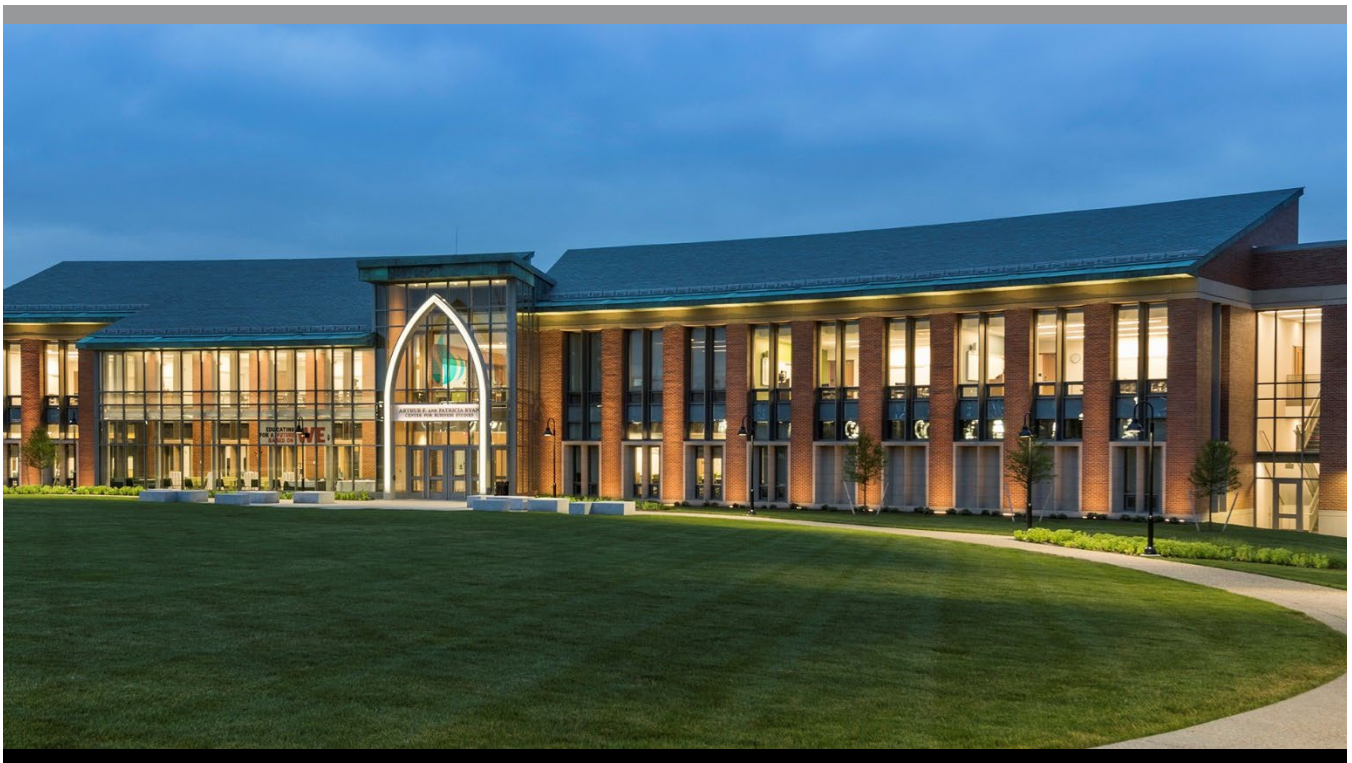




PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

Dean, School of Business

Leadership Profile



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

Providence College (PC) seeks a strategic, innovative, and collaborative leader to serve as dean of its renowned School of Business (PC Business). The next dean will articulate and advance a strategic vision for the school's future, elevating its standing and maximizing its impact.

While many business schools propose to offer a values-based education, PC Business endeavors to offer a virtues-based education where business is grounded in uncompromising integrity. The school prepares students to lead the future of business through a curriculum that combines classroom education with practical experience and emphasizes collaboration and team-centered skills. PC Business students learn to think critically, to ask the right questions, to ponder what is authentically good, and to lead in pursuit of the truth. This unique educational experience is rooted in Providence College's Catholic, Dominican, liberal arts tradition and distinguishes PC Business graduates from their peers and in their chosen careers.

A dynamic, interconnected community, PC Business enrolls nearly 2,000 undergraduate students and approximately 175 graduate students across departments of Accountancy, Finance, Management, and Marketing. The school has 60 full-time tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty and 16 full-time staff. Established in 2007, PC Business has been continuously accredited by AACSB since 2012.

Providence College is a predominantly undergraduate liberal arts institution located on a picturesque 108-acre campus in Providence, Rhode Island. Founded in 1917, PC is the only college or university in the United States administered by the Dominican friars. The college consistently ranks among the top five regional universities in the North according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

Providence College is an institution for those who seek truth, who celebrate the relationship between faith and reason, and who pursue those values in a nurturing community with people of all backgrounds. The college has grown in recent years to nearly 5,000 students taught by approximately 400 faculty across four schools: Arts and Sciences; Business; Education and Social Work; and a new School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

PC is dedicated to promoting academic excellence anchored by the liberal arts with a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, engaged learning, and undergraduate research. The college honors academic freedom, promotes critical thinking, and encourages a pedagogy of disputed questions. PC is committed to preparing students to live meaningful, purposeful, and fulfilling personal and professional lives in an increasingly global society. The college fosters a diverse community centered on the truth that every human person is created equal, in God's image and likeness, and is blessed with human dignity.

Providence College seeks a dean for the School of Business who is committed to the college's mission and equipped with the skills and experience to work effectively with faculty, staff, students, senior PC leaders, alumni, the Business Advisory Council, the Dominican community, and other internal and external constituents and partners.

A Ph.D. or terminal degree in a related field and qualifications for tenure at the rank of full professor in the School of Business are required.

For information about how to nominate a candidate or express confidential interest in the role, see "Procedure for Candidacy" at the end of this document.

Role and Responsibilities of the Dean

Reporting directly to the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, the dean is the School of Business' chief academic and administrative officer. In addition, as a senior academic leader at the college, the dean actively stewards the vibrant academic life of Providence College.

The dean's responsibilities include the following:

- **Academic leadership and innovation**
Lead the planning, development, and oversight of academic programs and related services, maintaining the highest standards of excellence and alignment with strategic goals.
- **Faculty affairs and development**
Support faculty excellence and success. Recommend the allocation of new or replacement faculty positions. Negotiate faculty appointments and coordinate tenure and promotion reviews.
- **Mission integration and support**
Ensure the school's programs and services support and advance PC's Catholic, Dominican [mission](#).
- **Enrollment management**
Support PC's student recruitment strategies and the achievement of enrollment goals.
- **Student engagement and success**
Ensure a holistic array of advising, career, and other services to enhance the PC Business student experience and support student success.
- **Staff development**
Oversee growth and development of programs to allow for the enrichment and professional development of faculty and staff.
- **Fiscal stewardship**
Manage a transparent and fiscally prudent budgeting process for the school, including the allocation of resources, in coordination with the provost and Office of Finance and Business.
- **Accreditation, academic compliance, and institutional effectiveness**
Ensure compliance with AACSB and other regulatory requirements and achievement of the school's goals and student learning objectives.
- **Beloved community**
Actively foster a [beloved community](#) that reflects the rich diversity of the human family and is marked by justice, charity, and the promotion of the common good and flourishing of all.
- **Advancement and alumni relations**
Partner with the Office of Institutional Advancement, the Business Advisory Council, alumni, donors, and others to encourage engagement and philanthropic support for PC Business and Providence College.
- **Institutional stewardship**
In coordination with the president's cabinet, support the implementation of PC's strategic plans and priorities and sustain and strengthen shared governance.

Reporting Relationships

In addition to the department chairs and faculty directors, the following positions report to the dean:

- Senior Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs
- Director, Corporate Engagement
- Director, Data Analytics & AI
- Director, Finance Lab
- Director, Operations & Planning
- Assistant Director, Communication & Events
- Assistant Director, Graduate Programs

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Working in collaboration with internal and external constituents, the next dean will articulate a compelling vision for the future of PC Business and advance a strategy that elevates the school's standing and maximizes its impact. The vision and strategy will leverage Providence College's history and Catholic, Dominican identity to further distinguish PC Business as a world-class, virtues-driven business school grounded in the liberal arts. To that end, the next dean will be expected to:

- **Champion academic excellence and innovation.**
To strengthen the school's competitive position, the dean will inspire a recommitment to excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship, and pedagogy. This will involve a review of existing undergraduate and graduate programs to calibrate the school's program portfolio with student preferences and market needs.
- **Enhance and expand student services and support.**
The School of Business's future success will be measured by that of its graduates. To position PC Business students for greatest success, the dean will enhance and expand co-curricular activities, internship and networking opportunities, career services, and other pre-professional and post-graduate placement support.
- **Recruit, retain, and support exceptional faculty and staff.**
In keeping with Providence College's founding principles and Catholic, Dominican identity, the dean will recruit faculty and staff who celebrate and support PC's intellectual, academic, and faith tradition and actively facilitate their professional development and success.
- **Partner with Admissions on forward-looking enrollment management strategies.**
The dean will work in close partnership with the Office of Admissions, PC Business colleagues, and other college leaders to ensure a long-term, data-informed strategy for both undergraduate and graduate enrollment in the School of Business.
- **Strengthen collaboration with other PC schools**
Business students at PC receive a well-rounded education anchored by the liberal arts. The next dean will fully leverage this distinguishing characteristic, seizing opportunities for more substantive and strategic collaboration with the School of Arts and Sciences and other PC schools to enhance academic programs and co-curricular experiences, further differentiating and elevating the PC educational experience.
- **Integrate the ethical use of AI and data analytics**
As AI and data science continue to shape the future of business, PC is ideally positioned to prepare the next generation of business professionals and leaders to navigate that future. The next dean will help shepherd the school through questions surrounding AI and how it can responsibly and effectively serve the human person and contribute to the needs of the marketplace.
- **Cultivate external relationships and generate resources**
To ensure the school's long-term sustainability, the dean will steward strategic relationships and secure philanthropic support, particularly for endowed scholarships and faculty positions. In so doing, the dean will leverage an engaged alumni community and the guidance of a dedicated Business Advisory Council.
- **Enhance operational excellence**
The next dean must ensure that the school's operational and administrative infrastructure is optimized to support the vision and strategy for the school's future. The dean will lead this effort, working with faculty and staff to enhance effectiveness and efficiency and strengthen a culture of transparency and shared accountability.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Providence College seeks a strategic, innovative, and collaborative leader to serve as the next dean of the School of Business. The dean must be committed to the college's mission and equipped with the skills and experience to work effectively with faculty, staff, students, senior PC leaders, alumni, the Business Advisory Council, the Dominican community, and other internal and external constituents and partners.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrable commitment to Catholic higher education; a substantive appreciation for the Dominican intellectual, spiritual, and pedagogical tradition; and the ability to champion the intrinsic value of the liberal arts.

A Ph.D. or terminal degree in a related field and qualifications for tenure at the rank of full professor in the School of Business are required.

In addition, the ideal candidate will have the following qualities and qualifications:

- **Expert understanding of business and business education**
Broad perspective on both the business sector and the competitive landscape of business education, including an understanding of and ideas for integrating AI and other new technologies.
- **Demonstrated commitment to the Catholic identity of Providence College**
All members of the college community are expected to accept and share responsibility for upholding the college's [mission](#) and objectives.
- **Steadfast pursuit of academic excellence**
A distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and service; a strong understanding of the teaching and learning process; and the capacity to recognize, inspire, and support academic innovation.
- **Experience developing and implementing strategic priorities**
Capacity to develop a compelling vision and strategy for PC's School of Business, to inspire others with that vision, and to operationalize strategic initiatives or priorities.
- **Collaborative leadership**
A consultative and transparent approach to leadership, a team-oriented approach to problem solving, and experience building consensus across a range of perspectives.
- **Exceptional interpersonal and relationship management skills**
Ability to develop effective, collaborative relationships with a broad range of constituencies. Outstanding communication skills, a genuine interest in and ability to listen to others, and a commitment to follow up.
- **Commitment to fostering the beloved community of Providence College**
Ability and willingness to foster a [beloved community](#) that reflects the rich diversity of the human family and is marked by justice, charity, and the promotion of the common good and flourishing of all.
- **Operational and managerial agility**
Financial and budgetary acumen and experience allocating resources to support academic priorities. Experience mentoring, empowering, and delegating to subordinate leaders, and the ability to build and lead a high-performing team. The agility and adaptability to develop creative solutions and operational efficiencies.
- **Fundraising ability**
Record of or potential for success leading fundraising efforts and cultivating strategic relationships.
- **Experience in academic administration**
Understanding of, and experience with, leading and managing a comparable academic enterprise, including faculty recruitment, enrollment management, student support and success, and accreditation.



About the Providence College School of Business

The Providence College School of Business is a dynamic, interconnected community of peers, leading faculty, students and alumni. The school builds on Providence College's liberal arts curriculum and pursuit of *veritas* to develop well-rounded graduates prepared to confront real-world challenges.

Housed in the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies, PC Business enrolls nearly 2,000 undergraduate students and approximately 175 graduate students. The school has 60 full-time tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty and 16 full-time staff. Faculty undertake research in a variety of business topics, including the competitive dynamics of digital platforms, corporate social responsibility, financial derivatives and risk management, diversity and belonging in the workplace, the marketing of sustainable products, and the impact of online sports betting.

While many business schools propose to offer a values-based education, PC Business endeavors to offer a virtues-based education where business is grounded in uncompromising integrity. The school prepares students to lead the future of business through a curriculum that combines classroom education with practical experience and emphasizes collaboration and team-centered skills. PC Business students learn to think critically, to ask the right questions, to ponder what is authentically good and to lead in pursuit of the truth. This unique educational experience is rooted in Providence College's Catholic, Dominican, liberal arts tradition and distinguishes PC Business graduates from their peers and in their chosen careers.

Poets & Quants ranks PC Business among the top 50 undergraduate business programs in the U.S. Nearly every graduate participates in at least one internship at organizations such as Apple, Bank of America, Dell, Deloitte, EY, Fidelity, Goldman Sachs, Google, KPMG, L'Oreal, and PwC, among other national and regional companies. PC Business has been continuously accredited by AACSB since 2012 and scheduled for its next reaccreditation review in 2028.

Mission and Values

The School of Business's mission is to provide a virtues-based business education that enables students to excel in their chosen field and prepares them for meaningful work and life in a dynamic world. The school's ongoing pursuit of this mission is characterized by the following core values:

- **The Transformative Power of Business**
PC Business believes in the transformative power of business for all people, as a foundational driver of both economic development and societal progress.
- **Academic Excellence and Achievement**
Excellence in teaching, learning, research, and service is essential to the school. Such achievement can be seen in engaged and accomplished students and in faculty who balance innovative teaching with widely recognized and impactful research.
- **The Catholic, Dominican Tradition**
The school's perspective is enhanced by the Catholic foundation of the college, where notions of service, ethical responsibility, and respect for the dignity of all people are fundamental.
- **A Holistic Approach to Leadership, Inspired by the Liberal Arts**
The school's graduates will be both functional experts and ethical decision-makers, leaders with the knowledge to make sound decisions and the integrity to make responsible ones.
- **Integration and Collaboration**
The school believes in an integrated learning model, where faculty, students, alumni, and practitioners can mutually benefit from collaboration inside and outside of the classroom.





Business Advisory Council

The school's [Business Advisory Council](#) (BAC) comprises 35 business leaders from among the college's alumni who actively support the School of Business' mission. The council plays a critical role in maintaining and advancing the school's national reputation as a center of excellence for business education. BAC members assist with fundraising and introductions to the business community, serve as guest speakers and mentors to students and faculty, judge case and business plan competitions, and support student clubs and other activities.

Emerging Business Leaders Council

The [Emerging Business Leaders Council](#) is a network of young alumni leaders who offer support to current students as they explore career options, internships, and job opportunities. The council works closely with PC Business to plan and support experiential learning opportunities, identify potential speakers and panelists, and leverage personal networks to engage Providence College alumni and parent business leaders working in a variety of industries.



Academic Departments and Programs

The School of Business offers comprises four academic departments: [Accountancy](#), [Finance](#), [Management](#), and [Marketing](#).

Undergraduate Programs

PC Business offers include a B.S. in Accountancy, B.S. in Finance (including a Finance Quant Track (FINq) option), B.S. in Management, and B.S. in Marketing. Minors are available in Accountancy, Finance, and Marketing (for non-business majors).

Accountancy. PC's nationally recognized accountancy program provides students a strong foundation in accountancy knowledge, skills, and tools, while also training them to think broadly about accounting and its relationship to society, extending that knowledge to better anticipate and understand the implications of their decisions.

Finance. The Finance program covers corporate financial management, investment analysis, and financial institutions and markets, but it is also built on a firm liberal arts foundation and reinforced by a values-based philosophy. Students learn how to tackle complex financial challenges with high professional and ethical standards and a broad-based perspective, giving them a clear, competitive advantage in today's multifaceted business environment.

Management. The undergraduate management curriculum is integrated with PC's liberal arts core curriculum, enhancing students' ability to contribute to a dynamic, increasingly diverse business environment. Students enhance their self-understanding and develop the interpersonal, analytical, and strategic thinking skills to be effective team members today and transformative leaders tomorrow.

Marketing. PC's Marketing program equips students not only with the theoretical concepts, tools, and analytical skills they need to succeed, but also the ability to think critically about the impact of marketing on global society. Through engaging, hands-on learning opportunities and the diverse perspectives they encounter in their core classes, students gain confidence that sets them apart.

Graduate Programs

PC Business offers three graduate degree programs — a [MBA](#), [M.S. in Business Analytics](#), and [M.S. in Sports Administration](#) — as well as three graduate certificate programs.

MBA Programs. The school's AACSB-accredited [MBA programs](#) combine business theories and practice, helping students learn to solve complex business problems. Four programs of study are available: a Part-Time MBA, Full-Time MBA, 4+1 MBA, and a MBA Accounting Cohort. The program consists of 10 core course and two to three electives. Students in the 4+1, full-time, and part-time MBA programs take the same core courses and have the option to slow down or accelerate their time to degree completion. Part-time students can easily switch to full-time status and *vice versa*. The full-time MBA Accounting Cohort program, designed for students with a background in accounting, has a distinct curriculum that allows participants to earn a MBA in 13 to 14 months.

M.S. in Business Analytics. Available in part-time and full-time options, the [Master of Science in Business Analytics](#) (MSBA) is a rigorous quantitative program that blends best practices from math, computer science, finance, and operations management. The programs 10 courses are taught by expert faculty from both the School of Business and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the School of Arts and Sciences. Students are equipped with cutting-edge business analytic tools as well as the reasoning and visualization skills to identify meaningful data, interpret data, and design informed, strategic action. Beyond a thorough understanding of current methodologies, MSBA students develop the critical thinking skills essential for adapting to the evolving tools and challenges of the profession.

M.S. in Sports Administration. The [Master of Science in Sports Administration](#) combines critical business principles with athletic-specific competencies, rooted in the ethics-focused and mission-driven culture that is a hallmark of the PC experience. The fully online program comprises 11 courses. The M.S. in Sports Administration equips emerging and mid-career professionals with the skills to lead in the dynamic world of athletics, addressing areas such as public relations, guest services, sponsorship, event planning, facility management, and athletic compliance, among others.

Graduate Certificate Programs. PC Business offers graduate certificate programs in [Business Analytics](#), [Digital Marketing](#), and [Sports Management](#). Certificate programs comprise three courses (9 credits) taught by PC faculty who are recognized as experts in their field. Programs may entail an internship or equivalent work experience, capstone project, or other requirements.



Student Experience and Signature Programs

Through immersive classes, collaborative team projects, and real-world co-curricular activities, PC Business students are prepared to excel and to lead with intent, integrity, and responsibility. [Professional and faculty advisors](#) partner with students to help them achieve their personal, academic, and career objectives. Dedicated career coaches in the [Chirico Career Center](#) assist business students with tailored career exploration, skill development, internship searches, and job placement. PC Business has 16 school-specific clubs and organizations, including the Student-Led Asset Management (SLAM) club, designed to provide students with real experience in investment management, AI in Business, the Entrepreneurship Society, Friars Consulting Group, and Faith and Business. Students can [study abroad](#) in Barcelona, London, Prague, Rome, or other global destinations.

Other signature initiatives and programs include the following:

- **Benjamin Family Social Media Fellowship**

This yearlong fellowship is awarded to exceptional undergraduates pursuing careers in digital marketing. Participants manage PC Business' social media presence, are matched with industry mentors, and are provided other valuable networking opportunities.

- **Berkeley Scholars**

The Berkeley Scholars Program offers mentorship, academic enrichment, and a welcoming scholarly community to PC Business students from underrepresented groups. The program supports students in classroom studies, securing competitive internships, and launching their careers through career advising and job search support, alumni networking, and connections with local business and community leaders.

- **Ethics in Business Education**

This program enhances ethics education at PC Business, building on concepts taught in PC's foundational [Development of Western Civilization program](#). The program hosts the Michael Smith Business Ethics Case Competition, which includes participants from other higher education institutions around the world. Students can participate in other prominent national case competitions as well as in the PC Business Ethics case competition, an annual internal event.



Two PC students earned first place at the 2025 Templeton Business Ethics Case Competition held at Stetson University.



Benjamin Family Social Media Fellows

- **Friar Leadership and Immersion Program (FLIP)**

FLIP is designed to help students build critical business skills and explore potential career paths through hands-on learning and professional development opportunities. To make this possible, PC Business partners with the Chirico Career Center to bring engaging experiential learning activities throughout the year.

- **Huxley Capital Internship**

Assisted by Wall Street veterans, Huxley Capital interns manage real endowed funds on behalf of the college and work on individual alternative investment research projects. The portfolio is a multi-asset investment vehicle focused on asset allocation across equity and fixed income markets.

- **Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF)**

SMIF provides PC Business students hands-on research and investment experience managing real money in PC's endowment fund. Students make pick stocks, track market activity, and learn about investing from analysts and consultants. More than \$950,000 have been invested in SMIF since the course launched in 2012.

About Providence College

Providence College is a Catholic, Dominican, predominantly undergraduate liberal arts institution located on a picturesque 108-acre campus in Providence, Rhode Island. The college was founded in 1917 by the Dominican friars at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Harkins to provide an education in the arts and sciences. PC is the only college or university in the United States founded by and conducted under the auspices of the Dominican friars.

Today, the college enrolls nearly 5,000 students taught by approximately 400 faculty across the [School of Arts and Sciences](#), [School of Business](#), [School of Education and Social Work](#), and a new [School of Nursing and Health Sciences](#), which enrolled its first class in fall 2023.

For almost 30 years, Providence College consistently has been ranked among the top five regional universities in the North according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges." The college competes in 21 varsity sports, all at the Division I level, with membership in the NCAA, the BIG EAST Conference, and the Hockey East Association.

PC's endowment in FY 2025 was \$386.8 million. The college recently launched a \$300 million fundraising initiative to strengthen academic excellence and the student experience and to enhance access to a Providence College education.



Mission and Values

Providence College is a Catholic, Dominican, liberal arts institution of higher education and a community committed to academic excellence in pursuit of the truth, growth in virtue, and service of God and neighbor. PC operates with a set of deeply held core values:

- **Faith and Reason**

Providence College is confident in the appeal of reason, believes that human beings are disposed to know the truth, and trusts in the power of grace to enlighten minds, open hearts, and transform lives. PC maintains that the pursuit of truth has intrinsic value, that faith and reason are compatible and complementary means to its discovery, and that the search for truth is the basis for dialogue with others and critical engagement with the world.

- **Academic Excellence**

Providence College is committed to academic excellence and holds itself to the highest standards in teaching, learning, and scholarship. Its [core curriculum](#) addresses key questions of human existence, including life's meaning and purpose, and stresses the importance of moral and ethical reasoning, aesthetic appreciation, and understanding the natural world, other cultures, and diverse traditions. PC honors academic freedom, promotes critical thinking and engaged learning, and encourages a pedagogy of disputed questions.

- **Community and Diversity**

The college seeks to reflect the rich diversity of the human family. Following the example of St. Dominic, who extended a loving embrace to all, PC welcomes qualified men and women of every background and affirms the God-given dignity, freedom, and equality of each person. Providence College promotes the common good, the human flourishing of each member of the campus community, and service of neighbors near and far.

- **Veritas and Providence**

Providence College brings the more than 800-year-old Dominican ideal of *veritas* to the issues and challenges of today. It seeks to share the fruits of contemplation in an increasingly global and diverse society, and to praise and bless all that is good and vital in human endeavors. Providence College supports the Dominican mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to a new generation of students and helping them discover God's providence in their lives.

Strategic Planning

Over the last several years, the college's approach toward strategic planning has placed greater emphasis on agility and responsiveness to opportunities that align with its mission and objectives. The need for flexibility arose from the college's experience with *PC200*, a ten-year strategic plan introduced in 2018. Shortly after the launch of *PC200*, a number of unexpected developments changed the competitive landscape significantly. Among these unforeseen events was the spread of COVID 19 and the impact of a global pandemic. During the pandemic, faculty and administration, working under the direction of board leadership, undertook one of the college's most ambitious projects of the last several decades in establishing the School of Nursing and Health Sciences in 2022.

The college's experience with strategic planning on the heels of *PC200*'s launch has shown that the rapid pace of change, demographic shifts and the competitive nature of higher education in general demand greater flexibility and adaptability in the pursuit of strategic initiatives than a rigid, multi-year plan typically provides. Accordingly, under the direction of the strategic planning committee of the board of trustees, the college's executive vice president has been tasked to build an embedded strategic planning process that will devote regular, ongoing attention toward strategy. This approach will coordinate the efforts of the board, faculty, and administration so that various constituencies can innovate within their sphere of expertise in the pursuit of common objectives. As the 10-year period covered by *PC200* comes to a close, the college is continuing its transition toward a model that will allow it to better seize opportunities and manage potential threats as leadership regularly reassesses the college's strategic outlook.

Beyond Limits: The Campaign for Providence College

In October 2024, Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P., the college's president, announced the formal launch of [Beyond Limits: The Campaign for Providence College](#), the most ambitious fundraising campaign in PC's history. The \$300 million fundraising initiative is aimed at strengthening academics, enhancing the student experience, and making education more accessible through financial aid and scholarships. The college has already raised more than \$205 million toward this goal.

Leadership



Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G President

A native of Westport, Mass., Father Kenneth Sicard took office as Providence College's [13th president](#) on July 1, 2020.

From July 2018 to December 2018, he served as acting president while Father Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80, the college's 12th president, was on sabbatical.

Father Sicard was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. He holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.

His first assignment after ordination was to Ohio Dominican College in Columbus where he served as chaplain and a full-time faculty member, teaching courses in finance, money and banking, auditing, and accounting from 1990 to 1997. He also was responsible for the spiritual and sacramental needs of students and Dominican religious sisters.

Father Sicard returned to PC to serve as dean of residence life from 1997 to 2005. He oversaw the supervision and security of all residence halls, the department's operating budget, the hiring and supervision of more than 100 staff, and the creation of policies that ensured a quality of life for students consistent with the college's mission.

During that time, he also served the Dominican Province of St. Joseph as director of vocations for two years. In addition, he served as provincial treasurer from 2002 to 2010 and as a member of the Economic Council from 2010 to 2016, working on behalf of the order in international operations related to portfolio management, accounting operations, property sales and acquisitions, construction and renovation, and financial planning.

In 2005, he was appointed executive vice president and treasurer. In that role, Father Sicard directly supervised many college operations, including athletics, student affairs, general counsel, mission and ministry, external affairs and marketing, human resources, and public safety. Father Sicard served as the president's chief of staff and was a member of the president's senior cabinet. He oversaw the creation of three of the college's strategic plans, including *PC200*, adopted in 2018.

Father Sicard earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1978 and a master's degree in business administration in 1982, both from Providence College. He earned a Ph.D. in business education from The Ohio State University in 1997. Prior to entering the Dominican Order of Preachers, he was employed by Fleet Financial Group in Providence, beginning in an entry-level position and rising to audit manager.



Thomas Smith, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Thomas Smith, Ph.D., took office on July 1, 2025, as Providence College's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

As leader of the Office of Academic Affairs, Provost Smith oversees an array of academic and administrative units, including academic services, admission and financial aid, assessment, the Center for Engaged Learning, the Center for Global Education, the Center for Teaching Excellence, institutional research, instructional technology, Phillips Memorial Library, the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers program, and the registrar's office. The deans of PC's four schools report to the provost.

Before joining the PC community, Dr. Smith served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at The Catholic University of America. Prior to taking that position in 2020, he spent 27 years at Villanova University, where he began his academic career as an assistant professor in political science in 2000. He was named founding chair of Villanova's Department of Humanities in 2003 and was promoted to associate dean for humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences in 2008. He served as director of Villanova's University Honors Program from 2010 to 2020.

Dr. Smith earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, a master's degree from Catholic University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.



Academics

Providence College is dedicated to promoting academic excellence through the liberal arts with a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, engaged learning, and undergraduate research. Shaped by the Catholic and Dominican spiritual and intellectual tradition, PC cultivates passion for truth and thirst for virtue and justice through study, contemplation, and service.

Schools

Providence College comprises four schools:

- [School of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [School of Business](#)
- [School of Education and Social Work](#)
- [School of Nursing and Health Sciences](#)

Programs

As an undergraduate [liberal arts](#) Catholic institution with thriving professional schools, PC fosters academic excellence through the natural and social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. The college provides robust opportunities for intellectual, social, moral, and spiritual growth in a supportive environment. See all available majors and minors [here](#).

In addition, PC students engaged in [graduate programs](#) can immerse themselves in a distinctive program of study led by committed teacher-scholars who are experts in their fields. Graduate students develop the necessary skills to thrive in a competitive job market and have the support of a passionate and engaged alumni network.

PC's Core Curriculum

Providence College believes that the subjects students study as undergraduates — and the skills and habits of mind they acquire in the process — should shape the lives they will lead after they graduate. The college has a rich history of offering a distinctive liberal arts core curriculum that emphasizes characteristic features of a Dominican education, including the compatibility of faith and reason, the importance of virtue, and the pedagogy of disputed questions.

Today, PC's core curriculum combines the breadth appropriate to a liberal arts education in the Catholic and Dominican tradition with the flexibility needed for students to focus on exploring in depth one aspect of the core. Students learn to question assumptions, engage in self-reflection, think critically and analytically, and communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

The four-semester [Development of Western Civilization](#) program is the gateway to the core curriculum. Students encounter significant works of the Western tradition within their historical and cultural contexts, then choose among upper-level colloquia dedicated to advanced study of a Western topic, the intersection of the humanities with other academic disciplines, or topics relating the Western tradition to other traditions and cultures.

The curriculum also includes a required course component, the attainment of learning proficiencies, and an innovative concentration component outside of the major that students can select within a discipline, language, or thematic concentration of linked courses.

Centers of Academic Excellence

Center for Innovation and Interdisciplinary Studies

Leveraging PC's interdisciplinary strengths, a National Science Foundation grant of \$565,558 to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaboration across Rhode Island includes seed money for this long-planned center. The CIIS will support individualized majors and new courses of study as high impact experiences for students and accelerate interdisciplinary faculty teaching and research. The CIIS oversees a unique interdisciplinary faculty seminar program and will add support for interdisciplinary departments, programs, joint faculty appointments, and grants.

St. Martin de Porres Center for Health and Human Dignity

This new initiative of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences aims to establish a national reputation of academic excellence by bringing together researchers, scholars, teachers, and practitioners who develop and disseminate useful resources to support the ethical practice of humanistic healthcare consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Grants and Scholarly Activity

Providence College's commitment to the teacher-scholar model is reflected in its growing portfolio of sponsored program activity, amounting to approximately \$18.5 million, with support coming from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes for Health, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Agency for Healthcare Quality. Teacher-scholars submit more than 100 proposals annually to further their teaching and scholarship, as well as strategic objectives of the college. Faculty are earning prestigious fellowships from organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, and the Carnegie Corporation. The provost promotes and oversees research and integrity, serves as the Institutional Official for the IRB, and is the Research Integrity Officer of record for the college's federal assurances.



Honors Program

Each year, approximately 100 PC students enroll in the Honors Program, an enriched feature of the core curriculum. Honors students have opportunities to satisfy core requirements in smaller, more focused classes with fellow honors students. Students who complete the program are well-prepared to challenge assumptions and convention as leaders in academia, business, government, healthcare, law, or other fields. In the last five years, 11 PC Honors Program graduates have been awarded Fulbright grants.

Engaged Learning

PC Global

From nationally recognized education abroad programming to the robust portfolio of intercultural learning experiences that take place in the City of Providence, [PC Global](#) is a testament to the myriad ways students fulfill the college's mission to live meaningful personal and professional lives in an increasingly global society. Students can engage with these relevant issues through [study abroad](#) and [global service learning and international immersions](#) as well as on campus through topical coursework, language learning, and volunteer opportunities. Around the world, Providence College [research and scholarship](#) and [performing and creative arts](#) distinguish PC as a liberal arts institution with a global reach.

Undergraduate Research

Providence College students have rich opportunities to engage in [undergraduate research](#). Working alongside expert faculty in a broad range of disciplines, students gain hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of their academic discipline. Opportunities exist to co-author an article in an academic journal or co-present at a professional conference. Undergraduate research equips PC students with the confidence, expertise, and credentials that distinguish them in the workplace, on a scholarship or post-baccalaureate fellowship application, and in graduate school.

Internships

[Internships](#) provide PC students practical, professional exposure to possible careers. The [Chirico Career Center](#) partners with employers and alumni to help PC students gain access to real-world insights, internships, and job opportunities that align with their academic and career pursuits. Employer and alumni engagement provides guidance and empowers students to navigate their career paths with confidence and success. Through the career center, students who participate in internships also have access to individual coaching and other resources.



The Dominican Community

Providence College enjoys a robust level of religious presence and engagement. Alumni and students have benefited greatly from the engagement of Dominican friars and sisters in the life of the community, and many have established lifelong relationships with Dominicans. Most of the 39 Dominican Friars assigned to Providence College live in St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, although several live in residence facilities.

Dominicans serve as faculty in numerous academic departments and programs, including the Development of Western Civilization, philosophy, theology, applied physics, biology, economics, math, psychology, history, Theatre/Dance/Film, and finance. Others serve as college chaplains and in key administrative positions. Individual friars also serve as chaplains in each residence hall, and a chaplain has been assigned to each athletic team.

The engagement of Dominicans in teaching, scholarship, and service at Providence College reflects the Dominican commitment to the pursuit of truth in the conviction that all truths find their ultimate aim and unity in the one Truth that is God. This pursuit of truth has marked the lives and contributions of Dominican philosophers and theologians such as Thomas Aquinas, scientists like Albert the Great, and artists like Fra Angelico. This same pursuit can be seen in the mysticism of Catherine of Siena, the defense of Indigenous peoples by Bartolomeo de Las Casas, and the contributions of Yves Congar and Dominique Chenu to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. It is a rich legacy that has been bequeathed to PC and one the college humbly seeks to honor and continue.

Honoring and advancing this legacy is the shared responsibility of the entire Providence College community. All are called to participate in the college's mission, and each makes a specific and important contribution to the common good. It is through study and scholarship, prayer and contemplation, and a deep and abiding respect for others that Providence College will be faithful to its mission as it engages the promises and challenges that lie ahead.

Providence, Rhode Island

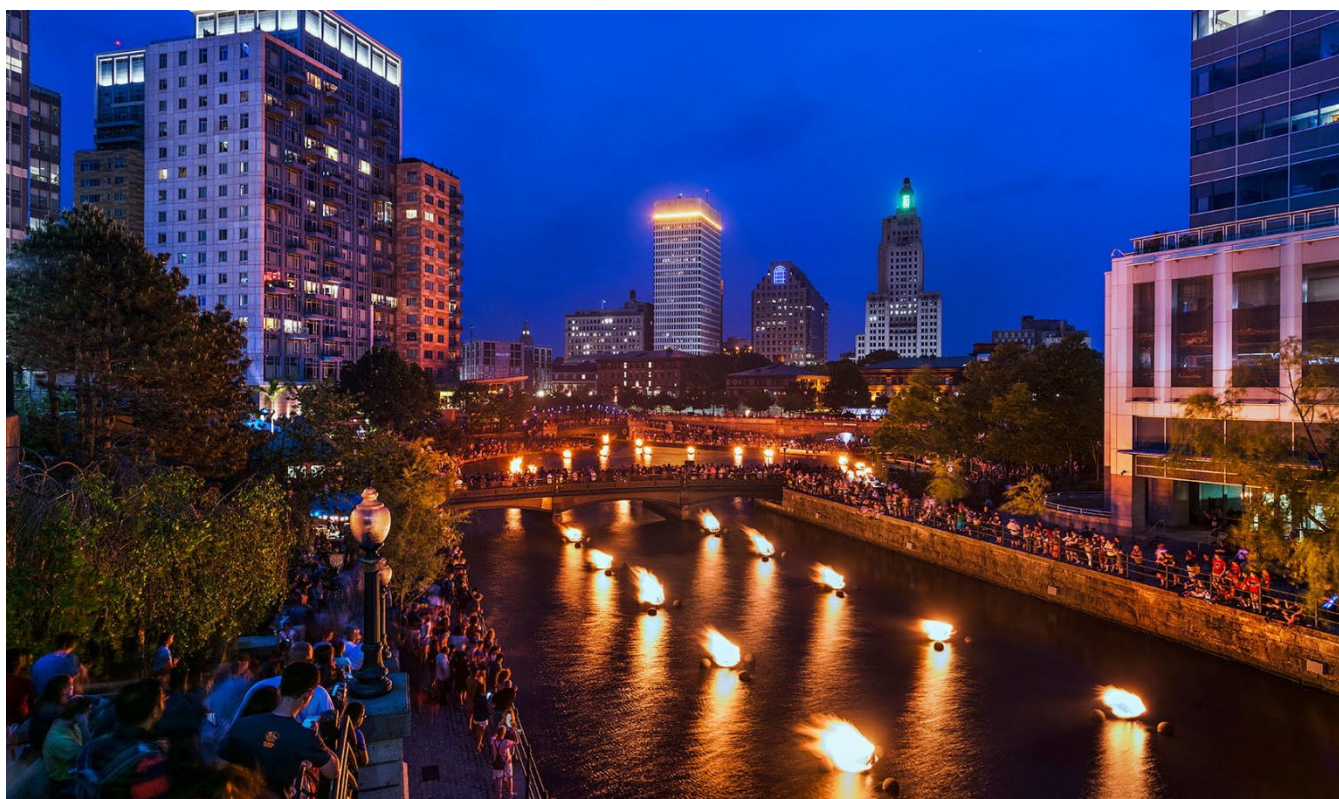
The City of Providence is an extension of the Providence College campus. Known as the Creative Capital, it combines the accessibility and friendliness of a small town with the culture and sophistication of a big city. Providence is collection of neighborhoods, each with a distinct character and feel that ranges from the European charm of Federal Hill to the history and beauty of College Hill, to the hip, trendy shops and cafés along Thayer Street and Wickenden Street.

Downtown, one can take in a Friar men's basketball game or a Providence Bruins hockey game at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, see a touring Broadway show at the Providence Performing Arts Center, shop at Providence Place Mall, visit many fine museums and the fourth oldest library in the nation, or dine in some of the best restaurants in the Northeast.

A major industrial, commercial, medical, and financial center for New England, Providence's economy is based on manufacturing and service enterprises. The city is a major supplier of jewelry and silverware to the United States and Europe. Providence is home to four multibillion-dollar financial concerns and many smaller ones. Tourism and conventions are emerging industries. As the capital of Rhode Island, Providence supports a number of government-related jobs.

Providence College's proximity to urban areas opens doors for jobs and internships, not only in Providence but in Boston, New York, and beyond. PC students have recently interned or worked at companies such as Fidelity Investments, PwC, the Boston Celtics, Hasbro Children's Hospital, IGT, Citizens Bank, NBC, and Waterfire Providence.

Learn more about [Providence](#).





Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited.

WittKieffer is assisting Providence College in this search. **For priority consideration, applicants should provide a CV and letter of interest via email by January 26, 2026.**

Candidates will be considered until an appointment is made.

Application materials, inquiries and nominations can be directed to:

Philip Tang, Lucy Leske, and Julia Bradley
PCBusinessDean@wittkieffer.com

Providence College, a primarily undergraduate, liberal arts, Catholic institution of higher education conducted under the auspices of the Dominican Friars, seeks candidates who can affirm and contribute to its mission. The college is an equal opportunity employer committed to fostering a [Beloved Community](#) — an environment that reflects the rich diversity of the human family and is marked by justice, charity and the promotion of the common good and flourishing of all. PC invites applications from qualified individuals who possess the experience, knowledge and commitment to develop the diverse learning environment envisioned as part of the Beloved Community. Women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. See Providence College's [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).