



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

VICE PROVOST FOR STUDENT AND CAMPUS LIFE
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
Seattle, WA

THE SEARCH

Seattle University, a leading Jesuit Catholic institution, seeks a collaborative, engaged, and innovative student affairs leader to serve as the Vice Provost for Student and Campus Life (Vice Provost). The Vice Provost will join a dynamic institution committed to ensuring a transformative education at both the undergraduate and graduate level in an urban setting. The Vice Provost will be a driving force in integrating the curricular and co-curricular, serve as a strategic partner in creating a vision for academic and student affairs, and define key priorities for the Student and Campus Life team to inspire a highly dedicated staff committed to ensuring holistic well-being and engagement for all students.

One of 27 Jesuit universities in the United States, and a premier independent college in the Pacific Northwest, Seattle University is recognized for its undergraduate teaching and community engagement. The University enrolls approximately 4000 undergraduates and 3000 graduate students across seven schools and colleges and two campuses. Its 758 faculty members engage in teaching, research, and service with a clear focus on academic excellence, justice, leadership, and diversity, emphasizing the student experience of learning in all of its forms – in the classroom, on campus, and around the world. Immersed in a dynamic urban environment, Seattle University provides many opportunities for student engagement on and off campus. Seattle, a hub city for technology, health sciences, entrepreneurship, and the arts, offers students a unique laboratory for learning.

The Vice Provost will be joining Seattle University at a pivotal time to create a vibrant and transformational out-of-classroom student experience. With a presidential search underway and the recent acquisition of

Cornish College of the Arts, the Vice Provost has the opportunity to chart a new, cohesive vision for student life and engagement alongside academic partners. A long-serving Provost has guided the integration of academic and student affairs and is committed to ensuring a more integrated curricular and co-curricular experience that promotes nimble student life and student success efforts. This is a campus poised for innovation and change, and the Vice Provost will work collaboratively in Academic and Student Affairs and across the university to evolve together while ensuring that students continue to receive the holistic and inclusive experience that is the hallmark of Seattle University.

The Vice Provost will have the opportunity to address a number of opportunities and challenges, including to:

- Craft and execute a strategic vision for the future of Student and Campus Life at Seattle University
- Work collaboratively across the university to support student success
- Define the ideal student experience and integrate work across Academic and Student Affairs to achieve that vision
- Cultivate and support a highly dedicated Student and Campus Life team

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics of the Vice Provost 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, to provide background information and detail the key opportunities and challenges related to the position. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1891, Seattle University is a Jesuit, Catholic university located on a vibrant and green campus of 50 acres in the dynamic heart of Seattle, WA. It is a university dedicated to offering students a holistic education that develops every facet of mind, body, and spirit defined by rigorous in-depth study, hands-on experiential learning, and emphasis on discerning reflection.

From its roots as a small parish school, Seattle University has grown into the largest independent university in the Northwestern United States. Roughly 4000 undergraduate and 3000 graduate students call Seattle University home, with 37% as first-generation college students. More than half of the incoming class comes from out of state, and while there is a large population of undergraduates aged 18-22, there is a significant population of commuter and non-traditional age students as well. In 2025-2026, 98% of students received financial aid.

The University houses seven schools and colleges, each with their own highly ranked programs: the Albers School of Business and Economics; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Education; College of Nursing and Health Sciences; College of Science and Engineering; Cornish College of the Arts at Seattle University;

and the School of Law. Cornish College of the Arts was acquired by Seattle University in the spring of 2025, and the work of integrating systems and experiences across the two campuses remains ongoing. More than 750 faculty (525 of whom are full-time) call Seattle University home.

One of 27 Jesuit universities in the United States, students across schools and programs will encounter the common values of Jesuit education. It is excellence with a purpose. It prioritizes the pursuit of knowledge, critical thinking, and intellectual curiosity as life-long endeavors to better understand and engage in a changing world. The curriculum is experiential and interdisciplinary, and the community works together to actively foster an environment where all individuals are respected, heard, and included. It is an action-oriented approach that says what you do with the knowledge you gain is just as important as acquiring it. Students, faculty, and staff are willing to use their voice and dedicate their time to this mission, and curriculum and culture both include a dedication to a value-oriented education and way of life.

Seattle University is in the midst of the [Reigniting our Strategic Directions 2022-2027](#) strategic plan which outlines a foundation and five goals to be one of the most innovative and progressive Jesuit and Catholic universities in the world. With a foundation remaining anchored in Jesuit and Catholic character, goals focus on reimagining and revising curriculum; strengthening professional formation for all; enhancing the student experience; promoting inclusive excellence; and positioning institutional infrastructure to meet these goals. With a presidential search underway, the Vice Provost will be joining the Seattle University community at the opportune time to begin a new strategic planning process.

STUDENT AND CAMPUS LIFE

Seattle University is located in the vibrant First Hill neighborhood of Seattle, with the recently acquired South Lake Union campus located closer to Downtown Seattle in the South Lake Union neighborhood. The campuses, like the city in which they reside, are active, international, full of the people and professional growth that the college experience is all about.

More than 180 student clubs and organizations are active on campus. They are as diverse as the student body and include athletics, professional organizations, artistic enterprises, cultural groups, and service groups. The Student Government of Seattle University (SGSU) is the official governing body of undergraduate students. They are exceptionally active, and SGSU representatives serve on numerous campus committees alongside faculty and staff. Similarly, the Graduate Student Government Association represents the graduate student body, and the Student Bar Association represents students in the School of Law. Alongside student clubs and government, students can engage in student media opportunities with the award winning KXSU radio station and the student newspaper, The Spectator.

With first- and second-year students living on campus via a housing requirement, and 1,850 students overall living on campus, there is a rich residence life at Seattle University. Under the moniker [Redhawk](#)

[Residential Experience](#) students on campus find a community that fosters connection, personal growth, and inclusion. There are four residence halls for first- and second-year students. Upper- division students, graduate students, and law students can take advantage of one apartment building (Murphy Apartments) and three affiliated buildings - Vi Hilbert Hall and the Douglas Apartments on the First Hill campus, and the new Cornish Commons on the South Lake Union campus.

In keeping with the Jesuit principle of supporting the whole person, health and wellness is not only a support service, but a central pillar of campus. Recently integrated under the leadership of the Assistant Provost for Counseling, Health, and Wellness, the Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Center, and Wellness and Health Promotion teams work together to address the physical and emotional health of campus. The CARE (Coordinated Assistance and Resource Education) team coordinates student care across multiple teams and academic partners, ensuring that students receive referrals to campus and off-campus resources. The Office of the Dean of Students supports both emergency financial resources for students, and basic needs initiatives including the Food Pantry & Cafe and a food recovery network that ensures that excess food from the dining facilities is made available for students who need it.

Recreation at SU is both plentiful and accessible. The Eisminger Fitness Center (colloquially called UREC) is the anchor for 180,000 square feet of recreational, fitness, and athletic space for fitness, swimming, strength, cardio, and more. Students can utilize facilities independently or as part of group fitness and personal training resources. Both intramural and club sports abound, and a robust community in Esports and Gaming, building off the tech hub that is Seattle, exists on campus. UREC also ensures access to outdoor spaces on campus for sports activities, as well as a robust outdoor recreation program that helps students access the outdoor opportunities (e.g. hiking, skiing, rock climbing) that are a short drive or bus ride from Seattle.

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Under the leadership of the Provost, Seattle University has worked to integrate the curricular and co-curricular experience for students, officially designating the Provost's division the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Two Senior Vice Provosts facilitate this effort, respectively leading the curricular and co-curricular enterprises. Under the Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs are two significant units: [Student and Campus Life](#), and [Student Success](#), each led by a Vice Provost. The teams are deeply collaborative, working together on both a strategic and day-to-day basis.

ROLE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR STUDENT AND CAMPUS LIFE

The Vice Provost serves on the Provost's Executive Council and works to advance the university's strategic goals and bolster the impact of the teams within Academic and Student Affairs. The Vice Provost will leverage current and future best practices in student affairs and student development to ensure that the practices of Seattle University are innovative and that the students of today and tomorrow are best served by the institution. They will serve as a highly-visible advocate for students and a conduit through which information can be shared with students – and students can share information with institutional leadership. They will further be a bridge builder who facilitates collaboration throughout student affairs offices on campus, and across campus with academic units. Leading in a complex and interrelated landscape, the Vice Provost will be a source of direction and coordination, ensuring that work is proactive, strategic, and coordinated to ensure a welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

The Vice Provost reports to the Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs and has a team of five direct reports: the Dean of Students, Assistant Vice Provost for Counseling, Health, and Wellness, Executive Director for Housing and Residence Life, Executive Director for Public Safety and Emergency Management, and an executive coordinator. Student and Campus Life is home to 94 full-time staff, including the Dean of Students office, Integrity Formation, Student Care & Support, Student Involvement, Student Media, University Recreation, International Student & Scholar Center, Student and Campus Life at Cornish College of the Arts at Seattle University, Counseling and Psychological Services, the Student Health Center, Wellness and Health Promotion, Housing & Residence Life, and the Department of Public Safety. The Vice Provost serves on the Provost's Executive Council. The Vice Provost oversees a revenue budget of approximately \$21 million and an operating expense budget of approximately \$20.3 million across the two campuses.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE VICE PROVOST

The Vice Provost will have the opportunity to serve as a highly influential leader on a campus deeply committed to its students to address the following opportunities and challenges:

Craft a vision and plan that strategically guides the work of Student and Campus Life

Upon arrival at Seattle University, the Vice Provost will craft and execute a compelling strategic vision for campus that can inspire the campus community and promote a vibrant campus life, student engagement, wellbeing, and belonging. The Vice Provost will work in close partnership with the Senior Vice Provost and Vice Provost for Student Success in crafting a vision that integrates academic and student life, accomplishes university-wide goals, adheres to the mission and *cura personalis*, and supports the full lifecycle from orientation through graduation. Such a vision must capture best practices, encourage innovation, and guide campus programming to meet the needs of current and future students. This will include leveraging the many assets of Seattle to facilitate connections with the city and foster students'

holistic development through community engagement and experiential learning opportunities in their unique, urban environment. In the process of crafting such a vision, the Vice Provost will seek advice, input, and on-the-ground knowledge from the expert staff within the team, students, faculty, and leaders across the university.

Work collaboratively across the university to support student success

The Vice Provost will support a cohesive, holistic student experience at Seattle University by enhancing partnerships, encouraging integration of efforts, and providing regular communication with other units across Academic and Student Affairs, especially with the Student Success team, and across the schools, colleges, campuses, and offices of Diversity and Inclusion, University Ministry, and others. This will include ensuring wraparound services for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; commuter, transfer, and residential students; and the wealth of intersectional identities that exist at Seattle University to ensure that the institution faithfully meets the needs of all students, closes equity gaps, and provides seamless support. Of particular note will be continuing the effective integration of Student & Campus Life services and structures in the newly acquired Cornish College of the Arts at Seattle University to ensure students on the South Lake Union campus share fully in the Seattle University experience. The Vice Provost will build bridges and mutually-beneficial relationships, facilitate new spaces and roadmaps for collaboration, reduce barriers wherever possible, and promote a culture across the university that promotes proactive, seamless, and holistic support for students in the Jesuit tradition.

Define the ideal student experience and integrate work across Academic and Student Affairs to achieve that vision

The Vice Provost will be joining a division ready to be inspired around common goals and priorities to best support a Seattle University transformational student experience. With recent transitions in leadership, the Student and Campus Life team has largely continued their good work without a larger vision for the ideal Seattle University experience. They are eager to work together around a strategic direction that allows for the disparate and inter-related teams and functions to work more nimbly and effectively together. The Vice Provost will be expected to find new synergies across units while integrating efforts, reducing barriers, and ensuring new efficiencies to be most effective in providing a holistic experience for all students. This will include leading difficult conversations around which programming and services are no longer working. The Vice Provost will bring a data and assessment lens and provide a forward-thinking approach to shifting strategy and programming as needed to meet the needs of current and future students. The Vice Provost will leverage the expertise of Student and Campus Life staff in decision making and reallocate budgets accordingly to meet strategic goals. Through this evolution, the Student & Campus Life team will need to deeply understand how their work contributes to the success of students and larger strategic goals for the division and institution at large.

Cultivate and support a highly dedicated Student and Campus Life team

The Vice Provost will inherit a caring, talented, and dedicated staff - some of whom have longstanding tenure at Seattle University, while others have entered the community more recently. All staff are eager to evolve and innovate to continue providing outstanding student programming and services that are accessible and impactful for all students. The Vice Provost will seek opportunities to develop, mentor, and retain the Student & Campus Life team while also promoting a culture of self-care, enthusiasm, and excellence, galvanizing a commitment to continuous professional development and innovation among the staff through the sharing of best practices. They will be a strong spokesperson for the team, representing their great work and expertise at all levels of the university, ensuring they feel valued and heard in decision making, and that the resource and technology needs of the team are known in decision making. The Vice Provost will lead with authenticity and transparency, using strong communication skills to build trust and inspire the team around new strategies to best meet the needs of an ever-evolving student population and fulfill university-wide goals together.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Seattle University seeks a Vice Provost with exemplary strategic leadership ability and a history of collaborative leadership. A master's degree in a relevant field and a significant record of progressive leadership experience, preferably for student life in a university setting, is required. A doctoral degree is preferred. The successful candidate will also bring many of the following personal and professional qualities and characteristics:

- Knowledge of current and emerging issues, trends, and best practices in student affairs and experience working collaboratively with academic affairs.
- Proven ability to inspire others and manage complexity through change, implement creative solutions, and establish best practices that are tailored to unique institutional needs.
- Knowledge of strategic planning, resource allocation, and coordination of people and resources. mentoring and empowering others.
- Ability to instill confidence and trust with colleagues and campus partners, along with the tact to challenge, in a positive way, various stakeholders and constituents on operational matters.
- A track record of a high level of emotional intelligence and authenticity when navigating complex challenges and diverse communities.
- Experience in crisis management.
- Experiences with the diverse functional areas included in Student & Campus Life
- Experience navigating free expression, activism, and other dynamic conversations on campus around key national issues.
- Experience in providing holistic and innovative programming, including a focus on wellbeing and belonging.

- Experience cultivating a team around new strategies and directions; experience mentoring and developing a team and ensuring a high level of morale.
- An understanding of the goals and values of Jesuit education and Catholic higher education; being of Catholic faith is not necessary.
- Demonstrated success advancing access and student retention goals within a student affairs functional area.
- Highly developed written and verbal communication and listening skills; interpersonal savvy to establish close relationships with key influencers around campus.

COMPENSATION

The anticipated hiring range for this role is \$230,000-\$250,000. This range takes into account the wide range of factors that are considered in making compensation decisions, including but not limited to experience, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, licensure and certifications, and other organizational needs, and is a good faith estimate. Seattle University offers a robust and comprehensive benefits program for its employees in order to attract and retain individuals that will carry out its mission. Salary offers are determined based on the final candidate's qualifications and experience.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and resumes with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/seattle-university/vice-provost-student-and-campus-life>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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