SEARCH FOR THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
Emory College of Arts and Sciences
Atlanta, Georgia

THE OPPORTUNITY

Emory University seeks an innovative leader and dynamic administrator to serve as the next Chair of the Department of Computer Science in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences (Emory College or the College). This is an exciting opportunity to lead a department at the forefront of Emory University's strategy to expand computing and establish an ambitious program for computing excellence across the institution.

The incoming Chair will lead a department with disciplinary expertise that catalyzes societal progress and economic growth. As the chief administrator for the Department of Computer Science, the Chair will drive a forward-thinking vision aligned with Emory's larger aspirations for computing, spearhead faculty recruitment and retention in a competitive landscape, foster a culture of high-quality scholarship, and prepare students to be innovative leaders in the fast-evolving computing sector. The Chair will champion ground-breaking research, expand academic programs with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration, and partner in the development of robust infrastructure, including state-of-the-art computing resources. The role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of computer science at Emory by translating bold ideas into sustainable action that advances both the department and university's mission.

Emory University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted as indicated at the end of this document. All such outreach will be treated confidentially.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Emory University was founded in 1836 by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Oxford, Georgia. In 1915, it moved to its present location in the Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, where Emory College of Arts and Sciences is located today.

Emory is recognized internationally for its outstanding liberal arts college, superb professional schools, and one of the Southeast's leading health care systems. The university's mission is "to create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity." To fulfill this mission, Emory supports the full

range of scholarship–from undergraduate to advanced graduate and professional instruction and from basic research to the many applications for such research in serving the public good.

Emory University is consistently recognized for its excellence. *U.S. News & World Report* rated Emory 24th in their 2025 report of America's best national universities. Emory is a member of the Association of American Universities and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Emory's world-class faculty of more than 4,000 includes exceptional instructors and groundbreaking researchers. Over 95% of full-time faculty members hold the highest degrees in their field; individual faculty excellence includes scholarly achievement, teaching and advising, the potential to create new knowledge, and a clear dedication to service. Notable past and current members of Emory's faculty include former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Hank Klibanoff, and former U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Jeffrey Koplan, and Frans de Waal, one of the most influential primatologists of our time.

Emory University maintains a consolidated operating budget of $7.6 billion, an endowment with a market value of $11.4 billion (as of FY 2025) and an economic impact on the state of Georgia of over $19 billion in 2023. The Emory campus in Atlanta is less than five miles from the Mid-Town district, the premier innovation center in the Southeast. Emory University is the largest private employer in the 20-county metro area, with over 45,000 direct employees including Emory Healthcare, the pre-immanent academic health system in Georgia. Forbes has identified Emory as a "Best Employer for Diversity" and a "Best Employer for Women." As a major economic engine, Emory's research has generated 57 Georgia-based startups that have created more than 1,000 jobs.

Emory is home to a vibrant and diverse community, actively committed to making the world a better place. This commitment is reflected in its strong academic standing, including a #21 ranking in Best Value Schools by U.S. News and World Report. Continuing a tradition of prestigious scholarship, Emory's undergraduate students have achieved remarkable success since 2020, earning the Rhodes Scholarship, the Truman Scholarship, and 17 Goldwater Scholarships, showcasing the exceptional achievements of the university community. This rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences fosters a dynamic learning environment where varied perspectives lead to innovative solutions. Students and faculty alike thrive in this inclusive atmosphere, contributing to a legacy of impactful scholarship and global engagement.
With [480 student clubs](#), sports teams, and performing arts groups, Emory is the place for students who want to be a part of it all. Thirteen percent of students are involved in fraternities or sororities on campus, and 80 percent of all students volunteer in the community. From joining student organizations to running for student office, Emory's intercultural student community is just as passionate about making a difference on campus as it is throughout the world. Emory prides itself on the mix of people, beliefs, values, and social circles that make up its campus communities, as well as the University's understanding that everyone offers more than one way to add to the campus diversity.

University Leadership

Justice Leah Ward Sears has been named interim president of Emory University, effective September 1, 2025. A member of the board of trustees since 2010, Sears has had a distinguished career in the Georgia judiciary. In 1982, she was appointed to the City Court of Atlanta and three years later became the first African American woman to serve as superior court judge in Georgia. In 1992, Sears was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court where she served for 17 years, including four years as chief justice. Sears has previously served as an adjunct professor at the Emory School of Law and as a visiting professor in family law at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Currently, Emory University is undergoing a search for the next provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Lanny Liebeskind is serving as Emory's interim provost. He is an accomplished scholar and experienced academic leader. As the senior vice provost for academic affairs, he has fostered strong connections across the university and is well-positioned to keep Emory's academic mission moving forward seamlessly.

EMORY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Emory College of Arts and Sciences (Emory College), founded in 1836, is Emory University's primary undergraduate division, with more than 5,700 students. Its intensive liberal arts curriculum is backed by the resources of one of the world's top research universities. It is one of the four schools at Emory University that offer undergraduate education (Oxford College, Goizueta Business School, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing are the other three).

As the academic core of Emory University, the College is driven by a shared passion for inquiry and discovery. A renowned 590-member faculty bring their path-breaking research and commitment to excellent teaching to the classroom every day. True to its name, Emory College of Arts and Sciences encompasses a full range of academic departments within the performing arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. With more than 50 departments and programs, 86 majors, and 63 minors, students explore widely and dive deeply into rigorous courses of study that emphasize critical thinking, the nature of evidence from multiple perspectives, and the ability to effectively reason and communicate. Emory College shares the Atlanta campus with Emory's undergraduate business and nursing programs, as well as the graduate and professional schools. Two-thirds of Emory College students live on campus, including 100% of first- and second-year students.

By every measure, Emory College continues to attract a highly competitive applicant pool, sustaining Emory University's trajectory as an academic community of choice for exceptional students. For the Class of 2025, Emory College had another record-setting year with more than 33,400 applicants, a growth of 18.5% over last year. Admissions at Emory are highly selective, with an incoming class of around 1,400 students, and ensures that incoming classes reflect the diverse and competitive applicant pool the university attracts.

As an integral part of its research and teaching mission, Emory College faculty also participate in doctoral and master's degree programs administered by the Laney Graduate School. Emory College's Strategic

Priorities push forward its liberal arts and sciences mission and commitment to academic excellence with a focus on faculty support and development, an exceptional student experience, and targeted research areas with high potential for broad impact. Further information on the strategic priorities and initiatives of Emory College can be found online.

College Leadership

Dean Barbara Krauthamer became dean of Emory College of Arts and Sciences in July 2023. She is widely recognized as a leading historian of African American slavery and emancipation in the United States. Dean Krauthammer is an eminent historian of slavery and emancipation in the 19th-century American South, a devoted mentor, and an innovative leader. Her published work includes *Black Slaves, Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South*. Prior to joining Emory University, she was a faculty member and administrator at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. There, she served as dean of the Graduate School from 2017 to 2020 and as dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts from 2020 to 2023. She received her B.A. from Dartmouth College, a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and her PhD from Princeton University.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AT EMORY

The Department of Computer Science

Viewing computer science as intrinsic to all domains of societal endeavor, the Department of Computer Science at Emory University provides educational programs that prepare students to make meaningful contributions to the world, combining critical reasoning skills with deep knowledge of theory and applications. The department's curriculum focuses on artificial intelligence, machine learning, data mining, human computer interaction, bioinformatics, theory, and systems, with real-life practical emphasis built on strong theoretical foundations. Faculty conduct innovative and impactful research in these areas and at intersections with other disciplines.

Serving about 400 undergraduate students, 45 masters students, and 115 doctoral students, the Department of Computer Science offers a number of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Academic programs in the department are cross-disciplinary, providing a relevant and experiential learning experience. Undergraduate programs include a computer science BS, computer science BA, mathematics and computer science BS, economics and computer science BA, and a computer science BS with an artificial intelligence concentration. Graduate programs include a computer science and MS, computer science PhD, computer science PhD with a biomedical informatics concentration.

The Department of Computer Science is home to 29 distinguished faculty recognized for groundbreaking research and impactful contributions across multiple domains. Faculty achievements include award-winning work in data mining, privacy-preserving machine learning, AI-powered healthcare innovations, and biomedical informatics, with honors such as Best Paper Awards at top international conferences and prestigious fellowships like the 2024 AAAS Fellowship. The department's commitment to excellence is

further demonstrated by significant NSF grants, influential publications, and leadership in advancing secure, trustworthy AI systems. It fosters an environment that supports continued innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and mentorship, building on a strong reputation for cutting-edge research and educational excellence.

To support the research and scholarship of computer science faculty and students, the department offers world-class infrastructure and computing facilities that are managed by talented technical staff. The department maintains ten GPU servers suited for AI and machine learning; high-efficiency compute clusters; a shared memory, multi-processor system; a computing lab; wired and wireless networking; and a number of servers and workstations designed to meet the needs of scholars across the department.

A Vision for Computing Excellence

Emory University is dedicated to strengthening and expanding their computer science programs and presence across the university. Emory views computing as the catalyst for societal progress and economic growth that dramatically changes how real-world problems are approached and solved. The College of Arts and Sciences is well positioned to enhance computer science education and research as a core component of a top research university, which has already been demonstrated through their successes with AI.Humanity, AI.Health, and their strong support for student entrepreneurial activity.

Emory's strategy has been to expand the computer science department, attracting top talent and remaining at the forefront of innovation; meet growing student demand for a computer science education that provides foundational knowledge, critical reasoning, creative problem-solving and application development, and advancing modern machine learning technologies; tap into substantial federal and corporate computing research funding, broadening Emory's portfolio of externally funded projects and conducting groundbreaking research; and launching high-demand masters' programs in computing to prepare professionals for high-impact careers with rapidly changing technology.

Emory's vision defines computer science at the university as an exciting and innovative major that prepares students to lead in an increasingly technological, changing, and competitive world. The computer science program emphasizes connectivity across all research areas at Emory, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and recruits faculty who bring deep expertise at the intersection of computing and other fields. Informed by Emory's strength in the liberal arts, the computer science program will provide a strong foundation in computing that is complemented by education in adjacent disciplines through a computer science + X, or CS+X model. Experiential learning is critical to the Emory experience and the future of an innovative computer science program at the university includes internships, engagement with industry experts, and entrepreneurial experiences.

Emory's investment in computer science expands to infrastructure and facilities. The renovation of the North Decatur Building will create a new home for the computer science department in a state-of-the-art facility whose transformation is underway to position Emory to meet the increasing demand for technological-driven education and research opportunities. With a goal to open in 2027, the new building

will include modernized classrooms, cutting-edge research labs, enhanced technology infrastructure to accommodate advanced computing needs, and a vibrant environment designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and provide dedicated administrative and faculty space.

THE ROLE OF THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Reporting to the Dean of Emory College, the Chair is responsible for strategic planning, operations, finances, academic affairs, and external relations for the Department of Computer Science and is a tenured professor in the department. The Chair leads faculty, both in recruitment and oversight of the promotion and tenure process, as well as requisite support staff and professionals essential to supporting the department's mission.

Opportunities and Challenges for the Chair of the Department of Computer Science

The next leader of the department will be charged with addressing the following opportunities and challenges:

Advance a forward-thinking vision and develop and execute a sustainable strategic plan

The incoming Chair will lead the department in defining and executing a strategic plan in alignment with Emory's vision for computing excellence. The Chair will champion Emory's forward-thinking vision for the future of computing as a societal foundation, both in the department and university wide. While implementing Emory's plans for computing expansion, the Chair will also identify additional opportunities to broaden Emory's portfolio, formalizing and advancing cross-disciplinary work of the department, and advocating for the continued support of the department's academic programs and research. As a leader and subject matter expert in computing, the Chair must understand and be aware of the current and future changes and influences across computing and align the department's strategic priorities accordingly. An ability to translate ideas into action that consider the department and college's strengths, resources, and areas for improvement will be both critical and essential. Equally important will be the Chair's abilities to assess the effectiveness of the department's expansion, ensuring there is alignment between programs, activities, and initiatives and the aspirations for computing at Emory. The Chair's ability to translate a thoughtful, strategic, and sustainable vision for the future into a successful operational action plan is vital to the department's growth and impact.

Recruit, develop, and retain excellent faculty and staff

The Department of Computer Science recruits faculty and staff in a very competitive space. While there is support from the university for additional faculty hires, this competition must be met with proactivity and tenacity. This is an opportunity for an aggressive, entrepreneurial, and strategic Chair to make many faculty hires as the department continues to build expertise in critical areas that support the growth of the college and the reputation of the university. The Chair must be attuned to the academic and industry landscape and work closely with faculty and university leadership to make competitive offers in areas of

need. They will advocate for the resources needed to recruit, mentor, and retain top quality people and cultivate a culture of collaboration, support, and belonging that makes the department an attractive destination.

Encourage academic excellence and support growth of academic programs

The Chair will be responsive to student needs by working with faculty to develop and revise curricula and teaching methods, especially experiential learning, balancing the applied with the theoretical, while preparing students to excel in a highly competitive and rapidly changing workforce. Part of Emory's vision for computing excellence includes expanding academic offerings in computer science. The Chair will identify opportunities to expand existing programs and develop new ones that consider Emory's existing strengths, resources, and needs while simultaneously ensuring that the infrastructure necessary for this growth is in place.

Support the advancement of research and expansion of academic program offerings

Opportunities for innovative research abound in the fields of computer science and artificial intelligence. The Chair will be charged with encouraging talented faculty and students to pursue cutting-edge work across a variety of fields, collaborating with industry, federal funding agencies, and government labs, and promoting innovative work that can lead to the generation of patents. The Chair will nurture a supportive environment of impactful discovery and scholarship, advocating for the time and resources needed for faculty to continue groundbreaking research that leads to impact and creating incentives for faculty at all career levels to pursue opportunities. The Chair will work with faculty to identify areas of opportunity aligned with the department's strengths and recruit faculty pursuing exciting new areas to join a group with an ambitious vision for the future.

Build organizational capacity

The aspirational vision for the department and for computing at Emory can only be realized with strong infrastructure and support. The Chair will be responsible for ushering in the opening of a new, top-of-the-line computing building and recruiting top tier faculty in the field. Ensuring that processes and policies are in place to support this growth will be imperative to the Chair's success. The Chair must develop administrative structures that are sustainable and sufficiently robust for the expansion of the department. The Chair will also work with the department to nurture an inclusive culture focused on shared ambitions and supported by the kind of enthusiasm and drive necessary to actualize Emory's vision for computing excellence.

Increase visibility of the department internally and externally

The Chair will play a pivotal role in elevating the profile of the Department of Computer Science within Emory University and beyond. This includes fostering strong relationships across campus to highlight the department's contributions to interdisciplinary research, teaching, and innovation, thereby integrating computer science more deeply into the broader academic community. Externally, the Chair will actively promote the department's achievements and strategic vision through engagement with industry partners, alumni, funding agencies, and public forums. By championing the department's successes and cultivating a compelling narrative around its role as a catalyst for societal progress and economic growth, the Chair will enhance visibility that attracts top faculty, students, collaborators, and resources essential to sustaining long-term excellence.

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Emory seeks a collaborative and dynamic individual to lead the Department of Computer Science. While no one person will embody all the following, the successful Chair candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications, skills, experiences, and personal qualities:

- An accomplished researcher and scholar with renowned academic stature; an exceptional record of scholarly achievement in computer science;
- An earned doctorate in computer science or a closely related field;
- A distinguished record in scholarship, sponsored research, teaching, and service consistent with the expectations of the rank of professor and tenure;
- A powerful and visionary advocate for computer science; experience in developing and pursuing a strategic vision;
- A creative and inspiring leader, able to think broadly and work collaboratively to identify new strategic intellectual and technical opportunities;
- Demonstrated competence in and dedication to recruitment, retention, and success of faculty, staff, and students;
- Significant and successful management experience including a demonstrated record in building units or activities of comparable scale and complexity;
- Commitment to high quality and innovative research and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level;
- Understanding of current and emerging issues in computing of importance to the state, nation, and world;
- Integrity and the highest standards of ethical behavior.

TO APPLY

Emory University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to:

Keight Tucker Kennedy, Managing Partner
Courtney Cabansag, Associate
Alexis Scott, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

Apply online: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/emory-university-college-arts-and-sciences/chair-department-computer-science

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Emory University provides equal opportunities to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran's status, or any factor that is a prohibited consideration under applicable law.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Emory University. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Emory University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.