



Vice President for Risk, Audit & Compliance

University of Louisville

Louisville, KY

THE SEARCH

The [University of Louisville](#) seeks a strategic and influential leader to serve as its next Vice President for Risk, Audit & Compliance. Reporting to the [Executive Vice President](#) for Legal, Governance and Enterprise Risk Management, this executive will serve as the University's senior enterprise risk and compliance officer, providing leadership for [Risk](#) and [Compliance](#), [Audit Services](#), [Athletic Compliance](#), and key institutional accountability functions. As a trusted advisor to [University leadership](#), the Vice President will play a critical role in advancing a coordinated, enterprise-wide approach to risk management, regulatory compliance, audit oversight, and effective governance across a complex and growing public R1 research university.

This opportunity comes at an exciting moment for the University, which is experiencing significant growth in enrollment, research, healthcare, and institutional investment. The next Vice President will have the opportunity to build upon recent efforts to centralize compliance and investigative functions, creating a more integrated, and proactive compliance enterprise. This next leader will help strengthen partnerships across campus, improve operational efficiency, enhance institutional accountability, and foster a culture of compliance that supports the University's mission and strategic ambitions.

The ideal candidate will bring the judgment, executive presence, and leadership experience necessary to navigate an increasingly complex regulatory environment while addressing sensitive risk, compliance, and investigative matters with integrity and independence. Candidates will bring significant and progressively responsible leadership experience in risk management, compliance, audit, investigations, and related functions, ideally within a complex higher education environment.

Working collaboratively with academic, administrative, research, healthcare, and athletics leaders, the Vice President will help the University anticipate emerging risks, strengthen internal controls, and develop practical solutions that support innovation, growth, and operational excellence. This is a compelling opportunity to shape a critical institutional function and make a lasting impact at a university with strong momentum, and a clear vision for the future.

ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RISK, AUDIT & COMPLIANCE

The Vice President for Risk, Audit & Compliance serves as the University's senior enterprise risk and compliance officer, providing strategic leadership for a comprehensive portfolio that promotes accountability, integrity, effective governance, and risk-informed decision-making across the institution. This role reports to the [Executive Vice President](#) for Legal, Governance and Enterprise Risk Management, meets regularly with the [University President](#), and maintains a dotted line to the [University Board of Trustees](#). Operating within a complex public R1 university, the Vice President advances a proactive and integrated approach to enterprise risk management, regulatory compliance, audit oversight, and institutional accountability while serving as a trusted advisor to [University leadership](#).

The Vice President oversees the University's units of [Risk and Compliance](#), [Audit Services](#), the [University's compliance hotline](#), and [Athletic Compliance](#), ensuring that these functions operate collaboratively to identify, assess, and mitigate institutional risks, maintain regulatory compliance, and strengthen internal controls. The Vice President provides enterprise compliance oversight, policy coordination, ethics administration, institutional investigations, and enterprise risk management while partnering closely with specialized compliance offices across the University. The role also maintains a dotted-line reporting relationship with the [Conflict of Interest and Commitment](#) function, fostering alignment across key compliance and ethics activities while supporting consistent policy implementation and oversight.

As the University's chief leader for these areas, the Vice President partners closely with academic, administrative, healthcare, research, and athletics leadership to navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape, support accreditation requirements, enhance operational effectiveness, and promote a culture of compliance that enables the University to achieve its mission. The successful candidate will bring the judgment, independence, executive presence, and collaborative leadership necessary to address sensitive matters, strengthen enterprise-wide processes, and position the University to proactively respond to emerging risks and opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The following opportunities and challenges outline the most pressing needs for the next Vice President to address:

Strengthen and Centralize a Modern Compliance Enterprise

The Vice President will have a unique opportunity to build upon recent efforts to centralize compliance and investigative functions across the University. As reporting structures evolve and responsibilities become more coordinated, the next leader will be charged with creating consistent processes, strengthening partnerships across campus, and advancing an integrated approach to risk management and compliance. Success will require balancing regulatory rigor with a collaborative, service-oriented mindset that helps campus partners understand and effectively implement institutional requirements.

Bolstering campus-wide education around processes and policies will be key to leveraging this structure and building a culture of compliance.

Lead Through Increasing Regulatory and Accreditation Complexity

Higher education institutions face an increasingly dynamic compliance landscape, including evolving federal regulations, Title IV requirements, accreditation expectations, and heightened public scrutiny. The University of Louisville is simultaneously navigating this evolving environment within higher education alongside significant institutional growth, creating both opportunity and complexity. The next Vice President must possess the strategic perspective to anticipate emerging risks, understand their implications for a large public R1 institution, and ensure the University remains proactive rather than reactive in its compliance posture.

Drive Operational Excellence and Timely Resolution of Risk Matters

University leadership identified opportunities to enhance efficiency in managing audits, reviews, investigations, and compliance concerns. The incoming leader will inherit a broad portfolio that includes Risk, Compliance, Audit Services, Athletic Compliance, and a strong involvement in Conflict of Interest issues. All of this requires effective prioritization, thoughtful resource allocation, and disciplined case management. This role presents an opportunity to streamline operations, enhance responsiveness, and establish systems that ensure issues are addressed thoroughly and in a timely manner while maintaining the highest standards of quality and integrity.

Serve as an Independent and Trusted Advisor to Institutional Leadership

Reporting within a complex governance environment, the Vice President must demonstrate the executive presence, judgment, and independence necessary to address sensitive issues at every level of the institution. The role requires the ability to engage constructively with senior leaders, trustees, faculty, staff, and students while maintaining objectivity and credibility. The next leader will be expected to navigate challenging investigations and risk matters with professionalism and fortitude, serving as a trusted advisor who can uphold institutional values even in the most difficult circumstances.

Support a Growing and Forward-Looking University

The University of Louisville is experiencing significant momentum, including record enrollment, major investments in health sciences and research infrastructure, and strong institutional leadership. The next Vice President will have the opportunity to help shape the University's future by ensuring that risk management, audit, and compliance functions effectively support innovation, growth, and operational excellence. This is an opportunity to join an institution that views compliance as a strategic asset and values collaboration across its academic, research, and administrative enterprises.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will be a strong advocate and collaborator across the institution, with the gravitas to interact with executive leadership and the University's Board of Trustees around key compliance related issues.

- A bachelor's degree in business, a related field, or an equivalent combination of education and professional experience; an advanced degree (master's degree or Juris Doctor) is preferred;
- Significant and progressively responsible leadership experience in risk management, audit, compliance, investigations, or related functions, ideally within a complex higher education environment;
- Demonstrated success leading Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) efforts, including the development, implementation, and advancement of an enterprise-wide risk framework;
- A proven ability to oversee and strengthen risk, audit, and compliance operations while fostering a culture of accountability, integrity, and continuous improvement;
- Strong knowledge of regulatory compliance, governance, internal controls, and institutional risk management practices;
- Ability to provide objective, independent oversight, and guidance while remaining aligned with the institution's strategic priorities;
- Exceptional communication, presentation, and relationship-building skills, including experience effectively engaging executive leadership, governing boards, and diverse stakeholder groups;
- The judgment, independence, and executive presence necessary to serve as a trusted advisor on sensitive and high-profile matters;
- Experience navigating complex regulatory environments and balancing compliance requirements with organizational objectives;
- Demonstrated success leading organizational transformation and managing complex institutional change;
- Proven success leading, developing, and mentoring multidisciplinary professional teams;
- Healthcare compliance experience is highly desirable;
- A collaborative leadership style and the strategic perspective necessary to identify emerging risks, drive operational excellence, and support institutional growth and innovation.

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 via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://imsearch.com/open-searches/university-of-louisville/vprac>

Daniel Rodas, Partner
Melissa DePretto Behan, Senior Associate
Tiffany Hendren, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

The [University of Louisville is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer](#), and 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](#) (The University) is a state-supported research university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Founded in 1798, The University enrolls approximately 25,000 students from all 50 states, and 88 countries and offers degrees and certificates across more than 215 fields of study.

The University is nationally recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its designations as a Research 1 institution, a Community Engaged university, and an Opportunity College-Higher Access, Higher Earnings. 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 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, The University has earned the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's highest classification for community engagement.

Students

The University enrolls approximately 18,000 undergraduate students and over 6,000 graduate and professional students. The student body is 56% women and 44% 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 88 countries worldwide. Approximately 38% of the incoming class was first-generation and approximately 44% was Pell-eligible.

Academics and Faculty

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

The University 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 2,590 faculty members, 48% are women and 30% are persons of color.

Campuses

Belknap Campus

The 274-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.

The University also recently broke ground on a [landmark \\$280 million Health Sciences Building](#), the largest single-project investment in the institution's history, designed to serve as a hub for interdisciplinary education, research, and community engagement. The six-story, 257,000-square-foot facility will bring together the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health and Information Sciences, featuring state-of-the-art simulation, learning, and research environments that support innovation and collaboration across the health professions. Once completed, the building will expand enrollment capacity, strengthen the healthcare workforce pipeline, and enhance UofL's ability to address critical health challenges across Kentucky and beyond.

ShelbyHurst Campus

The 230-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-Legal, Governance & Enterprise Risk Management

Angela Curry, Juris Doctor

Angela oversees all legal, governance, and enterprise risk management functions for the University while advancing the University's mission, vision, and Cardinal Principles. In addition to her role as Chief Legal Counsel, [Angela serves as Executive Vice President](#) for Legal, Governance, and Enterprise Risk Management. She is a member of the President's Cabinet and the University's Executive Leadership Team. Before accepting her current position with the University, Angela was Senior Vice-President-General Counsel for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Foundation where she served as chief legal counsel for a private foundation with \$2 billion in assets under management and helped direct social impact projects in Africa, South America, and the Middle East. Angela has over 20 years of experience as General Counsel for various institutions of higher education, including Kentucky State University and Fisk University. She also served as an attorney for the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Angela earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia where she graduated with honors. She received a Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts and is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. She is a Kentucky Colonel, a graduate of Leadership Kentucky, and is very active in several Louisville civic organizations.

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.