



Dean, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

THE SEARCH

Emory University [Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing](#) (School of Nursing or School) seeks a forward-thinking nurse leader to serve as its next Dean. [Emory University](#) (University) is a private, Carnegie Research 1 “Very High Research Activity” institution, recognized internationally for its outstanding liberal arts colleges, graduate and professional schools, and one of the nation’s most comprehensive academic healthcare systems. Grounded in academic excellence, Emory University leads with the greater purpose of serving humanity. This is a unique moment to lead the School of Nursing; after sixteen years of visionary stewardship under Dean Linda McCauley, the School is flourishing, marked by unprecedented growth, national recognition for research and education, and graduates who consistently exceed state and national averages on licensure and certification exams.

The School of Nursing is an essential part of Emory University’s mission to create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity. As one of the nation’s top nursing schools, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing is committed to driving discovery and educating visionary nurse leaders and scholars. Today, 1,507 students are enrolled in the School’s undergraduate and graduate programs, and nearly 12,000 alumni serve in every state and 28 countries, reflecting the School’s broad reach and impact. In the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, the School’s undergraduate program is ranked number two nationally, underscoring its leadership in preparing the next generation of nurses. Additionally, the master’s degree program is ranked number one and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is ranked number eight nationwide. The School ranks third with over \$18 million in NIH funding according to Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research’s fiscal year 2024 report, marking a decade of sustained excellence among the top five Nursing Schools in the nation.

This role offers an extraordinary opportunity to lead one of the nation’s preeminent nursing schools at a transformative moment in healthcare and higher education. Building on a strong legacy of academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and a deep commitment to social responsibility, the next Dean will shape the future of nursing research, education and practice on a national and global scale. The School’s rich ecosystem, anchored by a world-class research university, top-tier clinical partnerships, and a vibrant

culture of innovation, offers an unparalleled platform for advancing the teaching, science, and practice of nursing. The ideal candidate is a nationally recognized scholar and leader whose reputation enhances the school's visibility and credibility, and who brings a clear vision for the future of healthcare, higher education, and academic discovery. As a university leader, the Dean must be nimble and innovative, championing new technologies and models of research and education to drive growth and impact across all mission areas. The Dean will be an exceptional communicator and relationship builder, able to engage effectively with a range of constituents, strengthen academic–practice partnerships, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and cultivate a strong, inclusive community both within the School and across the broader university and healthcare landscape.

To fulfill accreditation requirements, the Dean will be a registered nurse with a graduate degree in nursing and an earned doctorate. The Dean must also have current or eligible RN licensure to practice nursing in Georgia and demonstrate scholarly distinction appropriate for a tenured appointment as a full professor at Emory University. Significant experience in nursing leadership, research, education, and practice is expected.

Emory University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries in confidence to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated at the end of this document.

NELL HODGSON WOODRUFF SCHOOL OF NURSING

As one of the nation's top nursing schools in rankings and research, the [Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing](#) is committed to driving discovery and educating visionary nurse leaders and scholars. The School has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League of Nursing, bringing together cutting-edge resources, distinguished faculty, top clinical experiences, and access to leading healthcare partners to shape the future of nursing and advance health and well-being worldwide. Its mission centers on educating visionary nursing leaders and scholars; generating and applying new knowledge; and transforming nursing, health, and systems of health care within local and global communities.

Faculty, Staff, and Students

The School's 493 talented faculty members, who are passionate about nursing education and discovery research, comprise 55 tenure and tenure-track, 75 clinical track, 17 research track, and 346 adjunct faculty members. The School's most distinguished faculty honors include the induction of two faculty members into the National Academy of Medicine; 51 faculty members in the American Academy of Nursing, including six new inductees in 2024; 15 fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners; eight fellows of the National Academies of Practice in Nursing, including two new inductees in 2024; and ten faculty members inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. The School is supported by 180 dedicated staff who are passionate about education and are essential to maintaining the level of excellence at the School.

Student enrollment has increased significantly, with a nearly 25 percent growth rate over the past five years. In 2025, over 1,500 students enrolled across the School: 368 in the BSN program, 770 in the Master's and Post-Master's Certificate programs, 50 in the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) program, 32 in the Perfusion program, 251 in the DNP program, and 36 in the PhD program. The School partners with Georgia Tech and Oglethorpe University to provide a streamlined pathway for bachelor's degree graduates to enter the School's Master of Nursing program. In addition, the School collaborates with Agnes Scott College, enabling students to complete a three-year pre-nursing program followed by two years at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing to earn a BSN.

Academic Programs

The School offers two pathways for students to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The [Bachelor of Science in Nursing \(BSN\) Freshman Option](#) is designed for students who wish to pursue the BSN as their first bachelor's degree. The [BSN Transfer Option](#) is available to students who transfer into the School of Nursing with 60 semester hours of college course credit.

The Master of Nursing (MN) pre-licensure program allows students to complete an entry-to-practice MN degree in 15 months. The MSN program offers a variety of advanced-practice registered nurse (APRN) specialties. The School offers [Master's Programs](#), [Post-Graduate Certificate](#), and [Dual-Degree Programs](#) in the following areas:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health/Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner
- Master in Cardiovascular Perfusion Science
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Family/Emergency Nurse Practitioner
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- MSN-MA Bioethics
- MSN-MPH

The School's [DNP](#) program is recognized as a national leader and offers the following programs and specialties:

- Post BSN DNP / Post MN DNP
- Post Masters DNP
- DNP, Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA)

The [Doctor of Philosophy \(PhD\)](#) in Nursing is designed to develop the next generation of researchers who will change the face of healthcare by advancing the science of nursing and generating knowledge that informs practice, policy, and health outcomes. The program is interdisciplinary, drawing on the strengths of Emory University and its partners in areas as varied as the humanities, natural and social sciences,

public health, engineering, law, and business. The School also offers a PhD track with a focus on artificial intelligence/ data science.

Graduates from the School of Nursing achieved a 95 percent first-time pass rate on the 2024 National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN). This pass rate is higher than both the national average of 91.9 percent and the Georgia average of 91.7 percent.

The [Emory Nursing Experience \(ENE\)](#) is a partnership between Emory Healthcare and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, providing quality continuing nursing education (CNE) activities to practicing nurses. Through ENE, nurses around the globe have access to evidence-based coursework developed by Emory's world-class faculty, including faculty from Emory Healthcare, designed to help licensed nurses fulfill their requirements for license renewal, further their careers with varying certifications, and continue to provide high-quality patient care. ENE coursework is provided by the Emory Nursing Professional Development Center (ENPDC), an accredited provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Accreditation.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, the master's degree program in nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and the post-graduate Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) certificate program are all accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). In fall 2019, the College of Nursing was granted full accreditation by the CCNE for a ten-year term, extending through December 31, 2029.

The Master of Nursing program is accredited by CCNE for a five-year term, extending through June 2027.

The DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

The nurse-midwifery program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education.

The Master in Cardiovascular Perfusion Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

In 2024, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare granted Provisional Accreditation to the School's simulation program.

Emory Nursing Learning Center

The School of Nursing expanded its footprint with the [Emory Nursing Learning Center](#) (ENLC), a 70,000-square-foot renovation in Decatur, Georgia. The \$20.6 million expansion features a state-of-the-art simulation and skills lab, providing students with unmatched experiential and immersive learning opportunities. Among its features:

- The Innovation Hub, a space to nurture new ideas and serve as a springboard for innovation. This space enables the School of Nursing to meet the rising healthcare challenges of a growing and complex population.
- A HomeLab allows students to experience realistic home care-based simulations that emphasize the patient care and therapeutic communication skills needed to support patients and their caretakers.
- High-fidelity Rooms, including obstetric and pediatric beds and life-like manikins.
- Operating/Trauma Room, focused on high acuity and low volume events where certified registered nurse anesthesia (CRNA) students have access to anesthesia gas machines, anesthesia and emergency carts, operating room supplies, gas supplies, vacuums, and a scrub sink.
- The Emory Nursing Experience (ENE), a program for continuing professional education in partnership with Emory Healthcare nursing.

The skills labs and training rooms include crash carts, monitors, and scrub sinks, and have 26 bed spaces that allow students to practice procedural skills and conduct complex patient scenarios using manikins or standardized patients. Twelve exam rooms simulate the outpatient setting and are designed to teach and evaluate students' history taking, physical examination, and communication skills.

The ENLC also houses five hospital-type rooms with a whiteboard near each patient that provides opportunities for students to share pertinent information and plans of care. High-fidelity equipment and a realistic operating room environment are available for the cardiovascular perfusion program. A four-bed bay area replicates a post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) for post-operative recovery, an infusion center for chemotherapy, a neonatal intensive care area, or a trauma bay.

Emory in MOTION (Mobile Opportunities for Training and Innovating: Nursing)

The Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing received a \$3.9 million award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand access to primary care for medically underserved communities through nurse-led mobile health units while strengthening training for nursing students, both pre- and post-licensure, in social determinants of health and culturally and linguistically sensitive care integration in mobile health environments.

[Emory in MOTION](#) is a collaboration that aims to expand mobile healthcare services to nine Georgia counties with medically underserved populations. Each mobile health unit will be equipped to provide nurse-led, quality healthcare. The four-year project expands on the school's long-standing partnerships with community-based and public health organizations in both the Metro Atlanta area and Moultrie, Georgia.

Office of Nursing Research

The [Office of Nursing Research](#) (ONR) mission is to empower faculty and students to advance nursing science, improving health and well-being, by setting the standard for innovative, collaborative scholarship. The Office of Nursing Research has five centers of excellence and more than 175 active and pending research projects. Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing is among the top three nursing schools in the U.S. for funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), securing \$18.1 million in NIH research grants as part of a total portfolio of \$22.8 million in extramural funding in fiscal year 2024.

The School offers five Centers and multiple research hubs that span various research domains and support levels, including Aging Studies, Artificial Intelligence/Data Science, Cardiovascular, Brain and Biomarkers, Natural Disasters and Environmental and Climate Science, Oncology, Pain, and Women's Health. The Centers include the Center for Data Science, the Center for Healthcare History & Policy, the Georgia Nursing Workforce Center, the Center for Palliative Care, and The Lillian Carter Center.

The Lillian Carter Center for Global Health & Social Responsibility

Named for President Jimmy Carter's Mother, Miss Lillian, the [Lillian Carter Center](#) for Global Health & Social Responsibility, dedicated in 2001, has a rich history of educational, practice, and research offerings.

The Lillian Carter Center (LCC) serves as the hub of global engagement in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and aims to improve the health of vulnerable people worldwide through nursing education, research, practice, and policy. To expand the School's global influence, it divides its efforts into three classifications, each addressing a specific topic.

- Nursing Research in Global Health focuses on internationally oriented nursing research or research collaborations, including the School's International Nursing Research Conference.
- Service Learning & Social Responsibility Globally & Locally encourages students to explore opportunities for service learning as part of their nursing education by traveling domestically or internationally.
- Global Engagement working in partnership with local, national, and global organizations.

The concentration of efforts into these three complementary components supports the School of Nursing's vision of achieving consistent recognition as one of the world's leading nursing schools and improving the school's position in international rankings that evaluate nursing schools from all nations for global reputation and impact. The School builds on the present strength in research, its strong overall reputation, and its effective existing program to encourage and support outbound student engagement.

A complementary Global North initiative is underway, where the LCC is exploring collaborations with institutions comparable to Emory University in terms of research infrastructure and resources. A partnership with the University of Sydney has also been finalized and will begin with quarterly research webinars. This spring, the LCC is launching a global health lecture series, bringing thought leaders in global

health research to campus to engage with faculty and students and nurture opportunities for collaboration. Lastly, the LCC laid the infrastructure for administering highly meritorious Global Nursing Research Pilot Grants in collaboration with the Office of Nursing Research.

Finances

The Dean oversees an operating budget that exceeds \$100 million, and the School's endowment is \$103 million. The School derives revenues from these principal sources: sponsored research contracts and grants, degree and certificate program tuition and fees, gifts and endowment payouts, and other miscellaneous income. Emory University operates under a Responsibility Center Management (RCM) budget model.

Alumni and Development

The School of Nursing has nearly 12,000 alumni across 28 countries and all regions of the nation.

Over five million was raised last year, through the generosity of more than 2,000 donors. Currently, \$51.3 million has been raised for the School of Nursing through the 2036 Capital Campaign. The Bedford Falls Foundation has awarded the School of Nursing one million dollars over four years to support scholarships for BSN students. The first cohort of 25 Conway Scholars was selected in the fall of 2024, with each scholar receiving \$10,000 toward their educational expenses.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean is the chief representative of the School of Nursing within Emory University, and to external audiences at the local, state, regional, and national levels. This role is pivotal in shaping the School's future and driving impact across education, research, practice, and service. Given the partnership and strong relationship between the School of Nursing and its primary health system partner, Emory Healthcare, the Dean collaborates with Emory Healthcare's chief nurse executive (CNE) on academic, clinical, and research activities. Additionally, the CNE at Emory Healthcare holds an academic appointment at the School of Nursing. This partnership aims to create a seamless connection between academic nursing education and clinical practice, ensuring that future nurses are well-prepared to meet the evolving demands of the healthcare industry. The Dean provides visionary leadership, strategic direction, and external representation to advance academic excellence, research, and the nursing profession.

The Dean has a dual report to [Joon Lee](#), MD, Executive Vice President for Woodruff Health Sciences, Emory University, Vice Chair of the Emory Healthcare Board of Directors, and Chief Executive Officer of Emory Healthcare, and [Badia Ahad](#), PhD, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Emory University. The Dean leads a team of 11 direct reports, in addition to oversight of tenure-track faculty.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Significant opportunities await the new Dean.

Expand the School's research enterprise

The next Dean will have the opportunity to build on significant momentum to position the School of Nursing as the nation's preeminent hub for nursing science. The School's recent recruitment of new faculty scientists signals a decisive investment in expanding research capacity and advancing leadership in generating and translating evidence into practice.

The Dean will have the opportunity to further strengthen the School's research profile through strategic partnerships, robust faculty development and mentorship, competitive grant acquisition, and high-impact publications. This includes deepening collaborations in the Health Sciences Center and across the University, leveraging relationships with national and global research institutions, and cultivating industry and community partnerships that amplify the School's influence on health outcomes. At the same time, the next Dean must address pressing challenges facing research-intensive schools of nursing: increasing competition for external funding, the need to demonstrate measurable outcomes, and the ongoing balance of faculty research, teaching, and practice expectations.

Propel strategic enrollment and innovative programs

The next Dean will have a significant opportunity to shape the future of nursing education by strengthening and expanding the School of Nursing's portfolio of forward-looking academic programs. The School is evaluating industry trends, emerging technologies, and workforce demands to ensure its offerings remain both cutting-edge and mission-aligned. This commitment positions the School to play a central role in addressing global challenges through programs focused on healthcare, sustainability, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and other evolving areas critical to the profession.

Recent programmatic growth, including the launch of the Perfusion program, the forthcoming Nutrition program, and the establishment of a data analytics pathway reflects the School's ambition to innovate and ability to invest in development and execution. The Dean will have an opportunity to lead curriculum modernization, expand interdisciplinary programs, and champion innovative teaching methods. With a strong financial and operational lens, the next Dean can position the School to grow sustainably, respond nimbly to market needs, and ensure that its educational programs continue to prepare graduates who excel in an increasingly complex and technology-driven healthcare landscape.

Foster philanthropic support and exercise thoughtful fiscal stewardship

The next Dean will have a pivotal opportunity to elevate the School of Nursing's philanthropic reach and financial strength by expanding the pipeline of corporate, foundation, and individual supporters. The Dean will play a central role in broadening fundraising efforts, cultivating alumni, friends, and grateful-patient networks, and developing high-impact partnerships with industry. These efforts will create diversified and sustainable revenue streams that can support strategic priorities, from scholarships and endowed faculty positions to innovative programs and research initiatives.

Pursue opportunities to partner with the broader community

Emory University's location inside a major metropolitan area, adjacent to Emory Healthcare's academic hospitals and clinic, and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), generates an array of opportunities. The exceptional reputation and impact of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing enable the Dean to engage in key conversations related to nursing, healthcare, and policy. With a keen understanding of shifts in higher education, nursing education, research, and healthcare delivery, the Dean will build strong relationships and deepen engagement with education and research partners, current and potential donors, and key professional, academic, and community/clinical organizations.

Recruit, retain, and inspire a deeply committed faculty and staff

The Dean will collaborate with an exceptionally talented and dedicated faculty and staff and will work with University leadership to provide the support needed to attract and retain them. In addition, the School of Nursing faculty encompasses a broad spectrum of nurse-prepared and interdisciplinary faculty in tenure/tenure track, clinical track, and research track positions. The Dean will attend to the needs of this broad spectrum of faculty while creating an inclusive culture that appreciates the ongoing contributions of each member of the School, including identifying opportunities to strengthen the infrastructures that support faculty and staff. The Dean will be a visible presence and frequent communicator and will model the values of inclusion and transparency.

Harness forward progress to amplify prominence and impact

The next Dean will have a meaningful opportunity to expand the School of Nursing's impact by deepening engagement with local communities, industry leaders, government agencies, and international partners. By positioning the School as a thought leader in nursing, health policy, and workforce innovation, the Dean can amplify its voice in critical conversations shaping the future of healthcare. In line with the University's strategic plan, *One Emory: Ambition and Heart*, the Dean will have the ambitious goal of being a top-ranked global leader in health science research to drive societal impact. Through intentional collaboration and visible leadership, the Dean can elevate the School's reputation, expand its reach, and help shape the future of nursing and healthcare at every level.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

This position requires a collaborative leader with strategic vision, emotional intelligence, broad intellectual insights, deft communication skills; who deeply understands nursing education, research, and practice; who thinks creatively and strategically; and who can connect to a wide array of constituents.

Minimum Requirements

- A registered nurse (RN) with a graduate degree in nursing and an earned doctorate;

- Qualified for appointment as a tenured full professor at Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing;
- Current or eligible RN licensure to practice nursing in the state of Georgia.

Preferred Qualifications and Characteristics

- Distinguished record of academic achievement, research, practice, teaching, and service;
- Significant administrative and leadership experience;
- A firm understanding of higher education and the dynamic and ever-evolving healthcare landscape;
- Demonstrated ability to build effective partnerships within a college and university, with clinical partners, and with external groups including donors and policy makers;
- A record of accomplishment in recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding faculty, staff, and students;
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including collegiality and collaboration;
- Strong business acumen and strategic thinking, including the ability to manage complex budgets, optimize resource allocation, and align strategies with academic and clinical priorities to ensure sustainable growth and operational excellence;
- High standards of professional integrity and a strong sense of professional ethics;
- Demonstrated commitment to access, service, sustainability, and social responsibility in academic and operational practices;
- Visionary leadership in integrating emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, into curriculum, research, and service aligned with the institution's mission.

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/emory-university-nell-hodgson-woodruff-school-nursing/dean>

Randi Herrick, Partner,
Natalie Leonhard, Partner,
Alice Holland, Senior Associate,
Maya Bennett, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

Emory is an equal opportunity employer, and qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or other characteristics protected by state or federal 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.

APPENDIX

EMORY UNIVERSITY

[Emory University](#) was founded in 1836 by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Oxford, Georgia. In 1915, it relocated to its present location in the Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta. The original Oxford Campus serves as an additional undergraduate site.

Emory is recognized internationally for its outstanding liberal arts college, superb professional schools, and one of the Southeast's leading healthcare 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. The university is home to more than 16,500 students, 4,000 faculty, 14,000 staff, and offers more than 80 programs of study across [nine degree-granting colleges and schools](#), many of which hold national rankings. In the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, the Rollins School of Public Health is ranked number two and the undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Program is ranked number one. The School of Medicine is ranked among the nation's top 20 schools of medicine in NIH research funding.

Emory University is consistently recognized for its excellence. *U.S. News & World Report* rated Emory 24 in its 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 includes exceptional instructors and groundbreaking researchers. Over 95 percent of full-time faculty members hold the highest degrees in their respective fields. Individual faculty excellence encompasses 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 Kilbanoff, 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 is home to 31 Fellows of the National Academy of Medicine, and two of those Fellows are faculty in the School of Nursing.

Recognized as one of the most collaborative, robust, talented, and successful research institutions in the nation, researchers at Emory University exceeded one billion total in research funding for the third consecutive year. As a major economic engine, Emory's research has generated 57 Georgia-based startups that have created more than 1,000 jobs.

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-eminent academic health system in Georgia. Forbes has identified Emory as a “Best Employer for Diversity” and a “Best Employer for Women.”

Emory is home to a vibrant and diverse community that is actively committed to making the world a better place. This commitment is reflected in its strong academic standing, as evidenced by a number 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.

Emory University has a student body of over 16,000 students and offers more than 80 majors across nine colleges and schools. With 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 globally. Emory prides itself on the mix of people, beliefs, values, and social circles that comprise its campus communities, as well as the University's understanding that everyone offers more than one way to contribute to campus diversity.

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, she became the first African American woman to serve as a superior court judge in the state of 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.

[Badia Ahad](#), PhD, became Emory University's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs on November 1, 2025. She was previously dean of Emory's Oxford College. Ahad has earned a national reputation as an expert on faculty development. She served for nearly a decade as director of academic training for the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, where she provided guidance and training for more than two dozen colleges and universities, as well as the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Carnegie Institute of Science, and the Volcker Alliance on professional development for postdocs, early career faculty, and aspiring higher education administrators.

Strategic Plan

Emory University's [One Emory: Ambition and Heart](#) centers on five priorities: faculty eminence; academic community of choice; innovation through scholarship and creative expression; thriving healthcare, inventing cures; commitment to our people; and Emory + Atlanta: rich history, shared future. This strategic framework is focused on strengthening all of Emory's nine schools, making the University an unparalleled destination for education, elevating Emory's world-class academic health system, and recommitting to Emory staff and the city of Atlanta.

Woodruff Health Sciences Center

Founded in 1966, the [Woodruff Health Sciences Center](#) is named for the legendary leader of the Coca-Cola Company, Robert W. Woodruff. The Woodruff Health Sciences Center includes three schools (Emory University School of Medicine, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, and Rollins School of Public Health), a national primate research center, a cancer institute, four research and educational units, and the most comprehensive healthcare system in Georgia. The center is a component of Emory University and many of its facilities are located on Emory's main campus, five miles east of downtown Atlanta. The Center also has clinical facilities throughout metro Atlanta and Georgia. As of FY 2024, Woodruff Health Sciences Center has 37,141 employees (including 4,230 faculty), 574 affiliated faculty, 6,237 students and trainees, and a \$1.56 billion economic impact on metro Atlanta.

Emory Healthcare

Emory Healthcare (EHC) is the region's largest and most comprehensive academic health system. System-wide, it has 2,746 licensed patient beds, 25,879 employees (including over 10,000 nurses), and more than 4,150 physicians practicing in more than 70 specialties. Eight EHC entities hold a Magnet® or Magnet with Distinction® credential. Annual hospital admissions totaled 103,131 and outpatient service visits totaled almost \$7.1 million, while EHC clinicians saw 787,450 individual patients. Providing a \$578.7 million community benefit, EHC serves metro Atlanta and the state with over 575 locations.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Emory's Atlanta campus is centrally located in the Druid Hills neighborhood of metro Atlanta, just a short drive away from renowned research centers, museums and music venues, global corporations, and a world of opportunity. Additional details about Atlanta can be found [here](#).