



Dean
School of Public Health & Information Sciences
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY

THE SEARCH

The University of Louisville (UofL) invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Public Health & Information Sciences (SPHIS). This is a rare opportunity for an accomplished, mission-driven academic leader to shape the future of public health education, research, and practice at a moment of extraordinary institutional momentum.

SPHIS is one of only two schools of public health in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and serves as a vital engine for improving health outcomes across Louisville, the region, and the state. With a strong and growing portfolio of research, innovative academic programs, and deep community partnerships, the School is poised for its next phase of national impact.

Reporting to the Executive Vice President and University Provost, the Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of SPHIS and provides strategic leadership for nearly 600 students, 38 faculty, 24 staff members, and 26 graduate assistants. The Dean is responsible for advancing educational excellence, strengthening the research enterprise, ensuring financial sustainability, and cultivating partnerships that extend the School's influence locally and nationally.

Founded in 2002, SPHIS is a metropolitan school grounded in the belief that public health solutions must be interdisciplinary, data-driven, and deeply connected to communities. The School offers accredited bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs—including fully online degrees and certificates—preparing graduates for leadership in biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, global health, data analytics, health equity, health management, health policy, and health promotion.

The next Dean will lead SPHIS at a transformative moment, including the School's planned move into a new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center building. This leader will have the opportunity to articulate a bold vision for SPHIS, attract and support outstanding faculty and students, expand research and philanthropic support, and position the School as a model for public health education and impact in a changing world. UofL has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist with this important recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & INFORMATION SCIENCE

Overview

The School of Public Health & Information Sciences at the University of Louisville is a comprehensive, CEPH-accredited school dedicated to improving population health through education, research, policy, and practice. Founded in 2002, SPHIS has grown into one of only two schools of public health in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and serves as a critical resource for Louisville, the region, and the state.

As a metropolitan school embedded in a major academic health center, SPHIS is defined by its interdisciplinary approach, its strong commitment to community partnership, and its focus on translating research into real-world impact. The School enrolls approximately 600 students and is supported by 38 faculty members, 24 staff, and 26 graduate assistants.

With a growing national profile, expanding research enterprise, and a forthcoming move into a new state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center building, SPHIS is entering a pivotal period of opportunity and growth.

Education

SPHIS offers a broad portfolio of accredited undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and certificate programs designed to prepare students for leadership roles across the public health workforce. Academic programs span biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, global health, health management, health policy, health promotion, data analytics, and health equity, including a robust and growing suite of fully online degree and certificate offerings.

The School's educational philosophy emphasizes interdisciplinary training, experiential learning, and strong connections between classroom instruction and applied public health practice. Students benefit from close engagement with faculty, opportunities for research and community-based learning, and access to the broader Health Sciences Center environment.

Graduates of SPHIS pursue careers in academia, government, healthcare systems, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, contributing to improvements in population health at local, national, and global levels.

Research

SPHIS has experienced sustained growth in research productivity and external funding, currently generating approximately \$3.4 million in annual research expenditures, including more than \$1.1 million in NIH funding. Faculty research spans population health analytics, chronic disease prevention, health services research, epidemiology, biostatistics, behavioral health, and policy-relevant public health inquiry.

Research at SPHIS is increasingly interdisciplinary and collaborative, leveraging partnerships across the Health Sciences Center, including the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing, as well as the Louisville Clinical & Translational Research Center and the Brown Cancer Center. These collaborations create significant opportunities for translational and team-based science.

A centerpiece of the School's research enterprise is the Humana Center for Community Health Research. Established through a \$6.75 million, six-year commitment from the Humana Foundation, the Center supports scalable, data-driven solutions to pressing community health challenges and strengthens SPHIS's role as a national leader in community-engaged public health research.

Clinical and Community Engagement

Community engagement is a defining feature of SPHIS's mission and identity. The School maintains deep partnerships with local and regional health departments, healthcare systems, nonprofit organizations, and community-based groups, positioning SPHIS as a trusted partner in addressing complex health challenges.

Through applied research, workforce training, policy engagement, and community-based initiatives, SPHIS faculty and students contribute directly to improving health outcomes in Louisville and across Kentucky. This work is grounded in a commitment to health equity, community partnership, and evidence-based practice.

SPHIS's location within a major academic health center further strengthens its ability to integrate public health perspectives into clinical, translational, and population-based initiatives, reinforcing the School's role as a bridge between research, practice, and policy.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean of the School of Public Health & Information Sciences serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the School and reports to the Executive Vice President and University Provost. The Dean is responsible for providing strategic leadership and overall direction for SPHIS, advancing its mission across education, research, practice, and policy, and ensuring academic excellence, operational effectiveness, and financial sustainability. Working in close collaboration with faculty and senior leaders, the Dean oversees academic programs, accreditation, faculty affairs, research infrastructure, and School operations within a shared-governance environment.

As a senior academic leader, the Dean represents SPHIS within the University of Louisville and externally to community partners, public agencies, foundations, alumni, and donors. The Dean plays a key role in strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration across the Health Sciences Center, leading fundraising and advancement efforts, and elevating the School's visibility and impact at the local, regional, and national levels. Through these responsibilities, the Dean contributes not only to the success of SPHIS, but also to the broader mission and leadership of the University.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The following opportunities and challenges illustrate the leadership landscape the next Dean will navigate as SPHIS builds on its strengths and addresses the evolving demands of public health education, research, and practice.

Create and implement an ambitious, outcomes-oriented vision for the next era of SPHIS

The next Dean, working in close collaboration with faculty, staff, students, and institutional partners, will be expected to articulate and advance a clear, compelling vision for the future of the School of Public Health & Information Sciences. This vision should position SPHIS as a preeminent institution for public health education, research, and practice, while remaining grounded in the School's metropolitan mission and responsibility to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Successfully advancing such a vision will require the Dean to align diverse stakeholders across SPHIS, the Health Sciences Center, and the broader University. The Dean must work to strengthen collaboration across disciplines, close gaps between public health and other health sciences units, and identify meaningful opportunities for integration across education, research, and community engagement.

Lead the School through a period of growth, transition, and increasing visibility

SPHIS is entering a period of significant opportunity, marked by growth in research activity, expanding academic programs, and increasing national visibility. The Dean will have the opportunity to build on this momentum while ensuring that growth is strategic, sustainable, and aligned with the School's mission and resources.

At the same time, this growth presents challenges related to prioritization, capacity, and change management. The Dean must balance ambition with stewardship, supporting faculty and staff through periods of transition while maintaining a strong sense of institutional identity and cohesion.

Leverage the new Health Sciences Center building as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation

The planned move into a new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center building represents a major inflection point for SPHIS. The co-location of health sciences schools offers substantial opportunities to enhance interdisciplinary education, collaborative research, and shared infrastructure, while increasing the School's visibility and impact.

Realizing this potential will require thoughtful leadership. The Dean must guide the School through the logistical, cultural, and organizational dimensions of relocation, ensuring that SPHIS's distinct mission and strengths are preserved and amplified within a more integrated health sciences environment.

Expand the School's research enterprise in a competitive national landscape

SPHIS has demonstrated strong momentum in research productivity and external funding, including growing support from federal agencies and foundations. The Dean will have the opportunity to further strengthen the School's research profile by supporting faculty scholarship, encouraging interdisciplinary and translational work, and expanding external partnerships.

At the same time, sustaining and expanding a competitive research enterprise requires strategic investment, effective support structures, and success in faculty recruitment and retention. The Dean must navigate a challenging national funding environment while balancing research expectations with the School's educational and community-engagement commitments.

Deepen community-engaged public health impact while meeting multiple stakeholder expectations

As a metropolitan school of public health, SPHIS plays a vital role in addressing complex and persistent health challenges in Louisville and across Kentucky. The Dean will have the opportunity to strengthen the School's leadership in community-engaged public health, translating research and education into meaningful improvements in population health.

This work also requires sustained relationship-building, responsiveness, and trust. The Dean must balance local and regional engagement with broader national ambitions, ensuring that community partnerships remain authentic, effective, and mutually beneficial.

Serve as a visible institutional leader and advocate for public health

The Dean will be expected to serve as a visible ambassador for SPHIS within the University of Louisville and beyond, advancing the School's reputation, leading fundraising and advancement efforts, and strengthening relationships with external partners.

This role requires comfort operating in complex institutional and external environments, the ability to communicate the value of public health to diverse audiences, and the capacity to represent SPHIS effectively at the regional and national levels.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will hold an earned doctoral degree (PhD, DrPH, MD, or equivalent) in public health or a closely related field and possess credentials appropriate for appointment as a tenured full professor. The Dean will bring a record of scholarly accomplishment and academic leadership commensurate with leading a CEPH-accredited school of public health, including experience overseeing academic programs, supporting research and externally funded scholarship, and managing complex organizations with multiple stakeholders.

The ideal candidate will be a collaborative and inclusive leader with the ability to articulate a compelling vision and translate that vision into action. They will demonstrate strong communication skills, comfort

operating within a complex academic health sciences environment, and a commitment to community engagement and health equity. Experience with fundraising, external partnerships, and representing an institution to diverse audiences is highly valued, as is the capacity to lead through growth, change, and opportunity with integrity and judgment.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

The University of Louisville has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the search committee in its identification and review of candidates. Inquiries, referrals, and resumes accompanied by a cover letter should be sent electronically to:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-louisville-school-public-health-information-sciences/dean>

Daniel Rodas, Partner
Randi Herrick, Partner
Samuel Ruth, Senior Associate
Jasmine Miller, Senior Associate
Isaacson, Miller

The University of Louisville is committed to building a culturally diverse faculty and leadership, and strongly encourages applications from female and minority candidates.

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

APPENDIX

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Overview

Spread across three campuses, the University of Louisville (UofL) is a state-supported research university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Founded in 1798, UofL enrolls approximately 25,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries and offers degrees and certificates across more than 215 fields of study.

UofL is nationally recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its designations as a Research 1 institution, a Community Engaged university, and an Opportunity College. These distinctions reflect the University's strength as a metropolitan research institution deeply connected to its city, region, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The University's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan centers on student success, research and innovation, and meaningful engagement with local and global communities. Through initiatives such as the Signature Partnership Initiative and a strong emphasis on community and belonging, UofL advances equitable access to education, discovery that improves lives, and partnerships that strengthen Louisville and Kentucky.

Community Engagement

The University of Louisville is deeply connected to the city of Louisville, and its ties to the local community have never been stronger. UofL is a major partner in the award-winning Partnership for a Green City with Jefferson County Public Schools and Louisville Metro Government and has launched a Signature Partnership Initiative focused on improving education, health care, social services, and economic opportunity in West Louisville—an area historically underserved economically and educationally.

Through these efforts, UofL has earned the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's highest classification for community engagement.

Students

UofL enrolls approximately 18,000 undergraduate students and over 7,000 graduate and professional students. The student body is 53% women and 47% men, with students of color comprising approximately 27% of the population. Roughly 75% of students are residents of Kentucky, though the University attracts students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries worldwide.

Academics and Faculty

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, UofL awards bachelor's, master's, specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degrees (including DMD, JD, MD, and PhD) through 12 schools and colleges. Students benefit from a wide array of internship, co-op, service-learning, and research opportunities.

UofL faculty are among the top researchers and scholars in their fields. The student-faculty ratio is 14:1, and 42% of classes enroll fewer than 20 students, supporting close faculty-student engagement. Of the University's approximately 2,650 faculty members, 47% are women and 21% are persons of color.

Campuses

Belknap Campus

The 287-acre Belknap Campus, located three miles from downtown Louisville, houses eight of the University's 12 degree-granting schools and colleges. The campus has expanded significantly in recent years through redevelopment of formerly industrial land and includes major academic facilities, residence halls, and athletic venues.

Health Sciences Center

Located east of downtown Louisville in the heart of the Louisville Medical Center, the Health Sciences Center (HSC) includes the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, and Public Health & Information Sciences, as well as inpatient and outpatient clinical facilities, research buildings, and a recently renovated instructional building. The HSC is home to 15 centers and institutes conducting research in areas ranging from cancer and cardiovascular disease to spinal cord injury and aging.

The Louisville Clinical & Translational Research Center (LCTRC) represents the largest investment in clinical research in UofL's history, supported by a \$24 million award, including \$11.7 million from the NIH. The LCTRC focuses on accelerating translation of discoveries into improved patient care and supporting the next generation of researchers.

The Brown Cancer Center (BCC) is a highly collaborative research enterprise serving a catchment area encompassing northcentral, central, western, and southwestern Kentucky. The BCC is nationally recognized for leadership in biologic- and cell-based immunotherapies and houses a state-of-the-art multidisciplinary Immuno-Oncology Research Program.

ShelbyHurst Campus

The 243-acre ShelbyHurst Campus, located in eastern Jefferson County, includes a 60-acre academic core housing business offices, technology initiatives, the Center for Predictive Medicine (a Level 3 biosafety facility), and the Information Technology Resource Center for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Remaining acreage is managed by the University of Louisville Foundation for the benefit of the University.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LEADERSHIP

President

T. Gerard (Gerry) Bradley, BDS, MS, DrMedDent

Dr. Bradley is the 20th President of the University of Louisville. Prior to his appointment as president, he served as Executive Vice President and University Provost, overseeing all academic colleges, schools, and deans. He joined UofL in 2016 as Dean of the School of Dentistry and served as provost in both interim and permanent roles beginning in 2022.

During his tenure as provost, Dr. Bradley led efforts to increase enrollment, improve student persistence, expand financial aid, and strengthen academic quality. He oversaw multiple successful accreditation site visits, hired eight deans, developed a new budget model, and supported the launch of new academic programs.

Before joining UofL, Dr. Bradley served as chair and professor at Marquette University School of Dentistry and as associate dean for research and graduate studies. He holds degrees from University College Cork, The Ohio State University, and the University of Bern.

Executive Vice President and University Provost

Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Cardarelli was appointed Executive Vice President and University Provost in November 2025, following service as Interim Provost beginning in March 2025. She joined the University of Louisville in April 2024 as Dean of the School of Public Health & Information Sciences and Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health.

With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Cardarelli has held senior leadership roles including department chair, associate dean, and senior associate provost. Prior to UofL, she spent ten years at the University of Kentucky advancing academic affairs, faculty development, and operational effectiveness.

Dr. Cardarelli is nationally recognized for her research at the intersection of health behavior, data science, and community health. Her work has been supported by the NIH, USDA, and CDC, and she currently co-leads the Humana Center for Community Health Research, supported by a \$6.75 million grant from the Humana Foundation. She has also completed the Presidential Management Fellowship at HHS and the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine fellowship at Drexel University.

THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE

Overview

Louisville is the largest city in Kentucky and the center of a bi-state metropolitan region spanning north-central Kentucky and southern Indiana. Situated along the Ohio River, Louisville operates as a consolidated city-county government and serves as the Commonwealth's primary metropolitan, economic, and cultural hub. The broader metropolitan area includes more than 1.3 million residents, offering the scale and amenities of a major city alongside a comparatively affordable cost of living.

Louisville's central location places it within a day's drive of a significant portion of the U.S. population and positions the city as a key transportation and logistics center. The region is served by Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport and is home to major logistics infrastructure that supports national and global connectivity.

Economy and Health-Related Industries

Louisville has a diverse economy anchored by healthcare, health insurance, life sciences, logistics, advanced manufacturing, and food and beverage industries. Major employers include nationally recognized organizations in healthcare delivery, insurance, logistics, automotive manufacturing, and consumer brands. The healthcare and health insurance sectors, in particular, play a central role in the region's economic and workforce landscape.

The city has emerged as a regional center for health enterprises and aging care, with growing alignment among industry, academic research, and workforce development. This environment creates meaningful opportunities for collaboration across public health, clinical care, policy, and applied research.

Culture, Community, and Quality of Life

Louisville blends Midwestern accessibility with Southern tradition and is widely known for its cultural institutions, culinary scene, historic neighborhoods, and extensive park system. The city is internationally recognized as the home of the Kentucky Derby and has a strong identity shaped by its bourbon heritage, arts organizations, museums, and music and food cultures.

The cost of living in Louisville is lower than in many peer metropolitan areas, particularly with respect to housing, making the region attractive to faculty, staff, and professionals relocating from higher-cost cities. Louisville offers a wide range of urban, suburban, and historic neighborhoods that support varied lifestyles.

Public Health Context

As a metropolitan area, Louisville faces complex public health challenges related to chronic disease, health inequities, access to care, and the social determinants of health. These challenges also create opportunities for applied public health research, policy engagement, and community-based interventions. The University of Louisville and its health sciences enterprise are deeply embedded in the city's civic and public health infrastructure, positioning the School of Public Health & Information Sciences to play a visible and consequential role in improving population health outcomes locally, regionally, and across the Commonwealth.