



## Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University, a comprehensive public university located in the Cincinnati metropolitan area, seeks a committed, inspiring, innovative, and visionary leader to serve as the dean of its largest college, the College of Arts and Sciences. The dean will be recruited internally within the university.

### The University

Northern Kentucky University was founded in 1968 and is now a regional comprehensive university comprised of seven colleges: the Chase College of Law, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Informatics, the Haile College of Business, and the Honors College. Its mission is to deliver innovative, student-centered education and engage in impactful scholarly and creative endeavors, all of which empower its graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, while contributing to the economic, civic, and social vitality of the region.

The university has declared the following as its core values:

- We will promote a culture that fosters and celebrates excellence in all that we do.
- We will engage in honest, fair, and ethical behavior with integrity at the heart of every decision and action.
- We will foster a community of belonging by embracing equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.
- We will approach our work—how we teach, engage and serve—with creativity and innovation.
- We will maintain a climate of collegiality built on respect and characterized by open communication and shared responsibility.

Over 10,000 undergraduates and 5,000 graduate students currently attend NKU. About one third of NKU students are enrolled in accelerated online programs through NKU's online program manager, Risepoint. The university has a full-time faculty of 533 and has 803 full-time staff.

### The College

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to create and sustain a community of lifelong learners in a nurturing environment that emphasizes literacy, critical thinking, and humanistic and scientific inquiry across diverse fields of disciplinary and interdisciplinary study. The college promotes the free and rigorous pursuit of knowledge, respect for differing points of view and global cultures, appreciation for personal expression in all its artistic forms, and challenges and rewards of community involvement.

The College of Arts and Sciences provides the foundation for the educational programs offered at the university, and currently instructs approximately 39% of its credit hours, including the majority of courses offered in NKU's general education program, Foundation of Knowledge. The college enrolls approximately 3,450 students. It offers 5 master's degrees, 50 bachelor's degrees, and one associate degree. Its various programs are accredited by the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, and the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

The college consists of the School of the Arts and 10 academic departments. The college also runs five centers: The Center for Applied Anthropology, the Burkardt Consulting Center, the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, the Center for Environmental Education, and the Center for Public History. It also works closely with the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, which is housed at the university.

The College of Arts and Sciences has 235 full-time faculty members, of which 155 are full-time tenured/tenure-track. The ratio of enrolled majors to tenured/tenure-track faculty members in the college is 22.3; the ratio for the university is 47.0.

## The Dean

The dean is the chief academic officer of the college and reports to the provost. The dean's principal responsibilities are to maintain and promote academic excellence; to provide leadership and vision for the college; to develop and support students, faculty, and staff; to enhance and effectively allocate college resources; and be a key collaborative player on the academic leadership team of the university. The dean serves as the main public face of the College of Arts and Sciences to the internal and external community.

The dean's direct reports are 10 department chairs, the director of the School of the Arts, three associate deans, an assistant dean, two center directors, a college director of budget and operations, and a manager of communications, events, and administration.

The dean should have academic qualifications and experience sufficient to be appointed to the rank of full professor in one of the college's departments or schools.

Characteristics of a successful candidate for dean include:

- Visionary leadership: the ability to draw together and energize a diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders around an inspirational, forward-thinking vision for the college, in a way that is fair, transparent, respectful, and aligned with NKU's core values.
- Excellent planning, management, and financial skills; comfort analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, with the ability to wisely use such data in context and effectively communicate any insights it yields.
- A talent for communication, as a visibly energetic leader able to serve as the public face of the college, conveying a compelling story about the importance of the college and NKU to a variety of audiences. This requires outstanding interpersonal skills, including humor, empathy, appreciation, a positive attitude, as well as exceptional listening skills, combined with a sincere and contagious sense of joy in one's work.

- Skill in cultivating and stewarding donors, and an interest in devoting effort to promoting corporate and individual philanthropy, leading to successful fundraising.
- A deep appreciation of the importance of the liberal arts and a liberal education, combined with intellectual curiosity and a commitment to advancing excellence in teaching, scholarly/creative activity, and service.
- An appreciation of and a commitment to diversity and shared governance, with an interest in promoting a healthy and vibrant campus climate.
- The willingness and ability to bring together teams of faculty and staff that leverage their diverse backgrounds and expertise to successfully solve problems and create opportunities.
- An intense focus on student success, including recruitment, retention, progression, and completion.
- An interest in working across college and division lines to advance the university and its students, balanced with serving as an advocate for the college's academic priorities.
- Knowledge of and interest in current trends and best practices in higher education.

Northern Kentucky University has a strong commitment to the principles of inclusive excellence and to enriching its educational environment and its culture through the diversity of its staff, faculty, and administration. The university is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and we encourage applications by members of diverse groups and by persons with interest and experience in advancing practices of inclusive excellence.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five references to <https://jobs.nku.edu/postings/14530> by January 13, 2025.

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*Note:* Figures updated from FY24 data.