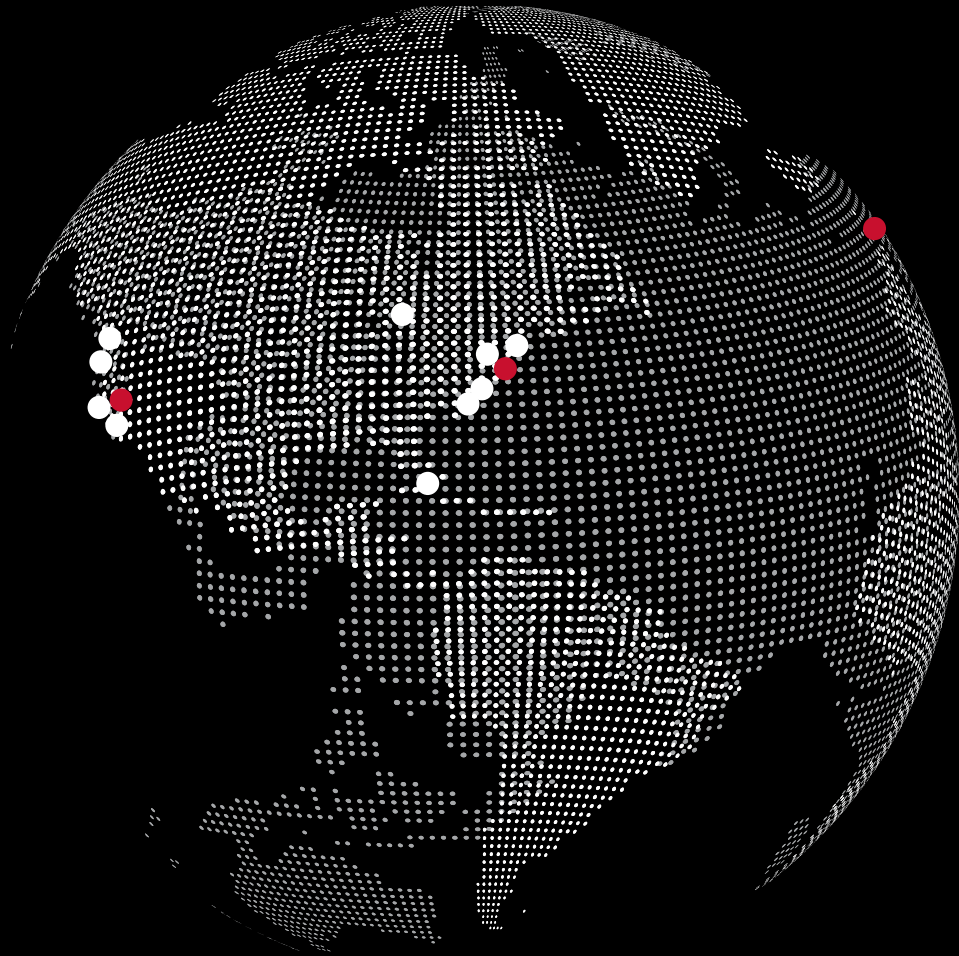**N** Northeastern University
**Office of the Provost**

# University Interdisciplinary Programs
*Overview*

# Motivation



## NU Strategic Plan

Maximize our positive impact in the world. Educational offerings focused on real-world issues, designed around actual circumstances and issues in local contexts.

Real-world issues increasingly span disciplinary boundaries.

**Goal: develop a mechanism to more efficiently build, deploy, and manage multi-college graduate programs**

# Motivating Example
# **MS Robotics**

## **Original structure**

- Includes concentrations managed by COE and Khoury

- COE and Khoury students all receive a COE degree.

## **Better structure**

- Students pursue central core, jointly managed by participating colleges.

- Move into concentrations managed by individual colleges.

- Receive degree from college that manages concentration.

# UIP Framework

- UIP is an administrative home within the Office of the Provost (OTP) for multi-college graduate programs.

- Colleges choose to participate in UIP programs without any one college serving as the program's "owner".

- Programs are jointly managed by participating colleges through a Program Committee, with oversight and administrative support from OTP.

- Program Director is a Program Committee member who serves as the program's academic point of contact.

NORTHEASTERN.

# UIP Academic Organization

*The curriculum is developed jointly by participating colleges; OTP facilitates as needed.*

**Program Committee determines:**

- what courses should be offered,
- the content of the courses,
- who are appropriate faculty to teach the courses,
- admissions criteria,
- admissions decisions, and
- academic policies.

Courses managed and staffed by individual colleges, as before.

# Finances

Tuition revenue: assigned to home college of course instructor

Course development: college that owns course

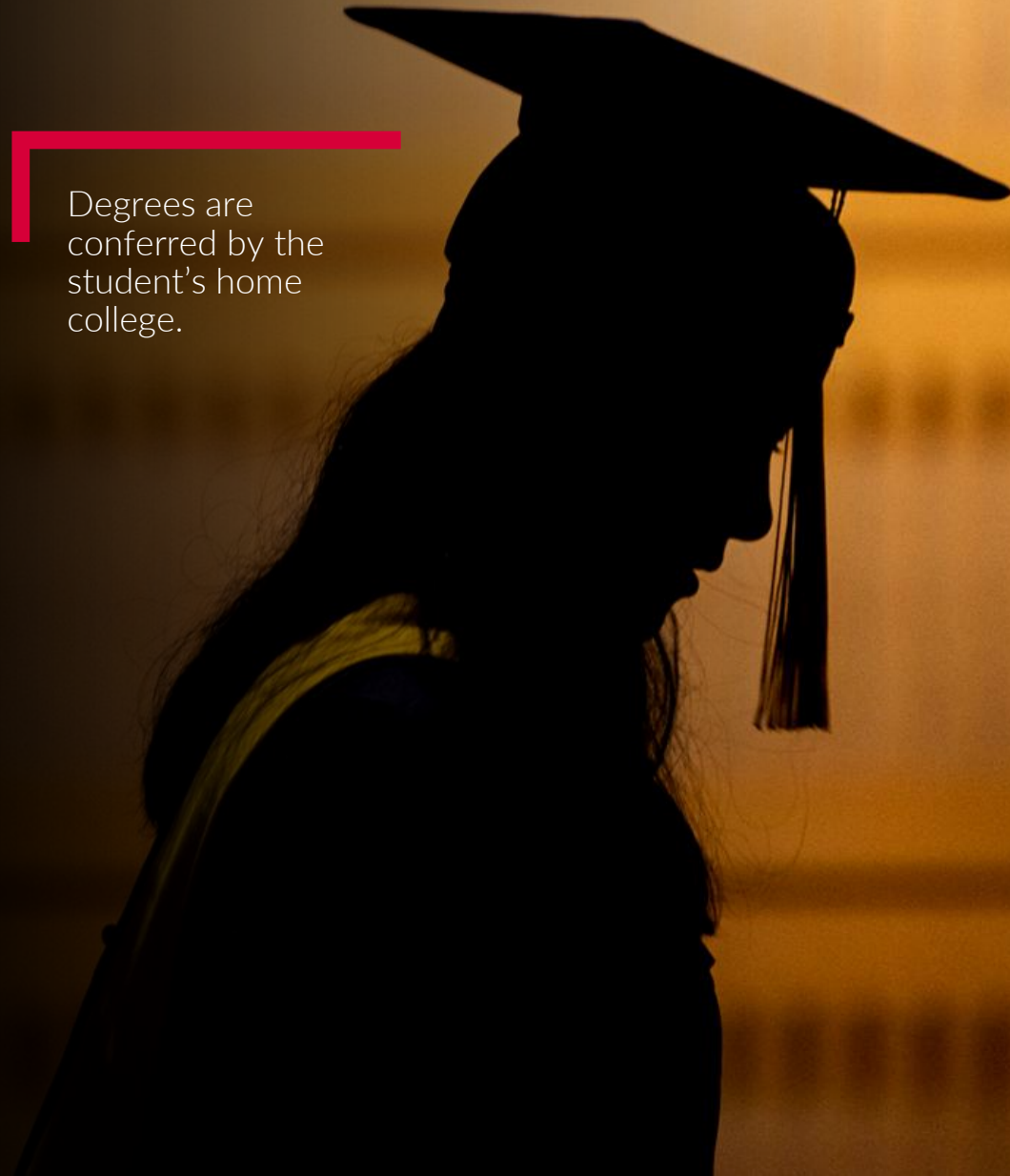Advertising, marketing, recruitment, and related expenses: EM

# Student Journey

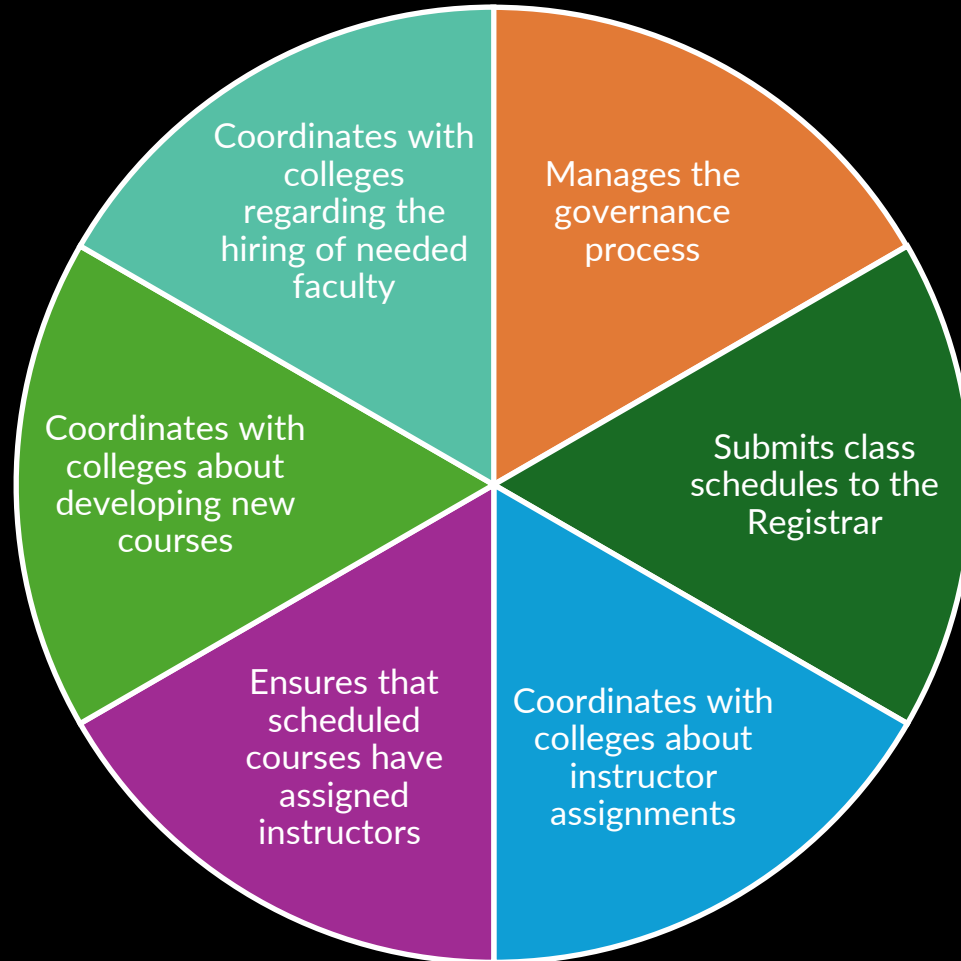For master's programs, students select a concentration when they apply to a UIP program.

Applicants are admitted into the college (their home college) that manages their declared concentration.

Academic and coop advising is provided by the student's home college, and students follow the policies of that college.

Degrees are conferred by the student's home college.

# UIP Program Coordinator



Manages the governance process

Submits class schedules to the Registrar

Coordinates with colleges about instructor assignments

Ensures that scheduled courses have assigned instructors

Coordinates with colleges about developing new courses

Coordinates with colleges regarding the hiring of needed faculty

*Colleges make instructor assignments for courses they own.*

# UIP Programs

| | BVE | CAMD | COE | COS | CPS | CSSH | DMSB | KHY | MCNU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS Robotics | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| MS Statistics | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| MS Statistics - Connect | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| MS Complex Network Analysis | ✓ | ● | | ✓ | | ✓ | ● | ✓ | |
| CERT AI Applications | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| MS Extended Realities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| MS Data Science | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| MS Product Management | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| CERT Product Management | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| MS Artificial Intelligence | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| *MS Sustainability Science* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| *MS Human Factors/HCI* | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| *MS Quantum Info Science + Eng* | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |

Legend:
- ✓ Awards degree
- ● Participates in program

Row groups:
- Launched: MS Robotics through MS Artificial Intelligence
- In development: MS Sustainability Science through MS Quantum Info Science + Eng