



Dean, College of Arts and Humanities Position Profile

Georgia Southern University (Georgia Southern) invites nominations, expressions of interest, and applications for the position of Dean for the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH). The University seeks a dynamic and entrepreneurial leader and scholar who will build upon the existing strengths of the faculty and the untapped potential of the college to further advance the University's commitment to academic excellence and shared governance.

The College of Arts and Humanities

The College of Arts and Humanities is one of the eight academic colleges that comprise Georgia Southern University. The College also serves as a pillar of Georgia Southern's academic foundation by empowering faculty and students to reach their full potential through developing critical thinking, creative problem-solving, effective communication and leadership skills while addressing cross-cultural sensitivity and global awareness.

The College offers a range of degrees to over 2,200 undergraduate and nearly 150 graduate students. The College is comprised of seven academic departments and offers twenty-four undergraduate degrees, thirteen masters' degrees, and three graduate certificates:

- Academic Departments: [Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art](#) | [Communication Arts](#) | [History](#) | English (newly formed from [Literature](#) and [Writing & Linguistics](#)) | [Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music](#) | [Philosophy and Religious Studies](#) | [World Languages and Cultures](#)
- Undergraduate Degrees: Art History | Studio Art | Art Education | Fine Arts | Studio Art | Graphic Design | Communication Studies | Multimedia Film & Production | Multimedia Journalism | Public Relations | Theatre | History | English | Philosophy | World Languages & Cultures | Writing | Music | Music Composition | Music Education | Performance | Music Industry | Interdisciplinary Studies | Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Graduate Degrees and Certificates: MFA Studio Art Concentration | MFA in Graphic Design Concentration | Professional Communication & Leadership | History | Social Sciences | Public History | English | Music Composition | Music Conducting | Music Education | Music Technology | Music Performance | Spanish

The College is home to approximately 145 tenure-stream faculty, 57 lecturers and non-tenure track faculty, 39 part-time faculty, 24 staff, and 13 administrators. The College aspires to be an acknowledged leader in innovative and transformative education as demonstrated through noteworthy research, exceptional service, and outstanding teaching in the arts and humanities. The College is also home to the [Performing Arts Center](#), [Armstrong Fine Arts Auditorium](#), [Georgia Southern Museum](#), [Africana Studies](#) (works closely with the [Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Center](#)), [Interdisciplinary Studies](#), the [Center for Irish Research and Teaching](#), [Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies](#), the [Writing Center](#), [Center for Undergraduate](#)

[Research and Intellectual Opportunities \(CURIO\)](#) and participates in the [Ogeechee International History Film Festival](#). The College also provides students the opportunity to participate in several study abroad offerings, [global exchanges](#), and [Independent Study Abroad Programs](#), supported by various stipends.

For more information about the College, please visit: <https://cah.georgiasouthern.edu/>.

The University

Since 1906, the University's hallmark has been a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes student growth and life success. Central to Georgia Southern's mission is the faculty's dedication to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement.

In 2018, Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern University consolidated creating an institution that retained the Georgia Southern University name and comprises eight academic colleges on three campuses: the Statesboro Campus, the Armstrong Campus in Savannah, and the Liberty Campus in Hinesville. The University serves more than 25,000 students from all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico, as well as 102 nations. Georgia Southern offers an attractive campus environment that encourages learning, discovery, and personal growth.

The University is a unit of the University System of Georgia and boasts 200-plus student organizations, outstanding Division I athletics, and state-of-the art residence halls and campus facilities.

As a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution with a [Public Impact Research](#) mission that focuses on community engagement, economic support, and professional development, Georgia Southern is the state's largest and most comprehensive center of higher education south of Atlanta, offering 141-degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. As the University continues to build upon the existing momentum in its research and scholarship capabilities, Georgia Southern's expert faculty can be found at the forefront of investigating, engaging, and discovering new methods for addressing many of the challenges facing the world today. In support of these efforts, the University strives to further elevate its Public Impact Research mission by partnering with industry, businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to make meaningful and sustainable differences in the local, regional, and global communities it serves.

Georgia Southern provides transformative learning opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse student population through its legacy of commitment to academic excellence and personal attention. Through the shared resources of its multiple locations, the University creates vibrant learning environments that foster an inclusive, student-centered culture of engagement designed to prepare students for lifelong service as scholars, leaders, and responsible stewards of their communities. The University enhances the quality of life and drives economic development in the Coastal Georgia region, the State of Georgia, and beyond by supporting collaborative efforts in technological innovation, scientific advancement, education, health services, artistic creativity, and cultural enrichment. Faculty, staff, and students embrace the values of integrity, civility, kindness, respect, sustainability, citizenship, and social responsibility in every facet of the University. For more information about Georgia Southern, please visit <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/>.

Position Summary

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer and spokesperson for the College of Arts and Humanities. The Dean oversees the college's academic programs and auxiliary operations. The Dean serves as an innovative leader who guides the College of Arts and Humanities in enriching the cultural life of Georgia Southern and surrounding communities by hosting guest speakers, cultural events, performances, and other educational activities in the central academic disciplines of communication, fine and performing arts, and the humanities. In addition, the Dean promotes the College's academic stature and visibility, both inside and outside the University, through interactions with local, regional, national, and worldwide constituencies to further advance the College image globally. As a dynamic, collegial, and collaborative leader, the Dean must be prepared to join an innovative and forward-looking administration dedicated to enhancing the College's current capabilities and impact within the region.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities will lead an academically diverse organization committed to serving local, region, and state communities. The Dean will demonstrate a strong history of leadership in teaching, research, and service. In leading the College, the Dean must provide direction in the following areas:

- **Creating a Bold, Shared Vision for the Future** – The new Dean will play a critical leadership role in developing a bold new vision for the future of the College. In partnership with dedicated faculty, staff, students, and community partners, the Dean will lead efforts to identify ways to best take advantage of the College's strengths in teaching, research, and outreach to increase its impact within and outside of the University.
- **Promoting the College's Academic Disciplines** – Georgia Southern's next Dean must demonstrate an intellectual curiosity for the breadth of disciplines and programs offered by the College, as well as an understanding and appreciation of the impact each academic unit brings to the university, students, and community. The College's next Dean will raise the College's visibility and market presence to showcase the College's unique value proposition, engage business and governmental leaders, and recruit and retain high-caliber faculty in an increasingly competitive academic environment.
- **Increasing Interdisciplinary Research and Partnerships** – The next Dean will identify new areas for academic partnerships at the University. The Dean will serve as the College's champion in communicating across academic units and serve as a catalyst for new interdisciplinary research, creative activities, and programmatic collaborations. The Dean must inspire and lead open communication between university and community stakeholders to increase research and creative productivity and enhance the College's overall impact.
- **Commitment to Professional Development** – The College's dedicated faculty and staff bring energy, innovation, and positive perspectives to the College and the campus community. The Dean must be committed to creating opportunities for continued professional development for these individuals so that they can reach their personal goals and better serve the campus community. To do so, the Dean must clearly articulate

and passionately advocate on behalf of the College to the administration and external constituents, particularly when securing resource support for the College's activities.

- **Community Engagement** – As an institution deeply committed to its local community, GSU has established an extremely positive relationship with the growing Southeast Georgia region. The next Dean will take advantage of these inroads and GSU's exceptional reputation to build new partnerships with local community, industry, not-for-profit, and other external stakeholders.
- **Securing New Resources** – The College's community is driven by their high aspirations for the future and the next Dean will be responsible for leading efforts to secure additional financial support in a highly competitive higher education environment. The Dean must be a strategic and entrepreneurial leader who will partner with GSU leaders and the internal and external stakeholders to create new revenue streams related to research and creative activities, academic offerings, community partnerships, and philanthropic activity to fund initiatives that will ensure the College's continued success and contribute fully to its upward strategic trajectory.
- **Advocating on Behalf of the College** – In serving as the College's most ardent champion, the Dean must possess a resonance with and understanding of its deep commitment to the success of its students and advancing the University's endeavors in teaching, scholarship, access, and service. The Dean must serve as an advocate and primary spokesperson for the College to further define its role as an influential partner in GSU's efforts to strengthen its critical position as an academic, social, and economic driver within Southeast Georgia.

Qualifications

Georgia Southern seeks a Dean with exemplary academic leadership skills. The successful candidate must possess an outstanding record of scholarly achievement commensurate with appointment as full professor with tenure in one of the departments in the College or a closely related field. The candidate must also possess a strong sense of professional ethics, a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and demonstrated success as an innovative administrator. Additionally, the successful candidate should have the following:

- An earned terminal degree in an appropriate field from an accredited institution of higher learning represented in the College of Arts and Humanities.
- Demonstrated commitment to high quality teaching, including online and multimodal learning.
- Administrative and/or leadership experience in a university setting.
- Experience working with faculty to develop a vision for the future in an environment of shared governance.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a campus leadership team.
- A record of strategic thinking that brings together diverse groups of interests.
- Experience listening carefully and communicating effectively and with integrity.
- A record of success in recruiting, retaining, and mentoring talented and diverse faculty and staff.
- Commitment to motivating and rewarding faculty excellence in teaching, research, and creative activities.
- Experience developing and implementing student success initiatives.

- Must be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of employment without assistance from the institution.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with and commitment to the development and management of graduate programs.
- Demonstrated commitment to and support of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity.
- The ability to foster an inclusive environment that solicits input, seeks innovative solutions, and enables the implementation of new ideas.
- Commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and programs.
- Knowledge of professional and local resources that can be utilized to support scholarly endeavors.
- A track record of success in fundraising and securing private support from donors.
- A record of success in leading through innovative organizational change in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- Experience working in a multi-campus environment and addressing diverse stakeholder needs across the organization.

Application Process (Search #67931)

Screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. A complete application consists of a cover letter addressing the qualifications and a current curriculum vitae. Other documentation may be requested. Finalists will be required to submit to a background investigation. Applications and nominations should be sent to:



Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner

Matthew Herrera, Associate

Email: apsearch@spaexec.com

Refer to code "GSU-CAH" in subject line

SP&A Executive Search

6512 Painter Avenue

Whittier, CA 90601

Georgia Southern University seeks to recruit individuals who are committed to working in diverse academic and professional communities and who are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professional service within the University and beyond. The names of applicants and nominees, vitae, and other non-evaluative information may be subject to public inspection under the Georgia Open Records Act. Georgia Southern University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity institution. Individuals who need reasonable accommodations under the ADA to participate in the search process should contact Denise Gebara, Director of Talent Acquisition and Employment Services, at dgebara@georgiasouthern.edu.