UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas

Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Leadership Profile

November 2025

WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of St. Thomas invites nominations and applications for the position of vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer (CFO). This is a pivotal leadership opportunity at one of the nation's leading Catholic universities—an institution committed to educating morally responsible leaders who advance the common good. The CFO will play a central role in shaping the financial and operational future of a mission-driven university poised for continued growth and transformation.

Founded in 1885 by Archbishop John Ireland, St. Thomas first began as the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary to serve the region's growing immigrant population. Today, guided by its Catholic intellectual tradition, the University's mission is to educate students to think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good. Minnesota's largest private university and among the nation's largest Catholic universities, St. Thomas serves nearly 10,000 students across eight schools and colleges on campuses in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Rome, Italy. The University benefits from net assets of $1.2 billion, a strong legacy of academic excellence, a dedicated Board of Trustees, robust philanthropic support, and an engaged alumni network of more than 115,000 worldwide.

St. Thomas is on an upward trajectory, marked by bold investments and increased national visibility. A groundbreaking transition from NCAA Division III to Division I athletics in 2021 continues to elevate enrollment, fundraising, and recognition. The University's current strategic plan, St. Thomas 2025, is in its final year, and under President Rob Vischer's leadership, planning for the next five years is underway. Recent fundraising successes include a historic $75 million gift for a multi-purpose arena and nearly $220 million for student financial aid—positioning St. Thomas to expand its reach and reputation beyond Minnesota.

As the University advances its ambitious goals, the CFO will serve as a key architect of financial strategy, institutional stewardship, and operational excellence. Reporting directly to President Vischer and serving on the president's cabinet and senior staff, the CFO oversees a broad portfolio including finance, facilities, auxiliary services, public safety, purchasing, and campus operations. The CFO leads a team of 289 staff and manages an operating budget of $297 million.

St. Thomas is a tuition-dependent institution with a discount rate near 56%. Following several years of enrollment growth, including the largest first-year class in the University's history in fall 2025, this role is critical to sustaining momentum. The University has invested nearly $500 million in facilities over the past five years and continues to expand its academic footprint through new colleges, interdisciplinary initiatives, and a growing national profile. The CFO will be expected to bring rigor and realism to financial forecasting, modernize systems, and foster trust through transparent communication with the Board, senior leadership, faculty, and staff.

The ideal candidate will be a strategic, collaborative leader with deep expertise in financial planning, budgeting, and operational management. They will possess the presence and credibility to engage effectively with trustees and stakeholders; the emotional intelligence to build a culture of partnership and inclusion; and the vision to align financial decisions with institutional priorities. A technology-forward mindset, commitment to innovation, and ability to lead through complexity will be essential.

This is a moment of extraordinary opportunity—for St. Thomas and for the next CFO—to shape the University's future with integrity, creativity, and a steadfast commitment to its Catholic mission, which is inspired by the Catholic intellectual tradition.

To submit a nomination or express interest, please see the Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Reporting directly to the president, the vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer (CFO) is the University's chief business and financial officer and treasurer. Acting as a strategic partner and trusted advisor to the president, this position provides financial stewardship and operational oversight across a broad range of business and administrative functions. The CFO collaborates closely with the president, provost, and other senior leaders to guide the institution's strategic direction and is responsible for stewarding the University's $297 million budget. This role demands executive presence, operational expertise, and financial acumen to foster collaboration, build trust, and deliver results across diverse University functions.

As a member of the president's cabinet and senior staff, the CFO advances the University's mission by integrating financial, business, and operational management into strategic decision-making, ensuring long-term sustainability, operational excellence, and community well-being. The CFO works closely with the Board of Trustees and staffs the Audit/Finance, Physical Facilities, and Investment Committees. The CFO manages a team of six direct reports and 289 total FTEs.

The CFO oversees the following essential functions:

- **Financial Planning and Budgeting** - Leads development and oversight of annual and multi-year budgets, capital planning, and financial forecasting.

  Financial Analysis - Directs institution-wide financial and operational analysis, including enrollment modeling, cash flow, risk analysis, auxiliary enterprise revenue, and scenario planning.

- **Facilities and Campus Operations** - Provides executive oversight of Facilities Management, including capital projects, maintenance, sustainability, and space planning.

- **Institutional Leadership** - Advises the president and cabinet; represents business affairs to the Board of Trustees; and ensures alignment of business strategy with institutional priorities.

- **Accounting and Business Operations** - Provides executive oversight for accounting, receivables, payables, purchasing, insurance, and financial systems.

- **Auxiliary Services** - Oversees dining services, Conferences and Events, Campus Stores, and Parking and Public Safety, ensuring high-quality services, financial sustainability, and customer satisfaction.

In this role, the CFO:

- Leads both financial and business affairs, ensuring operational excellence, compliance, and fiscal sustainability.

- Develops and guides the strategic financial plan; directs and oversees the annual operating and capital budget processes and financial reporting systems.

- Analyzes economic and industry trends, providing proactive guidance to executive leadership.

- Holds fiduciary responsibility for safeguarding and optimizing University assets.
- Plays a leading role in financial and operational planning at the cabinet level, influencing priorities and resource allocation.
- Ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, funding agencies, and accrediting bodies through continuous monitoring of operations, programs, and physical properties.
- Serves as primary liaison with banks, lenders, rating agencies, auditors, and other external stakeholders.
- Provides staff support to the Board of Trustees Audit/Finance, Physical Facilities, and Investment Committees.
- Champions a culture of service, innovation, efficiency, and inclusion across all administrative units.
- Collaborates with academic and operational leaders to align business strategies with the University's educational mission.

Direct reports to the CFO include:

- VP for Facilities Management (Maintenance, Capital Projects, Sustainability)
- Controller (Accounting, Tax Reporting, Financial Systems)
- AVP Purchasing Services (Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Insurance/Risk Management)
- AVP Auxiliary Services (Dining Services, Campus Stores, Public Safety, Parking, Conferences and Events)
- Director of Business Office (Student Billing, Accounts Receivable, Collections)
- Director of Financial Planning and Budgeting (Financial Analysis, Budgeting, Planning)

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The University of St. Thomas is entering a pivotal phase of growth, marked by strategic expansion, increased national visibility, and a deep commitment to innovation and mission-driven excellence. As the University broadens its academic footprint and reputation, the next vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer will serve as a key architect of financial strategy and institutional stewardship.

The foundation for transformative leadership is in place. Building on a strong trajectory of financial health, the CFO will champion innovation, strengthen partnerships with academic units, and foster a culture of agility and integration. This leader will accelerate progress and position St. Thomas for sustained success.

The following leadership themes will define the CFO's early tenure and long-term impact:

- **Strengthen Financial Strategy and Forecasting**
  St. Thomas has made significant strides in financial management, yet multi-year forecasting and transparency remain areas for improvement. The CFO will be expected to bring rigor, realism, and clarity to financial projections, aligning enrollment, discount rates, and budget assumptions with institutional priorities. Key responsibilities include modernizing financial systems, improving multi-year forecasting, and developing dashboards and KPIs to support strategic decision-making. Building trust through clear, reliable, and consistent communication with the Board, senior leadership, faculty, and staff will be essential.

- **Optimize Organizational Assessment and Team Development**
  The CFO oversees a broad portfolio that includes finance, facilities, dining, public safety, purchasing, and auxiliary services. The incoming leader will evaluate organizational structure, streamline operations, and strengthen core financial teams, systems, and structures while also providing strategic leadership to the other units in their portfolio. With recent turnover in key roles, including the controller and budget leadership, the CFO must stabilize and elevate financial operations while fostering a high-performing, collaborative culture across all units.

- **Model Collaborative, Mission-Driven Leadership**
  St. Thomas is known for its warm, collaborative, and entrepreneurial culture rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition with a commitment to educating morally responsible leaders. The CFO must lead with emotional intelligence, humility, and a partnership mindset, building trust with academic leaders, faculty, and staff. The successful candidate will be a listener, teacher, and translator, inspiring confidence and aligning financial decisions with the University's mission.

- **Advance Technology and Innovation in Financial Operations**
  Many financial processes at St. Thomas remain manual and siloed. The CFO will lead Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) modernization and AI integration, automate reporting, and enhance data accuracy. A technology-forward mindset is essential, along with a focus on leveraging digital tools to support strategic planning, real-time financial analysis, and cross-functional collaboration. The CFO will also explore innovative revenue strategies and business development opportunities aligned with the University's mission and assets.

- **Steward Capital Planning and Debt Management**
  With nearly $500 million invested in facilities over the past five years, including the launch of a new Division I athletics arena, the CFO must balance new construction with deferred maintenance. Responsibilities include strategic oversight of capital planning, bond financing, and debt structure, as well as collaboration with the Chief Investment Officer on endowment management. Board-level communication skills are critical.

- **Collaborate with Strategic Enrollment Management**
  The University seeks to optimize net tuition revenue (NTR), and the CFO will work closely with the president, provost, and vice president of strategic enrollment management to align enrollment growth with financial strategy.

- **Support Strategic Growth and Mission Alignment**
  The CFO will advise on the financial viability of new programs and initiatives—including health and AI—ensuring alignment with institutional priorities. This includes supporting enrollment management, philanthropic modeling, and resource allocation strategies that center student success and academic excellence.

- **Navigate Higher Education Headwinds with Agility**
  As a tuition-dependent institution with a discount rate near 56%, St. Thomas faces demographic shifts, regulatory changes, and market volatility. The CFO must proactively assess risks, engage in scenario planning, and benchmark best practices to maintain competitiveness, financial discipline, resilience, and innovation.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of St. Thomas seeks a proven leader with a record of impactful and sustained success in finance and business affairs. The successful candidate will combine strategic ambition and a results-oriented mindset with compassion, a student-centered approach, and a deep commitment to access—reflecting the University's Catholic mission and values.

In addition, the ideal candidate will demonstrate strengths in the following areas:

Strategic financial leadership experience

- Extensive experience with increasing levels of responsibility in leading financial strategy, budgeting, treasury management, and administration.
- Proven success in leading financial operations within a complex, multi-unit organization, with expertise in forecasting, budgeting, and strategic financial planning.
- Ability to identify risks, manage sustainability, and balance optimism with realism, supporting innovation while maintaining fiscal discipline.
- Resilient and adaptable, with a long-term perspective and capacity to prioritize strategic investments.

Higher education and institutional finance expertise

- Strong understanding of higher education finance, including tuition discounting, enrollment modeling, and navigating demographic and regulatory shifts.
- Familiarity with faculty dynamics and academic priorities, with the ability to partner effectively with deans and academic leaders.
- Ability to engage with students and understand their needs, particularly as they relate to academic planning, affordability, and student success.
- Mission-driven orientation and appreciation for the Catholic identity and values of St. Thomas.

Capital and treasury management

- Experience with debt management, capital markets, and endowment stewardship, including bond financing and relationships with investment bankers and rating agencies.
- Oversight of auxiliary services and operational units such as facilities, dining, public safety, and campus stores.

Team leadership and organizational development

- Demonstrated ability to build and lead high-performing teams, mentor talent, and improve organizational effectiveness.
- Collaborative and inclusive leadership style that fosters trust and partnership across academic and administrative units.

- Commitment to inclusion, equity, and workforce diversity, with a collaborative approach to team building and organizational culture.

Stakeholder engagement and communication

- Board-level presence and gravitas, with the confidence to engage trustees and senior leadership in strategic financial discussions.
- Exceptional communication skills, including the ability to translate complex financial information for diverse audiences, including trustees, faculty, staff, and donors.
- Emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills to inspire confidence, navigate change, and build consensus.

Forecasting and technological experience

- Experience with ERP systems and financial technology, with a focus on modernization, automation, and data-driven decision-making.
- Ability to lead the implementation of integrated platforms for budgeting and forecasting. Strong analytical and organizational skills, including the development of dashboards, KPIs, and performance metrics.

External Relations

- Experience in donor stewardship and philanthropic financial modeling, supporting major gifts, and ensuring responsible use of funds.
- Entrepreneurial mindset with a focus on strategic revenue generation and leveraging institutional assets creatively.
- Ability to attract strategic partnerships and foster industry engagement.

Mission alignment

- Deep appreciation for the mission of St. Thomas, informed by the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Educational background and credentials

- A bachelor’s degree is required. A master’s degree in business, finance, or a related field, or a Certified Public Accountant licensure, is preferred.

About the University of St. Thomas

Overview

Founded in 1885 by Archbishop John Ireland to serve Catholic immigrants facing social and economic hardship, St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary began as a high school, college, and seminary with just 62 students and five faculty members. Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and a commitment to liberal arts education, the institution has grown into Minnesota's largest private university—now known as the University of St. Thomas.

In its early years, students pursued classical and theological studies. Over time, the original institution gave rise to three distinct entities: St. Thomas Academy, the Saint Paul Seminary, and the College of St. Thomas, each developing its own mission and campus. After 92 years of all-male undergraduate enrollment, the College became coeducational in 1977, reflecting a broader commitment to inclusive excellence.

The expansion of graduate programs led to the renaming of the institution as the University of St. Thomas in 1990, followed by the opening of a Minneapolis campus in 1992. Today, the University serves nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 48 states and 104 countries across three campuses located in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Rome, Italy.

St. Thomas offers more than 150 undergraduate majors and minors and over 55 graduate degree programs across eight academic divisions:

- College of Arts and Sciences
- Dougherty Family College
- Morrison Family College of Health
- Opus College of Business, which includes the Schulze School of Entrepreneurship
- Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
- School of Education
- School of Engineering
- School of Law

The University employs approximately 1,135 staff, 417 full-time faculty, and 461 part-time faculty. All classes are taught by faculty, and 95% of graduates are employed or enrolled in graduate school within one year. St. Thomas is a top choice for Minnesota's leading public companies—80% actively recruit its students.

St. Thomas educates students of all faiths and backgrounds. Its academic programs are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their chosen fields, contribute meaningfully to society, and respond thoughtfully to the challenges of contemporary life. The University fosters lifelong learning, encouraging students to find meaning and satisfaction in knowledge and to use it as a foundation for personal growth and service to the common good.

The undergraduate experience is anchored in a robust core curriculum that includes coursework in theology and philosophy, English, fine arts, historical analysis, language and culture, natural sciences, quantitative analysis, and social scientific analysis. Students also complete interdisciplinary coursework that integrates the humanities, emphasizes changemaking and writing across the curriculum, and explores global perspectives and issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. A first-year experience and a culminating signature work further enrich the academic journey.

St. Thomas emphasizes active, inquiry-based learning, service-learning through global and local engagement, and faculty research and scholarship that directly support student learning. Community engagement is central to the St. Thomas experience. Through the Center for the Common Good, students contribute over 80,000 hours annually to service and civic initiatives. The University partners with community organizations, Fortune 500 companies, and its 115,000+ alumni network to connect students with internships and career opportunities. Currently, 97% of graduates are employed or pursuing graduate studies within one year of graduation.

St. Thomas is nationally recognized for academic excellence and innovation:

- Ranked a Top National University and Best Value School by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Named a Top 25 Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program by *The Princeton Review*
- Recognized as a First-Gen Forward Institution for its commitment to first-generation student success
- Ranked No. 82 Best College for Veterans by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Ranked #1 in Minnesota and #7 nationally for undergraduate study abroad participation by the Institute of International Education

St. Thomas is also a leader in sustainability, earning a Gold rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), recognition in *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges*, and a spot among the Top 100 Most Sustainable Colleges in America by *Sierra Magazine*. It is also a Top 10 Zero Waste Campus in the U.S., as assessed by PLAN's Atlas Zero Waste Certification™ Program.

Today, the University thrives thanks to its enduring mission, a talented and devoted community, a generous Board of Trustees, and strong philanthropic support. On January 1, 2023, Rob Vischer became the University's 16th president, ushering in a new era of leadership and innovation.

Learn more about the University's rich history here.

Mission-Driven Momentum

As the largest private university in Minnesota and one of the largest Catholic universities in the nation, St. Thomas is guided by a powerful mission:

Inspired by Catholic intellectual tradition, the University of St. Thomas educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good.

The St. Thomas Board of Trustees unanimously approved its current mission statement and convictions in 2004. The current strategic plan, St. Thomas 2025, is in its final year of implementation and has ushered in a period of remarkable transformation and growth.

Over the past five years, St. Thomas has achieved historic levels of donor support and fundraising success, while maintaining strong regional enrollment. The transition to Division I athletics has elevated school spirit and expanded national visibility. Major initiatives include the expansion of the Morrison Family College of Health and the launch of the Susan S. Morrison School of Nursing, advancing the University's commitment to health equity and holistic care.

To enhance the student experience, St. Thomas introduced a two-year on-campus housing requirement and invested significantly in residence hall improvements. New student-centered resources, such as the Center for Student Achievement, the Center for Well-Being, and the Paul and Sarah Karon Veterans Resource Center, reflect the University's deep commitment to student success and belonging.

The opening of the Schoenecker Center for STEAM Education marked a bold investment in interdisciplinary learning and innovation. Meanwhile, a growing portfolio of federally funded research projects highlights the University's rising national profile and expanding impact.

Looking ahead, a new strategic plan is in development and will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May 2025—poised to guide the next chapter of mission-driven excellence at St. Thomas.

Governance

St. Thomas is governed by an independent Board of Trustees, currently composed of 39 distinguished members. This diverse group includes national and global corporate executives, entrepreneurs, leaders in law and accounting, and prominent figures from nonprofit, educational, and church communities. The Board convenes for an annual retreat each fall, complemented by three regular meetings throughout the fiscal year.

To support its oversight responsibilities, the Board operates through ten standing committees:

- Academic Affairs
- Audit/Finance
- Conflict Management
- Executive
- Governance
- Institutional Advancement
- Investment
- Mission
- Physical Facilities
- Student Affairs

The University president, who serves as chief executive officer, reports directly to the Board and holds office at its discretion. The president’s leadership is guided by the University’s governing documents, which are approved by the Board. Administrative leadership is structured into a senior staff and cabinet,

whose composition and areas of responsibility are outlined in the organizational chart provided in Appendix A

Supporting the University's academic and operational mission are approximately 1,500 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, all dedicated to advancing student success and institutional excellence.

The University of St. Thomas embraces a model of shared governance that reflects a deep commitment to collaboration among the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty. This approach ensures that each partner brings its unique expertise and perspective to advancing the University's mission. In practice, shared governance at St. Thomas fosters a culture of mutual trust, respect, transparency, and accountability, with open communication as a cornerstone. Through this system, strategic decisions are informed by broad engagement and collective responsibility, strengthening the institution and enhancing its ability to serve students and the wider community.

Faculty Profile

The University of St. Thomas employs 430 full-time faculty, supplemented by approximately 435 adjunct faculty, many of whom are full-time professionals bringing real-world expertise into the classroom. Of the full-time faculty, 46% are women and 21% identify as people of color. Faculty are recruited nationally, contributing to a diverse and accomplished academic community. The student-faculty ratio is 13:1, with average class sizes of 21.6 for undergraduate courses and 16.4 for graduate courses.

St. Thomas invests in faculty development through direct budgetary support for scholarship, an endowed Center for Faculty Development, and dedicated offices that assist with securing grants and contracts from government agencies, corporations, and foundations.

Enrollment and Student Profile

St. Thomas currently enrolls approximately 6,534 undergraduate students in its four-year programs, 216 students in the two-year Dougherty Family College, and 3,126 graduate students. An additional 240 students attend the Dougherty Family College. About 30% of undergraduates are first-generation college students, and 38% of first-time, first-year undergraduates and 25% of graduate students identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

In Fall 2025, the University proudly welcomed its largest-ever first-year class of 1,677 students from 30 states and over 60 countries, with a noticeable increase in new first-year international students, in part spurred by a new agreement with the United World Colleges.

All first- and second-year students are required to live on campus, with exceptions granted for commuting students. Approximately 47% of undergraduates participate in study abroad programs—far exceeding the national average of about 10%. The University offers more than 300 study abroad opportunities in over 50 countries, making global engagement a hallmark of the St. Thomas experience.

The most frequently awarded degrees include:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science

- Master of Science
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
- Master of Arts
- Master of Business Administration
- Juris Doctor
- Master of Social Work

Students also benefit from a vibrant campus life, with access to special-interest housing, service-learning opportunities, and more than 140 student clubs and organizations. Extracurricular offerings include musical ensembles, campus ministry, volunteer activities, athletics, and more.

Athletics

Varsity intercollegiate athletics have been part of St. Thomas since 1904. Hundreds of students also participate in club and intramural sports, alongside the University's 21 varsity teams. The Tommies competed in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) from 1920 to 2020 and in NCAA Division III since 1973, building a tradition of excellence both on the field and in the classroom.

In 2021, St. Thomas became the first and only university to be reclassified directly from Division III to Division I by the NCAA. The Tommies now compete in four Division I conferences:

- The Summit League (18 teams)
- Pioneer Football League (football)
- Women's WCHA (women's hockey)
- CCHA (men's hockey)

Looking ahead, the men's hockey team will join the National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHC) beginning in the 2026–27 season.

Giving

St. Thomas is actively fundraising for strategic priorities identified in its *St. Thomas 2025* strategic plan. The Board of Trustees has voted to publicly launch the University's next comprehensive fundraising campaign in fiscal year 2027, aligning with the priorities outlined in the *St. Thomas 2030* Strategic Plan.

Trustees play a vital role in fundraising through personal generosity, strategic guidance, and by cultivating relationships with prospective donors. Each trustee is expected to contribute to the annual Tommie Give Day Challenge Fund and make one or more major gifts during their term. Trustees also serve as ambassadors, introducing University leadership to potential donors, corporations, and foundations.

Financial Overview

The University's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Its budgeted operational revenue, which excludes most gifts and investment returns, for FY 2025 was $297 million. St. Thomas is largely tuition-

driven, with tuition and fees comprising 70% of its FY 2025 revenues. The majority of the balance is related to meal plan and residence hall revenue. Compensation and benefits comprise the majority of the University's expenditures, approximately 75% in FY 2025.

At the close of Fiscal Year 2025, the University's total assets had increased to $2 billion, with $1 billion in invested assets and an endowment of $820 million (of which $89 million is unrestricted).

At the end of FY 2025, the University had bonds payable totaling $477 million. The University most recently issued $159 million of bonds in 2024 for the construction of the Lee and Penny Anderson Arena. This new arena will be the on-campus home of both hockey and basketball. As of the most recent review, performed by Moody's in 2024, the University's long-term bond rating is A2 negative. This outlook affirms both the strength of the University's financial resources, prudent fiscal management, strong reputation and programmatic diversity while also acknowledging thinning operating margins and an increasing debt load.

Tuition

The estimated cost of attendance at the University of St. Thomas for the 2025–2026 academic year is $74,921. This includes:

- Tuition: $54,800
- Required Fees: $1,660
- Food and Housing: $15,117
- Books, Supplies, Transportation, and Other Expenses: $3,344

Actual costs vary depending on program, housing choices, and personal circumstances. Detailed breakdowns are available on the St. Thomas Cost of Attendance webpage.

St. Thomas is deeply committed to access and affordability. Every first-time, first-year undergraduate student is offered a University scholarship upon admission, with awards of up to $34,000 per year. Merit-based scholarships are available for first-year, transfer, and continuing students, and need-based financial aid is offered through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). International students are eligible for merit-based scholarships, and limited financial aid is available for graduate students.

Approximately 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students hold on-campus jobs, contributing to their educational and living expenses while gaining valuable experience.

The University's institutional gift aid—scholarships and grants awarded to undergraduate students—has steadily increased over time. The current tuition discount rate is competitive with peer-private institutions in the region, at nearly 56%.

Campus and Physical Plant

The University of St. Thomas spans three campuses:

- St. Paul Main Campus: The 78-acre campus includes the original 45 acres established in 1885, five acres of adjacent properties, and 28 acres transferred through an affiliation agreement with The

Saint Paul Seminary and the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The Seminary retains ownership of land and buildings adjacent to the south campus, some of which are used and maintained by St. Thomas under the agreement.

- Minneapolis Campus: Opened in 1992, this urban campus now covers approximately three city blocks and houses the School of Law, Schulze School of Entrepreneurship, School of Education, and Dougherty Family College.
- Bernardi Campus in Rome, Italy: Established in 2000, this residential campus serves as a home base for students studying abroad.

The current value of the University's physical plant is approximately $1 billion.

Construction Projects

St. Thomas has invested more than $670 million in new construction over the past two decades. Major projects include:

- A student center
- Athletics and recreation complex
- Two residence halls
- Parking facility
- Business education building
- Science, engineering, and physical plant facilities in St. Paul
- Law school, entrepreneurship, and education buildings in Minneapolis

Recent projects since 2020 include:

- Two additional new residence halls
- Renovations of Ireland, Dowling, and Brady Halls
- Construction of the Iversen Center for Faith and renovation of the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
- Opening of the Center for Well-Being, integrating health and wellness services

In February 2024, the University opened the Schoenecker Center, a cutting-edge academic complex focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). This interdisciplinary space fosters collaboration across fields, emphasizing human, digital, and technical literacy.

In October 2025, St. Thomas opened the Lee and Penny Anderson Arena, a state-of-the-art facility for men's and women's ice hockey and basketball, complete with advanced practice spaces.

Currently under construction is an expansion of the Center for Microgrid Research, supporting renewable energy and military readiness research within the School of Engineering.

These three projects, along with a campus quad have transformed south campus.

Libraries and Resources

The St. Thomas libraries house approximately 369,000 print volumes and provide access to:

- Over 1 million electronic books
- 200,000 electronic and print journal titles
- 370,000 physical and streaming videos
- 477 databases

Campus Highlights and Heritage

- The Arches on Summit Avenue: Completed in 1947, these Collegiate Gothic stone arches are a beloved symbol of tradition and community. They feature a statue of St. Thomas Aquinas and a plaque with his prayer. Students ceremonially walk through the Arches during Welcome Days and again before Commencement, marking their entry and exit from the University community. A Nativity scene is displayed atop the Arches each holiday season, a tradition since the late 1940s.
- Hall of Founders Fresco: Located in Terrence Murphy Hall, on the Minneapolis campus, this 17-by-112-foot fresco by artist Mark Balma is one of the largest in the U.S. It depicts the seven virtues discussed by St. Thomas Aquinas and includes portraits of 12 major donors.
- Architectural Legacy:
  - *Ireland Hall* (1912) and the *Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas* (1917) were designed by E.L. Masqueray, architect of the Cathedral of St. Paul and the Basilica of St. Mary.
  - *Grace Hall* (1913) was designed by Cass Gilbert, architect of the Minnesota State Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court building.
  - *St. Mary's Chapel* (1905), designed by Clarence Johnston, is part of The Saint Paul Seminary and reflects his broader architectural contributions across Minnesota.
- American Museum of Asmat Art: Located in the student center, this internationally recognized collection features over 2,000 pieces—including sculptures, fiber works, and shields—created by the Asmat people of Papua, Indonesia.
- Carillon at O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library: Housed in the Rocca-Rutman Tower, the carillon uses a computerized system to play hourly chimes from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Special tunes are played at 12:01 p.m. and 6:01 p.m. to mark the Angelus, often reflecting liturgical seasons or feast days.

Leadership

Rob Vischer, President

Robert K. Vischer became the 16th President of the University of St. Thomas on January 1, 2023, following a unanimous selection by the Board of Trustees. Prior to this role, he served as interim president beginning June 1, 2022, and dean of St. Thomas' School of Law from 2013 to 2022. Vischer joined the University in 2005 as an associate professor of law.

As president, Vischer has advanced the University's key priorities while reinforcing St. Thomas' commitment to its mission of whole-person formation and fostering what Pope Francis calls a "culture of encounter." A central tenet of his leadership is helping the University community aspire to ensure every member of the St. Thomas community, without exception, has the unmistakable experience of feeling seen, known, and loved.

To build community and help faculty, staff, and students "lift their gaze," Vischer launched the Claritas Initiative, aiming to cultivate the transcendental values of truth, beauty, and goodness within the University community. This initiative encompasses a series of discussions, performances, and experiences designed to explore and nurture these values across campus.

Vischer's academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, from the University of New Orleans, and a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review. Before entering academia, he practiced corporate litigation at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago and clerked for three federal judges.

Vischer serves on the board of the Association for Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). He serves on the executive committee of GREATER MSP and as a board member of the Minnesota Business Partnership and the Greater Twin Cities United Way. He is also a member of the Coalition for Transformational Education (CTE) and the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

Minneapolis and St. Paul

The Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis offer a dynamic blend of urban energy and natural beauty, with two vibrant downtowns, nationally acclaimed parks, and a rich cultural scene. At the University of St. Thomas, students benefit from a unique campus experience that combines the best of both worlds.

St. Thomas students attend classes on two main campuses—St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis—each offering a distinct atmosphere. The St. Paul campus, nestled in a residential neighborhood along the Mississippi River, provides a classic collegiate setting. The Minneapolis campus places students in the heart of a thriving urban center, steps away from major corporations, startups, nonprofits, and cultural institutions. A third campus in Rome, Italy, offers immersive international learning experiences.

Living and studying in the Twin Cities gives students unparalleled access to professional opportunities, including internships and jobs at Fortune 500 companies and local businesses. Beyond academics, students enjoy a vibrant arts, food, sports, and entertainment scene with theaters, music venues, museums, and award-winning restaurants just minutes away.

For those seeking outdoor adventure, the St. Paul campus connects to miles of scenic trails along the Mississippi River and Minneapolis' renowned chain of lakes, offering opportunities for biking, running, kayaking, and quiet reflection in nature. Minneapolis was ranked third and St. Paul fifth in the 2025 ParkScore Index.

Whether exploring city life or enjoying the outdoors, students at St. Thomas find themselves in an ideal environment for learning, growth, and connection.

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 St. Thomas in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by February 9, 2026.

Applications, nominations, and inquiries can be directed to:

Robin Mamlet, Jen Meyers Pickard, Ph.D., and Lauren Bruce-Stets

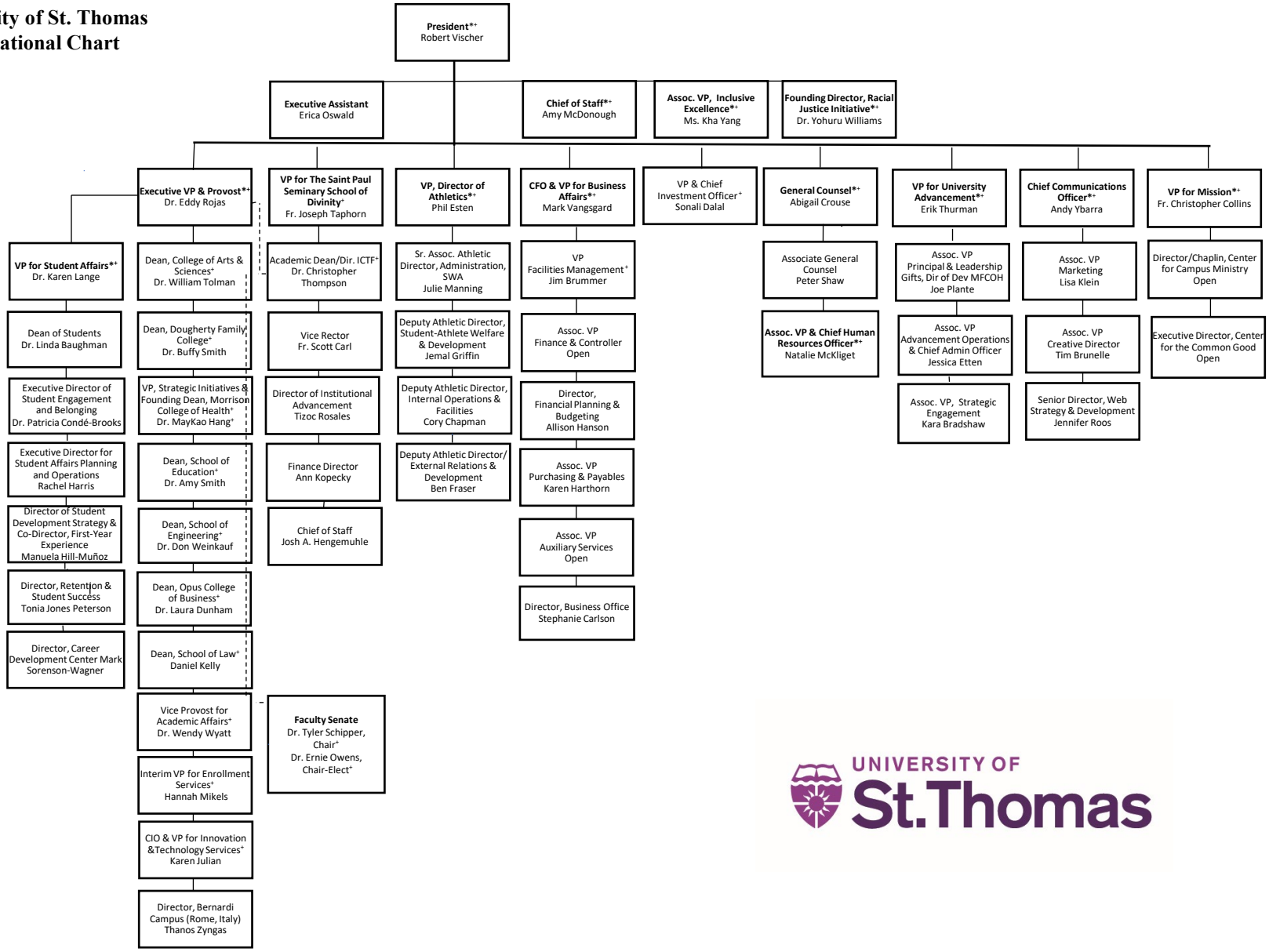
UST-CFO@wittkieffer.com

Salary Range: $315,000-$355,000. The University of St. Thomas has provided a salary range that represents its good faith estimate of what the University may pay for the position at the time of posting. The specific salary offered will be determined based on factors such as the qualifications of the selected candidate, departmental budget, internal salary equity considerations, and available market information. The University of St. Thomas offers a competitive and comprehensive benefits program, which includes:

• Tuition Remission for employees, spouses, and dependents
• Generous Retirement Contributions to support your future
• Comprehensive Health Coverage, including medical, dental, and vision
• Fully Paid Insurance: disability, life, and AD&D
•Paid Parental Leave to support growing families

The University of St. Thomas embraces diversity, inclusion and equality for all. Our convictions of dignity, diversity and personal attention call us to embody and champion a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment. We welcome applicants of diverse races, ethnicities, geographic origins, gender identities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, religions, work experience, physical and intellectual abilities, and financial means. We are committed to building a team that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives and skills.

University of St. Thomas
Organizational Chart



* Senior Staff
+ President's Cabinet

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UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas

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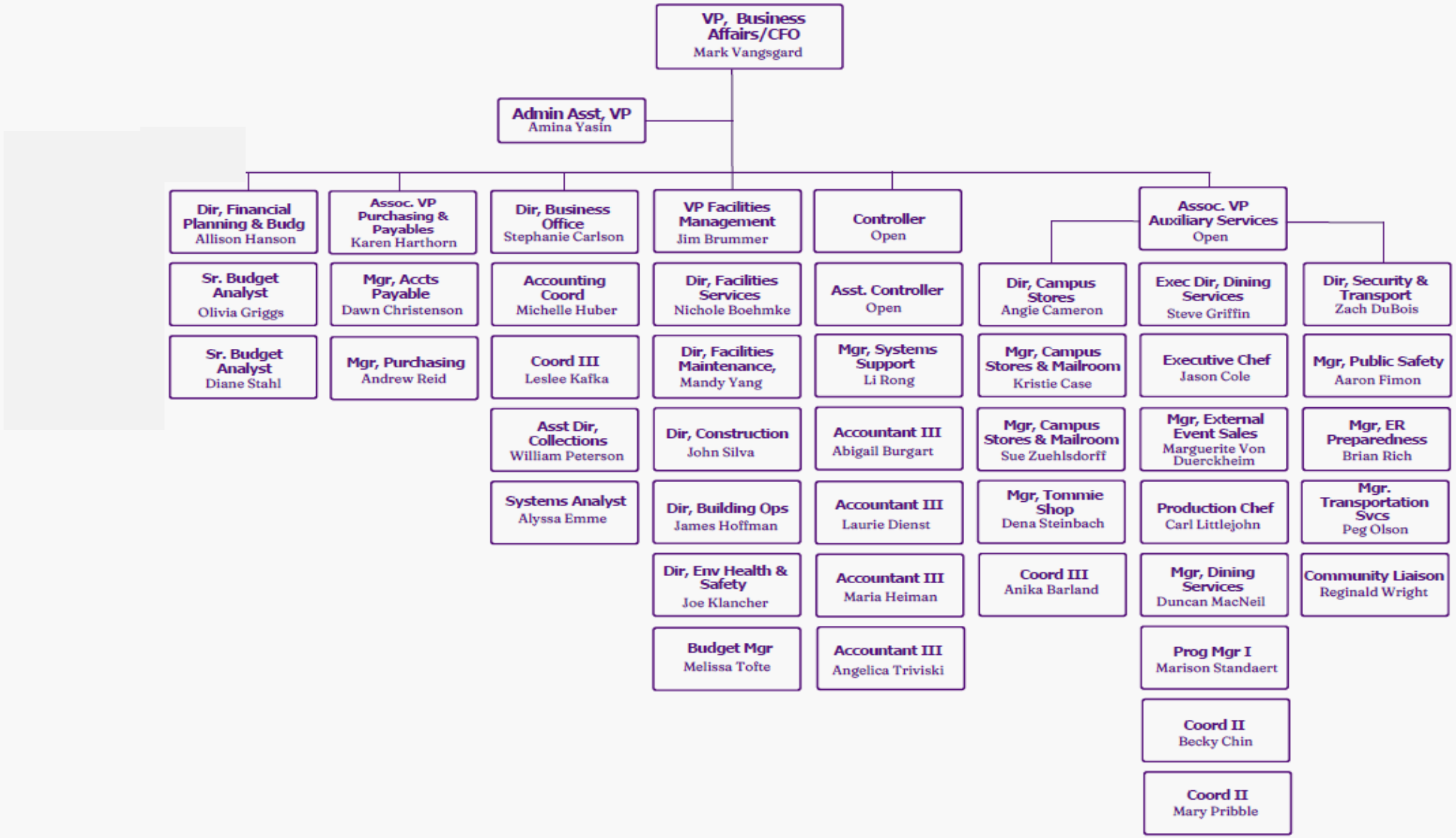
Organizational Chart

10/28/2025