



Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Seton Hall University invites nominations and applications from qualified higher education leaders for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The next dean will join a community of learners dedicated to outstanding teaching, research, and engagement at Seton Hall and beyond. The College seeks a visionary leader who can bring innovative ideas and advocate for a liberal education as the foundation for students' lives as enlightened global citizens and professionals.

Founded by the first Archbishop of Newark, Seton Hall is a nationally ranked, archdiocesan Catholic university committed to academic excellence; expanding liberal, professional, and scientific knowledge; fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community; and preparing ethical and compassionate servant leaders for a global society. Seton Hall welcomes individuals from all faith traditions and from none. Seton Hall's Catholicism is an enabling vision, not a basis for exclusion. The University's faculty, students, and staff actively work to build a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every member of the community. Given its location in close proximity to New York City, the University enjoys a level of diversity in ethnicity and beliefs unusual for an institution of its size.

The incoming dean will join the University at an exciting time, working with a new president, a new provost, and a newly launched strategic plan. Seton Hall University is looking to remove barriers and promote one University within and across the colleges of the institution. It is an opportune time for an enterprising new dean to creatively and openly lead a willing and talented group of faculty, staff and students in building a strongly positioned college for the future.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been developing students in mind, heart, and spirit since 1856. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous programs, Seton Hall has been singled out for academic distinction by *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Seton Hall's 58-acre [main campus](#) is located in the charming town of South Orange, New Jersey, only 14 miles from Manhattan, and serves as the primary home for the Colleges and Schools of Arts and Sciences,

Business, Communication and the Arts, Diplomacy and International Relations, Education and Human Services, and Theology. The University's nationally ranked [School of Law](#) is located in nearby Newark, N.J. The new [Interprofessional Health Sciences \(IHS\) campus](#), situated in the towns of Clifton and Nutley, N.J., opened in July 2018. The IHS campus houses Seton Hall's [College of Nursing](#), [School of Health and Medical Sciences](#), and Seton Hall's strategic partner, the [Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine](#).

MISSION STATEMENT

Seton Hall University is a major Catholic university. In a diverse and collaborative environment, Seton Hall focuses on academic and ethical development. Seton Hall students are prepared to be leaders in their professional and community lives in a global society and are challenged by outstanding faculty, an evolving technologically advanced setting, and values-centered curricula.

HISTORY

From its founding in 1856 as Seton Hall College to the present day, Seton Hall has been dedicated to the vision of its founder, Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, as "a home for the mind, the heart, and the spirit." Its Catholic roots have made the University open to people of all faiths, creeds, and colors. The seeds of diversity at Seton Hall were planted almost from its birth; during its first 12 years, Seton Hall enrolled more than 500 freshmen from 17 states and six foreign countries. The University continues to reflect the growing racial and ethnic scope of its students and the increasing diversity of the Church and society it serves.

During the 19th century, in spite of setbacks, lean times and the Civil War, the College continued to expand. By 1937, Seton Hall established a University College. This marked the first matriculation of women at Seton Hall. Seton Hall's South Orange campus became coeducational in 1968.

The 1960s and 1970s included significant expansion of and the modernization of many facilities and the construction of a library, and the beginning of important social outreach efforts. New ties were established with the private and industrial sectors, and a growing partnership developed with federal and state governments to create programs for the economically and educationally disadvantaged.

In 1986, representatives from 13 New Jersey Catholic hospitals and medical centers met at Seton Hall to address medical education in the state. This ultimately led to innovative educational programs utilizing a multi-institutional – yet integrated – approach to graduate education and the founding of Seton Hall's South Orange campus. By the late 1980s Seton Hall invested in significant residential housing for students and now is recognized as a residential campus, providing living space for approximately 2,100 students.

The School of Diplomacy and International Relations opened in 1997 in an alliance with the United Nations Association of the United States of America. In the fall of 2007, the University finalized \$35 million in renovations to McNulty Hall to transform it into a leading-edge facility for science and technology learning

and research. Since 2010, Seton Hall has completed a host of campus renovations and new construction projects. An initial round of improvements totaling \$134 million concluded in 2014 with the opening of a new state-of-the-art fitness center, academic building, parking garage, and expanded Aquinas Hall dormitory.

New and enhanced facilities are providing a home to some of the best and brightest students to ever study at Seton Hall. In the fall of 2019, 1,630 freshmen boosted the total number of undergraduates to 6,102 students. Selected from the largest applicant pool in Seton Hall history, the class boasted an average two-part SAT score of 1235 – an impressive 115-point increase since 2009.

LOCATION AND CAMPUS LIFE

Seton Hall University's campus in [South Orange](#), New Jersey, an attractive, culturally active community, is just 25 minutes from New York Penn Station on NJ Transit's Midtown Direct. The University is west of Newark, a city experiencing a burgeoning renaissance under dynamic political leadership. Over the last several years, Seton Hall has strengthened its relationships with its neighbors by its affiliation with the [South Orange Performing Arts Center](#) and the [Prudential Center](#) in Newark, where the men's basketball team competes in the [BIG EAST Conference](#). The [Law School](#) is located within easy walking distance of federal and state courthouses, as well as the Prudential Center and [Newark Penn Station](#).

The [Interprofessional Health Sciences](#) campus in Nutley and Clifton represents the University's largest expansion in recent years. This campus houses the Seton Hall College of Nursing, the Seton Hall School of Health and Medical Sciences, and Seton Hall's strategic partner, the [Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine](#).

Athletics is a big part of life at Seton Hall, with 14 men's and women's varsity athletic teams competing in NCAA Division I's BIG EAST conference, one of the most thrilling conferences in the country. Seton Hall hosts more than 25 intramural and club sports and 130 student organizations, as well as 22 Greek societies. On average, students contribute 40,000 hours of community service annually.

LEADERSHIP

[Joseph E. Nyre](#), Ph.D., is the 21st president of Seton Hall University. He assumed the presidency on August 1, 2019. President Nyre is a first-generation college graduate who received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse (and attained its most distinguished alumni award in 2014); an M.A. from the University of Missouri; and an Ed.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He completed pre- and post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard Medical School and the University of Kansas. He assumed the presidency of Seton Hall after serving for eight years as president of Iona College, a Roman Catholic institution in New Rochelle, New York.

President Nyre often discusses the "power of the place to change destinations and transform lives" and the important role of every student and employee in this pursuit. He says, "From the groundskeeper who attends to the beauty of the Green to the faculty member who attends to the beauty of the mind, we all play a vital role in transforming lives."

A student-focused servant leader, President Nyre has a demonstrated record of elevating institutions by engaging students, faculty, and staff in shared visioning, planning, execution, and governance. This orientation has produced a history of building cultures centered on student engagement and success, increasing college affordability and actively involving students in institutional governance.

[Katia Passerini](#), Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President, is a nationally recognized knowledge management scholar with extensive higher education experience who began her tenure as the Provost and Executive Vice President of Seton Hall University on June 5, 2020.

Prior to joining Seton Hall, Dr. Passerini served as the Lesley H. and William L. Collins Distinguished Chair and Dean of the Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies at St. John's University. As the chief academic officer of Collins College, the largest undergraduate college at St. John's, Passerini was responsible for strategic and operational planning, faculty and staff recruitment, academic program and curriculum development, and fundraising. During her tenure as dean, she grew enrollment at the College, launched an array of new academic programs, and raised student retention and success to new heights. She served on several senior-level committees, including the President's Advisory Committee; Provost Committee on Academic Prioritization; the Academic Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee; and the Academic Technology Governance Committee.

Dr. Passerini also served as the Interim Dean and then Dean of the Albert Dorman Honors College at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and was a full professor and the Hurlburt Chair of Management Information Systems in the Martin Tuchman School of Management. Her professional background includes multi-industry projects at Booz Allen Hamilton (now part of PriceWaterhouseCoopers) and the World Bank where she focused on information technology projects in Europe, North America, and the South Pacific.

With Seton Hall's robust and thoughtful COVID-19 [Restart Plan](#) a proven success, President Nyre, Provost Passerini, and the entire Seton Hall University community look forward to the early stages of a dynamic strategic plan, *Harvest Our Treasures*.

HARVEST OUR TREASURES: The Seton Hall University Strategic Plan

Rooted in the institution's 165-year mission, [Harvest Our Treasures](#), Seton Hall's strategic plan announced on February 1, 2021, fortifies the strengths and expresses the timeless values in innovative and exciting ways. *Harvest Our Treasures* includes five equally essential commitments that form the foundation of the academic vision:

- Breadth of education;
- Pursuit, creation and dissemination of knowledge;
- Integration of the liberal arts and sciences with the Catholic intellectual tradition;
- Faculty-student engagement; and
- Preparation for an uncertain future.

The foundational commitments are pursued in the five strategic goals listed below:

Goal 1: Provide a distinctive and rigorous education in the liberal arts tradition that also informs curated professional and graduate programs and provides all students the education to become adaptable, imaginative, resilient, ethical, and successful individuals.

Goal 2: Support faculty in strengthening academic quality, advancing research and scholarship, and enhancing interdisciplinarity, equity, and inclusion.

Goal 3: Create a premier student experience that is equitable and consistent, enhances student support and retention, and prepares students to be impactful global citizens.

Goal 4: Further cultivate and nurture a trusting and collaborative Seton Hall community that educates and empowers all its members to advance equity, inclusion, and social justice on campus and in the wider world.

Goal 5: Advance institutional sustainability by creating a nimble, responsive, and innovative operational infrastructure and by making strategic investments in people, programs, and partnerships to ensure that Seton Hall can achieve its mission for current and future generations of students.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Since 1856, Seton Hall University has been a place where leaders learn. When Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley founded Seton Hall, he envisioned a home for the mind, the heart, and the spirit. Today, the University celebrates a diverse tapestry of ideas and perspectives that enrich the dialogue and academic discussion in the classroom. Seton Hall is proud that its diversity stimulates innovative teaching and learning and believes that it prepares Seton Hall students to live and work in a global society. The statue of Elizabeth Ann Seton at the heart of the South Orange campus is a daily reminder of the kind of

community Seton Hall strives to be – one that recognizes the dignity of all, welcomes each student fully, and treasures their gifts.

Seton Hall University attracts students from every corner of the United States and from more than 70 countries around the world. Nearly 40 percent of Seton Hall’s undergraduates identify as students of color and over one quarter of undergraduates are Pell-eligible and identify as first generation. Outside of the U.S., China, Colombia, India, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand are the most represented countries at the University.

ACADEMICS

Seton Hall University is a Carnegie Doctoral University – High Research Activity (R2) with nine schools and one exclusive partner: the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), the [Stillman School of Business](#), the [College of Communication and the Arts](#), the [School of Diplomacy and International Relations](#), the [College of Education and Human Services](#), the [College of Nursing](#), the [Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology](#), the [School of Health and Medical Sciences](#), the [School of Law](#), and Seton Hall’s strategic partner, the [Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine](#). Nationally accredited programs, including Business, Education, Psychology, Law, Nursing and Health Sciences, attest to overall academic excellence. Seton Hall’s next Middle States review is currently scheduled for 2023–24.

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The oldest and largest academic unit at Seton Hall University, the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) provides a learning, teaching, and research environment that informs and promotes the University’s mission. Based on a liberal arts course of study that is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, the College fosters a values-centered, technologically enhanced education that enables the personal and professional development of its students.

The College’s 35 [undergraduate majors](#), 44 [undergraduate minors](#), five [certificate programs](#), and seven [Special Academic Initiatives](#) complement other major areas of study for students across the University. The College of Arts and Sciences also offers a [Master of Social Work](#) program, a [Master of Public Administration](#) program, five [humanities graduate programs](#), and eight [science graduate programs](#) including Ph.D. programs in Chemistry and Molecular Biology.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The dean is the chief academic and executive officer of the College of Arts and Sciences. The dean reports directly to the Provost and Executive Vice President and has thirteen direct reports, including three associate deans, one assistant dean, two directors and 20 department chairs.

The incoming dean will lead a college with a vibrant community of collegial faculty and staff. The dean will engage in the following opportunities and challenges in line with Seton Hall's hallmarks of having world-class faculty and students who make a positive impact in the world.

Provide vision, leadership, and an inclusive identity for the College: Seton Hall has begun a new strategic plan in which the College of Arts and Sciences plays a central role. The next dean will have the opportunity to bring a vision of how the College of Arts and Sciences will remain at the core of the University; help to shape the College's identity within a comprehensive institution; and promote a culture of inclusive excellence for students, faculty, and staff. Building on the College's strong foundation and diverse array of disciplines, the dean will work with faculty, staff, and students to enhance a sense of connectedness and distinctiveness for students who major in a College of Arts and Sciences field. This effort will extend to the College's faculty and staff as well. The dean will continue to articulate the value of a liberal education and its value to multiple audiences within the University, as well as to parents, students, and the greater community and nation.

Foster interdisciplinarity and connections across the arts and sciences portfolio and with the University's other eight schools and colleges: The College of Arts and Sciences offers several interdisciplinary majors and minors and an independent major and minor that students design with the support of advisors. The dean will encourage the growth of new and existing interdisciplinary programs and nurture the College's culture where these developments are celebrated. The dean will model creativity and help to bridge connections and overcome existing organizational procedures that impede collaboration among departments, disciplines, schools, and colleges across Seton Hall's campuses.

Advocating on behalf of the College and its faculty, staff, and students: One of the central strengths of the College of Arts and Sciences is its faculty's dedication to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. Serving as a prominent voice within the University, the next dean will champion initiatives and support systems that advance the College of Arts and Sciences faculty's vital contributions to the University and beyond. The dean will work to establish initiatives and resources that provide faculty with opportunities to further research productivity within the College. The dean will also be the leading spokesperson for the College itself, sharing its successes with internal and external constituencies in compelling ways and garnering support for the College of Arts and Sciences' continued growth and distinction.

Lead diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts: The dean plays a pivotal role in advancing ongoing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across all programs, particularly through hiring new faculty and staff in the College, supporting the professional development of current faculty and staff, and ensuring equity in the tenure and promotion process. The successful candidate will demonstrate a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, evidenced by a record of advancing policies and practices that promote a culture in which faculty, staff, and students thrive.

Champion a liberal arts education: As the leader of the College of Arts and Sciences, the dean will understand and positively advocate for the liberal arts and the importance of a liberal arts education. The dean will support the mission of the College of Arts and Sciences to provide Seton Hall students with an

immersion in the liberal arts that will foster the creation of a meaningful life, help them build fulfilling careers, and enable them to meet the demands of citizenship in a dynamic world.

Secure additional resources for the College: The dean will actively engage stakeholders, including foundations, federal agencies, corporations, and the local community, to secure support for the strategic vision and plan of the College. The Alumni Association and President's Advisory Group are important partners and supporters as well. The next dean will have the ability to envision an even more vibrant future for the College, develop steps for achieving it, and passionately communicate to internal and external members of the community that they have important contributions to make to the College of Arts and Sciences' journey. With the potential for remarkable growth in faculty research in the coming years, including the potential for steady increases in external funding, the next dean will have many compelling stories to share with these audiences.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will hold a terminal degree in one of the disciplines represented in the College of Arts and Sciences and possess the requisite teaching, scholarship, and service experience to warrant appointment at the rank of full professor. Additionally, the successful candidate will have many of the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- An approachable, inclusive, engaging, and transparent leadership style that fosters trust and strong relationships;
- A student-centered approach to education with a demonstrated commitment to student success;
- Entrepreneurial capabilities with a record of innovation;
- A fundamental understanding of the ongoing research conducted in the College of Arts and Sciences. The successful candidate must understand the challenges each Department faces when conducting research in a variety of fields;
- Financial acumen and experience managing a budget, ideally in a decentralized RCM-like environment;
- Experience working with external constituencies, including alumni, employers, nonprofit organizations, community members, and donors, and with the ability to form meaningful partnerships and generate resources;
- Successful experience executing a vision by utilizing financial and human resources;
- An appreciation for and understanding of Catholic higher education and the ability to articulate that understanding to a variety of audiences;
- A collaborative style and demonstrated experience working across disciplines with a commitment to interdisciplinarity in teaching, scholarship, and service;
- Strong communication and perceptive interpersonal skills, including excellent oral and written communication skills, strong listening skills, as well as empathy and respect for diverse viewpoints;
- Dedication to faculty engagement and shared and transparent governance, including thoughtful discussion with faculty to envision and implement institutional change;

- A commitment to support faculty efforts in scholarship, creative work, teaching, and service;
- A history of working successfully with faculty and administrative leaders to secure resources to elevate research portfolios as well as promoting successful grantsmanship;
- A keen understanding of the evolving perceptions and national trends related to the liberal arts;
- Capability to be a dynamic and influential advocate for the College, its faculty, its students, and its academic programs, both internally and externally;
- A strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and evidence of success in enhancing these principles;
- Experience working with graduate students and securing resources to promote strong graduate programs;
- Integrity, unquestionable fairness, trustworthiness, outstanding judgment, energy, humility, generosity of spirit, diplomacy, and courage of convictions – along with a sense of humor; and,
- Flexibility and openness to new ideas and evolving circumstances in a rapidly changing environment.

For best consideration, please send all nominations, expressions of interest, and applications electronically and in confidence by April 28, 2021 to:



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Seton Hall University values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.