The University of Hartford is an independent, comprehensive institution of higher education whose seven degree-granting units are:

- Hartford Art School;
- The Hartt School;
- College of Arts and Sciences;
- College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions;
- Barney School of Business;
- College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture;
- Hillyer College

The Hartford Art School was founded in 1877, Hillyer College in 1879, and The Hartt School in 1920. In 1957, these institutions joined to form the University of Hartford. In that year, the University was formally chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly as an independent, co-educational, non-sectarian institution. The University is located on approximately 340 acres in a suburban setting four miles from downtown Hartford. It offers programs of study in day, evening, Saturday, summer and winterterm sessions. It is governed by a Board of Regents and currently enrolls approximately 7,250 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University emphasizes quality teaching complemented by scholarship, creative expression and dedicated community service. It is a major cultural resource for the Greater Hartford area. Students come from all parts of the United States and a number of foreign countries. The academic and administrative offices and operations of the University are under the direction of the President and executed by the President's staff of six Officers which include the Provost, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President of University Relations, and the Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. (See also the University organizational chart on 2.02-2.). The Office of Marketing and Communication should be consulted for up-to-date titles of the University Officers for outside publications.