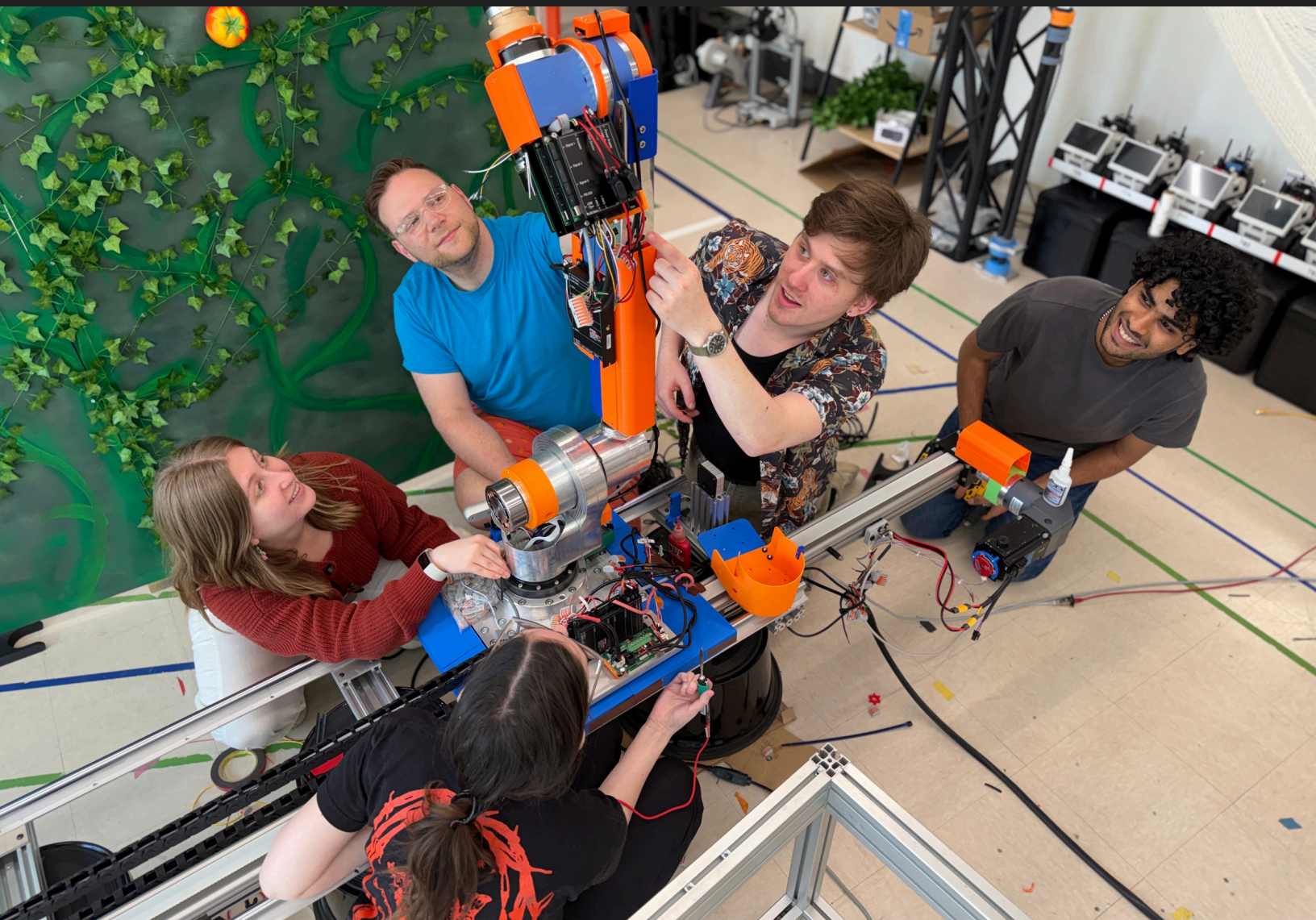




Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Executive Summary

July 1, 2026

Boston University College of Engineering

The Boston University College of Engineering embarks on this strategic plan from a position of strength. Core research expenditures have grown 50% in four years and are in the top 20 nationally, field-weighted citation impact ranks in the national top ten, undergraduate applications have reached an all-time high, and student outcomes exceed national benchmarks across graduation rates, placements, and participation in high-impact practices. This plan charts a course to **establish BU Engineering as a premier engineering school, nationally and globally**, in service of our mission to expand the power of engineering to transform lives at scale.

Several challenges frame the plan's urgency. The future of federal research funding is uncertain. The demographic cliff and declining international master's applications are creating enrollment headwinds. And generative AI is disrupting engineering education, demanding a coherent institutional response.

BU Engineering will meet these challenges by leveraging six distinctive assets: exceptional research quality that rivals the top engineering schools in the country; pioneering leadership in convergent research; depth in engineering health and physical AI and intelligent systems; modern hands-on learning infrastructure that ranks among the best in the country on a per-student basis; centrality within a large private research university with extraordinary breadth; and an integrated presence in Boston, one of the world's great hubs for biomedical and civic innovation and technology entrepreneurship.

Each goal in this plan contributes to a single purpose: to forge a future in which engineering discoveries enable boundless human progress for every individual and community. We invite you to join us in that pursuit.



The plan defines four strategic goals and one strategic enabler:

Goal 1

Become the defining institution for convergent research at the intersection of engineering, health, and computing, and create the entrepreneurial pipelines and industry and clinical partnerships that translate that research into impact at scale.

Goal 2

Build the Boston Engineering experience: provide every undergraduate a co-curricular pathway—research, industry, clinical, or civic, including "only at BU" opportunities—that develops technical excellence alongside human context, and that leaves every graduate prepared to lead in the industries and communities where engineering creates the most impact.

Goal 3

Redesign our curricula to build AI fluency into every undergraduate's formation, ensuring they use AI tools to deepen rather than replace engineering judgment, and build educational programs in responsible design, fabrication, deployment, and evaluation of AI systems.

Goal 4

Reshape graduate education for the next decade by expanding the reach and accessibility of our master's programs to train more engineers for the world that needs them, and by creating the financial resilience to protect our PhD pipeline.

Strategic Enabler

Invest in our employees across every career stage: strengthen the development structures, clear pathways, and inclusive culture that allow faculty and staff to do their most consequential work, and that make BU Engineering a place where talented people stay, grow, and mentor students to succeed.