



University of New Hampshire

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

University of New Hampshire

Durham, New Hampshire

THE SEARCH

The University of New Hampshire—the flagship, land-, sea-, and space-grant university of the state of New Hampshire—seeks an innovative, collaborative, and strategic leader to serve as its next Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost). The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is the key public innovation and opportunity engine of New Hampshire; its citizens rely upon its engagement in all ten counties of the state through its cooperative extension. The state’s major industries and institutions seek partnerships with UNH scholars across engineering and the physical sciences, social sciences, health and human services, law, business, and liberal arts. UNH students look to its wide range of transformative educational offerings that span geographies, modalities, and demographics. The Provost, as the institution's chief academic officer, has an incredible opportunity to advance impact and academic excellence for the institution, leveraging UNH’s distinctive institutional character and the critical role it plays for New Hampshire.

UNH was founded in 1866 and is the flagship and largest institution of the [University System of New Hampshire \(USNH\)](#). Its physical presence spans the main campus in Durham, the UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law in Concord, and the UNH College of Professional Studies, which spans the physical campus in Manchester and UNH Online. UNH serves approximately 16,000 students (13,000 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate students) in 11 schools and colleges, taught by 1,500 faculty and 2,800 staff. The campus in Durham is consistently hailed as one of New England’s most beautiful, and its coastal location with access to New Hampshire’s White Mountains and proximity to Boston allows a diverse array of programs to flourish in a culturally rich, intimate community. UNH is a leader in new and differentiated learning modalities, and its recent integration of Granite State College into the College of Professional Studies has greatly expanded UNH’s capabilities in online, distance, and hybrid learning. Its unique geographic span leverages the opportunities and vibrancy of Concord, New Hampshire’s state capital, connecting UNH with New Hampshire’s deeply engaged legislature and its established and emerging industries. The University received Research 1 status in 2019 and was awarded \$252 million in competitive external research funding in FY24. UNH is quickly growing in prominence as a top-tier research institution while continuing its strong commitment to student access and success across New Hampshire and beyond.

Reporting to the President and working alongside a new Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Vice President for Student Life, college deans, and other senior leaders, the Provost will advance the academic mission of the campus as well as the coordination of post-secondary education

throughout the University System of New Hampshire, leveraging resources and knowledge to inspire and advance the university. Serving as the deputy to the President, the successful provost candidate will have significant administrative leadership experience, deep familiarity with academic budgeting and planning processes, skill in communicating and connecting with key constituents internally and externally, and the capacity, courage, and decisiveness for strategic and well-informed decision-making. The next provost will be a collaborative leader committed to leveraging disciplinary strength across the arts, humanities, business, law, health and human services, engineering, social sciences, and physical and natural sciences, experience in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education and research, and an understanding of the power of Cooperative Extension. They will bring strategic and entrepreneurial leadership, financial acumen, and an effective and enthusiastic approach to outreach and timely communication with the university's internal and external communities, including the Board of Trustees.

In this recruitment effort, the University of New Hampshire has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the University with the search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Established by the state legislature in 1963, [the University System of New Hampshire \(USNH\)](#) is the largest provider of post-secondary education in New Hampshire. The USNH Board of Trustees has full fiscal and programmatic responsibility for the three public four-year institutions in the state, receiving an annual block grant from the legislature. USNH is governed by a 29-member board of trustees comprising the governor, the Senate president, the House speaker, ten members appointed by the governor and Executive Council, seven alumni-elected members, two student-elected members, the education commissioner, the agriculture commissioner, the presidents of the university system's four colleges and universities, and the chancellor. With more than 30,000 students enrolled annually and over 90,000 alums living in the state, the sister institutions of USNH—the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, and Keene State College—directly impact hundreds of thousands of New Hampshire citizens every year. USNH strives to assure the availability of appropriate higher educational opportunities to all New Hampshire citizens, seeks to enroll a diverse student population to enhance educational experiences, and provides programs and activities based on a commitment to excellence. Through its institutions, USNH engages in research that contributes to the welfare of humanity and provides educational resources and professional expertise that benefit the state, the region, and the nation.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Founded in 1866 as the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, UNH has proudly pursued its founders' goal of "fostering an educated citizenry across the state." First situated in Hanover in connection with Dartmouth College, New Hampshire College moved to Durham in 1893 after Benjamin Thompson, a prosperous farmer, bequeathed land and money to further the development of the college. That year, Thompson Hall was completed, and the College opened its doors in Durham. For over a century thereafter,

UNH grew exponentially as the GI Bill, the growth in academic fields of study, and the expanding regional reputation brought waves of new students to the University's campuses.

The University of New Hampshire's main Durham campus is only a few miles from New England's historic Atlantic seacoast, just south of New Hampshire's famed White Mountains, and approximately a one-hour drive from Boston. The campus is home to an Amtrak train station with service north to Portland and south to Boston. The Durham campus houses five colleges, three schools, the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS), the Hamel Honors and Scholars College, and the University's Sustainability Institute. The UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law is located in the state capital of Concord, and the UNH Manchester campus is home to the College of Professional Studies, serving non-residential students proximally to New Hampshire's key, diversified industry clusters. From its campuses in Durham, Concord, and Manchester, UNH serves the state through its distinguished programs of teaching and research as well as through continuing education, cooperative extension that reaches every county in the state, cultural and civic engagement, economic development activities, and applied research partnerships.

As one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to hold the triple designation as a land-, sea-, and space grant university, research at UNH has built steadily on historic strengths across a range of disciplines, including earth systems, space, and social sciences. It has more recently established areas of excellence in population health, childhood development, agriculture, business, law, and other domains. In 2024, UNH was formally designated as a [Carnegie Community Engaged Institution](#) in recognition of the ongoing collective efforts made by UNH students, faculty, staff, and leadership to connect with and positively impact its state, region, and nation. The University is consistently ranked in the top 10 of the safest college campuses in the United States, and the town of Durham, where the UNH main campus is located, was recently [ranked](#) as the second safest college town in America. UNH is also an international leader in sustainability and is committed to ensuring its students are empowered to address the challenges and opportunities of sustainability in a rapidly changing world. UNH is one of only nine higher education institutions in the nation to earn a platinum rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), the most rigorous system in higher education for measuring sustainability.

UNH continues its evolution, with its most recent acquisition of Granite State College to broaden its online and distance offerings to a broader set of learners and with major efforts underway to unify systems and shared services across its diverse parts. In partnership with the [Community College System of New Hampshire \(CCSNH\)](#), UNH has developed over 900 unique articulation agreements for transfer programs critical to the health and growth of the state's workforce and economic development.

Today, UNH offers its 16,000 students more than 100 major fields of study and a wide variety of minors, dual majors, master's, and doctoral programs. Faculty at UNH are comprised of tenure-track, lecturer, research, and clinical faculty, and extension faculty spread across the following colleges, schools, campuses, and research institutes:

- [Carsey School of Public Policy](#)

- [College of Engineering and Physical Sciences \(CEPS\)](#)
- [College of Health and Human Services \(CHHS\)](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts \(COLA\)](#)
- [College of Life Sciences and Agriculture \(COLSA\)](#)
- [College of Professional Studies \(CPS\)](#)
- [Graduate School](#)
- [Hamel Honors and Scholars College](#)
- [Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space \(EOS\)](#)
- [Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics \(PCBE\)](#)
- [School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering](#)
- [Thompson School of Applied Science](#)
- [UNH Extension](#)
- [UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law \(Concord\)](#)
- [UNH Manchester](#)
- [UNH Online](#)

For more information on the academic units and campuses in Durham, Manchester, and Concord, please visit <https://www.unh.edu/academics/colleges-schools>.

President Chilton

Elizabeth S. Chilton became president of the University of New Hampshire on July 1, 2024. She formerly served as the inaugural chancellor of Washington State University's Pullman campus, the system's land-grant flagship. She joined WSU in 2020 as provost and executive vice president of the WSU System, serving as the chief academic officer for the six-campus system. Chilton continued in that role while also serving as Pullman's chancellor beginning in 2022. While at WSU, Chilton oversaw the strategic planning process for WSU Pullman, which resulted in the first-ever WSU Pullman strategic plan. She led a system-wide budget redesign and initiated the institution's first system-wide faculty cluster hire program, as well as a faculty salary equity process. Before WSU, she previously served as the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement at UMass Amherst, and held several other academic and administrative positions at UMass Amherst and Harvard University. A first-generation college student, Chilton has a strong commitment to access and equity in higher education, particularly at public land-grant institutions.

Faculty and Governance

Faculty at UNH are world-renowned researchers, Pulitzer Prize winners, Guggenheim, Fulbright, and Carnegie Fellows, and recipients of numerous other honors across fields. They are also known for taking great pride in the quality of the overall student learning experience, as evidenced by high-quality teaching and a commitment to undergraduate research. The 900 full-time and 600 part-time faculty teach students in predominantly small classes, with a 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio. UNH faculty mentor undergraduate and

graduate students in research and scholarship, holding one of the nation's largest annual undergraduate research conferences.

The [Faculty Senate](#) is the representative body of all faculty (tenure-track, clinical, online professional, contract, lecturer, extension, administrative security, research) built on principles of Shared Governance with the primary responsibility of teaching and learning, curriculum, research, academic standards, terms of faculty appointment and promotion, student life in areas related to the educational process, and policy review. The Faculty Senate is designed to work in close communication and collaboration with the Provost office, including the Council of Deans and Senior Vice Provosts (e.g., Academic Affairs, Research), each of which has its distinctive responsibilities as well as overlapping areas of concern and endeavors to foster collaborative decision-making in strategic planning and co-creating an atmosphere of excellence. The Provost is typically invited at the beginning of each Full Senate meeting to update all Faculty and Agenda Committee meetings (the governing committee of the Faculty Senate) to collaborate on shared governance issues.

UNH's Employee and Labor Relations office manages relationships with the four unions representing academic employees on campus: The American Association of University Professors at UNH, UNH Lecturers United, NEA-NH (Law Faculty), and the UNH Graduate Employee Union. This office ensures that the university maintains a constructive and transparent dialogue with its unionized workforce, aligning with the broader goals of shared governance and collaborative engagement across the institution.

Staff

The University of New Hampshire community is supported and served by approximately 2,800 staff members comprising exempt and non-exempt employees who are deeply committed to the University, working to improve and enhance student experience and support the faculty in their research and instructional roles. Staff employees are passionate about ensuring their students have the best experience possible at UNH. Whether it be the great care of the grounds and buildings consistently recognized as exemplary or the dining, counseling, technical, and housing staff supporting students' day-to-day lives, UNH staff provide a critical foundation for the University's success.

Students

UNH is committed to student well-being and creating a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community in which all members can be successful and reach their full potential. UNH is consistently ranked highly by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Free Expression's (FIRE) national survey on campus free speech. UNH enrolls more than 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students across its three campuses, which hail from 52 states and territories and represent 43 countries. The University's steadfast commitment to belonging and community is validated by the 86% first-year retention rate. Additionally, UNH continues to increase access to the University for New Hampshire students through the Granite Guarantee, which provides free in-state tuition to students who qualify for Pell grants. Since 2017, more than 2,000 students have enrolled at UNH through the program. By increasing affordability, strengthening community connections, and providing an excellent

education across all learning modalities, UNH continues to be a top choice for talented NH students who are committed to serving their communities.

From its over 50 research centers and institutes, to hundreds of study abroad and other impactful co-curricular programs, the University provides substantial opportunities for UNH students to make an impact and explore the world. The [Discovery Program](#) is the foundational general education curriculum of the university that infuses UNH's mission, vision, and values into each student's program of study by fostering the integration of discovery skills and interdisciplinary breadth. Each program's continued relevance and alignment is reviewed as part of external accreditation or every five years as part of the internal Academic Program Review (APR) process. Educational experiences and degrees serve the state's higher education needs while providing resources and professional expertise that benefit New Hampshire residents, the region, and the nation. One of the major highlights of the undergraduate experience at UNH is the Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), an annual celebration of academic excellence. Each year, over 1,800 undergraduate students present at URC. These students are supported in their research efforts by more than 400 faculty mentors. Over 20 URC events are held in Durham and Manchester in April and May, with all disciplines and majors represented.

UNH Cooperative Extension

Since 1915, UNH Cooperative Extension has played a pivotal role in connecting the university's research and resources with the people of New Hampshire, empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to thrive. As a critical link between UNH's academic expertise and the state's diverse needs, Cooperative Extension offers innovative, research-based programs in agriculture, natural resources, youth development, community and economic development, and health and well-being to New Hampshire's ten counties. In partnership with county, state, and federal governments, UNH Extension works to foster a culture of lifelong learning and problem-solving, serving as a trusted partner across the state, enhancing economic vitality, promoting environmental sustainability, and improving the quality of life for New Hampshire's citizens.

ROLE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Reporting to the President, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs is the University's Chief Academic Officer. The Provost will collaborate with the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Vice President for Student Life, and other senior leaders to advance UNH's scholarly, teaching, and service missions across campuses, geographies, and modalities. The Provost oversees the Senior Vice Provost for Research, Economic Engagement, and Outreach, the key conduit for expanding multidisciplinary and applied research across the University. The Provost also oversees all colleges, schools, and institutes; Enrollment Management; UNH Extension; and Contract Administration. The Provost also acts as the primary UNH representative to the [Educational Excellence Committee](#) of the USNH Board and coordinates with the chair of the committee and leaders in other institutions in the system on the agenda for the committee.

The Provost is responsible for supporting the academic deans, department heads, student services professionals, faculty, and staff to provide the highest quality of educational opportunities, both within and outside the classroom, for undergraduate and graduate students. The Provost also ensures that the University recruits, retains, encourages, and supports an outstanding and diverse faculty, who make positive contributions to the university and their discipline in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service, fostering a culture of excellence and innovation across all academic programs.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PROVOST OF UNH

Provide strategic leadership, vision, and definition for the future of UNH

The next Provost will work with the President, faculty, staff, the Board of Trustees, students, and alums to craft and articulate a vision that deepens and expands UNH's impact in the state of New Hampshire and beyond. The Provost will be responsive to the changing higher education landscape while remaining in tune with the distinct needs and culture of the state and campus community.

The Provost will support and promote a vision for UNH that seamlessly integrates campuses and online programs, continuously adapting structures and processes to best support the state's expanded learner population. The Provost will encourage and support the deans, institute directors, and other academic affairs leaders to continuously innovate to meet the needs of these emerging learners and the drivers of the state's economy while also leveraging the power of the UNH Cooperative Extension to reach New Hampshire's citizens where they are and help them achieve their goals. In a time of demographic shifts, budget constraints, and other headwinds in higher education, the Provost will bring thoughtful, transparent, and collaborative leadership experience to institutional decision-making.

As UNH responds to the dynamic higher education environment, the Provost will play a crucial role in driving innovation by aligning institutional priorities with evolving academic and societal needs. By rethinking traditional departmental boundaries, promoting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration, and encouraging creative approaches to teaching, research, and student success, the Provost will work to ensure that the university remains adaptable and competitive in a rapidly changing academic landscape.

Judiciously manage finances and resources to allow for strategic investments in institutional priorities

The Provost will work in close partnership with the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration to manage resource allocation across UNH clearly and deliberately. The University is poised to undertake a comprehensive budget redesign and establish a new financial model and budget process; the next Provost will play a key role in this process. These changes necessitate a Provost who can prioritize, foster buy-in, and lift morale across the University in a time of significant change. The Provost will bring financial acumen to strategic conversations about enrollment, program development and assessment, organizational structure, and the implementation of new initiatives while also supporting existing successful programs. They will need

to balance a realistic understanding of the financial pressures facing higher education with the inspiration to bring a solutions-oriented approach to academic planning.

Align UNH's academic affairs mission with its deep-seated commitment to an enriching student experience

The next Provost will establish a forward-looking vision for academic affairs, working collaboratively with university leadership, deans, faculty, and staff to create innovative opportunities for an increasingly diverse student body. The recently established [Hamel Honors and Scholars College](#)—resulting from a transformative \$20 million gift—provides a challenging educational program for talented students, a living-learning community option, and a long history of piloting new academic programs for feasibility before bringing them to institutional scale.

The Provost will work closely with leaders in Student Life to ensure alignment between the university's academic priorities and the holistic development of students. This includes fostering a strong partnership that bridges academic success with student well-being, ensuring that both areas support UNH's broader mission. By engaging the campus community in ongoing dialogue, the Provost will identify pathways for achieving strategic goals and strengthening UNH's commitment to access, equity, and inclusion. UNH has made recent, significant investments to foster a more inclusive climate across UNH, including establishing the [Aulbani J. Beauregard Center for Equity, Justice, and Freedom](#) and elevating the role of the Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice President. Through transparent and inclusive leadership, the Provost will uphold UNH's steadfast commitment to ensuring its students thrive in a dynamic and intimate environment, with a transformative academic experience as the fulcrum of their growth.

Foster increased partnerships with the local and regional community in concert with UNH Extension, UNH's Concord and Manchester campuses, and the community college system

The Provost is expected to partner with leaders across the university to expand community outreach and to strengthen the University's impact and visibility within the region by collaborating and deepening partnerships with local businesses and industries to create opportunities for students, faculty, and collaborative research. A significant number of students remain in the region following graduation, and preparing students to be experienced and engaged members of the workforce is a priority. UNH's incorporation of Granite State College into its Manchester-based College of Professional Studies offers new online and in-person pathways to reach lifelong and returning learners. As a leader among chief academic officers across the University System of New Hampshire and a key liaison between UNH and the CCSNH, the Provost will play a significant role in guiding the transformation of higher education across the state and into the future.

Though the demographic trends facing New Hampshire mirror those across the nation, the Provost and senior leaders have the opportunity to respond decisively and proactively to this changing landscape by leveraging the business community, the Board of Trustees, and key allies on the New Hampshire General Court—the

single largest state legislature in the United States, and which symbolizes the determination and resilience of the people of New Hampshire—to meet this critical moment.

Encourage and strengthen UNH’s research and scholarly impact for the benefit of the state, the nation, and the globe

UNH’s elevation to R1 status in 2019 was a landmark achievement for the institution and emblematic of both its historic strengths and its future impact. UNH’s traditional areas of research excellence in fields such as earth systems, space, marine sciences, business, health and human services, and engineering have broadened across a university whose innovations have benefited economies and ecosystems worldwide. UNH also has considerable strength across the humanities, law, arts, and social sciences as key components of a comprehensive commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and creative activities.

The Provost will harness the talents of its faculty, staff, students, and extended communities, including traditional academic structures, nimble centers and institutes, novel funding mechanisms, the UNH Cooperative Extension, and a business ecosystem that extends throughout the region. Working closely with the Senior Vice Provost for Research, Economic Engagement, and Outreach, the Provost will champion interdisciplinary and cross-college research and creative activities to generate new technologies, methodologies, and scholarship that improve the lives of the people of New Hampshire and beyond.

Support and champion a dedicated faculty and staff

The University of New Hampshire faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a transformational student experience for all of UNH’s learning community. The Provost will support the faculty and staff, championing their professional growth and development, and ensuring that they have access to mentorship, resources, and support to excel in their disciplines/units. The Provost will strengthen connections across the University, empowering an intimate community of scholars, educators, and professionals to meet the critical challenges of higher education today. Transparent, data-informed, and deliberative communication and decision-making will be key, particularly as the implementation of administrative systems and technologies like Courseleaf and Workday continue. The Provost is expected to champion shared governance and work to build trust, foster collaboration, and support the unions and the collective bargaining processes.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

As the chief academic officer, a doctorate or equivalent terminal degree and a record of distinguished scholarship, research, and teaching excellence requisite for a tenured appointment as a full professor at the University of New Hampshire is a requirement. While no candidate will embody every quality, the successful candidate will possess many of the following qualifications:

- The perspective and courage needed to make data-informed, strategic, and transparent decisions, and see them through to completion;

- The capacity to build, support, and lead strong teams; experience executing large, aspirational, entrepreneurial, and fiscally responsible plans;
- An inclusive leader who supports diversity of ideas, builds trust, fosters academic freedom, and ensures the right of all members of the community to express their views openly;
- A proven commitment to the student experience and improving undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs;
- A record of success in addressing the concerns and anticipating the multifaceted needs of the UNH community, from faculty and students to UNH's dedicated staff;
- A strong commitment to public education and appreciation for the important public role land-, sea- and space-grant institutions play;
- A detailed understanding and vision for the future directions of sponsored research and extension activities in an academic land-grant setting and an ability to identify leaders and initiatives that build institutional capacity for transformative and entrepreneurial scholarship and research;
- A record of success in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion; a record of embedding these values across a complex institution;
- A data-informed and mission-driven leader with the proven ability to set priorities in a complex environment and a commitment to transparency, accountability, and results;
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, unwavering ethics and integrity, emotional intelligence; humility and eagerness to listen and engage with students, faculty, and staff;
- Budgetary experience and an astute understanding of university finances;
- A leadership style that respects and supports a culture of shared governance.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent in confidence via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search, linked below. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Julie Filizetti, Partner
Vijay Saraswat, Partner
Becky Piper, Managing Associate
Katie White, Senior Associate
Elizabeth Arvanitis, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-new-hampshire/provost>

The University System of New Hampshire is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action employer. The University System is committed to creating an environment that values and supports diversity and inclusiveness across our campus communities and encourages applications from qualified individuals who will help us achieve this mission. The University System prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or marital status.