UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution with approximately 28,000 students, more than 6,000 of whom are graduate/professional students. The university is ranked in the category of “high research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. More than 110 graduate degree programs are offered, including 36 doctoral and professional degrees. UNLV offers a broad range of respected academic programs and is increasingly recognized as a premier metropolitan research university.

In FY2006, UNLV received more than $94 million in external funding with approximately $68 million supporting research, including significant support from a number of federal agencies:

- Dept. of Energy – $32.9 million
- Dept. of Defense – $2.8 million
- Dept. of Interior – $2.4 million
- Dept. of Agriculture – $2.3 million
- National Science Foundation – $2.3 million

Top Five Academic Areas Receiving Research-Related Support
- Sciences – $19.9 million
- Engineering – $16.9 million
- Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies – $6.6 million
- Division of Health Sciences – $3.8 million
- Urban Affairs – $3.2 million

FY2006 Funding By Sponsor Type
- Federal – $68.8 million
- Federal Pass Through – $19.4 million
- State – $3.2 million
- Foundation/Corporate – $1.6 million
- Local – $1 million

The Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building houses the High Pressure Science and Engineering Center, as well as research activities in such areas as astronomy and astrophysics; atomic, molecular, and optical sciences; and condensed matter.