's shift from passive non-discrimination to active equity-building—strengthening participation, representation, and institutional responsiveness in alignment with SDG 10 on reducing inequalities.

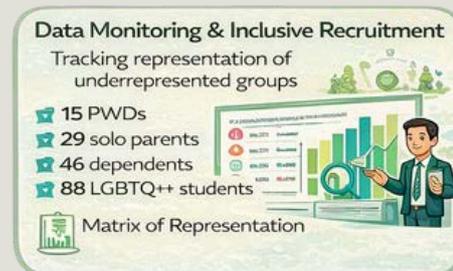
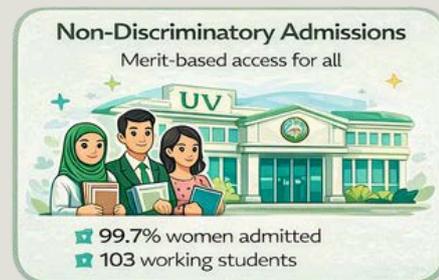
UV'S EQUITY AND INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

The University of the Visayas' Equity and Inclusion Framework is built on the principle that **equal opportunity must be actively enabled through policy, infrastructure, support systems, and accountability.** Beyond formal commitments, UV operationalizes inclusion by ensuring that vulnerable, marginalized, and underrepresented groups are protected from discrimination, supported through targeted programs, and empowered to participate fully in academic and campus life in alignment with SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities.

Embedding Equity in Campus Life: UV's Integrated Framework for Protection, Accessibility, and Inclusive Support

UV strengthens its equity framework through a robust Anti-Harassment Policy anchored on the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act and the Safe Spaces Act, ensuring a campus environment free from abuse, intimidation, and discrimination. Through institution-wide awareness programs, grievance mechanisms, and clearly defined sanctions, the University safeguards the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of students and employees. The policy is reinforced by educational seminars and reporting channels managed by the Student Affairs and Services Center, **fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and zero tolerance for harassment across all campuses.**

UV advances inclusive participation through structured access schemes and institutional mechanisms for persons with disabilities (PWDs), embedded in its admissions and student support systems. The University guarantees equal opportunity in enrollment through reasonable accommodations, counseling, and flexible pathways for applicants with disabilities, supported by tuition fee discounts, privileges, and personalized guidance from SASC and administrative units. These mechanisms ensure that disability is not a barrier to higher education and that PWDs receive both financial and psychosocial support to succeed academically.



UV'S EQUITY AND INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

The University of the Visayas' Equity and Inclusion Framework is built on the principle that **equal opportunity must be actively enabled through policy, infrastructure, support systems, and accountability.** Beyond formal commitments, UV operationalizes inclusion by ensuring that vulnerable, marginalized, and underrepresented groups are protected from discrimination, supported through targeted programs, and empowered to participate fully in academic and campus life in alignment with SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities.

Physical accessibility is a core pillar of UV's equity framework, demonstrated through the provision of ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, and designated seating areas across campuses. These facilities directly support the participation of students with disabilities in academic and campus activities, with evidence showing the successful admission and retention of learners with disabilities. By systematically removing physical barriers, UV reinforces an inclusive campus culture where all students can progress alongside their peers, contributing to equitable learning outcomes under SDG 4 and SDG 10.

From Policy to Participation: Advancing Equity, Safety, and Disability Inclusion at the University of the Visayas



Complementing policy and infrastructure, UV implements targeted support programs for underrepresented groups through mentoring, training, and capacity-building initiatives for both students and employees. Guided by training needs analyses and diversity-focused programming, these interventions address skills gaps, promote professional growth, and enhance institutional responsiveness to diverse needs. Together with ongoing diversity and equality implementation efforts, these programs reflect UV's shift from passive inclusion to proactive equity-building—embedding inclusion into governance, operations, and human development to ensure no member of the University community is left behind.

UV CONNECT

UV CONNECT is the University of the Visayas' flagship platform for uniting national agencies, higher education institutions, and NGOs to build a cohesive and future-ready ecosystem for internationalization and regional development. Designed as a catalyst for collaboration, UV CONNECT strengthens the pathways between government policy, academic innovation, and community engagement, ensuring that global standards translate into local impact.



Connecting sectors, transforming futures.

Rooted in UV's long-standing commitment to inclusive mobility and cross-sector partnership, the UV CONNECT program creates a structured space where evidence, policy, and practice meet to shape a stronger Region 7 and a more globally connected Cebu.

At its core, it operates through a three-pillar framework:

- **National Convergence for Policy Alignment**

UV anchors its work in close coordination with agencies such as Commission on Higher Education, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and local government units to harmonize

mobility guidelines, accreditation processes, student welfare policies, and cross-border academic cooperation.

- **HEI Collaboration for Academic Innovation**

UV convenes public and private HEIs across Region 7 to exchange best practices, align internationalization strategies, co-develop faculty-student mobility models, and collectively build a regional consortium for global education.

- **NGO and Industry Partnership for Community Impact**

Through strategic alliances with NGOs, industry networks, and chambers of commerce, UV CONNECT integrates employability, sustainability, and community empowerment into internationalization—ensuring that global learning translates into grassroots development.

2024 Key Figures

Cross-Sector Engagement

10

national agencies engaged

50+

no. of HEIs participating in dialogues or consortium

800+

no. of NGO/industry partners mobilized

Policy and Systems Influence

5

no. of policy recommendations submitted

8

no. of SOPs and frameworks improved

6

no. of cross-agency meetings convened or co-led

Internationalization Impact

16

no. of international partners engaged through UV

4

no. of outbound/inbound mobility pathways strengthened

20

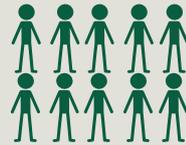
no. of countries represented in UV CONNECT collaborations

Students and Community Reach



300+

no. of international students benefiting from improved policies:



3,500+

no. of local students gaining mobility/internationalization opportunities



47

no. of community programs linked to SDG initiatives



Picture 1.1 Focus group discussion with Commission on Higher Education together with HEIs outlining the importance of international mobility.

STEADFAST IN CHAMPIONING MEANINGFUL, CROSS-BORDER SDG ACTION.

The University of the Visayas has been proactively participating in focus group discussions led by the Commission on Higher Education – International Affairs Service, representing Region VII in shaping national internationalization policies.

As part of CHED-IAS consortia focused on China, Southeast Asia, and Europe, UV contributes concrete outputs such as mobility framework recommendations, regional benchmarking reports, and proposed templates for joint programs and credit recognition. UV also submits policy notes on improving internship pathways, hosts cross-country dialogues with partner universities, and provides data for CHED’s monitoring of outbound and inbound mobility. Through these tangible contributions, UV strengthens the relationships and evidence base that drive meaningful progress toward the SDGs.

In the last quarter of 2024, based on the results of the focus group discussions, the University of the Visayas has formulated and adapted its new and improved 2025-2028 internationalization roadmap.



Picture 1.2 The University of the Visayas formally signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Guangzhou City Polytechnic establishing faculty and student mobility opportunities focusing on the field of artificial intelligence and engineering.



Picture 1.3 The University of the Visayas was granted a seat during the Roundtable Conversation for College Leaders of the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister City Higher Vocational Education. A pledge of commitment was also signed strengthening the promotion and implementation of TVET programs.



Picture 1.4 Stakeholder discussion facilitated by the University of the Visayas together with the Bureau of Immigration

FROM UV TO THE NATION: POLICIES THAT UPLIFT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of the Visayas has firmly positioned itself as a staunch advocate for international student welfare by taking the lead in shaping more responsive immigration policies in Central Visayas. Recognizing the urgent need for clearer, more humane, and student-centered guidelines, in December 2024, UV initiated and organized a groundbreaking dialogue between international students and the Bureau of Immigration, a first-of-its-kind effort in Region 7 that transformed individual concerns into coordinated policy action.

By bringing together BI officers, administrators, and foreign students in one structured forum, UV enabled previously unheard voices to directly inform institutional and government decision-making. During the engagement, UV gathered concrete evidence, documented cases, procedural gaps, and common compliance challenges, and translated them into actionable recommendations.

This allowed the Bureau to understand the lived realities of foreign learners, from visa delays to inconsistent regional processes, and provided UV with the momentum to advocate for standardization and policy clarity. More importantly, the initiative demonstrated UV's commitment not just to hosting international students, but to protecting their rights, ensuring their safety, and championing their overall welfare through policy reform.



Picture 1.5 Focus group discussion with Mr. Anthony Cabrera, Chief of the Foreign Student Desk of the Bureau of Immigration together with Mr. Rogie Aquino, Director of International Affairs Department of the University of the Visayas, and Dr. Anna Kathrina Watin, the Director of Student Affairs.

UV AS A NATIONAL PARTNER IN ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELFARE POLICIES

Following the comprehensive Focus Group Discussion conducted in December 2024 with international students, the University of the Visayas consolidated critical data detailing the challenges faced by foreign learners in Region 7, ranging from visa processing delays and inconsistency in requirements, to communication gaps and compliance difficulties. This evidence became the foundation for UV's proactive engagement with the Bureau of Immigration as the institution sought to ensure that student experiences translate into meaningful policy action. To advance this advocacy, UV facilitated a high-level discussion with Mr. Anthony Cabrera, Chief of the Foreign Student Desk of the Bureau of Immigration, bringing together key university

leaders such as Mr. Rogie Aquino, Director of the International Affairs Department, and Dr. Anna Kathrina Watin, Director of Student Affairs. The meeting focused on presenting the consolidated findings from the FGD, identifying systemic gaps, and proposing concrete measures to standardize and improve processes for international students in Central Visayas. This high-level discussion marks a significant step toward shaping more consistent, humane, and student-centered immigration policies in Region 7. Through this engagement, the University of the Visayas demonstrates its unwavering commitment to elevating the foreign student experience, transforming on-the-ground challenges into actionable policy recommendations and solidifying its role as a national partner in building a safer, more inclusive, and more supportive environment for all international learners in the Philippines.



DRIVEN TO BUILD CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS THAT POWER INNOVATION AND EMPLOYABILITY.

Driven to strengthen industry-aligned education, the University of the Visayas has been consistently participating in curriculum development and employability innovation initiatives with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which represents more than 800 corporations across diverse sectors.

Through continuous consultations, FGD sessions, and strategic dialogues with CCCI industry clusters, UV gathers updated insights on workforce needs, skill gaps, and emerging market trends.

This collaboration allows UV to continuously refine its academic programs, aligning course outcomes, internship models, and competency requirements with real industry expectations. By grounding its curriculum in direct industry engagement, UV ensures that its graduates are equipped with relevant, future-ready skills and well-prepared to meet both local and global workforce demands.

In 2026, UV aims to deepen its partnership with CCCI by launching a region-wide Academe–Industry Congress and building a stronger consortium that aligns skills, strengthens collaboration, and elevates employability across the Visayas region.



COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES WITH NGOS AND GLOBAL NETWORKS FOR THE PROVINCE OF CEBU

In recent years, as the Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI) has emphasised collaborations and partnerships to position Cebu City as a premier investment destination, the University of the Visayas has stepped into this arena as a key academic partner. According to CCCI's June 2024 statement, the Chamber urged industry captains and organizations to support investment promotion in the region.

UV, through its International Affairs Department and its strong mandate in global and regional linkages, has participated in these multi-stakeholder forums, thereby giving voice to the academic sector in shaping Cebu's investment narrative. UV has leveraged its role to bridge academia and industry: by hosting international students (from China, India, Nigeria, Nepal, Hungary) and working with corresponding Embassies (China, India, Nepal, Nigeria) the university has actively created a culturally diverse academic-industry ecosystem in Cebu. This positions UV as more than a passive observer: it becomes a convenor of cross-cultural talent and links to industry requirements for global competency and multicultural readiness.

In 2024, the University of the Visayas has participated in a total of 11 focus group discussions involving corporations, foreign embassies and higher education institutions to provide solutions in the field of curriculum development, technical and vocational education and training, sustainability and innovative teaching.



CHAMPIONING ASEAN UNITY THROUGH CROSS- BORDER PARTNERSHIPS AND SHARED EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION.

The Passage to ASEAN (P2A) Network, established in 2012, created the P2A Framework for Internationalization—a transformative model that fosters cross-border learning, intercultural understanding, and regional cooperation aligned with the ASEAN Charter’s vision of “One Vision, One Identity, One Caring and Sharing Community.”

As an active member of P2A, the University of the Visayas (UV) has emerged as a catalyst in advancing internationalization efforts within the Philippines and the broader ASEAN community. UV’s engagement goes beyond participation—it actively drives dialogue, strengthens academic linkages, and champions student mobility that responds to the evolving needs of the region. Through strategic partnerships and consistent representation in regional forums, UV helps bridge Philippine higher education with ASEAN-wide opportunities, ensuring that Cebu’s academic sector remains visible, engaged, and globally attuned.

In 2026, UV aims to deepen its partnership with CCCI by launching a region-wide Academe–Industry Congress and building a stronger consortium that aligns skills, strengthens collaboration, and elevates employability across the Visayas region.



Through its sustained involvement in P2A, the University of the Visayas continues to act as a driving force for collaboration, accelerating cross-cultural exchanges, elevating Philippine representation in ASEAN dialogues, and inspiring a new generation of learners to embrace a shared regional identity. UV's catalytic leadership helps propel P2A's mission forward, advancing a more connected, compassionate, and globally ready ASEAN community.

**"In the University of the Visayas, creative solutions drive the way we internationalize, connect, and lead."
- Dr. Rosemarie Español, Vice President for Finance and Quality Management System.**

In 2024, UV further solidified its catalytic role through its participation in the P2A Philippine Chapter's educational tour and benchmarking mission in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, held from October 20 to 24. During this gathering of regional institutions, Dr. Rosemarie Cruz-Español showcased UV's internationalization initiatives and diverse academic programs, highlighting the university's commitment to quality education, global standards, and student-centered learning.

UV's contributions during the Vietnam engagement demonstrated how Philippine HEIs can meaningfully shape ASEAN academic cooperation by sharing models, best practices, and innovations that support mobility and regional integration.

The Vietnam benchmarking trip strengthened UV's role as a catalyst for ASEAN integration, enabling the university to share its internationalization best practices while building deeper academic and cultural connections across the region. It reinforced UV's commitment to elevating Philippine higher education in the ASEAN landscape through collaboration, mobility, and shared regional identity.



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OPENING GLOBAL DOORS THROUGH UV-NGO PARTNERSHIPS AND SHARED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY.

The University of the Visayas (UV) continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for global learning by supporting organizations like GradMap, an NGO dedicated to democratizing access to graduate studies abroad. Through its international affairs leadership, UV has actively contributed mentors, resource persons, and experts who guide aspiring Filipino scholars in navigating international mobility.

By sharing its institutional experience in ASEAN and European linkages, UV helps expand opportunities for students nationwide, ensuring that knowledge on scholarships, admissions, and international academic pathways reaches underserved communities.

UV's involvement in GradMap's How to Apply to Grad School series demonstrates its commitment to building a culture of global citizenship and academic empowerment. Serving as a mentor, UV highlights pathways for students to access world-class education, emphasizing the university's belief that internationalization should not be exclusive but accessible to all who aspire to serve the country through advanced learning.

UV strives to be champion global student success through proactive international student policies, robust mobility pathways, and compassionate support systems that empower learners from around the world.

“AT UV, WE BELIEVE GLOBAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE WITHIN EVERYONE’S REACH—AND THROUGH NGO COLLABORATIONS, WE HELP MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.”

By working alongside NGOs and fellow advocates, UV bridges Filipino students to global opportunities while generating broader awareness of SDG-driven policies and mobility practices. Through these collaborations, UV reinforces its mission of shaping globally competent graduates and strengthening the ecosystem of international mobility in the Philippines—making global classrooms more reachable, diverse perspectives more accessible, and lifelong learning more inclusive for all.

By 2028, the University of the Visayas envisions establishing a long-term, sustainable partnership with a dedicated NGO to advance community-driven development across Region 7. This initiative aims to empower underprivileged communities through entrepreneurship training, cultural appreciation programs, and heritage-based livelihood development rooted in Cebu’s rich identity.

UV seeks not only to deliver outreach, but to adopt a partner community, ensuring continuous mentorship, capacity-building, and market access for local entrepreneurs while fostering pride in Cebuano culture among youth and families. Through this sustained engagement, UV positions itself as a catalyst for inclusive growth, preserving cultural heritage while equipping marginalized communities with the skills, support systems, and opportunities they need to thrive.



In 2028, UV strives to be known as a Champion of Sustainable, Empowered Communities across Cebu and Beyond through long-term NGO partnerships, entrepreneurship development, and heritage-driven community programs.



UV
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