



Assumption University

Provost

Assumption University
Worcester, Massachusetts

THE OPPORTUNITY

Assumption University, a comprehensive Catholic liberal arts institution in New England, seeks an innovative and collaborative academic leader to serve as its next provost. This is an opportunity to lead the academic enterprise of a university that aims to instill intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. Assumption is a premier university offering a high-quality education, drawn upon the rich history of the Catholic intellectual tradition, that integrates the liberal arts with career preparation. Assumption's curricular and co-curricular programs are informed by its mission to provide students with an education that shapes their souls, forms them intellectually, and prepares them for meaningful careers.

Reporting to the president and serving on the president's cabinet, the provost will arrive at a pivotal moment in Assumption's history. With capital planning and campus enhancements underway, a new core curriculum, and an ambitious ten-year strategic plan, the provost will have the opportunity to make an impact at a university on the rise and committed to both academic excellence and student success. The university has seen a more than 40 percent growth in first-time enrollment in three years and is in the second year of a successful Physician Assistant Studies program. This moment presents an exceptional opportunity for a dynamic and strategic provost to join Assumption, articulate an academic identity that honors its distinguished history while addressing contemporary challenges, and lead a collaborative effort to shape a forward-looking academic vision.

Assumption is home to more than 1,700 undergraduate students and approximately 350 graduate students with five schools and 38 majors. It is known for its close-knit, supportive community and is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a Top 50 Regional University in the North. This year, Assumption rose several spots in those rankings. According to the Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce, Assumption ranks in the top four percent for lifetime return on investment among post-secondary institutions nationwide. Assumption is a diverse and inclusive community that welcomes different points of view and is committed to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends. With broad and relevant academic programs, a person-centered learning approach, and a vibrant community, Assumption offers an education that transforms the minds and hearts of students and prepares them for meaningful lives.

and careers. Assumption provides an education that offers access, is animated by the Catholic tradition of inquiry, and combines both humanizing and professional education.

Assumption seeks a provost with intellectual vitality, passion for combining enduring ideas with professional preparation, and a transparent and entrepreneurial leadership style. Assumption expresses its Catholic identity through the particular nature of the education it provides. Its next provost must be deeply committed to, reflective on, and able to articulate the goals and values of Catholic liberal education. As the chief academic officer for the university, the provost will champion the faculty, nurture their contributions as teachers, researchers, and members of the community, and enhance the structures and systems that further the mission. The ideal candidate will be a seasoned executive who can lead across the institution with an entrepreneurial and innovative disposition. The candidate will be financially astute, someone who can strategically pursue growth and efficiency while both responding creatively to emerging opportunities and enhancing the essential and enduring character of an Assumption education. This individual will be a key partner in strengthening fundraising and alumni engagement, boosting undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and forging innovative partnerships and programs. On campus, the provost will be a visible and engaged presence, deeply connected to the student experience and committed to fostering faculty and staff morale. The provost must demonstrate genuine respect for the breadth of academic and professional disciplines represented at the university and uphold the educational values of a Catholic university.

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

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, the University is a Catholic liberal arts institution committed to awakening in students a sense of wonder, discovery, and purpose. Assumption began as an academy for French-speaking boys and evolved into a coeducational college in 1969 and achieved university status in 2020, transitioning from Assumption College to Assumption University. Its mission emphasizes intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good, rooted in the harmony of faith and reason. Assumption's vision is to remain committed to strengthening its liberal arts foundation and professional programs, providing access to all students who seek this Catholic liberal arts education, and ensuring excellence across all dimensions of the student experience.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2024, Assumption launched the ten-year strategic plan, [*"AU Thrive."*](#) The plan sets out a bold vision to strengthen its identity as a Catholic liberal arts institution while ensuring relevance, access, and financial sustainability. It identifies justice with an obligation to make Assumption's distinctive education accessible to all interested and qualified students, regardless of background. The overarching aim is to position

Assumption as a nationally recognized university that blends intellectual formation with practical readiness for multiple career paths and meaningful lives.

The plan is organized around three core visions:

1. **Infuse** – Embed a shared understanding of Assumption’s educational mission across all programs, elevate [the Foundations Program](#) as a signature feature, and foster a culture of inquiry and civic friendship.
2. **Focus** – Make all decisions based on what is best for students, promoting wellness, joy, and inclusion while improving advising, mentoring, and campus life.
3. **Grow** – Expand enrollment to 3,000 students, diversify revenue streams, and raise \$100M in philanthropy to ensure financial health and broaden access. These goals are supported by measurable action items, including new academic programs, enhanced faculty support, and strategic marketing initiatives. Ultimately, *AU Thrive* seeks to create a mindset with a culture of boldness, collaboration, and joy, ensuring Assumption thrives for the next decade and beyond.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND FACULTY

In 2020, the university transitioned to a five-school structure: [D’Amour College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#), [Froelich School of Nursing](#), [Grenon School of Business](#), [School of Health Professions](#), and [School of Graduate Studies](#). The university offers 38 undergraduate majors, 50 minors, and 8 master’s degree programs and numerous graduate-level certificate programs. Programs are designed to integrate career preparation with a strong liberal arts foundation, enabling students to develop analytical thinking, relentless curiosity, compelling communications, effective teamwork, ethical judgment, and other skills valued across industries. In January 2025, Assumption welcomed its first cohort of students to its newly formed [Physician Assistant Studies Program](#). This is a 28-month program culminating in a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies that sits within the School of Health Professions. The program has been granted Accreditation-Provisional status and is housed in the new Catrambone Health Sciences Building with designated physician assistant classrooms, a physical examination lab, and a medical simulation center. The building also houses Assumption’s growing nursing programs.

In 2024, Assumption launched a new core curriculum called *Foundations*, which is the university’s reimagined approach to general education. The faculty passed *Foundations* on a 97-3 vote. Unlike traditional core curricula that resemble a checklist of required courses, *Foundations* is a holistic journey toward living a purposeful life. It emphasizes intellectual and moral formation through the pursuit and appreciation of truth, goodness, and beauty. These ideals are integrated throughout all aspects of campus life—classes, conversations, clubs, and athletics—encouraging students to think deeply, explore their purpose, and engage in community. *Foundations* aims to prepare students not only for careers but for lives of meaning and service to society.

Assumption's more than 120 full-time faculty are dedicated teacher-scholars and practitioners who embody the mission of forming graduates known for their intellectual seriousness and devotion to the common good. They are deeply committed to preparing students through rigorous scholarship and personalized mentorship for lives of purpose while advancing knowledge and creative expression across disciplines. Eighty-three percent of faculty hold a terminal degree in their field, and Assumption is proud of its 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

In Fall 2025, Assumption enrolled 524 members of the Class of 2029, a more than 40 percent increase since 2022 and a third consecutive year of growth during a period of contraction for many similar institutions. The university has also enrolled nearly 50 transfer students for the 2025-26 academic year, a number that has significantly increased. Assumption also has a 75 percent graduation rate. The university is proud of its strong student outcomes and is committed to further strengthening them. Roughly 30 percent of undergraduate students receive a Pell Grant, and about 20 percent identify as first-generation students.

Assumption students are known for what they possess, which is grit, and for what they lack: entitlement. They are motivated, resilient, teachable, and possess the character associated with learning: humility, courage, and charity. The university emphasizes student success through academic support, career development, and experiential learning opportunities. Ninety-one percent achieve employment or further education within six months of graduation. Assumption competes in the Northeast-10 Conference in NCAA Division II athletics, and nearly 40 percent of students participate in at least one NCAA sport, with a top 15 student-athlete graduation rate among Division II universities.

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Assumption University has an endowment of \$107M and an operating budget of approximately \$80M. Forty-two percent of Assumption's revenue comes from net tuition and fees, and for the 2025-26 academic year, tuition, room and board, and fees totaled \$70,580. The average financial aid package (grants and loans) was approximately \$45,000, with all students receiving aid.

In 2022, Assumption concluded the *Light the Way* capital campaign, raising over \$50M, which was 45 percent over its original goal, and the university is currently in the planning stage for its next comprehensive campaign.

LEADERSHIP

President Gregory S. Weiner, PhD, was selected as the 17th president of Assumption University in 2022— notably becoming the first Jewish president of a U.S. Catholic university. A nationally recognized scholar of American political and constitutional thought, he earned his PhD from Georgetown University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University. President Weiner is a national thought leader

in higher education who has championed the enduring relevance of the liberal arts. He has written for national and international publications and appeared on prominent panels to discuss the topic. He is also an author of four books on constitutional and political philosophy, with a fifth forthcoming from Yale University Press. Further, he has published more than two dozen essays in major publications like *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and frequently lectures on topics such as constitutional interpretation and the separation of powers. Before his career in academia, he spent nearly two decades in Washington, D.C., as a political aide and communications consultant advising national political figures and Fortune 500 corporate leaders.

He joined Assumption's political science faculty in 2011 and then served as provost for three years prior to becoming president. Under his leadership, Assumption has adopted its bold ten-year strategic plan, boosted first-year enrollment, improved retention, launched the *Foundations Program*, established the Center for Civic Friendship, and secured provisional accreditation for its Physician Assistant program. His achievements have earned him a reappointment through May 2030.

WORCESTER, MA

Worcester, New England's second-largest city, is home to over ten institutions of higher learning, including the UMass Chan Medical Center, and is a significant biotech hub. It offers big-city amenities and possibilities, yet it's small enough for easy navigation and exploration. It is a dynamic urban playground with cultural venues, sports teams, and both traditional and trendy restaurants. This unique combination of characteristics is one reason Worcester has been named an *All-American City* by the National Civic League more times than any other city in Massachusetts. Boston is less than an hour's drive away, and beaches, lakes, and mountains are all within easy access. It is the perfect geographic location to experience the beauty of all four seasons.

ROLE OF THE PROVOST

Reporting to the president, the provost serves as Assumption's chief academic officer, providing vision and leadership for all academic programs. More broadly, the provost serves as the president's closest thought partner and confidante as well as a senior executive with significant leadership responsibilities across campus. The provost's direct reports include academic deans, the director of the Physician Assistant Studies Program, the associate vice president for academic affairs, the assistant vice president for institutional research, the registrar, the director of library services, an executive administrative assistant, and an academic event coordinator.

The provost oversees academic planning, policy development, curriculum, faculty recruitment and advancement, and assessment of the university's educational and research initiatives. This role also includes responsibility for the academic budget, research activities, and both undergraduate and graduate programs. The provost collaborates closely with the chief financial officer and other Cabinet colleagues on financial and strategic matters as well as with other senior leaders to ensure that institutional policies are supported by the academic mission.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The provost of Assumption University will be empowered to:

Build upon the distinctiveness of Assumption's academic programs to strengthen its position in a competitive market while maintaining a commitment to academic excellence articulated in the university's Catholic educational mission

The provost will collaborate with the Assumption community to develop and communicate a forward-looking academic vision aligned with the university's Catholic mission and Strategic Plan. This strategy will honor academic diversity, anticipate evolving student needs, and respond to market and technological changes, all while remaining rooted in a strong liberal arts tradition. The provost will support initiatives to recruit, retain, and support a diverse student population, which will involve developing strategies such as additional degree-completion pathways. Data-informed decision-making must guide these efforts, ensuring a sustainable path forward that strengthens the liberal arts, sciences, and humanities.

Prioritize the student experience and promote the university's mission

At the heart of Assumption's mission is a deep commitment to awakening a sense of wonder, discovery, and purpose within students. The next provost will collaborate with Student Affairs and Student Success to prioritize student success initiatives, ensuring every student receives the support needed to not only graduate and achieve career readiness, but also flourish intellectually, socially, and emotionally while doing so. This leader will play a key role in integrating academic and co-curricular experiences, creating a campus environment where classroom learning is enriched by professional engagement. Working closely with university partners, the provost will help to ensure that students are aware of—and have access to—the resources essential for thriving both inside and outside the classroom.

Champion an exceptional and committed faculty and lead a high-performing team

Assumption's success is tied to the talents, expertise, and dedication of its faculty. In addition to their teaching and research responsibilities, faculty serve as dedicated mentors and advisors to students. Given these multifaceted demands, Assumption takes both shared governance and shared responsibility seriously. Faculty need a provost who will champion their accomplishments, create conditions for them to succeed, and advance their unique role in the governance of the institution. The provost must enhance strategies to effectively build relationships and provide support to both adjunct and full-time faculty members. The provost oversees faculty performance evaluations and promotion and tenure processes, as well as academic staff evaluations. The provost will support the growth of faculty as teachers and scholars and the professional development of academic affairs staff members. The provost will also empower the deans to lead and support their faculty.

In partnership with other key leaders, ensure the university's financial growth

Like many tuition-dependent institutions, Assumption faces financial challenges common in today's higher education landscape. Under the leadership of President Weiner, the next provost will design an academic budget to strengthen Assumption's long-term financial position. This will involve meeting enrollment goals, allocating resources responsibly, and developing alternative revenue streams through initiatives such as corporate and community partnerships, new academic programs, and effective use of technology.

In collaboration with the president and the Office of Advancement, the provost will foster a culture of philanthropy and giving across the university. Additionally, the provost will work with university leadership to strengthen community relations by positioning Assumption as a valued neighbor, addressing local challenges through education and outreach, and partnering with the president to engage the broader community.

Engender a spirit of collaboration and transparency

The provost will be an effective communicator and active listener, adept at sharing information, fostering candid dialogue, creating space for an open exchange of ideas, and balancing listening with leading. The provost will lead the community in engaging authentically across areas of both difference and commonality. While ensuring that all voices are heard, the provost will balance broad consultation with timely decision-making, cultivating a campus culture that values diverse perspectives while proactively addressing challenges and embracing opportunities as they arise.

Grow and strengthen Assumption's welcoming community

The provost plays a key role in promoting the university's commitment to belonging for all members of the community, supporting diversity of both people and points of view. The provost will support initiatives and further programs that create inclusivity for people with varied social and economic backgrounds and nurture the unique gifts of all members in accordance with the mission and values of the Catholic tradition.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

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

- A history of collaborative intellectual leadership, with a record of achievement that inspires the Assumption University faculty and resonates with the core mission of the university;
- Thorough understanding of the goals and values of Catholic liberal education, and appreciation for how such an education complements and intersects with professional preparation;
- An entrepreneurial disposition that identifies opportunities and inspires collaboration to achieve them;

- Successful experience in academic administration commensurate with Assumption's size and complexity;
- Strong management, planning, and financial acumen, including the ability to set programmatic and budgetary priorities that balance near-term needs with long-term objectives;
- Knowledge of current and emerging issues, trends, and best practices in higher education and enrollment;
- Demonstrated success advancing initiatives to encourage a culture of belonging; broad experience working with and advocating for faculty, students, and staff; the will to embrace diversity of people and points of view within the Assumption community;
- A collaborative and transparent interpersonal style that fosters an environment of trust, empowerment, and shared governance;
- Exceptional communication skills and emotional intelligence, with the ability to engage effectively with many constituencies;
- Qualities of personability, honesty, humility, and integrity; courageous leadership and a sense of humor and perspective;
- A PhD or equivalent and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching requisite for a tenured appointment as a full professor at Assumption.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Applications (including CV and cover letter), inquiries, and nominations should be submitted in confidence to Phillip Petree, Kristen Andersen, and Ryan Smillie via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/assumption-university/provost>

The salary range for this position is \$225,000 to \$250,000.

St. John Paul II wrote: "Man's creation by God 'in his own image' confers upon every human person an eminent dignity; it also postulates the fundamental equality of all human beings." Assumption University recognizes the essential contribution of a diverse community of students, staff, and faculty and condemns all forms of harassment, discrimination, and disrespect.

As such, and in compliance with the requirements of federal law and/or the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Assumption University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, veteran status, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy, as well as other legally protected status, in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities, except where such conditions may constitute bona fide qualifications for the programs or activities in question.

The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's non-discrimination policy: Kate Foley, Director of Human Resources, foley@assumption.edu

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