



PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY

Dean

**Frank R. Seaver College of
Letters, Arts, and Sciences**



Mission

Pepperdine is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.



About Pepperdine University

Pepperdine University is a private Christian university located 30 miles west of Downtown Los Angeles in Malibu, California. Founded in 1937 by entrepreneur and businessman George Pepperdine, the school's original campus was located in the Vermont Knolls area of Los Angeles, a few miles south of Downtown. Bookended by the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Monica Mountains, the 830-acre Pepperdine University campus is ranked by the Princeton Review as one of America's most beautiful college campuses.



Rooted in the Christian tradition, Pepperdine is committed to both the relentless pursuit of truth through academic excellence and to embodying Christian faith and values. With students at the heart of the educational enterprise, the University prepares approximately 9,000 scholars across its liberal arts school, Seaver College; the College of Health Science; and four graduate schools—the Rick J. Caruso School of Law, the Graziadio Business School, the Graduate School of Education

and Psychology, and the School of Public Policy—for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

Pepperdine promotes a vibrant culture of spiritual life on campus and provides transformative experiences that inspire the entire University community to grow deeper in the word of God and in his truth. At Pepperdine students of all faiths are encouraged to listen and learn from each other with mutual humility through opportunities provided by the Hub for Spiritual Life, student-led ministries, and prayer and unity gatherings.



The Pepperdine 2030 Strategic Plan: Ascend Together,

was developed with broad input from the entire Pepperdine community and was formally approved by the Board of Regents in 2021. This plan defines an ambitious array of goals that will grow academic and scholarly programs, strengthen the Pepperdine community, enhance the school's global footprint, and elevate Pepperdine as a preeminent, global Christian university.

Candidates for the dean of Seaver College are encouraged to review this defining document for institutional vision and direction.



pepperdine.edu/about/strategic-plan



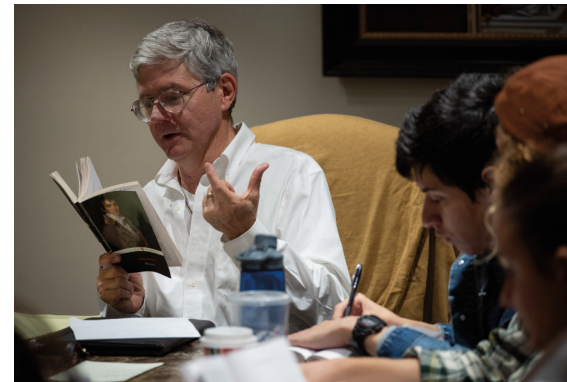
The Academic Community

PEPPERDINE FOSTERS A THRIVING ACADEMIC COMMUNITY characterized by a commitment to intellectual excellence, ethical leadership, and global citizenship. In addition to its main campus in Malibu, the University has three graduate campuses in the greater Los Angeles area, six international campuses, academic programming on six continents, and several online programs.

Pepperdine is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, 1080 Marina Village Parkway, Suite 500, Alameda, California 94501, 510.748.9001, and classified as a Doctoral/Research University under the Carnegie classification system. Pepperdine University is committed to delivering an exceptional educational experience including nurturing creativity and scholarship and putting students at the center of learning. Pepperdine encourages scholarly interaction between faculty and students from diverse disciplines and all six schools within the University through internal and external grant sources and programs that provide unique opportunities for creative activity and research.

During the 2023–2024 academic year, Pepperdine awarded more than \$1 million in internal research funding to faculty and students, and received more than \$10 million in grant awards from extramural funding sources, including the Lilly Endowment, National Science Foundation, Wood-Claeysens Foundation, AmeriCorps, and Fletcher Jones Foundation. Over the past 10 years, Pepperdine students have earned numerous national awards and fellowships including the Rhodes Scholarship, Fulbright Fellowships, and National Science Foundation graduate fellowships.

Pepperdine’s academic community is strengthened by its emphasis on service learning, global awareness, and ethical decision-making. Students are encouraged to explore interdisciplinary approaches and engage in collaborative projects, preparing them to become leaders who contribute positively to society. Through its comprehensive academic programs and dedicated faculty, Pepperdine nurtures intellectual curiosity, personal development, and social responsibility.



400

Full-Time University Faculty

1,200

Full-Time University Staff



Seaver College

THE FRANK R. SEAVER COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES (Seaver College) is the liberal arts undergraduate school of Pepperdine University, providing rich opportunities for spiritual exploration within a diverse community. Offering 45 majors and 50 minors, five master's degree programs, and one post-baccalaureate certificate, Seaver College's curriculum emphasizes the broad discovery of all disciplines. Frequently named number one in the nation for undergraduate study abroad participation, Seaver College is at the forefront of holistically developing the next generation of global leaders through rigorous curriculum, faculty mentorship, internship experiences, and tailored research opportunities.

With a student/faculty ratio of 13:1, Seaver College emphasizes student-centered teaching by holistically investing in each and every student. Seaver's academic divisions provide educational enrichment and career preparation in business administration, communications, fine arts, humanities and teacher education, international studies and languages, natural sciences, religion and philosophy, and social sciences. Graduate programs are also available in divinity, ministry, nutrition and health science, religion, and writing for screen and television.

Seaver College is primarily a full-time residential community of students who have outstanding academic records, demonstrate strong moral character, possess an eagerness to learn, and aspire to professional, personal, and social excellence. Faculty are scholars equipped with the highest level of academic expertise who are deeply committed to teaching and integrating their dedication to academic excellence with a devotion to Christian moral and ethical values.

Approximately 80 percent of Seaver College's 3,470 undergraduate students study abroad, taking up residence in Pepperdine's facilities in Europe and South America, or in additional programs worldwide. Students also compete in 17 NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports. Throughout the celebrated history of Waves athletics, Pepperdine teams have won 14 national team championships and 59 athletes have participated in the Olympics as a player or coach.

Seaver's Chapel program offers a multitude of activities aimed at building Christian faith, affirming Christian values, or addressing ethical and moral issues within a Christian worldview. Students attend 13 chapel sessions each semester during the first and second years. These sessions include large worship and lecture events, small group discussions, and Pepperdine's Resilience-Informed Skills Education (RISE) program. Engaging the spirit of service among Seaver College students, the Community Engagement and Service office of the Hub for Spiritual Life facilitates numerous ongoing programs and frequent special volunteer opportunities to develop and support student leaders and build strong partnerships with the community.

Seaver College's rigorous liberal arts curriculum as well as its high-impact co-curricular programs foster curiosity, spiritual development, and a sense of responsibility for local communities and the broader world. Extending its reach far beyond the classroom, Seaver College prepares its students to become global citizens who value lives of purpose, service, and leadership.



The Position

THE DEAN OF SEAVER COLLEGE SERVES AS THE CHIEF ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE COLLEGE and reports to the University provost. The dean is responsible for overseeing enrollment, curriculum, strategic planning, budget, student affairs, international programs, and personnel of the college.

Reporting to the dean are the associate deans, academic divisional deans, and the deans of International Programs, Enrollment Management, and Financial Aid.

Seaver College has more than 230 full-time faculty and offers 45 majors in divisions of business administration, communications, fine arts, humanities and teacher education, international studies and languages, natural sciences, religion and philosophy, and social sciences. Nursing will be an important partnership between Seaver College and the new Pepperdine College of Health Science. Beginning in fall 2025, students from the College of Health Science pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing will complete some of their general education courses at Seaver College. Master's degrees are offered in the fields of religion, nutritional science, and screen and television writing. Opportunities for students to work one-on-one with faculty, publish research, engage in field research, and present at academic conferences are available for undergraduates and graduates alike.

The college's main campus is in Malibu, California, with additional residential programs in Buenos Aires; Florence; Heidelberg; Switzerland; London; and Washington, DC; as well as additional international study opportunities in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Today Seaver College enjoys a national and international reputation for the quality of its many programs, including international studies, the Great Books curriculum, undergraduate research programs, and a social action and justice curriculum. Students come from all 50 states and about 60 foreign countries.

3,470

Undergraduate Students

230

Full-Time Seaver Faculty

13:1

Student to Faculty Ratio

45

Majors

50

Minors



Qualifications

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HOLD AN EARNED DOCTORAL DEGREE AND POSSESS A RECORD OF CONSIDERABLE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE, including significant scholarly activity and evidence of excellence in teaching and service that merit tenure and full professor status. In addition, the candidate will demonstrate a commitment to the undergraduate experience—both curricular and co-curricular. Academic leadership experience with clear attention and concern for teaching excellence and student success—the focal point for institutional effectiveness and quality—is desired. Additionally, Seaver College's rich culture of faculty and student research requires the next dean's proven expertise in advancing scholarship, namely through stewarding institutional resources vital to grant writing and research agendas. The selected candidate should be prepared to make significant progress on strategic plans, both at the college level and in support of the Pepperdine 2030 Strategic Plan: Ascend Together, and to manage a college budget in excess of \$186 million.

A deep commitment to the University mission is essential. Pepperdine University is a Christian university that maintains a longstanding relationship with Churches of Christ. Because Seaver College is central to this association, the next dean of Seaver College must be prepared to preserve and enhance this affiliation through the curriculum, the co-curriculum, and constituency relations. Strong preference will be given to candidates who are active members of Churches of Christ. The selected candidate will be able to articulate how their faith is fully integrated with their profession, drawing upon a mature, authentic Christian faith and deeply rooted theological commitments. Moreover, the Seaver dean should demonstrate unwavering support for the University's Christian mission and a vision for integrating that institutional mission into both the educational experience and broader campus community.

In addition, the following skills, traits, and experiences will be valued in the next dean:

- A visionary academic leader who has an ability to attract and retain high-caliber faculty and lead in the advancement of the University's mission as well as Seaver's commitment to teaching and scholarship.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- A proven record of promoting and nurturing a diverse and welcoming culture of belonging for students, faculty, and staff.
- An ability to build alumni support and actively engage in fundraising.
- A propensity for collaboration and an interest in leveraging the strengths of other operating units and schools within the University.
- A compelling vision for undergraduate education in the 21st century, including a commitment for advancing the liberal arts in a faith-based framework.
- Proven experience and the ability to work collaboratively with faculty and staff in implementing the college's and University's strategic plans.
- Demonstrated record of capably managing tuition-driven academic budgets.
- Significant experience supervising faculty and staff in an academic environment and managing personnel matters.
- A reputation for acting with integrity and for strong moral and ethical leadership.
- The capacity to articulate an inspiring rationale for the integration of faith and learning and to compel all students, faculty, and staff to share in its pursuit.

Applications and Nominations

ALTHOUGH APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE TIME THAT A NEW DEAN IS APPOINTED, CANDIDATES SHOULD SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS BY JANUARY 16, 2025, FOR MOST FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

Application materials consist of a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest addressed to the Dean Search Committee that responds to the following items:

- (1) State your vision for Seaver College over the next five years and how this vision aligns with Pepperdine's "Ascend Together" strategic plan, including advancing the institution's mission as a Christian university, and
- (2) Review your academic leadership experiences and qualities, highlighting those that are particularly valuable in serving the future of Seaver College and Pepperdine University.

The salary range for this position is \$260,000 to \$300,000. The pay range reflects what Pepperdine University reasonably expects to pay for this position at time of posting. Actual compensation may vary based on relevant factors such as work experience, market conditions, education/training, and skill level. In addition to base pay, Pepperdine offers a robust and highly competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, 403(b) retirement, life, and long-term disability insurance.

Hiring by Pepperdine University is contingent upon a successful completion of criminal, education, and employment background check by an outside agency, HireRight.

Pepperdine is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any status or condition protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Pepperdine is committed to providing a work environment free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. Engaging in unlawful discrimination or harassment will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Pepperdine is religiously affiliated with Churches of Christ. It is the purpose of Pepperdine to pursue the very highest employment and academic standards within a context that celebrates and extends the spiritual and ethical ideals of the Christian faith. While students, faculty, staff, and members of the Board of Regents represent many religious backgrounds, Pepperdine reserves the right to seek, hire, and promote persons who support the goals and mission of the institution, including the right to prefer co-religionists. It is the intent of the University to create and promote a diverse workforce consistent with its stated goals and mission.



Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications should be submitted to:

 pepperdinedean@carterbaldwin.com

Confidential inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to:

Stephanie Steele

Consultant
678.894.1200
ssteele@carterbaldwin.com

Price Harding

Chairman
678.448.0015
pharding@carterbaldwin.com

Melissa Murray

Research
410.900.5759
mmurray@carterbaldwin.com

Beth Miller

Search Coordinator
770.855.0946
bmiller@carterbaldwin.com



Affirmation Statement

AS A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PEPPERDINE AFFIRMS:

That God is

That God is revealed uniquely in Christ

That the educational process may not, with impunity, be divorced from the divine process

That the student, as a person of infinite dignity, is the heart of the educational enterprise

That the quality of student life is a valid concern of the University

That truth, having nothing to fear from investigation, should be pursued relentlessly in every discipline

That spiritual commitment, tolerating no excuse for mediocrity, demands the highest standards of academic excellence

That freedom, whether spiritual, intellectual, or economic, is indivisible

That knowledge calls, ultimately, for a life of service.

Dean

**Frank R. Seaver College of
Letters, Arts, and Sciences**



PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY