

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Associate Chief Information Officer, Research Information Technology

Leadership Profile

July 2026



Executive Summary

The Associate CIO for Research Technology provides strategic leadership, vision, and operational oversight for technology services that enable and accelerate research across the university.

UMass Amherst, the Commonwealth's flagship campus, is a nationally ranked public research university offering a full range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. Situated on nearly 1,450 acres in the scenic Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, the University provides a rich cultural environment in a bucolic setting close to major urban centers. As part of the Five Colleges consortium, which includes Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College, UMass Amherst benefits from a vibrant intellectual community.

The Associate CIO ensures that the institution's cyberinfrastructure, data services, and research computing infrastructure align with the university's strategic research priorities. The Associate CIO serves as a senior member of the IT leadership team and represents Research Technology needs within institution-wide and system-wide planning, governance, and investment processes. Additionally, the Associate provides institution-wide leadership for Research Technology, establishing and executing a comprehensive strategy for research cyberinfrastructure that is aligned with institutional research priorities and responsive to emerging national trends. Serving as a principal advisor to senior university leadership, Associate CIO ensures that research technology direction, investments, and service delivery are coordinated to advance the university's research mission.

The Associate CIO will oversee the applications and services that enable research administration and support research activity across the institution, while directing the design and operation of secure research environments for regulated data and computing. It ensures appropriate controls and operational readiness for compliance frameworks such as HIPAA, FERPA, CUI (NIST 800-171), CMMC, and other evolving federal requirements and will be accountable for building and sustaining strong partnerships with faculty, research centers, and administrative units to anticipate and meet changing research computing needs.

The successful candidate will bring experience in an R1 or similarly research-intensive setting, with demonstrated expertise in HPC, cloud research platforms, advanced networking, and secure data environments. They will pair a strong command of federal research compliance with proven leadership in decentralized organizations, the ability to implement effective governance and investment prioritization, and the executive presence to communicate complex topics clearly, exercise discretion, and drive continuous improvement in service delivery.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy on page 12.

Role of the Associate Chief Information Officer, Research Information Technology

The Associate CIO provides executive leadership for the institution's research technology portfolio, with responsibility for long-range planning across research applications, research computing, research data management, secure data and computing environments, and the strategic adoption of advanced technologies. The Associate CIO will establish a coherent, sustainable direction for these capabilities, ensuring that institutional research needs are supported through scalable services, clear priorities, and disciplined modernization.

Additionally, the Associate CIO guides modernization of academic-facing systems through strategies that leverage enterprise platforms, shared services, and integrations while preserving appropriate academic autonomy and accommodating disciplinary requirements. Working in close partnership with key campus stakeholders, the role supports Principal Investigators and departments in meeting sponsor and grant expectations by advising on data security plans, research security compliance requirements, and budget projections associated with research computing needs.

The Associate Chief Information Officer enters the role at a time of significant institutional change. UMass Amherst has recently transitioned to a center-led operating model, bringing together historically distributed teams, systems, and decision-making structures. Success in the role will depend on the ability to navigate organizational complexity, balance system-level constraints with campus-specific needs, and lead thoughtfully through change.



Position Summary

Reporting Relationships

Reporting to the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, Chief Information Officer, Christopher Misra.

Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership & Vision

- Develop and execute a multi-year Research Technology strategy that advances institutional research priorities, anticipates sponsor expectations, and aligns investments with national cyberinfrastructure direction.
- Serve as a trusted advisor to senior leaders, providing clear recommendations on research technology risk, tradeoffs, and investment decisions across the research enterprise.
- Lead long-range planning for research applications, research computing, research data management, secure environments, and responsible adoption of advanced technologies, with clear roadmaps, milestones, and success measures.

Research Applications, Computing & Cyberinfrastructure

- Provide executive oversight of research administration applications and enabling services, ensuring reliability, integration, and a strong user experience for researchers and research administrators.
- Oversee high performance computing, research cloud services, large-scale storage, and advanced networking, with disciplined capacity planning, lifecycle management, and service performance targets.
- Ensure a robust, scalable, and sustainable cyberinfrastructure that supports interdisciplinary and computationally intensive research, including support for external collaborations and shared infrastructure initiatives.
- Partner with libraries and academic units to coordinate research computing investments, reduce duplication, and align shared services with campus-wide priorities.

Research Data Services & Compliance

- Oversee secure research environments that support regulated and sensitive data, maintaining appropriate controls and operational rigor across HIPAA, FERPA, CUI, NIST 800-171, CMMC, and evolving federal requirements.
- Co-develop and continuously improve research data lifecycle services, including data intake, storage, access, sharing, retention, and preservation, in close partnership with research leadership and the university libraries.
- Support principal investigators and departments with practical guidance on data security plans, grant requirements, and budget projections for research computing and data needs, ensuring solutions are both compliant and usable.

Partnerships & Engagement

- Build and maintain strong relationships with faculty, research centers, core facilities, and administrative partners to stay ahead of emerging needs and remove barriers to research progress.
- Develop active relationships with governance bodies and faculty committees, ensuring research technology priorities are informed by shared governance and communicated with transparency.

- Collaborate with executive leadership on technology and process initiatives that affect work practices, providing confidential stakeholder insights that strengthen decision-making and change outcomes.
- Engage with external networks and consortia such as MGHPCC, Internet2, EDUCAUSE, and regional research and education networks to expand capabilities, benchmark practices, and strengthen partnerships.
- Represent the university in national discussions on research cyberinfrastructure and computational research trends, translating external developments into actionable campus strategy.
- Strengthen sustainability through competitive partnerships and coordinated funding efforts, including multi-institution proposals and shared service models where appropriate.
- Maintain regular engagement with Academic Affairs leadership to align research computing strategy, investment priorities, and service models with institutional direction.
- Provide regular reporting on usage, demand, service health, and growth trends, enabling data-informed decisions and clear accountability to stakeholders.

Operational Leadership

- Lead and develop teams delivering research applications, research computing, secure data services, research software engineering, and related support functions, with clear roles, expectations, and professional growth pathways.
- Establish service models that scale across disciplines, supporting varied research methods and workflows across STEM, health sciences, humanities, social sciences, and professional schools.
- Oversee budgets, staffing plans, service performance, and vendor and partner relationships, ensuring strong stewardship and predictable delivery.
- Define benchmarks and metrics for both staff performance and infrastructure effectiveness, using results to drive prioritization, continuous improvement, and strategic investment decisions.

Innovation & Emerging Technologies

- Evaluate and deploy emerging capabilities for data-intensive science, cloud-native research workflows, AI-enabled research use cases, and advanced visualization, with disciplined pilots and adoption plans.
- Drive innovation in research software engineering, digital scholarship, and research tooling by standardizing reusable patterns, strengthening support models, and improving time to value for researchers.

Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

Masters's degree in technology, business, or related field and seven years of progressive experience in Information Technology. A doctoral degree is preferred.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- Significant experience in an R1 or comparable research-intensive institution, with a clear understanding of how IT enables sponsored research, academic priorities, and institution-wide operations at scale.
- Demonstrated leadership of research cyberinfrastructure, including high performance computing, cloud research platforms, advanced networking, and secure research computing environments that balance usability with strong controls.
- Strong working knowledge of federal research compliance and research security expectations, and the ability to partner effectively with research, compliance, legal, and security teams to meet sponsor requirements.
- Proven ability to lead in complex, decentralized environments, aligning distributed stakeholders around shared priorities while building and sustaining high-performing teams through clear expectations, coaching, and accountability.
- Demonstrated experience establishing and operating IT governance, portfolio management, and investment prioritization frameworks that improve transparency, decision quality, and follow-through across competing institutional demands.
- Executive presence with exceptional ability to build relationships and influence at senior levels, translating complex technical concepts into clear, outcome focused communication for nontechnical audiences and decision makers.
- Sound judgment and professionalism, with a consistent track record of discretion and confidentiality when handling sensitive research, security, personnel, and institutional information.
- Excellent leadership, written and verbal communication, and presentation skills, including the ability to represent IT credibly in high-visibility settings and guide stakeholders through complex decisions.
- Commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration, and customer focused service delivery, with a demonstrated ability to strengthen service performance, reliability, and stakeholder experience over time.
- Experience operating in a product-centric IT organization, with accountability for product strategy, roadmaps, lifecycle management, and measurable outcomes aligned to institutional priorities.
- Demonstrated experience supporting computational research across multiple disciplines, understanding varied workflows, toolchains, and performance requirements from data ingestion through analysis and publication.
- Familiarity with research funding structures, including grant development support, chargeback or cost recovery approaches, and budgeting models that sustain shared research computing and data services.
- Proven ability to build durable partnerships with faculty, core facilities, and research administrators, translating research needs into scalable services, service levels, and adoption plans.

- Active engagement with national higher education and cyberinfrastructure communities, such as the Campus Research Computing Consortium (CaRCC), to benchmark practices, share lessons learned, and strengthen external collaboration.

About the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Overview

The flagship of the Commonwealth, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a nationally ranked public land-grant research University that seeks to expand educational access, fuel innovation and creativity, and share and use its knowledge for the common good. Founded in 1863, UMass Amherst sits on nearly 1,450-acres in scenic Western Massachusetts and boasts state-of-the-art facilities for teaching, research, scholarship, and creative activity. The institution advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community where everyone feels connected and valued—and thrives, and offers a full range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees across 10 schools and colleges, and 100 undergraduate majors. We believe every member of our University community can contribute to our ongoing success by striving for the highest level of excellence as we seek breakthrough solutions to mounting environmental, social, economic, and technological challenges in our world.

Points of Pride

As the flagship public higher education campus in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts Amherst holds a pivotal role in driving positive change for the greater good. They have grown to become the largest public research University in New England, renowned for the outstanding quality and diversity of their academic, research, and community engagement initiatives. Presently, their student body comprises over 24,000 undergraduates and 7,800 graduate students from 71 countries and all 50 states, totaling more than 31,800 individuals.

- Number 26 U.S. News & World Report Ranking Among National Public Universities
- Top 50 Best Value Public Colleges, The Princeton Review
- 1,900 Faculty Members and Nearly 4,500 Professional, Clerical, and Trade Staff
- Over 100 Undergraduate Programs as Well as Over 120 Graduate Programs
- One of the Nation's Top-Producing Research Universities for Fulbright Scholars
- Number One Best Campus Food, The Princeton Review
- Four-Year Graduation Rate of 76% ranks in the Top Six Nationally Among Public Universities
- Revolutionary Research—UMass Amherst Research Expenditures in Fiscal 2023 totaled \$269 million
- #20 in Artificial Intelligence, U.S. News & World Report
- 21% of the student body are the first in their families to attend college
- The LGBTQ Center and Women's Center, Among the First Established in The Nation
- A Recognized Leader in Recruiting and Supporting Veterans in Their Post-Service Education. The Campus Currently Serves More than 400 Veterans

- A Powerful Network of More Than 330,000 Alumni Working in Such Dynamic Places as Broadway, NASA, Google, Fenway Park, IBM, The Brooklyn Museum, CNN, General Electric, and Alaska's Denali National Park. They are Leaders on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill, on the Stage and on the Field, in the Board Room and in the Laboratory
- The Fine Arts Center Brings Nationally Known Theater, Music, and Dance to Campus Year-Round with Six Campus Galleries Exhibiting Visual Arts
- The Road to Carbon Zero—UMass Amherst is committed to fully transition to renewable energy sources—including wind, solar, and geothermal
- A Fantastic College Town—Hiking, Biking, Museums, Music, Theatre, History, Food and Farms - it's All in Amherst



About the Information Technology Department

At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, [Information Technology](#) plays a crucial role in many key areas, including but not limited to student success and engagement, research competitiveness, and multi-modal education.

The role of the IT organization is to provide comprehensive, high-quality technology services that enhance the academic mission and business processes for students, faculty, and staff. IT's services portfolio includes user-facing services such as email and collaboration tools; technology in instruction, innovation, and learning spaces; infrastructure, including networks, computing, storage, and web services; and core enterprise systems, such as student administration, learning management, and data analytics systems. IT establishes standards, assesses trends in the rapidly changing IT industry, and pursues emerging technologies that improve the professional and personal experiences of the campus community.

IT maintains a commitment to a culture of quality customer service and responsible stewardship of resources. Through strong campus partnerships with campus leaders, IT is proud to support the teaching, research, service missions, and strategic goals of the commonwealth's flagship campus.

Leadership

Dr. Javier Reyes, Chancellor



Javier A. Reyes. PhD, became the 31st leader of the University of Massachusetts Amherst on July 1, 2023, following his selection as chancellor of the commonwealth's flagship campus by the UMass Board of Trustees.

Reyes is an economist who has devoted his career to the cause of public higher education, holding leadership positions at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), West Virginia University, and the University of Arkansas. Born and raised in Mexico, he is the first Hispanic person to serve as chancellor of UMass Amherst.

Before coming to UMass, Reyes served as interim chancellor of UIC, Chicago's largest university campus, with more than 33,000 students and \$440 million in research awards. Previously, he served as UIC's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, joining the campus in 2021. Leading UIC, first as provost and later as interim chancellor, Reyes initiated a redesign of UIC's budget model and a restructuring of teaching innovation environments to position UIC for success amid a new era of innovative and accessible education. Committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Reyes outlined a bold vision to address critical gaps in racial equity across the institution, with a specific focus on increasing Black student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

Reyes served as dean of West Virginia University's John Chambers College of Business and Economics from 2016–2021 and vice president for StartUp West Virginia from 2018–2021. He built impactful corporate partnerships to strengthen student placement and serve West Virginia's land-grant mission. He spearheaded the transformation of the college into a pillar of inclusive entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development for the university and the state.

Prior to moving to West Virginia, Reyes served as vice provost for online and distance education at the University of Arkansas and as the associate dean for undergraduate studies and executive education in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. He initially joined the economics faculty of the University of Arkansas in 2003.

Reyes has been a National Science Foundation proposal reviewer, invited lecturer, and visiting scholar at a number of institutions internationally, including the Clinton School of Public Service and the International Monetary Fund. He has also served as an academic scholar at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London and as a research analyst at the investment firm Value Casa de Bolsa, headquartered in Mexico. He has served on the Boards of Directors for the Field Museum, the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, Miller Industries (NYSE: MLR), and City Holding Company (NASDAQ: CHCO). He is actively engaged with the TIAA Diversity Council and the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA).

Reyes received his bachelor's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Estado de Mexico, in 1998, and his doctorate in economics from Texas A&M University in 2003.

Christopher Misra, Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer

Christopher Misra is the Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer (CIO) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. With more than 25 years of experience at UMass, Chris leads the University's IT strategy and operations to support its mission of teaching, research, and public service.

Throughout his career, Chris has worked on many of the challenges involved in running IT for a large public research institution. He's held roles in network systems, cybersecurity, and technology planning, and embraces the chance to tackle complex problems where there are no easy answers. In his current role, he focuses on building reliable systems and making sure students, faculty, and staff have the tools to do their best work.

Chris also serves as Vice Chair of the InCommon Steering Committee, is a board member for the Northeast Research and Education Network (NEREN) and OSHEAN, and serves on the EDUCAUSE Nominations and Leadership Development Committee. He values working with peers across higher education to share ideas, learn from others, and contribute to efforts that strengthen the broader IT community.

A UMass Amherst graduate with a degree in civil engineering, Chris approaches his work with a practical mindset and a focus on solutions that translate to success. He believes in doing the work, supporting the people around him, and contributing where it counts.

Amherst, Massachusetts



The town of Amherst, located in the scenic Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, is an inclusive community offering numerous educational and cultural opportunities. Amherst and its surrounding areas are bubbling with culture, art, music, fine dining, theater, and history, and offer activities and resources that can be enjoyed by all ages. The Amherst Public School System has an exceptional reputation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Amherst enjoys a tradition of open professional government, quality education, support for open space, and agriculture. For those looking for a more metropolitan connection, Amherst is located:

12 miles east of Northampton, MA, 30 miles north of Springfield, MA, 53 miles north of Hartford, CT

90 miles west of Boston, MA

175 miles northeast of New York, NY

There is also the great outdoors, with miles and miles of hiking trails that cut across rocky peaks and dive deep into quiet woodlands. There are bike paths that run from one town to the next on the old rail lines that first defined New England. And there is absolutely nothing quite like the beauty of fall in western Massachusetts.

Procedure for Candidacy



All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Massachusetts Amherst in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by 9/15/2026.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to Christy Pratt through the office of Ethan Robles via email: erobles@wittkieffer.com.

The target salary range for this position is between \$175,000 and \$215,000 annually, commensurate with experience.

UMass Amherst is committed to a policy of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, caste, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, disability, political belief or affiliation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related condition(s), veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, natural and protective hairstyle and any other class of individuals protected from discrimination in employment, admission to and participation in academic programs, activities, and services, and the selection of vendors who provide services or products to the University. To fulfill that policy, UMass Amherst is further committed to a program of affirmative action to eliminate or mitigate artificial barriers and to increase opportunities for the recruitment and advancement of qualified minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and covered veterans. It is the policy of UMass Amherst to comply with the applicable federal and state statutes, rules, and regulations concerning equal opportunity and affirmative action.