

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTUS

OVERVIEW

The Board of Trustees of Seattle University invites nominations and applications for the position of President of Seattle University. The President serves as the university's chief executive officer, chief academic leader and principal representative, stewarding Seattle University's Jesuit, Catholic mission while advancing its academic distinction, financial sustainability and societal impact.

Seattle University enters this presidential transition at a moment of significant opportunity and change. Building on a strong foundation, recent institutional expansion and a clear sense of mission, the university is navigating a shifting higher education landscape shaped by enrollment dynamics, financial pressures and evolving public expectations. The next president will have the opportunity to build on this momentum and shape its future with clarity, conviction and imagination.



Photo by: David Sundberg/Esto

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY

Seattle University, founded in 1891, is a Jesuit, Catholic university located on 50+ acres at the intersection of Seattle's thriving Capitol Hill and First Hill neighborhoods, along with South Lake Union in the heart of one of the most innovative cities in the world. Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation and to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

AT A GLANCE

Campus Size:

54 acres, including the South Lake Union campus (Cornish College).

11:1

Student-to-Faculty Ratio

7,350

Students Enrolled
4,370 undergraduate
2,980 graduate & professional

18

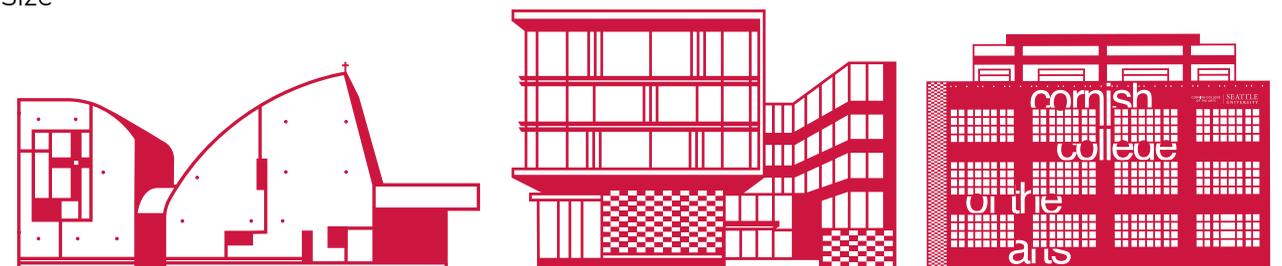
Average Class Size

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

- Albers School of Business and Economics
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- College of Science and Engineering
- Cornish College of the Arts
- School of Law

MAJORS/PROGRAMS

More than 120 programs, including 65 undergraduate majors and 50 in-person, hybrid or online graduate offerings.



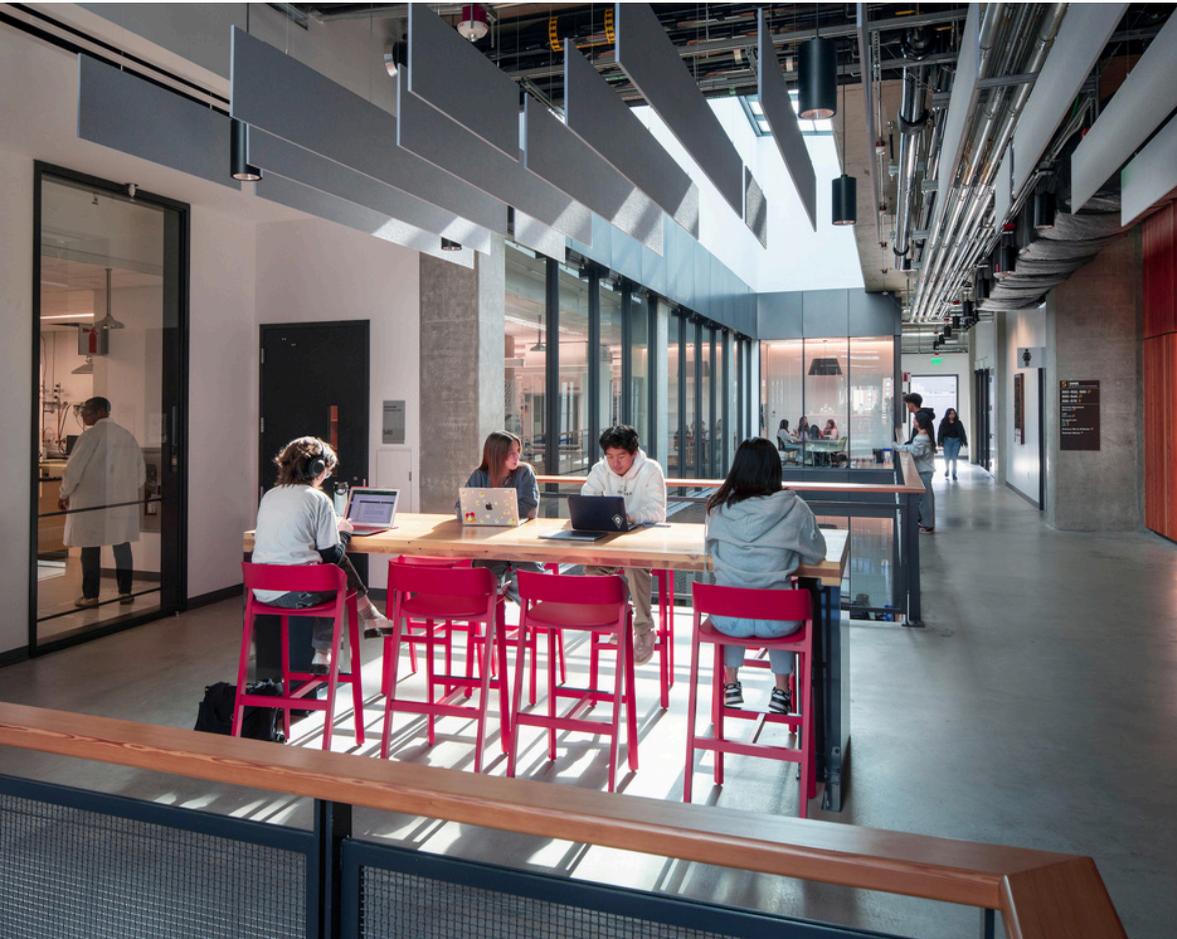


Photo by: David Sundberg/Esto

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Located in the heart of Seattle, one of the world's leading centers for technology, innovation, health care, law, arts and global commerce
- NCAA Division I athletics; member of the West Coast Conference
- Strong record of social mobility, student success and community engagement
- The most economically diverse of the selective universities in the state of Washington
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution

Seattle University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY



SEATTLEU.EDU



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

JESUIT, CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Mission

- Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation and to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.

Values

- **Care:** We put the good of students first.
- **Academic Excellence:** We value excellence in learning with great teachers who are active scholars.
- **Diversity:** We celebrate educational excellence achieved through diversity.
- **Faith:** We treasure our Jesuit, Catholic ethos and the enrichment from many faiths of our university community.
- **Justice:** We foster a passion for justice and the competence to promote it.
- **Leadership:** We seek to develop responsible leaders committed to the common good.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY



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STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION

Reigniting Our Strategic Directions (2022-2027), was developed and updated with input from the entire university community and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

[Read *Reigniting Our Strategic Directions, 2022-2027*](#)



GOAL ONE

Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum

We will comprehensively reimagine and revise our curriculum to deeply embed practices and qualities that make our education more distinctively Jesuit and empowering.

GOAL TWO

Strengthen Professional Formation for All

Seattle and the Puget Sound region offer extraordinary opportunities to the university and our students. We will leverage and build upon our location and connections to create greater opportunities for experiential learning as a hallmark of professional formation for our students.

GOAL THREE

Enhance the Student Experience

We are building a vibrant campus environment that engages, enlivens and educates all students—one that values and celebrates the diverse identities that comprise our community.

GOAL FOUR

Promote Inclusive Excellence

Because diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are integral to our Jesuit, Catholic character, our values and the excellent education we provide, we will strengthen our institutional DEI structures to ensure progress with impact.

GOAL FIVE

Reposition for Growth

We will build the strategic, institutional and financial capacity that undergirds the success of these strategic directions.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY FINANCES

For the 2025-26 fiscal year, Seattle University has a balanced operating budget of approximately \$244 million. The Statement of Activities based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles from the previous fiscal year resulted in positive net income from unrestricted operations of \$7.9 million.

The university has diversified operating revenue sources, including net tuition revenues from undergraduate, graduate and law programs. 73 percent of operating revenues are from net tuition revenues, nine percent from gifts and grants, nine percent from endowment and investment income, seven percent from auxiliary enterprises and two percent from other revenues. These diversified sources provide important risk mitigation in an increasingly competitive and volatile environment faced by higher education, while providing a sound operating foundation for strategic initiatives.

As of June 30, 2025, the endowment was valued at approximately \$370 million and total cash and investments were \$493 million. The endowment spending formula is currently based on five percent of a 12-quarter moving average of endowment market values. The university's total endowment posted a strong 12.9 percent return in fiscal year 2024-25.



\$244M

Operating Budget

\$370M

Endowment Value



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT

Seattle University enrolls more than 7,300 students, including more than 4,300 undergraduate students and nearly 3,000 graduate and professional students across master's, doctoral and law programs.

The university attracts a strong and diverse applicant pool through a holistic admissions process aligned with its Jesuit commitment to access and excellence. Incoming students demonstrate solid academic preparation and leadership potential, contributing to a highly engaged campus community.

Graduate and professional enrollment spans across fields such as business, education, nursing, public service, law and technology-related disciplines. These programs serve both early-career students and working professionals, many of whom are drawn to Seattle University's strong regional employer partnerships and applied learning focus.

7,350

Students Enrolled

4,370

Undergraduates

2,980

Graduate and Professional

75%

Undergraduate Admit Rate
Fall 2025

66%

Undergraduates are
Students of Color

85%

Retention

U.S. News & World Report
Best College Rankings 2026

#1

In Washington state
for best value

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

[Learn more about Seattle University Academic Programs](#)

Seattle University offers a distinctive portfolio of academic programs that prepare graduates for professional success and meaningful leadership in a rapidly changing world. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate majors and graduate, doctoral and professional programs across seven schools and colleges, including business, law, nursing, education, science and engineering and the arts and humanities.

Nationally ranked and accredited programs are intentionally aligned with the opportunities of Seattle's dynamic urban environment, supported by strong ties to leading employers, global industries and community partners. Students benefit from small classes, dedicated faculty members and an interdisciplinary Core that develops critical thinking, communication and ethical reasoning.

Rooted in the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person, Seattle University integrates professional preparation with a commitment to innovation, service and social impact, thereby equipping graduates to contribute to a more just and humane world.



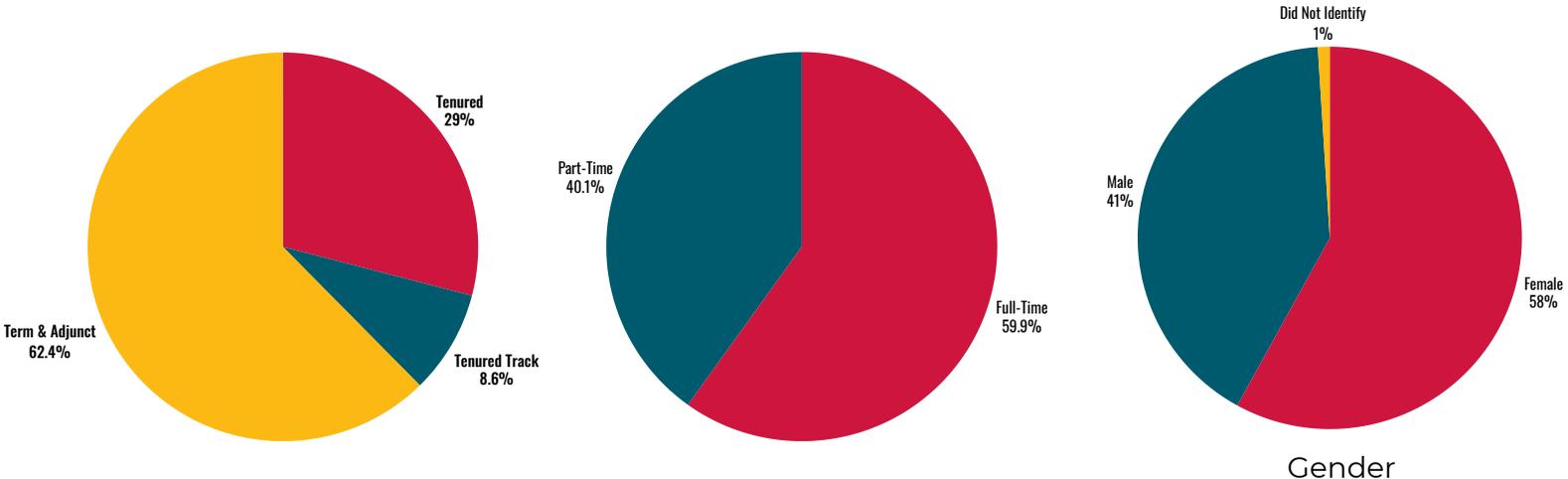
FACULTY EXCELLENCE TEACHING IMPACT

Seattle University faculty members are teacher-scholars who share a commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarly activity, professional development and service and institution building.

In the past five years, Seattle University has received more than \$38 million in external grants and awards from organizations such as the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Mellon Foundation, The Gates Foundation, The National Science Foundation, The National Institutes of Health, Health Resources and Services Administration and The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.

[See the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects Annual Report.](#)

Seattle University Faculty Profile
768 Faculty Members



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Seattle University operates under a shared governance model grounded in its Jesuit mission and commitment to collaborative leadership. The Board of Trustees serves as the university's governing body, providing fiduciary oversight and guiding strategic direction and long-term success.

Academic governance is led through the Academic Assembly, the elected faculty body that plays a central role in shaping academic policy and institutional priorities.

Together, the Board, executive leadership and Academic Assembly ensure balanced stewardship and meaningful faculty participation in advancing the university's mission.

[Seattle University's leadership and governance structure.](#)





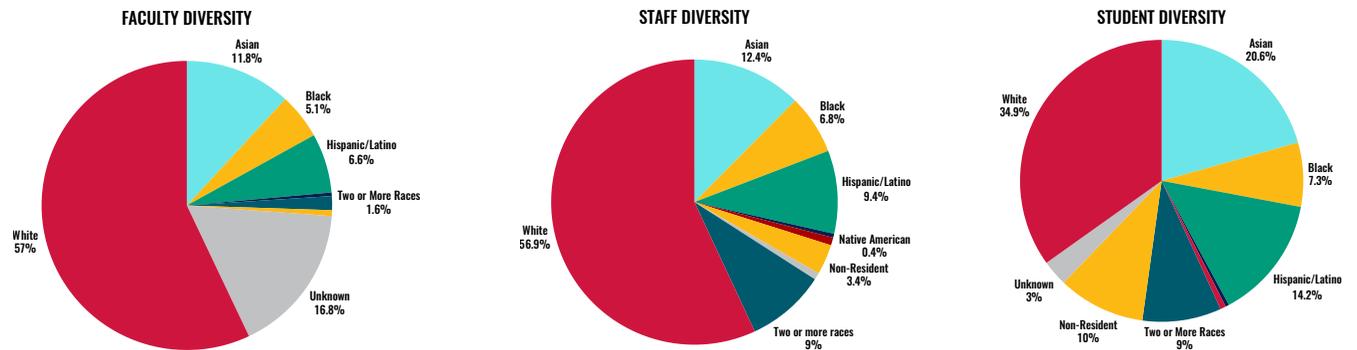
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Seattle University views diversity, equity and inclusion as central to its identity and mission not as an initiative but as a defining institutional priority. Grounded in its Jesuit commitment to justice and human dignity, the university actively advances inclusive excellence as a driver of academic strength, student success and societal impact.

Seattle University provides access and opportunity for historically underrepresented students, strengthens intercultural engagement and prepares graduates to lead in diverse and complex environments. Faculty and staff are supported through ongoing professional development that advances inclusive pedagogy, scholarship and organizational leadership.

Through sustained institutional commitment and shared responsibility, Seattle University seeks not only to reflect the diversity of its community but also to lead in shaping a more just and equitable future.





CAMPUS LIFE

CAMPUS MEETS THE CITY

Seattle University offers a distinctive campus experience in which academic, personal and spiritual development are deeply interconnected. Set on a vibrant campus at the intersection of Seattle's Capitol Hill and First Hill neighborhoods, as well as South Lake Union, the university provides a welcoming, walkable environment in one of the nation's most dynamic global cities.

The campus is both a close-knit community and an urban gateway. Students live, learn and lead in a setting that blends green spaces, modern facilities and reflective spaces—such as the Chapel of St. Ignatius—with direct access to Seattle's cultural, civic and professional opportunities.

Co-curricular life at Seattle University is shaped by its Jesuit commitment to educating the whole person. Through student organizations, service programs, leadership initiatives and campus ministry, students engage meaningfully with one another and the broader community. Seattle University's location in a city at the forefront of innovation, health care and technology further enriches the student experience through internships, service learning and professional engagement.

This integration of the campus community with city opportunities reflects Seattle University's mission—preparing graduates to lead lives of purpose, service and impact in a complex and changing world.



**SUNDBORG CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**

2024-2025



**SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY**

SUNDBORG CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 2004, the Sundborg Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has connected Seattle University students, faculty and staff with families, youth, community-based organizations, government institutions, neighborhood leaders and others through direct service, philanthropy, activism, policymaking, social entrepreneurship and community-based research. Inspired by the university's Jesuit, Catholic ethos, CCE strives to lead as an antiracist organization working toward a 2030 place-based vision that leverages the university's resources to advance justice, remove institutional barriers and educate changemakers.

[Learn more about the Sundborg Center for Community Engagement.](#)

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NCAA DIVISION I

Mascot: Rudy the Redhawk

Conference: West Coast Conference

Men's and women's basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, volleyball, cross country, golf, tennis, track & field, swimming and women's rowing.



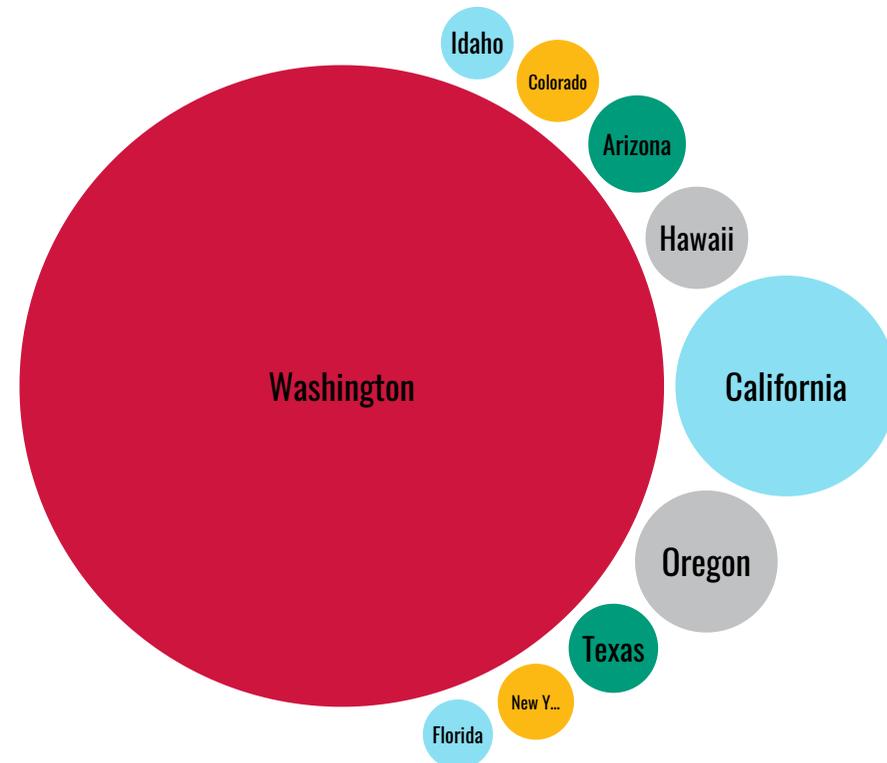
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

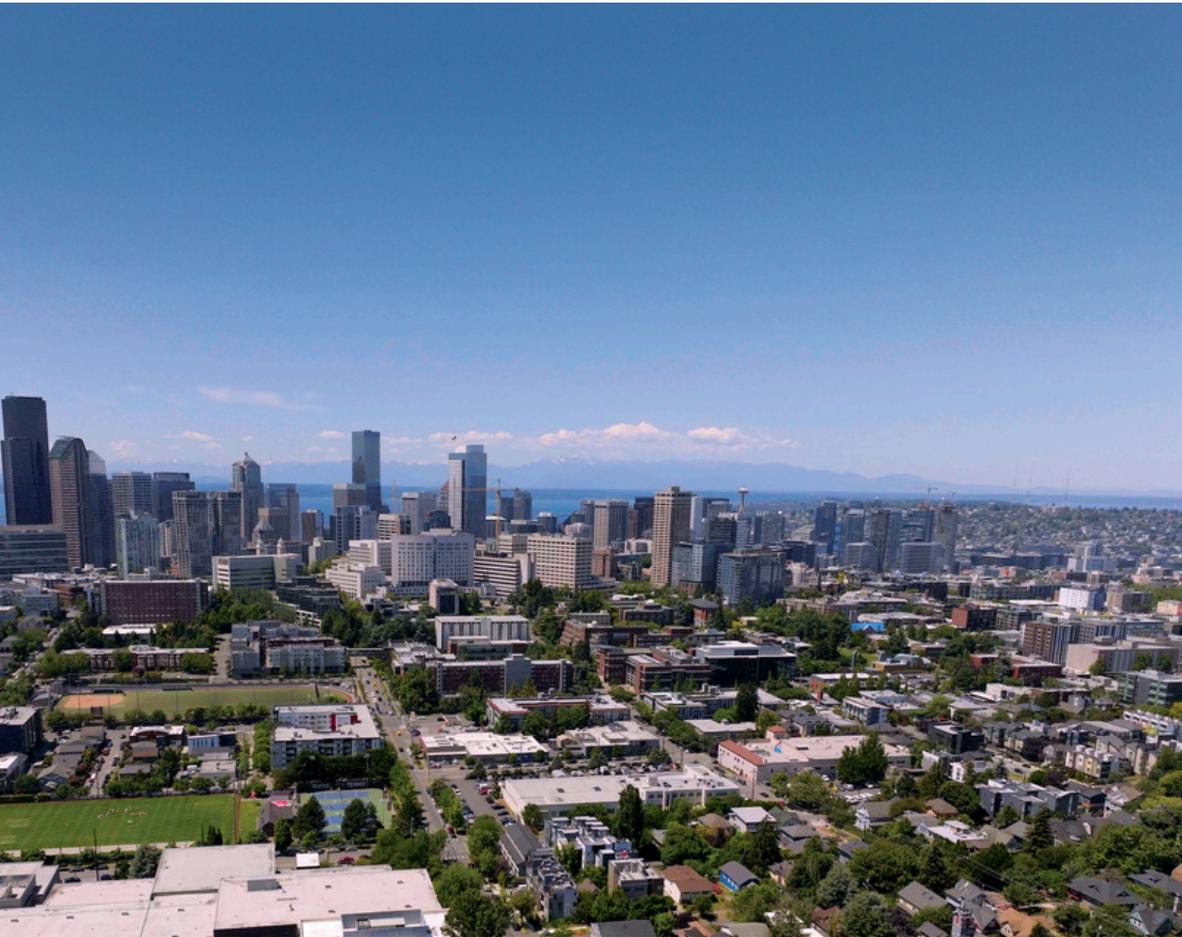
Alumni Engagement connects Seattle University graduates back to the life of the university in meaningful, lifelong ways. The work focuses on building authentic relationships, creating experiences that foster belonging and activating alumni as ambassadors, mentors, advocates and donors.

111,300

ALUMNI

TOP 10 STATES WHERE ALUMNI RESIDE





SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO SEATTLE

Seattle is one of the nation's most dynamic and globally connected cities—an economic, cultural and innovation hub that offers exceptional quality of life and opportunity. The city is one of the fastest-growing regional economies in the United States. Situated between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, Seattle blends natural beauty with the energy of a thriving metropolitan center.

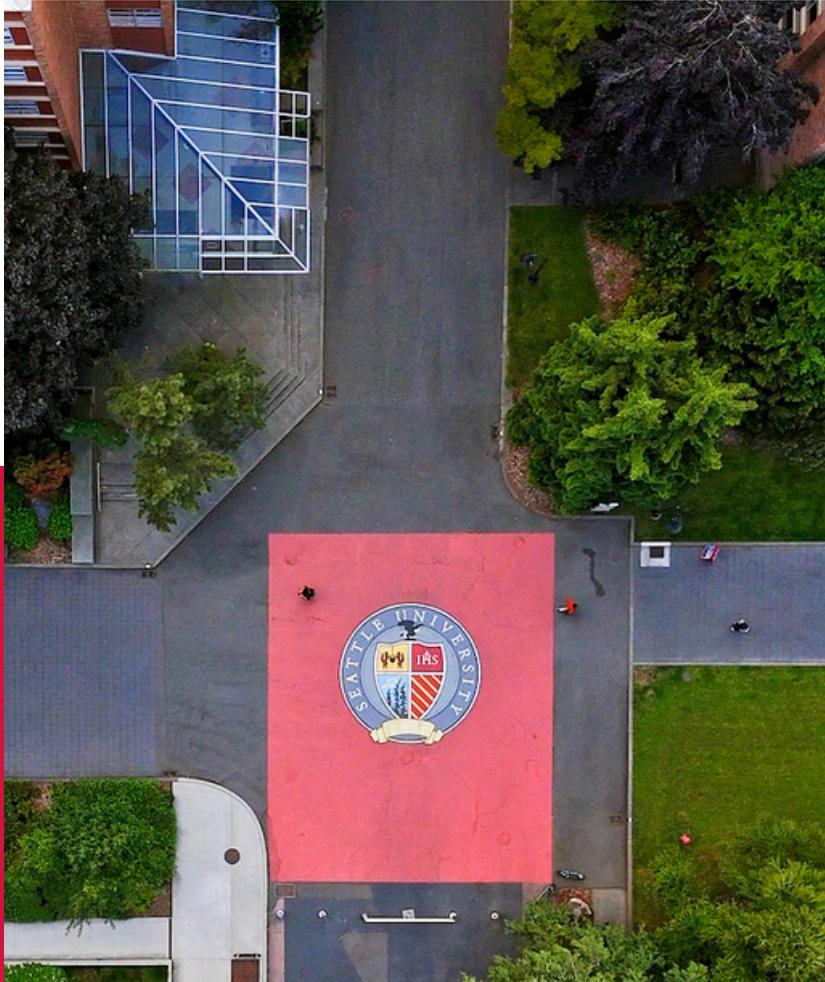
Consistently ranked among the best places to live in the United States, Seattle is home to world-leading industries in technology, health care, aerospace, global commerce and sustainability. Major employers, including Costco, Amazon, Microsoft, Boeing and leading health care systems contribute to a robust economy and create extensive professional opportunities for graduates and community partners alike.

The region offers a rich cultural landscape, including renowned museums, a vibrant arts and music scene, professional sports and an award-winning culinary community. Outdoor recreation, from waterfront activities to mountain hiking, is available year-round, underscoring the city's strong connection to nature.

Learn More about the City of Seattle: [Visit Seattle](#).

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY





THE ROLE

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the President oversees all aspects of leading the university, including strategic planning, administration, academics, fundraising, engagement with the internal and external community, inspiring the campus community and financial sustainability.

The President's Roundtable includes the following campus leaders:

- Chief of Staff
- Provost
- Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
- Senior Vice President for University Advancement
- Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs
- Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs
- Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Vice President for University Affairs
- Vice President for Athletics
- Vice President for Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer
- Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion
- Vice President for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer
- Vice President for Mission Integration
- Vice President and University Counsel
- Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education

The President also relies on the Senior Leadership Team for advice on a range of issues, including making progress on the strategic plan and positioning the university for long-term growth and innovation. This team, including the Roundtable members plus deans and other key executives, plays a critical role in executing the institution's vision, strategy and operations.

- Dean of the Albers School of Business and Economics
- Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dean of the College of Science and Engineering
- Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Dean of the College of Education
- Dean of the Cornish College of the Arts
- Dean of the School of Law
- Dean of the Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons
- Vice Provost for Academic Programs
- Vice Provost for Student Success
- Associate Provost and Chief of Staff to the Provost
- Chief Marketing Officer and Associate Vice President for Marketing Communications
- Associate Vice President for Facilities and Campus Services
- Rector of the Arrupe Jesuit Community

Effective April 1, 2026, Fr. Stephen Sundborg, S.J., will serve as the Interim President, after having served as President from 1997 to 2021 and returning as Chancellor in July 2024, with a focus on mission integration, communal discernment, and supporting University leadership.



PRIORITIES

Seattle University is poised for continued success, building on an illustrious 135-year history. The 23rd president will lead a mission-driven institution rooted in Jesuit, Catholic values with a proud liberal arts tradition and a clear vision for its future.

In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of strategically and thoughtfully implementing the strategic plan, *Reigniting Our Strategic Directions (2022-2027)* and overseeing the university's operations, the president will be expected to focus on the following opportunities:

- Embody the university's Jesuit, Catholic mission and values, ensuring that they are authentically lived and practiced;
- Enhance the university's long-term financial sustainability by stabilizing enrollment, diversifying revenue and balancing budgets;
- Improve the affordability and accessibility of a Seattle University education;
- Complete major initiatives underway, including the capital campaign, the integration of the Cornish College of the Arts, the new Seattle University Museum of Art and the transition to a university-wide semester-based academic calendar;
- Foster a culture of shared governance, trust and open communication with faculty, staff and students;
- Cultivate a positive working environment and a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion to attract, develop, inspire and retain talented faculty and staff;
- Articulate the distinctive advantages of the university and promote it to a wider audience for greater visibility and recognition;
- Lead ambitious fundraising efforts, including expanding the donor base, increasing alumni participation in the life of the university and growing the endowment to support institutional priorities;
- Inspire academic excellence in teaching, research and learning;
- Position the university to navigate a changing higher education and workforce landscape through attention to emerging technology such as AI, connections between curriculum and career and partnerships in Seattle;
- Leverage the university's location in a growing urban center that provides mission-driven opportunities to connect with nonprofit organizations in the local community;
- Ensure highly visible and relational leadership that inspires students, faculty, staff and the broader SU community;
- Support the athletics program and other extracurricular programs, fostering their importance to enrollment, alumni relations and campus-community relations; and
- Build mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance the university's offerings, academics and reputation.



QUALIFICATIONS

Seattle University seeks a mission-rooted, values-driven leader who is not only fluent in Jesuit values but lives them by demonstrating a genuine commitment to equity, service and community impact.

The president will lead with an understanding of the purpose of Jesuit, Catholic higher education and excellence in teaching, scholarship and student engagement. Accordingly, Seattle University seeks a president who is Roman Catholic and aligned with the university's values, goals and aspirations. Candidates should hold the credentials needed to inspire an academic community, ideally including a terminal degree and an appreciation of classroom teaching and the tenure process.

- Impeccable integrity and unwavering principles to serve as a role model for all constituents;
- Capacity to balance bold, strategic leadership with a servant-leadership approach through humility and listening, combining decisiveness with high emotional intelligence, self-awareness, transparency and trust-building;
- Exceptional communication skills, including authentic storytelling, transparency, active listening and persuasive writing;
- Consultative yet decisive collaborator working across constituencies with respect and appreciation for shared governance and the ability to transparently communicate decision-making processes;
- Strong fundraising track record or the personal traits that would suggest high effectiveness with major donors, alumni engagement and sustained attention to a capital campaign and endowment growth;
- Understanding of higher education financial models and the headwinds affecting enrollment, especially at private universities;
- Administrative and operational leadership, including financial acumen, execution excellence, ability to delegate effectively, talent for building, inspiring, developing and sustaining a strong senior team and discipline in resource allocation;
- Comfort navigating institutional culture and shared governance, working collaboratively across constituencies while still moving the organization forward;
- Ability to genuinely engage visibly and relationally with the campus community;
- Represent the university externally in a compelling way;
- Confidence as a leader in a complex higher education landscape and advocate for academic freedom;
- Nuanced understanding of when to engage in policy issues that affect the university; and
- Visionary and strategic orientation to the future of higher education, including changes in workforce preparedness, AI, interdisciplinary education and partnerships.



CONTACT

Nominations, inquiries and expressions of interest may be sent to:
seattleuniversity@russellreynolds.com.

The university provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, political ideology or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment including, but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfers, leaves of absence, compensation, benefits and training.

The university administers all policies, practices, and procedures in ways that are consistent with the university's Jesuit, Catholic character.

