



**University  
of Dayton**

President  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio

The University of Dayton (UD), one of the nation's leading Catholic higher education institutions, seeks a president who can inspire its educational community, build on a strong foundation rooted in the Catholic faith and Marianist tradition, and lead the institution into its next chapter of even greater impact.

The University of Dayton enrolls around 9,700 students, including around 7,000 undergraduates, and is one of the nation's largest Catholic universities. UD is the second largest private university in Ohio and is classified as a Carnegie R1 institution comprising six academic units: the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Health Sciences, Engineering, Law, and University Libraries. In fiscal year 2025, sponsored research revenue was \$278.1 million, led by the nationally recognized [University of Dayton Research Institute \(UDRI\)](#). UD employs 528 full-time faculty and 268 part-time faculty who teach and engage in groundbreaking research, scholarship, and creative works at the University as well as 2,181 staff members who support students and the mission.

As a Catholic and Marianist university, UD is deeply committed to advancing a [common mission](#), building consensus, and fulfilling its founding vision of educating the whole person through the integration of learning and scholarship with leadership and service. The institution's hallmark is learning that spans the boundaries of the liberal arts and the professions, integrates theory and practice, and reaches out to the greater community to strengthen public and civic life. UD's culture is defined by a strong commitment to collegiality, a welcoming and inclusive community, and a dedication to social justice, access, and excellence.

The incoming president will be joining UD at a pivotal moment. Under President Eric F. Spina's leadership, UD has experienced substantial growth in research expenditures, philanthropic support, enrollment of Pell-eligible students, and the multi-dimensional diversity of the student body. The University has strengthened its commitment to holistic student success, including its graduation rate (in excess of 80%), student wellbeing, student satisfaction, and career readiness. Nearly all – 97% of 2024 graduates – reported being employed, pursuing a graduate degree, or participating in a service program within six months of graduation. The University is increasingly visible nationally for its research profile, its extraordinary experiential learning opportunities, its role as a creative anchor institution that positively

impacts its city, and as a place that works hard to enhance access and opportunity – as seen most notably by UD’s leadership in the American Talent Initiative, an alliance of more than 120 high-graduation rate universities.

The next president will be tasked with building upon the strong foundation constructed by their predecessors during a period of dynamism and challenging realities facing higher education. Areas of focus will include: championing a comprehensive student journey centered on high-impact experiential learning, expanding UD’s reputation as a Catholic, Marianist research university, and fostering a trusting, collegial, and inclusive community. Equally important will be ensuring UD’s financial sustainability and growth while sustaining the University’s mission during a period of increased focus, strategic investment in areas of high return on investment, and rightsizing. In doing so, the University of Dayton’s next president will address the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in greater detail on page seven of this document:

- Raise the visibility of the University of Dayton as one of the most impactful institutions in Catholic higher education, celebrating Catholic, Marianist education and its importance to students and the broader community;
- Ensure the continued financial stability of the University;
- Sustain and expand UD’s commitment to access and opportunity by fostering a community that is richly diverse in its many dimensions and deeply inclusive in practice;
- Advance a bold philanthropic vision and position the University for its next comprehensive campaign;
- Execute and advance an inspiring vision that will further extend the University of Dayton’s reach, reputation, and impact as a global leader in Catholic education;
- Continue the tradition of visible and engaged leadership and a welcoming, open, and transparent culture;
- Coalesce, manage, and inspire a high-functioning leadership team;
- Cultivate and deepen the University of Dayton’s connections with the City of Dayton in a way that both creates real opportunities for students and supports the development of the region;
- Work closely and effectively with the Board of Trustees to achieve the aspirations of the University of Dayton.

A full list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the president can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by the search committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed in confidence to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

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## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

### Founding and History

The University of Dayton's history is one of perseverance, tenacity, ingenuity, and transformation. The school began with an act of faith 176 years ago. In the summer of 1849, Father Leo Meyer and Brother Charles Schultz, the first Marianist missionaries to the United States, journeyed from France to Cincinnati to establish a base in the U.S. They arrived, however, during a cholera epidemic, so Bishop John Purcell of Cincinnati soon sent Meyer to Dayton to the sick of Emmanuel parish. With a medal of St. Joseph and a promise of \$12,000, Meyer purchased the 125-acre Dewberry Farm from John Stuart, who wanted to sell his Dayton property and return to Europe.

On July 1, 1850, St. Mary's School for Boys opened its doors to 14 primary students from Dayton. Known at times as St. Mary's School, St. Mary's Institute and St. Mary's College, the school assumed its present identity in 1920. In 1935, women were admitted as full-time students, 40 years ahead of many other Catholic universities. The school's mission evolved as it grew into being a fully accredited, comprehensive university.

From its humble roots as a private boarding school for boys, the University of Dayton today ranks among the best Catholic universities in the country, drawing students from around the country and world. Throughout its history, the University has been committed, in the Marianist tradition, to educate for service, justice and peace and to readily adapt and change with the times. The University builds communities of faith and educates in a family spirit and, above all, provides a holistic, high-quality education on a campus known for its hospitality and inclusiveness. With more than 132,000 alumni worldwide, Flyers continue to learn, lead, and serve around the globe and passionately strive to create a brighter tomorrow.

### Leadership and Strategic Vision

Eric F. Spina, Ph.D., the 19<sup>th</sup> president of the University of Dayton, took office in July 2016. He earned doctoral and master's degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University. When he joined UD, President Spina led a far-reaching, campus-wide visioning process that inspires and guides the University's planning and strategic investments. Under his leadership, the University has established new benchmarks, attracting the most diverse and academically gifted undergraduate classes in UD's history, and recording new highs in philanthropic commitments and sponsored research. This progress positions the University to carry that momentum forward as a point of pride into its next presidency.

From the student body up through the faculty, administrative leadership and Board of Trustees, the University of Dayton has become a more diverse campus as measured across a range of racial, social, cultural, and economic indicators. UD's undergraduate student body has established new records for both

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academic quality and representation of students from historically underrepresented and lower-income backgrounds.

### **Characteristics of a Marianist education: Educating for mind, body, and spirit**

As a [Catholic, Marianist university](#), UD strives to:

**Educate for formation in faith:** Marianist universities are committed to the development of the whole person, which includes the dimension of religious faith and its personal appropriation and practice.

**Provide an integral, quality education:** The foundations of excellence in education flow from an emphasis on the dialogue between faith and reason in the service of the common good. Each member of the community is called to attentive presence, to participation in genuine community, and to competent and loving service.

**Educate in family spirit:** The Marianist educational experience fosters the development of a community characterized by a sense of family spirit that accepts each person and invites them to build community within and beyond the campus.

**Educate for service, justice, peace, and integrity of creation:** The Marianist approach to higher education is deeply committed to the common good. The intellectual life itself is undertaken as a form of service in the interest of justice and peace, and the University curriculum is designed to engage the classroom with the wider world. Marianist universities extend a special concern for those who are poor and marginalized, and promote the dignity, rights, and responsibilities of all peoples.

**Educate for adaptation and change:** In the midst of rapid social and technological transformation, Marianist universities adapt and change their methods and structures so that the wisdom of their educational philosophy and spirituality may be transmitted more fully.

### **Academics and Research**

The University of Dayton currently comprises six academic units: the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Health Sciences, Engineering, Law, and University Libraries. More than 80 academic programs are available at the undergraduate level, with 50 graduate and doctoral degree programs, and numerous licensure and certificate programs offered at the graduate level in a range of liberal arts and sciences disciplines. Additionally, graduate degree programs are offered within the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Health Sciences, Engineering, and Law. Thirteen University of Dayton schools and programs are listed among the [2026 U.S. News Best Graduate Schools Rankings](#).

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At UD, research is about more than innovation for the sake of discovery. It's about developing solutions to help others. It provides faculty, students, and staff tremendous opportunities for research and experiential learning. With many [centers and institutes](#), including the nationally recognized [University of Dayton Research Institute \(UDRI\)](#), UD is a center for discovery, development, and technology commercialization. The University of Dayton performs more sponsored engineering research and development than any other Catholic university and conducts more sponsored research and development in materials engineering than any college or university nationally. Among private, four-year U.S. universities without medical schools, UD ranks eighth in all categories.

UD boasts student [graduation rates](#) well above national averages, and 97% of graduates from August and December 2024 and May 2025 reported being employed, pursuing a graduate degree, or participating in a service program within six months of graduation. The University also recently unveiled a new [holistic advising model](#) and provides every student at least one high-impact [experiential learning](#) opportunity before they graduate. Students also have a dedicated "flight crew" that helps connect them to resources and opportunities on campus, and helps create mentorship opportunities that enable them to become the best version of themselves.

### **Student and Campus Life**

The University of Dayton's Catholic and Marianist mission calls our students to develop character and integrity as leaders committed to building community in our world. The University's [commitment to community](#) highlights three Catholic and Marianist principles for learning and living in community and the seven key habits derived from them.

The University of Dayton is a highly residential campus community. Nearly 90 percent of first-year students and around 70 percent of the overall student body live in university-owned housing – and nearly 80 percent live on campus all four years. Choices include residence halls, apartments, and single-family houses in the distinctive neighborhoods adjoining campus. The residential experience at UD, and specifically the opportunity to live in a neighborhood populated entirely by students in university-owned houses, is unique and a major driver of the relational nature of the University of Dayton.

Consistent with the fundamental Marianist principle of “developing the whole person,” UD seeks to foster a student experience outside the classroom that includes opportunities for leadership, engagement, and personal growth. The University intentionally integrates learning and living throughout its academic programming and extracurricular opportunities, and the recent organizational alignment of the vice president for student development and chief student experience officer with the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs has created opportunities for even tighter integration.

UD complements experiential living and learning with a broad range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities, including more than 240 student clubs and organizations. UD also has a very vibrant intramural and inter-collegiate athletic community. The University has 17 varsity sports competing at the NCAA

Division I level in the Atlantic 10 Conference, with many NCAA tournament appearances this century by the men's basketball, women's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's volleyball, and baseball teams. The University of Dayton also is home to the University of Dayton Arena, which has hosted more games of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship than any other venue. The University also has 28 club sports, ranging from lacrosse to ultimate frisbee to triathlon, which provide experiential learning opportunities through teamwork, fundraising, public relations, organization, administration, budgeting, and scheduling.

Above all, the inclusive nature of the UD community is a key differentiator to the retention and success of its students both in and out of the classroom. The institution works to embrace all of its students, faculty, and staff who embody an array of religious, ethnic, and cultural differences. [The Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) provides strategic vision and planning for inclusive excellence initiatives. [The UD Multi-Ethnic Education and Engagement Center](#) works to advance and sustain an inclusive environment and sponsors lectures and artistic events to celebrate the University's diverse community. [UD's Brook Center](#) encourages and empowers UD community members to grow and deepen their relationships as part of their holistic wellbeing, and the wellbeing of their communities. [Campus Ministry](#), among the largest in the country, is also integral in nurturing the faith and spiritual life of the UD community.

A new student [Health and Wellbeing Center](#) scheduled to open in fall 2026, will include new spaces for the UD student health and counseling centers, along with enhancements and expansions to the RecPlex, making it a one-stop shop for all facets of student health. The new center will increase health center appointment capacity by 80% and counseling center clinical hours by 46%. Staffing and programming will support overall health and wellness, and incoming undergraduate students will be charged a per semester fee to access the facility rather than to pay out-of-pocket for services they pay for today; including common point-of-care tests, flu shots, intramurals, fitness classes and more.

UD is [named one of 75 "new" dream schools](#) in Jeffrey Selingo's most recent book *Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You*. The University is among the top 25 on the following lists: the Princeton Review's *The Best 391 Colleges: 2026 Edition*: "Best College Library," "Best-Run Colleges," "Best Campus Food," "Best College Dorms," "Students Love Their School Teams," "Best Midwestern," "Best Value College," "Colleges That Create Futures," "Green Colleges" and "Top Entrepreneurship."

### **Campus and UD as an Anchor Institution for Dayton**

The University is on a beautiful 388-acre campus comprising over 40 academic, recreational, athletic, and administrative facilities. UD has invested considerably in its physical plant in the last two decades, including the construction and major renovations to several campus buildings, including the modernization of Roesch Library, making it an exemplar for digital and collaborative learning, the renovation of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, and the construction of a new arts center, a community engagement building, and the aforementioned health and wellbeing building. UD has launched the development of a new campus master plan to maintain UD as a premier place to learn, live

and discover. By evaluating facilities and looking to the future, campus spaces can be further aligned with UD's academic mission, Catholic and Marianist identity, sustainability goals, and student-centered values.

UD's sense of mission extends beyond campus to the city of Dayton and President Spina has solidified UD's role as an anchor institution, with investments and emphases that benefit UD students and the region. Dayton is noted for its long history of innovation and invention and is a center of technological development and the metropolitan area is a vibrant, diverse community boasting a renewed downtown, historic neighborhoods, and a highly favorable cost of living. It is also home to nationally recognized arts and bountiful and well-maintained parks and rivers.

UD continues to invest in signature community partnerships and initiatives designed to connect theory with practice while serving the local region. These collaborations, which create learning opportunities beyond the classroom, include: [The Hub Powered by PNC Bank](#), the [Greater West Dayton Incubator](#), and a partnership with Premier Health that has become [onMain](#), a state of Ohio Innovation Hub with extraordinary promise for the future. The University also completed the construction of a new academic and office facility to house The Dayton Foundation, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the University's [Fitz Center for Leadership in Community](#). In 2025, [UD and IBM announced an agreement](#) for the joint research and development of next-generation semiconductor technologies and materials. The collaboration aims to advance critical technologies for the age of AI including AI hardware, advanced packaging, and photonics.

Central to these efforts is UD's partnership with Premier Health to develop [onMain](#), a 38-acre district adjacent to campus that aims to foster imagination and innovation. The Think Dayton building, a five-story, 120,000-square-foot facility, will open during the first half of 2027 and serve as the cornerstone for onMain, attracting new investment and jobs in research and technology as well as a hub where academia, government and private industry will work together. The project represents a total investment of more than \$70 million, including a foundational \$35 million from the state of Ohio's Innovation Hub Program.

The Hub Powered by PNC Bank is a joint venture between The Entrepreneurs' Center and the University of Dayton to drive new venture creation and social innovation. Housed at the Dayton Arcade — a historic landmark built in 1906 in the heart of downtown Dayton, The Hub is one of the largest university-anchored innovation spaces in the country. It provides 95,000 square feet of co-working and private office spaces, meeting rooms, conference areas, pop-up retail opportunities, and classrooms. As the centralized location for the region's entrepreneurs and innovators, The Hub provides UD students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to engage and support local small businesses, startups, and social ventures at the most experiential level.

The Greater West Dayton Incubator (GWDI) is a joint venture between UD's L. William Crotty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and The Entrepreneurs' Center and serves as a pathway for neighborhood entrepreneurs and innovators to access the region's startup ecosystem. It offers microlending services, networking opportunities, training and education, consulting services, and additional resources to

startups and underrepresented firms. The initiative also provides UD students with hands-on learning opportunities in developing new businesses and social ventures. By engaging local partners, students leverage their knowledge and skills to serve "Main Street" businesses and social ventures ignored in many startup communities.

The University also has pioneering partnerships with other visionary companies. GE Aviation and Copeland built research facilities on campus, so our students and faculty work side-by-side with professionals to create solutions to real-world problems. More information on the Dayton region can be found [here](#).

### **Access and Affordability**

The University is passionate about ensuring a UD education is affordable and accessible. More than 93% of students receive financial assistance, and *U.S. News & World Report* named UD a "best value" school. A [new report from the American Talent Initiative](#) shows top universities — including the University of Dayton — are enrolling more students from lower-income families. Ten years ago, about 800 Pell students called UD home. In the latest report, that number has grown to nearly 1,500 — students whose skills and experiences enrich the University. Because of this commitment, ATI has named Dayton a national "[High Flier](#)."

The University has several flagship programs that support access and make clear its broad-based values. The [Flyer Promise](#) program removes financial barriers while offering mentoring and leadership support, the [UD Sinclair Academy](#) allows students to start their journey at community college while still accessing UD advisors and campus life, the [UD Sinclair Professional and Applied Learning Fellows](#) offers one-on-one professional development support for students, workforce-readiness workshops and direct experiential learning opportunities, including job shadows and internships, and the [Kessler Scholars](#) program creates specialized support for first-generation students.

### **Finances**

The University of Dayton is on stable financial ground, a fact that was affirmed by a 2025 reaffirmation of its stable bond ratings with an A2 from Moody's Investors Service and an A+ from Standard and Poor's. Moody's cited UD's "reputation as a leading Catholic research university with strong fiscal oversight and a trend of healthy operating performance" as key factors for re-affirming its rating.

UD has a diverse revenue base of nearly \$700 million and, through innovative and bold approaches, has worked to successfully address its long-term financial health, continue to run positive overall operating margins, and manage challenges such as rising costs, a dynamic federal funding landscape, and the [rightsizing of the institution](#). The University and Board of Trustees remain confident in their ability to navigate the changing higher education landscape and are committed to its mission of providing a transformative education rooted in its Catholic and Marianist values.

## Advancement

The University of Dayton has built a robust central advancement office to support fundraising across campus. The University of Dayton formally completed its "[We Soar](#)" comprehensive campaign June 30, 2025, exceeding its \$400 million goal by \$53 million. The campaign stands as the largest fundraising effort in UD history, and, on average, the annual level of new commitments across the campaign doubled from around \$26 million to more than \$50 million. In all, "We Soar" helped establish 300 scholarships, as well as nearly 40 new funds intended to support the innovative, high-impact UD's Flyer Promise program, plus hands-on learning experiences, study-abroad opportunities, and professional mentoring and development opportunities. The financial goal was not the only record-setting achievement of this effort. UD's Flyer Faithful also engaged in unprecedented numbers to support the University as new volunteer leaders and new members of the [Front Porch Society](#).

Annual giving has also increased dramatically in recent years to address some of the University of Dayton's key priorities. More information about University Advancement and some of UD's key priorities can be found [here](#).

## Governance Structures

The [2025-2026 Board of Trustees](#) consists of 35 members. Much of the work of the Board is accomplished through its standing committees, which serve in an advisory capacity. Committees are chaired by trustees; a senior officer of the University serves as the administrative liaison. Members of the Board are appointed to serve on these committees, which may also have affiliate (non-voting) members. The membership and role of the Board have undergone significant change in recent years, and the quality and commitment of the trustees is a tremendous asset to the University and its senior leadership. President Spina worked diligently with the Board's Committee on Trustees, several Board chairs, and the Board secretary to adopt best practices, diversify the Board across multiple dimensions, make the meetings more meaningful and useful, and enhance the level of commitment of the trustees to the University.

[UD's academic senate](#) has 41 members. All have voting privileges, including 22 tenured or tenure-track faculty representatives from the schools and college, one part-time faculty member, three full-time non-tenure track faculty members, six deans, six undergraduate student representatives, one graduate student, the UD Student Government Association's vice president of academic affairs, and the provost, who votes in the event of a tie.

## ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

The president is the chief executive and administrative officer of the University of Dayton and reports directly to the Board of Trustees. The president is an ex-officio member of all standing committees and is responsible for the supervision, management, and governance of the University. The president oversees a university with a \$700 million budget, 528 full-time faculty and 268 part-time faculty, 2,181 staff

members, and 9,700 students. The president works closely with officers of the University who serve on the cabinet (\*denotes direct report):

- Vice President of Mission and Rector\*
- Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs\*
- Executive Vice President of Business and Administrative Services\*
- Vice President for Student Development and Chief Student Experience Officer
- Vice President for Facilities Management and Planning and Auxiliary Services
- Vice President for Academic Research
- Vice President for Advancement\*
- Vice President of Safety, Audit, Risk and Compliance
- Vice President and General Counsel\*
- Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management
- Vice President and Chief Information Officer
- Vice President and Director of Athletics\*
- Vice President for the University of Dayton Research Institute\*
- Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion
- Vice President for Human Resources
- Vice President for Marketing and Communications\*
- Executive Director for the Office of the President\*
- Secretary of the Board of Trustees\*
- Dean representative
- President of the Academic Senate

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PRESIDENT

The president is responsible for determining and implementing the University's strategic priorities while responding to a dynamic higher education environment. The president will be expected to:

***Raise the visibility of the University of Dayton as one of the most impactful institutions in Catholic higher education, celebrating Catholic, Marianist education and its importance to students and the broader community***

The president plays a crucial role as the public face of the University of Dayton and, more broadly, as an ambassador for the Catholic, Marianist education tradition. While known regionally for its distinctive educational approach, strong academic programs, and research opportunities, many outside the region do not recognize the strengths and distinctive identity of UD. The next president will help the institution tell its story effectively to a variety of audiences including alumni, current and prospective students, their families, institutional partners, and the greater community. In particular, the president will convey a clear, compelling case for UD as a distinctive institution that provides students with a world-class educational experience that attracts high-caliber, diverse students and faculty from around the world. This individual will ensure that the Marianist core values animate the life of the campus, both within and beyond the

classroom, and will broadcast to a wider audience the distinctive nature of UD's academic experience and Marianist culture.

In continuity with recent UD leaders, the next president should collaborate actively with the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities to promote, ensure, and develop the place of Catholic higher education with the U.S. Catholic Church. The president should be fully engaged in this national dialogue and serve as the voice of UD's Catholic tradition; the president must feel at ease with Catholic leaders and ecclesiastical structures and take a lead role in supporting UD's Catholic faith life on campus.

### ***Ensure the continued financial stability of the University***

While its revenue base is more diverse than many similar institutions, the University of Dayton is still a tuition-dependent institution. As such, the University's long-term sustainability requires that it be ready to embrace change, respond to new opportunities, create and enhance programs that are striking points of distinction for UD, divest of programs that are not financially viable, and successfully navigate economic challenges. While the University's financial health is stable with record levels of overall wealth, the president must be able to creatively identify new educational models and ways to reach students while ensuring both the principles and tenets of a Marianist education are upheld and advanced and making certain that UD's programs remain accessible and of high quality. The president must be willing to make bold steps and empower their senior leadership team to experiment and pursue ideas to identify new revenue streams and decisively abandon initiatives and programs that do not yield programmatic and financial advancement. The president will consult widely and transparently in decision-making but must be willing to make difficult decisions.

### ***Sustain and expand UD's commitment to access and opportunity by fostering a community that is richly diverse in its many dimensions and deeply inclusive in practice***

Anchored by its Catholic, Marianist values, the University of Dayton defines diversity as "the presence, recognition, and engagement of people of social, political and organizational identities from the wide range of human experiences, and the complex ways these identities intersect that are expressed." The next president will be committed to honoring the intrinsic value and dignity of the entire UD community and serve as champion for advancing inclusive excellence initiatives.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion provides leadership and support for UD's strategic efforts to advance opportunity and belonging for everyone. To create and sustain a campus environment that celebrates and values the unique gifts each person brings, the president will bring both vision and action. They will leverage their expertise and commit meaningful resources to ensure all members of the community feel empowered to contribute fully to UD's mission.

### ***Advance a bold philanthropic vision and position the University for its next comprehensive campaign***

The president will serve as UD's chief fundraiser. In partnership with a strong central advancement office, the president will build and empower a team of highly capable leaders, within advancement and across

the University, to serve as effective ambassadors and partners in fundraising efforts. The president will actively steward and deepen relationships with alumni, community leaders, and other key philanthropic stakeholders, while also expanding the University's base of support by engaging new stakeholders and donors. Growing both annual giving and UD's endowment are important priorities in the years ahead.

UD enters its next chapter from a position of considerable strength. The recently completed "We Soar" comprehensive campaign exceeded its goals and was the most ambitious and successful campaign in the University's history. Building on this momentum, the next president will have the opportunity to partner with advancement leadership and the Board to develop a vision to align philanthropic priorities with institutional strategy as it begins to plan its next comprehensive campaign.

***Execute and advance an inspiring vision that will further extend the University of Dayton's reach, reputation, and impact as a global leader in Catholic education***

Working closely with faculty, administration, the Board of Trustees, and other key stakeholders, the president will advance a strategic vision for the University of Dayton focusing on academic and research excellence in service to the region and beyond. This includes further strengthening UD's research enterprise by supporting faculty scholarship, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration, enhancing existing research infrastructure, including the University of Dayton Research Institute ([UDRI](#)), while deepening partnerships necessary to grow externally funded research and translate discovery into impact. The vision will celebrate and build upon the accomplishments of the past and inspire the future.

The recently completed and successful fundraising campaign illustrates the great strides in expanding UD's reputation and will assist in its continued effort to further its impact on a regional, national, and global level. Still, there remain more opportunities to engage the University's community to support the success of its students, as well as the professional development and wellbeing of faculty and staff. The president will be instrumental in working to advance existing initiatives while collaborating with stakeholders to identify strategic priorities for the University as they lead UD into an exciting next chapter.

***Continue the tradition of visible and engaged leadership and a welcoming, open, and transparent culture***

Campus stakeholders consistently emphasize the importance UD places on its close-knit community, a somewhat unusual characteristic for a comprehensive research institution of its size. Students, staff, and faculty want to know the president and see them as a visible and engaged leader on campus. The role of president in a modern and complex academic setting requires extensive time on the road, for fundraising, visibility enhancement, partnership building, and international engagement.

The incoming president will need to be a servant leader, a convener, a bridge-builder, and an open, transparent communicator who values input from the greater community who can manage and balance their internal presence with external responsibilities. This individual must be accessible to the university community and the city of Dayton and engage openly, authentically, and frequently with students, faculty, staff, alumni, the Marianist community, and the Board of Trustees. Bringing the community together,

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leading varied voices through conversation and reflection, enhancing strong alumni relations, and negotiating and identifying points of commonality will anchor the success of the next president.

***Coalesce, manage, and inspire a high-functioning leadership team***

The president is responsible for the development of a dynamic and high-performing leadership team that includes the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, executive vice president for business and administrative services, vice presidents, deans, and other senior leaders.

The president will encourage a high level of transparency to ensure all voices are heard as priorities are established and decisions are made. The president must establish credibility as chief executive officer, while providing the provost, vice presidents, deans, and others the autonomy to be effective leaders in their own right. The president is responsible for soliciting the opinions of faculty, staff, and students and honoring the letter and spirit of shared governance. The president will open and strengthen clear channels of communication around information gathering and decision-making at the institutional level while demonstrating the ability to provide courageous and decisive leadership. This includes working effectively with the Board of Trustees, seeking the Board's counsel, and understanding the roles of governance and management in the effective stewardship of the University.

***Cultivate and deepen the University of Dayton's connections with the City of Dayton in a way that both creates real opportunities for students and supports the development of the region***

A core pillar of the University of Dayton's mission is to strengthen the institution's engagement with the city of Dayton. UD is uniquely positioned to continue leveraging the University's world-class resources to create meaningful impact beyond its walls.

As one of the most diverse and dynamic communities in the region, Dayton offers tremendous opportunities for partnership, innovation, and civic engagement. The University of Dayton contributes to this vitality by collaborating with the city of Dayton and the surrounding region's thriving community to support and build out its economy. These deep ties to Dayton are a defining strength that helps crystallize UD's distinct identity. The incoming president will have an opportunity to further integrate the University into the fabric of Dayton and beyond, addressing some of society's most pressing challenges through education, research, and service. This leader will strengthen existing relationships and build new partnerships with industry and religious leaders, community leaders, cultural organizations, and other key stakeholders.

***Work closely and effectively with the Board of Trustees***

The University of Dayton has a large and dynamic Board of Trustees. As the group continues to add new members and diversify the experiences and contributions represented, including seven new board members as of July 2025, the president will work to maintain a positive working relationship with all board members, fostering new opportunities for collaboration and continued success. This will require effective relationship-building with individual board members and the ability to effectively maintain ongoing and

reciprocal communication with the board as a whole. A close partnership with the board will help the president guide UD's direction in support of its strategic priorities. The president will work closely with the Board of Trustees to ensure board governance processes are effective and appropriate to supporting the mission of the University of Dayton.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate for president will be an experienced and accomplished academic leader and fundraiser with a high level of energy, political savvy, drive, and the engaging personality necessary to achieve ambitious university-wide goals. As required by the University of Dayton Bylaws, the president shall be a Roman Catholic and have the ability to provide leadership for the University of Dayton as a Catholic and Marianist university. Additionally, the successful candidate will bring many, if not all, of the following professional qualifications, skills, experiences, and personal qualities:

- An earned doctorate or equivalent terminal degree and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching requisite for an appointment as a tenured full professor;
- An unwavering commitment to academic freedom and the ability to navigate the crosscurrents in Catholic higher education;
- Demonstrated ability to create and grow inclusive and diverse environments in alignment with mission;
- Demonstrated ability to develop and implement strategic plans;
- Significant success in securing transformational gifts and leading a comprehensive fundraising campaign;
- Decisive leadership skills exemplified by a record of courage in making difficult decisions in a complex environment with competing demands and limited financial and human resources;
- Demonstrated ability and nimbleness in leading a large organization and leadership team;
- A compelling and genuine communication style and ability to connect with a variety of audiences as the spokesperson for UD; this includes the ability to create meaningful dialogue around important issues and to lead in times of crises;
- An international viewpoint and a comfort with the global community; an understanding of and appreciation for the importance of international collaborations and the changing nature of global higher education;
- Record of success as a visionary executive, including the fiscal skills and acumen necessary to facilitate the allocation of resources effectively and efficiently among competing needs of the institution;
- Excellent collaboration and consensus-building abilities to bring together a diverse group of constituents, including a track record of working with groups such as a board, faculty, students, alumni, and the larger Dayton community;
- Evidence of fostering excellence in teaching and scholarship;
- Demonstrated commitment to exploring the integration of AI technologies into university curriculum and pedagogy

- A demonstrated record of success in promoting and sustaining efforts to attract and retain highly qualified and diverse faculty, staff, and students;
- Appreciation for the significance of a national athletics program to the overall image of the University of Dayton and the ability to work with the NCAA and the Atlantic 10 Conference;
- Energy, passion, and flexibility; personal qualities that ensure transparency in governance and the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and credibility.

## 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-dayton/president>

Julie Filizetti, Partner  
Rafael Escobedo, Senior Associate  
Gabi Nayar, Search Coordinator  
Isaacson, Miller

*The University of Dayton is a top-tier Catholic research university with offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels. Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, the University is a diverse community committed to advancing the common good through intellectual curiosity, academic rigor, community engagement, and local, national, and global partnerships. Guided by the Marianist educational philosophy, we educate the whole person and link learning and scholarship with leadership and service. Informed by its Catholic and Marianist mission, the University is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.*

*Informed by this commitment, we seek to increase diversity, achieve equitable outcomes, and model inclusion across our campus community. As an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer, we will not discriminate against minorities, women, protected veterans, individuals with disabilities, or on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.*

*The University is also pleased to provide support for spouses of prospective and newly hired faculty through its dual career program. While we cannot guarantee placement, we serve as an effective resource and support system for your spouse. Information can be found at <https://udayton.edu/careers/dual-career-resources.php>*

*This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Dayton. 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 the University of Dayton would supersede any conflicting information in this document.*