

UC SANTA BARBARA

Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California

THE SEARCH

The University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) seeks an experienced and visionary leader for the position of Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (“the Gevirtz School” or “the School”). Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, the Dean will serve as the academic leader and chief executive of the Gevirtz School. The School aims to further its leadership in addressing pressing educational and social issues through interdisciplinary collaborations grounded in research, teaching, and community-engaged service in the areas of education and applied psychology. The Dean will have the unique opportunity to lead the School’s dedicated faculty, staff, and students to sustain its academic distinction and reputation while collaboratively envisioning its next chapter of impact and excellence.

UC Santa Barbara is a preeminent public research university and member of the American Association of Universities (AAU). Forbes Magazine ranked UC Santa Barbara as the #8 public university in the country in its 2024-2025 America’s Top Colleges list. Its 1,107 faculty members include eight Nobel Laureates, 56 American Academy of Arts and Sciences members, Guggenheim Fellows, MacArthur and Pulitzer Prize winners, and more than 30 members of the National Academy of Sciences. It is home to 12 national centers and institutes. The campus enrolls about 26,000 students and, with only five colleges and professional schools, offers the benefits of a premier research university with a focus on and appreciation for a high-quality learning experience. In 2015, UCSB was designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution, the first AAU institution to receive this designation, and is also an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. UCSB is also known for its natural beauty as the campus sits on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and is bordered by the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The Gevirtz School has a distinguished history of applied research, teaching, and community engagement. Today, the School enrolls approximately 230 graduate students and awards approximately 240 academic degrees (M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.) and professional credentials (PPS, ESC, MST, SST) each year. The School consists of the Department of Education, which includes the Teacher Education Program (TEP), and the Department of Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology (CCSP). The School maintains several research centers and clinics and provides three undergraduate minors: Applied Psychology, Educational Studies, and Science and Mathematics Education (with CalTeach).

With the arrival of a new Chancellor and other senior leaders, UCSB is entering a period of transformation. The next Dean of the Gevirtz School will play a vital role in shaping this moment, working in close partnership with faculty, students, and staff to guide the School with clarity and purpose. Building on the School's rich history, the Dean will be charged with identifying new avenues for innovation and growth while honoring the school's core values. This is a rare opportunity to lead a deeply engaged academic community through a time of change, and to position the Gevirtz School as a national model for research, teaching, and community impact. To achieve these goals, the Dean will address several key challenges and opportunities:

- Develop a strategic vision that leverages the School's unique strengths to ensure continued national and international prominence in research, scholarship, and societal impact
- Build a sustainable model for finance, revenue generation, research support, and graduate student support
- Advance academic programs, expand opportunities for undergraduate enrollment and degree programs, support faculty growth, and foster academic community
- Cultivate an organizational culture of transparency, cohesion, and collaboration
- Sustain and deepen community engagement and external partnerships
- Advocate for the School within and beyond UCSB, elevating its visibility and reputation

A list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the Dean can be found at the conclusion of this document. Background and key details related to the position are also included below.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

UC Santa Barbara was established in 1944 as the Santa Barbara College of the University of California. It is the third-oldest campus in the University of California System, after Berkeley and UCLA. In the ensuing decades, UCSB has expanded to become a premier research university and is one of only 71 research-intensive institutions in the U.S. and Canada elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities. UCSB offers more than 200 majors, degrees, and credentials in three colleges and two professional schools: the [College of Letters & Science](#), the [College of Engineering](#), the [College of Creative Studies](#), the [Bren School of Environmental Science and Management](#), and the [Gevirtz Graduate School of Education](#).

In 2024-25, UCSB enrolled approximately 23,000 undergraduate students and approximately 2,950 graduate students, with the majority of the undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Letters & Science. UCSB students are highly academically competitive. For the 2024-25 academic year, first year freshmen had an average high-school GPA of 4.3. Over 83 percent of undergraduate and 35 percent of graduate students were living in California when they were admitted to UCSB and 31 percent are first generation college students. 70 percent of undergraduate students are first time freshmen and 30 percent are transfer students. UCSB is a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, and also has a large international student population, with 9 percent

of undergraduate students and 41 percent of graduate students coming from different countries or regions.

Research is fundamental to UC Santa Barbara's mission, with extramural funding totaling \$247.7 million for the fiscal year 2024-25, of which \$137.7 million came from direct federal, \$40.4 million from indirect federal, \$25.4 million from non-profit, and \$9.1 million from industry. In addition, UCSB research has resulted in more than 90 startup companies. The UCSB Office of Research helps catalyze the rich culture of research, innovation, and collaboration, providing support for strategic research initiatives, assisting faculty with submitting competitive proposals, providing support for research integrity, and overseeing some research centers and units, including seven natural reserves throughout the state. The campus is home to twelve national institutes and centers and more than 100 other research institutes and centers, where scholars from across disciplines work together to expand the frontiers of knowledge and contribute to society.

UCSB is distinguished for its strong emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-disciplinary teaching and research, which are a hallmark of the campus. This collaboration is visible across academic programs and marks a key strength for UCSB, as it enables faculty and students to bring multiple perspectives and approaches to developing solutions to broad, globally significant issues.

UCSB operates as one of ten campuses in the UC System, the world's preeminent public university network. In addition to the Santa Barbara campus, the UC System comprises campuses in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. To learn more about UCSB, please visit <http://www.ucsb.edu>.

LEADERSHIP

Dennis Assanis is the sixth Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Barbara, assuming this office on September 1, 2025. He previously served as the President of the University of Delaware from 2016 to 2025. Chancellor Assanis, an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, is a distinguished educator with a wide range of academic leadership experience and a worldwide reputation as a scholar and expert in clean energy and power systems. Before joining the University of Delaware, Dr. Assanis served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Stony Brook University and as vice president for Brookhaven National Laboratory Affairs. He previously taught and conducted research at the University of Michigan and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

David Marshall, Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature, has served as Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at UC Santa Barbara since 2014. He served as Interim Chancellor from July 15, 2025, to August 31, 2025. EVC Marshall served for sixteen years as Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts and was the first Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. From 2005 to 2012, he also was Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science. Dr. Marshall previously was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Yale University, where he taught from 1979 to 1997.

ABOUT THE GEVIRTZ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education has its roots in professional work. Santa Barbara State Normal School of Manual Arts and Home Economics was officially established in 1909 as a successor to institutions that traced their roots to the early 1890s. The school added a program to prepare elementary school teachers in 1917 and conferred its first Bachelor of Arts degree in 1927. The School of Education was founded as a separate unit within UCSB in 1961, and became a graduate school in 1967.

In 2000 Ambassador Don L. Gevirtz and Mrs. Marilyn E. Gevirtz, longtime UC Santa Barbara supporters, made a \$10 million commitment to support the excellence and visibility of the Graduate School of Education. To honor their generosity in this and previous gifts, and their dedication to promoting research and developing programs in education, the campus designated the School as the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. The Gevirtz School celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Santa Barbara State Normal School in 2008-2009, and moved into a new, state-of-the-art, LEED-certified building in 2009.

Today, the Gevirtz School is home to 41 Academic Senate faculty, 27 non-senate faculty, 29 permanent and temporary staff, approximately 230 graduate students, and 900 undergraduate minors. Its mission is to conduct scholarly inquiry into education and applied psychology, especially in response to the opportunities and challenges posed by individual, economic, linguistic, and cultural differences in a multicultural society; to educate scholar researchers and scholar practitioners to address educational opportunities and challenges for all students; and to develop and maintain exemplary programs that serve as models for teaching, research, and community-engaged service. This mission is reflected in the School's academic programs, the research and professional orientations of its faculty, and its longstanding external partnerships. As one of UC Santa Barbara's two professional schools, and home to a wide array of centers, clinics, and community-based initiatives, the Gevirtz School serves as one of the campus's most publicly engaged academic units.

The Gevirtz School's faculty has broad disciplinary training and professional interests that include psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, and statistics, among other disciplines. Faculty hold leadership positions in professional organizations including the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and International School Psychology Association. Many faculty members have won awards for research excellence and are principal investigators on research projects funded from federal, state, regional, and private sources. Gevirtz School faculty have also been active in the UCSB and University of California Academic Senate, chairing major campus committees, as well as statewide and systemwide programs.

The School offers masters and doctoral degrees from its Department of Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology (M.Ed., Ph.D.), Department of Education (M.A., Ph.D.), and Teacher Education Program (M.Ed.). The Teacher Education Program offers four credentials: multiple subject, mild to moderate support needs, extensive support needs, and single subject credentials in English, history/social science, math, science, and world language: Spanish, with a bilingual authorization available. Gevirtz School

graduate students hold research and teaching roles across the UCSB campus along with placements in a wide range of schools and organizations across Santa Barbara County. The School also offers undergraduate minors in education, applied psychology, and science and mathematics education. For more information on the departments and programs, see <https://education.ucsb.edu/academic-programs/overview>.

The School is known for its scholar-practitioner training model, and is home to numerous clinical services, research centers, and programs, including the California Teacher Education Research and Improvement Network, Center for Evaluation and Assessment, Hosford Counseling and Psychological Services Clinic, Koegel Autism Center, McEnroe Reading and Language Arts Clinic, South Coast Writing Project, State Office for the California Writing Project, and UCSB Mathematics Project. These generate cutting-edge research, offer evidence-based community service and professional development, and provide unique teaching and learning experiences for graduate students. For more information on the Gevirtz School's clinics and centers, see <https://education.ucsb.edu/index.php/clinics-centers>.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, the Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education is responsible for all academic and operational areas across the School, including staff and faculty management, development of curricula, advancement of research, budget, and other functions. The Dean serves as the chief advocate for the School on and off campus and is responsible for leading fundraising efforts in partnership with Development staff. The Dean will be a close collaborator with the Divisional Deans in the College of Letters & Science, the Deans of the College of Engineering, the College of Creative Studies, and the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Affairs.

The Dean will direct an administrative team of fifteen, including three associate deans, one assistant dean, one outreach director, one development director, two department chairs, one program director, and six clinic and center directors. The total annual School budget is approximately \$22.5 million.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

The Gevirtz School is entering a pivotal chapter in its history. The School is widely recognized for its achievements and in recent years has explored opportunities for continued growth, including community partnerships, professional programs, and new undergraduate degree programs, building on the success of its popular minors. At the same time, like its peers nationally, the School is navigating significant and complex shifts in research funding, graduate education, and the broader landscape for education policy and research. This is a critical moment for the next Dean to build on the School's existing strengths, collaborate with various internal and external stakeholders, and develop a sustainable vision. To be successful, the Dean will bring steady leadership, an entrepreneurial approach, and a deep commitment to the School's mission while pursuing the following opportunities and challenges.

Develop a strategic vision that leverages the School's unique strengths to ensure continued national and international prominence in research, scholarship, and societal impact

Building on the School's most recent strategic plan, the Dean will oversee a strategic vision process that both honors the Gevirtz School's history and positions the School for stability and success in a rapidly evolving educational landscape. This effort will engage faculty, staff, students, and campus partners to affirm the School's core strengths—particularly its scholar-practitioner model and history of community engagement—and chart a bold, cohesive direction for the future. Drawing on the distinct contributions of the School's departments, programs, centers, and clinics, the Dean will articulate a strategy that advances excellence in research, teaching, and community-engaged service while remaining responsive to external shifts in policy, funding, technological advancements, and public need. In close collaboration with UCSB's deans, other academic leaders, and the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Dean will ensure that the School's strategic priorities are aligned with campus-wide goals and that the School is positioned as both a vital contributor to UCSB's academic mission and a national leader in education.

Build a sustainable model for finance, revenue generation, research support, and graduate student support

The Gevirtz School has a broad portfolio of revenue sources, including campus allocations, extramural research funding, academic programs, and clinical services. The Dean will strengthen internal financial planning and increase transparency to ensure that resource use is aligned with the School's priorities. There is significant opportunity to explore revenue generation through academic programs within the School and with other schools and colleges, clinical services, external partnerships, and grants from private and public funders. The Dean must also navigate UCSB's evolving budget structures with clarity and foresight, bringing an entrepreneurial approach to meeting the School's needs and partnering with campus leadership to maximize shared resources.

Fundraising is key to the School's continued success and the Dean will work closely with the University Foundation and Development staff to craft compelling and cohesive narratives, inspire new and existing donors, and increase financial support. They will cultivate corporate and individual support and will seek new sources of revenue. The Dean will build and sustain a resilient financial foundation to fuel innovation and ensure enduring institutional health.

Advance academic programs, expand opportunities for undergraduate enrollment and degree programs, support faculty growth, and foster academic community

The Dean will play a critical role in advancing the Gevirtz School's academic programs, ensuring they remain at the forefront of research and practice and aligned with students' evolving needs. This includes supporting the development of new degree and certificate programs, refining graduate offerings to enhance student experience and outcomes, developing new opportunities for undergraduate enrollment, responding to a rapidly changing external environment fueled by advances in technology and artificial intelligence, and fostering curricular innovation across departments and with other schools and colleges.

In collaboration with other campus leaders, the Dean must work proactively to secure long-term financial support, expand teaching opportunities, and clarify academic pathways for both master's and doctoral students. The Dean will strengthen and broaden the School's contributions to undergraduate education across the campus, and will support and guide ongoing efforts to establish new undergraduate degree programs. The Dean will also identify and promote opportunities that build on the School's interdisciplinary strengths, serve the needs of its local partners, and reflect the national landscape for education and applied psychology.

Gevirtz School faculty are dedicated and distinguished across research, teaching, and service, and the Dean will work to identify opportunities and provide support to enhance faculty outcomes at all levels, including Academic Senate faculty, lecturers, and teacher supervisors. In particular, they will foster a culture of mentorship and professional development and will drive collaborative solutions to challenges around faculty recruitment and retention including cost of living. In doing so, they will maintain and enhance faculty excellence and deepen their impact.

Cultivate an organizational culture of transparency, cohesion, and collaboration

The Gevirtz School is a vibrant, purpose-driven academic community, and the next Dean will be charged with sustaining a strong, inclusive culture. The Dean must be highly visible and have an engaged presence, building authentic relationships through consistent, meaningful interaction. The Dean will also play a key role in initiatives that strengthen community across departments and roles. Supporting staff retention and professional growth will be essential to sustaining a high-functioning work environment where all are equipped to contribute meaningfully and thrive in their roles. By encouraging connection across departments and roles, and modeling transparency and shared leadership, the Dean will help maintain a culture of trust, motivation, and collective purpose.

Sustain and deepen community engagement and external partnerships

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education plays a vital role in preparing educators, mental health professionals, and researchers who serve California's diverse communities. The School is also an essential contributor to local and statewide education policy, with a long-standing commitment to social justice. Its work is sustained by deep, reciprocal partnerships with school districts, nonprofits, foundations, and other community organizations. The next Dean will be expected to assess and strengthen these relationships, identifying opportunities to elevate existing collaborations, respond to fundamental shifts impacting partner organizations, and expand the School's community impact. As a comprehensive teacher certification program within an R1 institution, the School is well-positioned to collaborate with education programs in the California State University system, creating pathways for joint initiatives and expanded access to teacher training. There is also significant opportunity to deepen engagement in underrepresented areas of Santa Barbara County and surrounding regions. Through strategic engagement and thoughtful stewardship, the Dean will ensure that the School continues to be recognized as a trusted and indispensable partner in advancing educational opportunity.

Advocate for the School within and beyond UCSB, elevating its visibility and reputation.

One of UC Santa Barbara's greatest strengths is its culture of collaboration across academic and administrative units. The next Dean will ensure the Gevirtz School is fully integrated into this collaborative environment, forging strong relationships across campus and building pathways for the School's expertise to inform teaching and learning efforts across the institution. The Dean will galvanize support for academic partnerships, foster alignment around campus-wide goals, and contribute to the development of policies and practices that facilitate collaboration. There is an opportunity to position the School as a leading voice in university-wide efforts to engage with, study, and address challenges in higher education and education more broadly. The Dean will also celebrate the School's achievements and represent the School regionally, nationally, and globally, participating in professional associations, cultivating donor relationships, and bringing more visibility to Gevirtz School faculty, students, and alumni. Through these efforts, the Dean will position the School as a dynamic and outward-facing institution shaping the future of education at UCSB and beyond.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

UCSB seeks an inspiring leader with an outstanding record of scholarship and strong management and leadership skills. In addition, they will possess a doctoral degree in education, applied psychology, or a related field and a record of academic excellence that would qualify them for an appointment as a tenured full professor in a Gevirtz School department.

The successful candidate will have many, if not all, of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A distinguished teacher, scholar, and academic leader in education, applied psychology, or a related field who brings a passion for academics, research, teaching, and community-engaged service;
- Significant administrative experience with a track record of success in a complex institution;
- Intellectual leadership, with the wide-ranging interests required to understand, appreciate, and encourage the varied work within the School;
- An astute understanding of finances and the relationship between academic priorities and the budget and the ability to make thoughtful decisions around financial resources;
- An extensive track record in building sponsored research and supporting scholarly work, with deep knowledge of the internal and external mechanisms required to sustain and expand a top-tier research program;
- A demonstrated commitment to student success and the University of California's mission as a public university of promoting accessibility, excellence, and community;
- A demonstrated capacity for and interest in fundraising and generating new sources of revenue, including the ability to carry an inspiring message, cultivate key external constituencies, attract partners, raise funds, generate enthusiasm among alumni, and obtain commitments to support the School;

- Outstanding communication and listening skills with the ability to articulate a vision, inspire others, attract partners, and generate enthusiasm;
- Strong interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence with the ability to connect with the members of the UCSB community and to work effectively across the campus and with external groups;
- A collaborative approach to leadership and a passion for advancing a unit in alignment with advancing the overall institution.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The budgeted annual salary range that the University reasonably expects to pay for this position is \$250,000 – \$400,000; the official annual salary range for this position is \$199,700 - \$509,900. Salary offers are determined based on final candidate qualifications and experience.

Located 100 miles up the coast from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara is famous for its natural beauty, intellectual vitality, and thriving cultural scene. The city and its surrounding area provide boundless opportunities for outdoor activities including cycling, hiking, surfing, kayaking, swimming, and running. The Santa Barbara metropolitan area attracts visitors from around the world for its cultural reputation. With its expansive beaches, breathtaking vistas, and world-class hotels, restaurants, and wineries, Santa Barbara is consistently ranked among the best places to live in California and nationally. To learn more about Santa Barbara and the surrounding region, please see www.santabarbara.com.

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/university-california-santa-barbara-gevirtz-graduate-school-education/dean>

Julie Filizetti, Aku Ammah-Tagoe, Gabrielle Nayar
Isaacson, Miller

As a condition of employment, the finalist will be required to disclose if they are subject to any final administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct, are currently being investigated for misconduct, left a position during an investigation for alleged misconduct, or have filed an appeal with a previous employer.

- *“Misconduct” means any violation of the policies or laws governing conduct at the applicant’s previous place of employment, including, but not limited to, violations of policies or laws prohibiting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of harassment or discrimination, dishonesty or unethical conduct, as defined by the employer.*

- [UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [UC Anti-Discrimination Policy for Employees, students and third parties](#)
- [APM - 035: Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment](#)

Additionally, you will be required to comply with the [University of California Policy on Vaccination Programs](#), as may be amended or revised from time to time. Federal, state, or local public health directives may impose additional requirements.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected status under state or federal law.

UC Santa Barbara is unable to sponsor employment visas of any kind for this position.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of California, Santa Barbara. 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 UC Santa Barbara would supersede any conflicting information in this document.