



Dean
School of Dentistry
Louisville, KY

THE SEARCH

The University of Louisville (UofL) is seeking an accomplished, visionary, and inspirational leader to serve as the next Dean of the School of Dentistry. This is an exciting opportunity for a distinguished scholar and educator to guide a thriving dental school into the future, shaping the future of oral health education, research, and clinical care for Kentucky and beyond.

Reporting to the Executive Vice President and University Provost, the Dean of Dentistry serves as the chief academic officer of the School, overseeing its educational programs, research enterprise, clinical operations, and community engagement efforts. This is a role for a leader who is not just looking to manage, but to innovate and inspire—someone ready to champion cutting-edge research, expand patient care access, and elevate ULSD's impact on the national stage. The next Dean will have the opportunity to build on ULSD's legacy of excellence while forging new pathways in dental education, advanced technology integration, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Founded in 1887, the School of Dentistry has a long-standing tradition of preparing highly skilled dental professionals, advancing research in oral and craniofacial health, and delivering critical dental services to underserved populations through its extensive clinical network. The School operates with an annual budget of \$77 million, supporting its academic, clinical, and research enterprises. The School's Doctor of Dental Medicine, Dental Hygiene, and Advanced Specialty programs offer cutting-edge training in digital dentistry, biomaterials, and interprofessional healthcare delivery. With state-of-the-art facilities, a strong research foundation, and expanding clinical and community programs, ULSD provides a platform for a leader eager to drive transformational change in the field.

This is a moment of tremendous potential. The next Dean of the School of Dentistry will have the chance to lead a thriving, forward-looking institution at a research powerhouse in a vibrant and growing city. For an innovative and passionate leader, ULSD offers the ideal platform to shape the future of dental education, research, and patient care while making a lasting impact on oral health in Kentucky and beyond.

The University of Louisville has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist with this important recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed confidentially to Isaacson, Miller as indicated at the end of this document.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Spread across three campuses, the University of Louisville is a state-supported research university that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. It is one of two Carnegie Foundation designated highest research activity universities in Kentucky. With an enrollment of 22,684, its academic programs attract students from every state in the U.S. and from countries all over the world. UofL offers graduate, professional, baccalaureate, and associate degrees, as well as certificates in over 215 fields of study. UofL is especially well-known for excellence in teaching, research, and service to the Louisville community and the advancement of educational opportunity for its citizens. With more than 151,000 alumni residing in the United States and around the world, UofL's reach extends far beyond the region in which it resides. Through the efforts of its faculty, staff, and students, UofL is one of only 69 universities in the United States to achieve Carnegie Foundation Research 1 and Community Engagement classifications.

The University of Louisville's mission is to pursue excellence and inclusiveness in its work to educate and serve its community through 1) teaching diverse undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in order to develop engaged citizens, leaders, and scholars, 2) practicing and applying research, scholarship, and creative activity, and 3) providing engaged service and outreach that improve the quality of life for local and global communities.

The University is intricately connected to the city of Louisville and its ties with the local community have never been stronger. Not only has the University been a major player in the award-winning Partnership for a Green City with Jefferson County Public Schools and Louisville Metro government, it has also launched a Signature Partnership Initiative to improve education, health care, social services, and economic opportunity in West Louisville, an area of the city that has been left behind economically and educationally. UofL has earned the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's highest rating in the area of community engagement.

Students

UofL has approximately 16,000 undergraduate and 6,000 graduate students. The student body is 53% women and 47% men, and students of color account for 27% of the student population. Approximately 75% of students are state residents of Kentucky, though the University draws students from all 50 states and 119 foreign countries.

Academics

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, UofL awards bachelor's, master's, specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degrees (DMD, JD, MD, and PhD) through 12 schools. Students are offered a plethora of internship, co-op, service learning, and research opportunities.

Faculty at UofL are among the top researchers and scholars in their fields. The student-faculty ratio is 14:1, and 42% of UofL classes have fewer than 20 students, facilitating close relationships between students and faculty and enabling students to do advanced independent work. Of UofL's 2,650 faculty members, 47% are women, 53% are men, and 21% are persons of color.

Athletics

UofL is also known for its athletics programs, several of which are among the most successful in the country. Since 2005, the Cardinals have made appearances in: the NCAA Division I men's basketball Final Four in 2005, 2012, and 2013; football Bowl Championship Series Orange Bowl in 2007 (champions) and Sugar Bowl in 2013 (champions); the College Baseball World Series 2007, 2013, and 2014; the women's basketball Final Four in 2009 (runner-up) and 2013 (runner-up); and the men's soccer national championship game in 2010. UofL's women's volleyball program has three-peated as champions of the Big East Tournament (2008, 2009, 2010), and its women's track and field program has won Outdoor Big East titles in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and an Indoor Big East title in 2011.

Campuses

UofL spreads across three campuses. The 287-acre Belknap Campus is three miles from downtown Louisville and houses eight of the University's 12 degree-granting colleges and schools. The Belknap Campus has expanded greatly in recent years, with the purchase and redevelopment of land that previously housed abandoned factories. The campus proper also includes the football stadium (Cardinal Stadium), softball stadium (Owsley B. Frazier Cardinal Park), Cardinal Track and Soccer Stadium, Bass-Rudd Tennis Center, and the baseball stadium (Jim Patterson Stadium).

The Health Sciences Center (HSC) is located east of downtown Louisville in the heart of the Louisville Medical Center. The HSC includes the University's Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Public Health and Information Sciences, as well as inpatient and outpatient clinical care facilities, numerous research buildings, and a newly renovated, state-of-the-art Instructional Building. The HSC is also home to 15 Centers and Institutes conducting cutting-edge research in fields ranging from cancer and spinal cord injury to cardiovascular medicine and the geriatric population.

The 243-acre ShelbyHurst Campus is located in eastern Jefferson County. Originally the site of the Kentucky Southern College, the University acquired the land that now houses business offices and technology endeavors on the 60-acre academic core. The academic core is also the location of the Center for Predictive Medicine (a Level 3 biosafety facility) and the Information Technology Resource Center for the US Department of Homeland Security. The other 183 acres are leased to, developed, and managed by the University of Louisville Foundation for the benefit of the University.

THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

History and Mission

The University of Louisville School of Dentistry (ULSD) was founded in 1887, making it one of the oldest dental schools in the United States. Since its inception, ULSD has been a distinguished leader in oral health education, research, and patient care, producing thousands of dental professionals who serve in communities across the nation and beyond. The School is committed to advancing oral health through excellence in education, cutting-edge research, compassionate clinical care, and impactful community engagement.

ULSD operates with an annual budget of \$77 million, and is home to 110 full-time faculty, 36 clinical educators, 480 DMD students, 60 Advanced Education program students, and 54 Dental Hygiene students.

Academic Programs

ULSD enrolls approximately 600 students across its academic programs:

- Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) – A four-year program integrating biomedical sciences, clinical training, and innovative digital dentistry technologies.
- Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene – Preparing students for careers in oral health prevention and education, with opportunities for community-based practice.
- Advanced Specialty Education Programs – Offering postdoctoral training in:
 - General Practice Residency
 - Endodontics
 - Orthodontics
 - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
 - Pediatric Dentistry
 - Periodontics
 - Prosthodontics
- Master of Science and Doctor of Science in Oral Biology – Research-focused programs designed for those pursuing careers in academia, research, and biotechnology.
- Continuing Education Programs – Designed to help practicing dentists and healthcare professionals stay at the forefront of emerging technologies and best practices in dentistry.

Clinical Facilities and Patient Care

ULSD operates one of the most advanced and comprehensive dental clinical networks in the region, offering cutting-edge patient care while training the next generation of dental professionals. With 310 dental chairs across multiple clinical locations, ULSD provides a high-volume, hands-on learning environment, ensuring students gain extensive real-world experience while making a meaningful impact on community health.

From routine preventative care to complex specialty treatments, ULSD's clinical enterprise is designed to serve diverse patient populations, including medically vulnerable individuals, children, veterans, and those in underserved areas. As a leader in digital dentistry and integrated care models, ULSD is at the forefront of patient-centered innovation, utilizing 3D imaging, CAD/CAM technology, and artificial intelligence-driven diagnostics to enhance treatment precision and efficiency.

The school's broad clinical network includes:

- University of Louisville Dental Clinics – The flagship teaching facility, where DMD students deliver patient care under expert faculty supervision, integrating advanced treatment planning, digital workflows, and interprofessional collaboration with medical providers to ensure a holistic approach to oral healthcare.
- Specialty Clinics – ULSD offers specialized, referral-based care in endodontics, periodontics, oral surgery, orthodontics, prosthodontics, and pediatric dentistry, ensuring that patients receive highly specialized treatments while students engage in focused, hands-on training with experienced faculty mentors.
- Community-Based Clinics – In collaboration with local hospitals, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and mobile dental outreach units, ULSD extends its reach into rural and underserved communities across Kentucky, providing vital oral healthcare services to patients who may otherwise lack access to care. These clinics also offer students immersive public health dentistry experiences, preparing them to serve diverse populations upon graduation.
- Digital Dentistry and Simulation Labs – Featuring state-of-the-art CAD/CAM milling technology, 3D printing, haptic feedback simulators, and virtual reality-based training modules, ULSD equips students with the latest digital tools to refine their diagnostic and procedural skills before transitioning to live patient care.

Each year, ULSD handles more than 110,000 patient visits, delivering critical dental care while ensuring students master clinical excellence in diagnosis, treatment planning, and comprehensive patient management. The next Dean will have the opportunity to expand these programs, fostering new partnerships, enhancing patient care delivery, and integrating emerging technologies to redefine modern dental education and service.

Research and Innovation

As a Carnegie R1 Research Institution, the University of Louisville and ULSD are dedicated to advancing scientific discovery in oral health, craniofacial research, and translational medicine. With faculty recognized nationally and internationally for their expertise, the school fosters a collaborative research environment that integrates cutting-edge science with clinical application. ULSD researchers actively contribute to breakthroughs that shape the future of oral healthcare, from developing next-generation dental materials to uncovering the complex relationships between oral and systemic diseases.

ULSD's research enterprise focuses on several key areas:

- **Oral-Systemic Health** – Investigating the connections between oral health and systemic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's.
- **Biomaterials and Bioengineering** – Designing and testing advanced dental materials, implants, and tissue regeneration techniques to improve patient outcomes and durability of dental treatments.
- **Craniofacial Development and Genetics** – Exploring the genetic and molecular basis of craniofacial anomalies, birth defects, and acquired disorders to inform precision treatments and early interventions.
- **Immunology and Infectious Diseases** – Advancing research on the oral microbiome, periodontal disease, antimicrobial therapies, and immune response mechanisms, particularly through ULSD's nationally recognized Oral Immunology and Infectious Diseases department.
- **Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry** – Developing AI-driven diagnostic tools and predictive analytics for early disease detection, treatment planning, and improving patient outcomes.

The Department of Oral Immunology and Infectious Diseases stands as one of ULSD's premier research strengths. Faculty in this department have been awarded nearly \$12 million in NIH funding to study the role of microorganisms in disease, pioneering investigations into how the oral microbiome influences systemic health. Researchers are also exploring novel antimicrobial peptides that could revolutionize treatment approaches for periodontal disease and other infections.

ULSD's research infrastructure supports these initiatives with state-of-the-art resources, including a 3D Virtual Print Lab, digital simulation center, and high-tech molecular biology laboratories. The school actively fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, working closely with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health & Information Sciences to develop integrated healthcare solutions. These efforts solidify ULSD's reputation as a leader in dental research and innovation, positioning the next Dean to expand the school's research footprint, attract additional funding, and enhance its national and global impact.

Community Engagement and Service

ULSD has a deep-rooted commitment to public service, with a mission that extends beyond education and research to directly impact community health. Through an extensive network of outreach programs, the

school provides essential dental care to vulnerable populations across Kentucky and beyond. Each year, ULSD spearheads more than 90 community-based initiatives, addressing critical gaps in oral healthcare access and ensuring that underserved populations receive the treatment they need.

ULSD's flagship community programs include:

- **Smile Kentucky!** – A nationally recognized school-based initiative that provides oral health screenings, preventative education, and free dental care to thousands of children across the state. Through partnerships with local schools and healthcare organizations, Smile Kentucky! has become a model for early intervention in pediatric oral health.
- **Veterans' Oral Health Program** – Dedicated to ensuring that military veterans receive high-quality, affordable dental care. This initiative, supported by faculty and student providers, offers free and reduced-cost treatment to veterans who often lack access to comprehensive dental services.
- **Compassionate Care Connect Program** – A service-learning initiative linking low-income patients with affordable, student-provided dental care. This program not only helps bridge the gap in oral healthcare disparities but also gives students hands-on experience in working with diverse patient populations.
- **Mobile and Rural Outreach Clinics** – ULSD extends its reach into some of Kentucky's most underserved communities through mobile dental units and strategic partnerships with federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). These clinics bring essential dental services directly to rural populations, ensuring that even those in remote areas receive preventative and restorative care.
- **Interprofessional Community Care** – In collaboration with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health & Information Sciences, ULSD integrates dental services into broader healthcare initiatives, addressing systemic health challenges that disproportionately affect low-income and minority populations.

ULSD's commitment to community engagement not only enhances the school's impact but also provides students with invaluable experiential learning opportunities. By working directly with patients in real-world settings, students develop a deep understanding of healthcare disparities, cultural competence, and the importance of service-driven dentistry.

The next Dean will have the opportunity to expand these initiatives, forge new community partnerships, and integrate innovative care delivery models to ensure that ULSD continues to lead in public health dentistry. With strong institutional support and a track record of successful outreach programs, ULSD is well-positioned to advance oral health equity and serve as a national model for community-centered dental education and care.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean reports to the Executive Vice President/University Provost, serves as a member of the EVP's leadership team, and will work closely with the Deans of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health to further the missions of the UofL Health Sciences Center and the greater University at large. The Dean will lead 110 full-time faculty, 36 clinical educators, and a student body of nearly 600 learners across multiple programs.

As the chief academic and administrative leader of the School, the Dean is responsible for:

- **Developing and executing a strategic vision** that enhances the School's national reputation.
- **Fostering academic excellence** by supporting innovative curriculum development, faculty recruitment, and student success initiatives.
- **Strengthening research and securing external funding** to advance scientific discovery in oral health and craniofacial research.
- **Expanding clinical services** and enhancing community-based care initiatives.
- **Managing financial and operational resources** effectively to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Building strong partnerships** with local, national, and global dental organizations, industry leaders, and funding agencies.
- **Promoting a welcoming, accessible, and supportive environment** for all students, faculty, and staff across all aspects of the School.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The next Dean of the ULSD will have the opportunity to build upon the School's strong trajectory and significant institutional support while addressing key challenges in dental education, research, and patient care.

Some of the most critical opportunities and challenges include:

Leverage a Strong Foundation for Continued Growth

ULSD is on a remarkably positive trajectory, benefiting from state-of-the-art facilities, a highly regarded faculty, and a robust research and clinical enterprise. The School has access to ample resources and strong institutional support, providing the next Dean with an exceptional opportunity to enhance academic programs, expand research initiatives, and strengthen clinical services. By capitalizing on these strengths, the Dean can further elevate ULSD's national and international reputation as a leader in dental education and innovation.

Expand Access to Care and Address Unmet Needs

Kentucky and surrounding states face significant challenges in oral healthcare access, particularly in rural and underserved communities. With ULSD's extensive clinical network, mobile dental units, and partnerships with community health organizations, the next Dean has a unique opportunity to expand outreach efforts and integrate new care models to address this pressing public health issue.

Strengthening ULSD's role in community-based dentistry will not only enhance student training but also improve oral health outcomes for thousands of individuals in need.

Enhance ULSD's Research Footprint

As part of a Carnegie R1 Research Institution, ULSD is well-positioned to expand its impact in scientific discovery and clinical research. The next Dean will play a crucial role in growing the School's research enterprise, securing external funding, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations with UofL's Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health & Information Sciences. Emphasizing cutting-edge research areas, such as oral-systemic health, biomaterials development, and AI-driven diagnostics, will further position ULSD as a leader in dental research.

Strengthen Industry and Community Partnerships

The School maintains strong relationships with healthcare organizations, industry partners, and governmental agencies, providing opportunities for clinical training, research collaborations, and philanthropic support. The next Dean must further cultivate these partnerships to broaden external funding sources, create new educational and workforce development initiatives, and increase ULSD's impact within the broader healthcare ecosystem. Strengthening these ties will ensure that ULSD remains at the forefront of technological advancements and evolving care models in dentistry.

Recruit and Retain Exceptional Faculty, Staff, and Students

ULSD's continued success depends on its ability to attract, support, and retain top-tier faculty, staff, and students. The next Dean will need to develop strategies to continue to enhance faculty development, increase student support programs, and build a culture of professional growth and inclusion. Louisville, as Kentucky's largest city and a dynamic metropolitan hub, offers an attractive environment with a strong healthcare sector, vibrant cultural scene, and a high quality of life. The city's resources and ULSD's national reputation provide a compelling platform for recruiting the best talent in dental education, research, and clinical practice.

Build on Strong Institutional Support

The School of Dentistry has long benefited from a deeply supportive university leadership that recognizes the School's critical role in academic dentistry. The next Dean will have the opportunity to leverage this strong institutional alignment to further ULSD's growth, advocate for strategic investments, and ensure that the School remains a vital part of UofL's broader academic and healthcare mission. Continued engagement with university leadership will be key to securing resources, advancing initiatives, and fostering a collaborative campus environment.

Foster a Culture of Excellence, Inclusion, and Collaboration

ULSD is dedicated to promoting academic excellence, professional integrity, and an inclusive learning environment. The next Dean must champion efforts to support faculty mentorship, enhance student success programs, and foster a welcoming and supportive academic environment for all members of the School. By fostering a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and continuous improvement, the Dean will help ensure that ULSD remains an innovative, forward-thinking institution that prepares graduates to excel in an evolving healthcare landscape.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will possess most if not all of the following skills and qualities:

- A doctoral degree in dentistry--DDS, DMD or the equivalent
- Eligibility for dental licensure in Kentucky
- A track record of accomplishment in academic, scholarly, and clinical endeavors appropriate for a tenured appointment at the rank of Professor
- Successful administrative experience in a school of dentistry
- Talent for recruiting, supporting, and retaining faculty and staff; commitment to leading through example and maintaining the highest standards of personal and professional integrity
- Track record of careful stewardship of institutional resources, decisiveness, and ability to make difficult decisions
- Results-oriented mindset with strong business acumen and the ability to manage large, complex organizations
- Record of building productive and collaborative relationships with a broad variety of key stakeholders throughout the University and the community at large
- Experience in and an appetite for fundraising, with an ability to significantly contribute to and lead development efforts and other extramural funding activities
- A strong vision for the role of the School of Dentistry in an academic health center
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills with the ability and desire to connect and build relationships with a wide range of stakeholders

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

The University of Louisville has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the search committee in its identification and review of candidates. Inquiries, referrals, and resumes accompanied by a cover letter will be held in strict confidence and should be sent electronically to:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-louisville-school-dentistry/dean>

Dan Rodas, Partner
Sam Ruth, Senior Associate
Ibaad Nazeer, Associate
Rachel Banderob, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

Appendix

The University of Louisville Leadership

Dr. Kim Schatzel became the 19th President of the University of Louisville on February 1st, 2023.

She leads the \$1.6 billion University enterprise that extends to include an affiliated \$2.5 billion health care system with a focus on integrity, accountability, transparency, and advancing UofL's impact and national preeminence. President Schatzel is one of only 2% of university presidents nationwide with extensive corporate and entrepreneurial C-suite experience.

In her previous role as its President, Towson University (TU) experienced unprecedented growth and became Maryland's second largest university and the largest university – public or private – in the Greater Baltimore region. During her tenure, she generated support for more than \$1 billion in capital investments in campus infrastructure and facilities, the largest in the University's 166-year history. Dr. Schatzel led TU to an impressive 72% six-year graduation rate and became one of only a handful of universities nationally where African American, Latinx, and Pell-eligible undergraduates achieved the same graduation rate as the overall student population.

Prior to her presidency at TU, Dr. Schatzel served as the interim president, provost and executive vice president of academic and student affairs at Eastern Michigan University and as Dean of the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Business. Before serving higher education, Dr. Schatzel spent more than 20 years as a corporate leader and serial entrepreneur in the technology and advanced manufacturing sectors. After college, she started her 20-year business career as a foreman in a Ford assembly plant that culminated in her co-founding a multinational advanced manufacturing firm with operations on four continents, serving as its president, chief operating officer and chief executive officer.

Dr. Gerard Bradley is provost of the University of Louisville, a role which he assumed in 2024, after having been interim provost since 2022. Dr. Bradley joined the University of Louisville as Dean of the School of Dentistry in August 2016.

Since coming to UofL in 2016, he has played a key role in many important initiatives at the university, including co-chairing the Executive Budget Steering Committee and helping recruit several outstanding new deans. His priorities include student success, standardizing advising and introducing a strategic undergraduate success plan to dramatically improve retention. Under his leadership, the university announced the expansion of its Border Benefit Award that allows students from some neighboring states to attend UofL at in-state tuition rates. Additionally, UofL announced it is investing \$2.4 million toward the Cardinal Commitment Grant for in-state residents in 2024, which will increase to over \$8 million in the next four years.

As Dean of the School of Dentistry he stabilized and enhanced its financial position, opened several dental clinics throughout the commonwealth that provide students more educational opportunities and provide access and equitable health care to diverse populations.

Before coming to UofL, Dr. Bradley was Chair and Professor of Developmental Sciences at Marquette University School of Dentistry and served also as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. He previously served as the Program Director of the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics at Marquette and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. Dr. Bradley also had an orthodontic practice during his time in Wisconsin.

Dr. Bradley received his Dental degree in Cork, Ireland, his orthodontic specialty training at The Ohio State University, and a Doctorate in Dentistry at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE

Located in the heart of Kentucky's largest metropolitan area, the Greater Louisville Metropolitan area has a population of approximately 1.3 million while the city of Louisville has a population of approximately 626,000. Founded in 1778, Louisville is one of the oldest cities west of the Appalachian Mountains and has a rich history that is still reflected in the growing metropolitan area. Today, the city is a vibrant center of cultural activity, boasting great foods, sports, concerts, beautiful parks and cultural events. Offering aspects of both a rural and urban location, Louisville takes great pride in supporting UofL and its Cardinals athletic teams.