

DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY



Search for the Provost



THE SEARCH

DePaul University (“DePaul” or “The university”), the nation’s largest Catholic university and one of its most respected private urban institutions, seeks a strategic and influential leader with a distinguished record of academic leadership, teaching, research, and scholarship to serve as its next Provost. Located in the heart of Chicago, DePaul combines the academic breadth of a major research university with a deep commitment to its mission rooted in service to others, social justice, and the education of first-generation and underrepresented students. The Provost will join a dynamic and highly motivated President and leadership team and play an integral role in building on DePaul’s enduring strengths to firmly establish the university as one of the country’s prominent higher education institutions.

Founded in 1898 by the Congregation of the Mission, which follows the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul, DePaul has grown to become the largest private university in the Midwest, serving nearly 21,210 students—about one-third of whom identify as first-generation college students. DePaul’s 875 full-time faculty and an average per quarter of 880 adjunct faculty members pursue the preservation, enrichment, and transmission of knowledge and culture across a broad scope of academic disciplines. The university comprises ten colleges and schools and is well known for strong programs in business, law, computing and digital media, education, liberal arts, science and health, and the performing arts, among others.

With deep, established roots in the city of Chicago and a mission grounded in service, DePaul has a history of forging long-standing, strategic partnerships across sectors—including with industry, government, non-profits, and cultural organizations—to advance social good, expand student opportunity, and address complex urban and societal challenges. For over 125 years, DePaul’s significant role in supporting the local community, economy, and workforce has led many to recognize it as “the backbone of Chicago.”

The Provost will skillfully articulate and implement a unifying strategic vision for academic affairs and chart the institution’s pedagogical and research trajectory, amplifying opportunities for experiential learning in a rapidly changing higher educational landscape. Deepening DePaul’s deep commitment to innovation, teaching, research, and service, the Provost will encourage the enhancement of cross-college interdisciplinary collaborations and encourage a *One DePaul* ethos in which students, faculty, and staff can thrive. In leading the Office of Academic Affairs and advancing the mission of DePaul, the Provost must be a savvy communicator and relationship builder, influencing faculty and administrative culture, committing to uphold shared governance principles as well as academic freedom, and promoting transparency across an institution of considerable size and complexity. An effective storyteller, the Provost will compellingly narrate DePaul’s academic vision and impact, partnering to strengthen philanthropic support and advocating for the prioritization of resources impacting academic affairs and student success outcomes. With a keen appreciation for the robust ecosystem of current and prospective community partners and industries, the Provost will work with the President and the Executive Vice President to advance innovative strategic partnerships across Chicago and beyond.

DePaul University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important recruitment. All inquiries, applications, and nominations should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

As a Vincentian and Catholic university, DePaul is a mission-driven institution dedicated to providing an exceptional education to all, with particular emphasis on students historically excluded from higher education—first-generation students, immigrants, the poor, and other underserved groups. Guided by its identity and values, the university embraces excellence in teaching and research; access and inclusion; human dignity and Vincentian personalism; care for society's most vulnerable; public service; justice; community engagement; and diversity, equity, and belonging.



Serving a diverse student body of approximately 21,210 across ten colleges and schools, DePaul offers a comprehensive array of academic programs and maintains a deep commitment to teaching, mentorship, and student success. Faculty are engaged teacher-scholars whose research and creative work enrich their academic disciplines and classrooms as well as communities and society at large. DePaul students benefit from small class sizes, strong career preparedness, and a vibrant campus life that includes NCAA Division I athletics in the BIG EAST Conference, along with extensive opportunities for service learning.

As a Carnegie doctoral/research institution, DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian, and urban character distinguishes it from other universities. With campuses in Chicago's Lincoln Park and downtown in the city's business district (the Loop), the university is uniquely positioned to leverage the resources of a world-class city for academic innovation and community engagement. More than 60% of DePaul's 128,150 alumni live in the Chicago metropolitan area, contributing to a powerful local network and a deep institutional impact on the city.

Academics at DePaul

DePaul is a teaching-focused university where faculty scholarship strengthens and informs the student experience. Students select from 170+ [graduate](#) and 130+ [undergraduate](#) programs. Faculty members, who often also work as researchers, artists, entrepreneurs, and consultants, bring their expertise to the classroom, the city of Chicago, and beyond. Spread across its Lincoln Park and Loop campuses, each of DePaul's 10 colleges and schools endeavor to promote research and learning opportunities and provide students with broad disciplinary exposure to solve complex, nuanced problems. Each of DePaul's ten colleges and schools has distinct areas of strength and focus:

- [Driehaus College of Business](#)
- [College of Communication](#)
- [Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media \(CDM\)](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [College of Law](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences \(LAS\)](#)
- [College of Science and Health \(CSH\)](#)
- [School of Music](#)
- [School of Continuing and Professional Studies \(SCPS\)](#)
- [The Theatre School](#)

DePaul's colleges and schools draw national acclaim and have been recognized for the excellence in educational opportunities that they provide for their students. The *Hollywood Reporter* ranked DePaul's School of Cinematic Arts #9 on the 2025 list of Top U.S. Film Schools, and the *Princeton Review* ranked DePaul's undergraduate entrepreneurship #12 in the country and the graduate entrepreneurship program #15. *Animation Career Review* ranked DePaul's animation program #13 in the country and #11 in game design.

With a 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, DePaul provides its students with many options in their pursuit of a degree. Students have the opportunity to explore [combined degree programs](#), allowing them to earn both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in as few as five years. Additionally, the university provides 60+ [online degrees and certificates](#), enabling students to earn their degrees from anywhere in the United States. For over 50 years, DePaul has demonstrated its commitment to working professionals through innovative programs that support lifelong learning for adults, spanning a wide range of undergraduate,

graduate, and [continuing education](#) offerings. Students also have the opportunity to participate in DePaul's diverse set of [study abroad offerings](#), where they can enroll in either a short-term or term-long program.

The [DePaul University Honors Program](#) provides undergraduate students with a challenging liberal arts curriculum that is responsive to the shifting needs of the marketplace and helps students grow as global citizens and capable leaders. Through the encouragement of critical thinking and self-reflection, students are inspired to broaden their perspectives, positioning graduates well to solve the complex, interdisciplinary problems of the future.

Research, Creative Activities, and Innovation

As a Carnegie-designated Research 2 university, DePaul is committed to [research](#) that is innovative, interdisciplinary, and transformative. The university has many institutes, centers, and research labs that attract researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs who drive cutting-edge research and innovation, and tackle pertinent issues such as health, social justice, intellectual property, biomedical informatics, data science, and computing. Between 2020 and 2024, the university secured more than \$62 million in external funding across 793 awards—supporting a dynamic scholarly community whose work advances knowledge, enriches teaching, and makes a tangible difference in Chicago and beyond. DePaul values the central role faculty play in driving research excellence and proudly celebrates the [awards, recognitions, and scholarly achievements](#) of its faculty—many of whom are widely regarded as leaders and innovators in their fields and across the campus community. The research and creative works in which faculty engage inform and enrich their teaching, directly benefiting students with cutting-edge knowledge, real-world applications, and exposure to current scholarly and artistic developments.

DePaul offers students many opportunities to engage in research at both the [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) levels. Undergraduate students who participate in research are frequently able to receive academic credit or a stipend and are often provided opportunities to showcase their work during the course of a year through various journals and symposia. Between 2020-2024, \$775,425 was awarded to support undergraduate research through the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP). Master's students engage in research through independent studies, thesis-based courses, and internships with faculty as research assistants. Doctoral students who participate in Research-Scholarship programs have the opportunity to engage in a rigorous, research-intensive curriculum that culminates in original research dissertations, preparing them to excel in both teaching and scholarly research.

Many of DePaul's centers and institutes, including the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning, the Egan Office for Urban Education and Community Partnerships, the Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCDI), the Student Urban Research Corps (SURC), the SPARK Center, and the Chaddick Institute, foster collaborative research, service, and educational partnerships that connect, educate, and engage the Chicago community. The University's partnerships for collaboration, innovation,

and entrepreneurship creates research-based knowledge and economic value for Chicago and beyond. DePaul also maintains robust partnerships with educational institutions across the globe, including the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance, Tangaza University College, Linköping University, École de Commerce Européenne, Universidad Panamericana, Universidad Iberoamericana, Symbiosis International University, and Huaqiao University. These innovative global partnerships have bolstered transatlantic dual degree, master's, and adult education outcomes and facilitated thriving student and faculty exchange programs and collaborations.



Students, Faculty, and Staff

In Fall 2024, DePaul had 21,210 total enrolled students, including 14,188 undergraduate and 6,247 graduate students. The student body is 55% female, 44% students of color, and approximately 2.1% international students. Ninety-one percent of students are enrolled full-time, and approximately 70% graduate within six years, and over 80% of first-year students are retained by the institution. Over 3,800 students complete service-learning courses annually and over 200 student athletes participate in one or more of DePaul's 15 NCAA Division 1 athletic teams. DePaul has more than 350 student organizations dedicated to community service, student government, professional development, recreational sports, and more. As a result of the first-class education and co-curricular opportunities that DePaul provides, within six months of graduation, 92% of DePaul undergraduates and 91% of graduate students are employed, enrolled in further education, or engaged in other purposeful activities.

DePaul is home to 875 full-time faculty and an average per quarter of 880 adjunct faculty as well as 1,332 full-time and 207 part-time staff. The faculty boasts seven NSF CAREER awardees and several faculty/staff Fulbright Award recipients. Passionate about and committed to maintaining an academically rigorous environment, DePaul's faculty prioritize teaching and also pursue innovation and entrepreneurship in addition to mission-aligned research and discovery. DePaul attracts collaborative, open-minded, and dedicated professional staff who are passionately committed to advancing the university's mission of making education accessible to all and are noted for their commitment to student success, lifelong learning, and enduring institutional tenures.

Campus

DePaul's location in the heart of Chicago is central to what makes the university distinctive, offering students and faculty unparalleled access to the city's cultural, linguistic, civic, and professional resources while staying true to its Catholic, Vincentian mission of service and community engagement. The 40-acre [Lincoln Park Campus](#) is the most active and largest at the university. In a typical year, approximately 2,500 students live on the Lincoln Park Campus, which is home to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Science and Health, the College of Education, the School of Music, The Theatre School, the DePaul Art Museum, the John T. Richardson Library, the Sullivan Athletic Center, and the Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center. A few miles south of Lincoln Park, DePaul's [Loop Campus](#) is only steps away from Chicago's financial district and major media outlets. Housed in five adjacent buildings clustered around the corner of Jackson Boulevard and State Street, the campus is home to the Driehaus College of Business, College of Communication, Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media, College of Law, and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

DePaul has constructed, purchased, or substantially renovated 18 buildings in 18 years. These strategic investments on both campuses have advanced innovation, interdisciplinary learning, and community engagement. In Lincoln Park, the [Holtzschneider Performance Center](#) opened in 2018 as a 185,000-square-foot, LEED Gold-certified home for the School of Music, featuring state-of-the-art performance venues, rehearsal spaces, and learning environments. The Schmitt Academic Center was updated in 2019 with new makerspaces and innovation labs, including the [Idea Realization Lab 2 \(IRL2\)](#), offering hands-on opportunities for students across disciplines to prototype, create, and collaborate. Arts and Letters Hall earned Gold LEED-certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), which recognizes leadership in energy efficiency and environmental design due to its many features including thermal walls, a reflective roof surface, lighting and occupancy sensors, high-efficiency condensing boilers and LED lamps and fixtures. On the Loop Campus, the [Jarvis Student Center for Innovation and Collaboration](#) now serves as a hub for computing, design, and cinematic arts students, connecting them with industry and faculty mentors. And in 2024, DePaul opened [The SPARK Center](#)—an interdisciplinary research center that brings together data science, artificial intelligence, and human-centered design to address complex societal challenges.

Finance & Budget

DePaul is a tuition-dependent university and places a high priority on sound financial management to support its academic excellence and student success. The university operates with a current annual budget of approximately \$610 million, \$549 million of which is dedicated to Academic Affairs. As of July 2025, DePaul's endowment holdings exceed \$1 billion, providing long-term support for academic and student initiatives. The University's bonded indebtedness stands at \$270 million, managed responsibly in alignment with institutional priorities. DePaul maintains a strong financial standing in the higher education sector, holding credit ratings of "A2" with a stable outlook from Moody's Investors Service, "A+" with a stable outlook from Fitch Ratings, and "A" with a stable outlook from Standard & Poor's.



UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Robert "Rob" L. Manuel became DePaul University's 13th president on August 1, 2022, following a decade of service as president of the University of Indianapolis. Since joining the university, he has engaged faculty, staff, students, and alumni to develop and implement [*Designing DePaul*](#), the framework to become a national model for quality higher education. Current initiatives include advancing interdisciplinary research to address society's most pressing challenges and launching new retention strategies to eliminate the achievement gap for all students.

President Manuel has a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Allegheny College, a master's degree in higher education administration from Syracuse University, and a PhD in higher education administration from New York University.

More information about President Rob Manuel can be found [here](#).

ROLE OF THE PROVOST

Reporting directly to the president, the Provost serves as the chief academic officer of DePaul University. The Provost leads a team of 20 administrators, including the deans of the university's ten colleges and schools, as well as senior leaders in faculty affairs, research, student success, global engagement, academic and library affairs, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, among others. Working closely with the deans and other academic and shared governance leaders, the Provost is responsible for advancing teaching, scholarship, and interdisciplinary research; supporting faculty excellence; strengthening student persistence and retention; and enhancing student success through a wide range of academic and support services.

Upholding the highest levels of educational quality and providing strategic support for academic pursuits is a central priority at DePaul. Reporting to the Provost, the Office of Academic Affairs staff provides the leadership and strategic direction necessary to advance these goals. Its areas of responsibility include:

- Academic administration
- Academic diversity
- Academic quality and strategic implementation
- Accreditation
- Competitive analysis and benchmarking
- Faculty affairs and development, including Faculty Council and the promotion and tenure process
- International Programs
- Institutional research and market analytics
- Office of Research Services
- Strategic implementation and assessment
- Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning
- Student Affairs
- Teaching and learning resources (libraries, instructional technology, and museums)

In leading Academic Affairs and advancing DePaul's mission, the Provost must be a skilled communicator and relationship builder with a record of translating strategic vision into action. The Provost provides leadership in shaping faculty culture, sustaining high standards for teaching, research, and student learning, and ensuring that DePaul remains responsive to the evolving needs of students and society. The university seeks a collaborative leader who is comfortable navigating complex challenges in a private university setting and who can bring together diverse campus constituencies in pursuit of shared goals.

The Academic Affairs organizational chart can be found [here](#).

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PROVOST

Develop and implement a cohesive academic vision for DePaul

In alignment with the broader *Designing DePaul* strategic plan, the incoming Provost will be tasked with creating an ambitious, comprehensive academic vision that leverages DePaul's strengths and promotes interdisciplinarity, while integrating emerging technologies and artificial intelligence. As a key member of the president's senior leadership team, the Provost will drive critical strategic decisions that impact the academic enterprise while amplifying the foundational tenets of shared governance as outlined in DePaul's Faculty Handbook. With innovation and entrepreneurship at the forefront, the Provost will bring together each of DePaul's 10 schools and colleges, encouraging the *One DePaul* unifying ethos and facilitating open communication, transparency, and collaboration across the university while empowering a culture of decanal autonomy. In collaboration with university leadership, faculty, staff, and students, the incoming Provost will successfully operationalize visionary ideas and reinforce DePaul's impact in the community, transforming novel ideas into action, tangible programs, and distinctive outcomes.

Support and facilitate academic innovation through strategic financial leadership and philanthropic engagement

The Provost will serve as a thoughtful steward of resources, leveraging them to maximize impact on the academic mission while making strategic tradeoffs in the face of budgetary and other constraints. Keenly aware of shifting enrollment trends across higher education as well as other external forces, the Provost will work to diversify revenue sources through strategic academic program development—shaping the financial strategy of DePaul's academic units to promote sustainability while positioning the institution to remain attractive to the students of the future. The Provost will also serve as a key partner to the university's development and advancement leadership team, helping to articulate a compelling and dynamic academic vision for DePaul that attracts the interest of philanthropic supporters to help boost innovative academic programming and support student success. In aligning both academic and financial planning, the Provost will carefully weigh the needs of faculty and staff and, after consulting and working closely with leaders across the university, including the Faculty Council, deans, and senior administrators, will communicate informed decisions made in a transparent manner that maintains respect, builds trust, and encourages continued innovation.

Assess and further differentiate DePaul's academic programs in a competitive marketplace

In leading efforts to evaluate, refine, and elevate DePaul's curricular offerings, the Provost will work closely with leaders across the university as well as with industry and community stakeholders to identify areas of distinction and ensure that academic programs remain relevant, rigorous, and mission-aligned.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to shared governance, the Provost will engage substantively with the Faculty Council, deans, and senior administrators in making strategic decisions related to academic programs and research. This collaborative approach will support the enhancement of institutional policies and procedures that advance academic innovation and drive efficiency, allowing DePaul to emerge as a first-in-class leader in curricular and pedagogical development.

Enhance DePaul's vibrant faculty culture

The new Provost will preserve what is uniquely DePaulian while anticipating emerging faculty needs. The Provost must enhance strategies to effectively build relationships and provide support to both adjunct and full-time faculty members. The Provost will strive to create an environment in which the contributions of all faculty members are recognized, valued, and celebrated and will prioritize supporting mentorship, and professional development that enable faculty to grow in their careers. The Provost will examine feedback and promotion and tenure processes, appropriately incentivizing faculty to bolster excellence in teaching and interdisciplinary research.

Prioritize investment in the student experience

Central to DePaul's mission is a foundational commitment to the development of the whole person. The next Provost will partner to champion student success programs, ensuring that all DePaul students are supported in their journey toward graduation and professional readiness. This leader will be instrumental in enhancing the alignment of their academic classroom and co-curricular experiences, fostering a campus environment where classroom knowledge is enriched by real-world engagement. Working collaboratively with other university leaders, the Provost will ensure that all students are aware of and have access to the resources they need to thrive and be successful both inside and outside of the classroom.



Amplify strategic partnerships that enhance DePaul's community impact

Community engagement is a vital aspect of DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian mission. An integral community partner with key stakeholders across Chicagoland, DePaul is strategically positioned to facilitate groundbreaking partnerships that drive entrepreneurship and innovation locally, nationally, and globally. The Provost will help to reinvigorate and expand partnerships that are strategically guided by the community while bolstering novel, real-world learning opportunities that complement classroom teaching, facilitate community-based research, and advance academic and civic engagement.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

In addition, the search committee expects that candidates will bring many of the following personal qualities, expertise, and professional experiences:

- Distinction as a scholar, researcher, and educator with a record appropriate for a position as a tenured full professor at DePaul University.
- A record of outstanding academic leadership and the experience, vision, and energy to manage organizational change that incorporates DePaul University's mission and values.
- An experienced, accessible, empathetic, and entrepreneurial academic administrator with a record of success in a complex research institution, preferably one with a commitment to excellence in teaching.
- Substantial and successful experience in the development, leadership, and management of academic programs, projects, committees, and/or departments.
- Strong management, planning, and financial skills; an astute understanding of university finances and the relationships between academic priorities, budgeting, and fundraising.
- A strong track record that demonstrates a commitment to cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment where all students, faculty, and staff can thrive.
- A fair, collegial, and transparent leadership style that will engender trust among all members of the DePaul University community.
- A strong record of fostering and upholding shared governance principles, with a deep commitment to collaborative decision-making and transparent engagement.
- An interdisciplinary thinker committed to harnessing and facilitating the potential of collaborative activities across institutional and disciplinary boundaries.

- A record of leading the successful recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty, aligned with a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- A creative problem solver, with high emotional intelligence, and a robust intellectual curiosity to balance a dynamic research institution with its focus on mission-driven teaching and education.
- The ability to communicate well and work cooperatively and effectively with administrators, faculty, students, staff, and other stakeholders; an appreciation and understanding of the need for collaboration among these groups to make critical decisions on academic priorities and the allocation of resources.
- Evidence in overseeing accreditations and external reporting of institutional academic outcomes.
- A decisive doer who can successfully manage the myriad issues and decisions that cross the Provost's desk.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

DePaul University is located in Chicago, IL.

The salary range for this position is \$450,000-\$500,000 annually, commensurate with related experience and qualifications.

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 via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/depaul-university/provost>.

Phillip Petree, Partner
Micah Pierce, Partner
Afi Tettey-Fio, Senior Associate
David Grimes, Senior Associate
Marlyn Desire, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

DePaul University is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer. All qualified candidates will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, genetic information or any other legally protected status, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local EEO laws.

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