



PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Fall 2025 - Winston-Salem, NC

Search conducted by Russell Reynolds Associates

INTRODUCTION

Wake Forest University is poised to enter its third century, ready to capitalize on a compelling history, a lively learning community and remarkable momentum in higher education. To lead that effort, the University seeks a visionary, inspirational leader who welcomes community, lives with integrity, and is drawn to Wake Forest's mission and character.

Wake Forest's next president will champion an exceptional University that blends the intimacy of a liberal arts college with the curiosity and ingenuity of a national research institution, characterized by strong bonds between students and faculty. The next president will oversee the academic heart and research hub of the third-largest non-profit healthcare enterprise in the nation and will support an Atlantic Coast Conference and national championship winning athletics program as it navigates a new era. A leader of uncompromising character who embraces the University's mission of Pro Humanitate ("For Humanity") and who has the courage and imagination to lead the institution in a time of great change in higher education will be the ideal candidate.

The following leadership profile and position prospectus provides an overview of the University; a description of the distinct Wake Forest experience; an outline of some of the major opportunities in process or on the horizon; a brief explanation of finances and governance structure; and a profile of the leaders who would find success among Demon Deacon nation.

THE WAKE FOREST ENTERPRISE

The next president of Wake Forest University will be leading an educational enterprise that includes an exceptional liberal arts college, four classic professional schools, a graduate school, three international houses for undergraduate study and a multitude of innovative global programs, an expansive healthcare system and NCAA Division I Power Four athletics. Wake Forest's unique educational model – a comprehensive University offering the resources of a larger institution while maintaining the intimacy and quality of an exceptional liberal arts college – presents an opportunity for the next president. This complex portfolio will require the ability to navigate diverse organizational cultures and environments. The next president of Wake Forest will serve as a leader in the following arenas.

Wake Forest University

Wake Forest University operates on several campuses and sites that have expanded significantly beyond its residential campus to include a vital downtown presence in Winston-Salem, a strategic foothold in Charlotte, and a robust global network.

Nearly 80 years ago, Wake Forest College saw an opportunity to enlarge and advance its already distinctive programs and service and boldly uprooted from its home for more than 120 years north of Raleigh and moved to Winston-Salem. The Reynolda Campus in Winston-Salem is the primary home of Wake Forest University, and site of the College, the School of Law, School of Divinity, School of Business, and a division of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The undergraduate college, still known as Wake Forest College, is the heart of the University; it is known for its dedicated liberal arts faculty augmented by the endeavors of a research university.

Wake Downtown is Wake Forest's major initiative to integrate the growing science and engineering programs of the University into the vibrant Innovation Quarter in downtown Winston-Salem. Located adjacent to the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Wake Downtown is the primary home for undergraduate STEM programs that benefit from the proximity to medical research, including engineering, biochemistry and molecular biology, and medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. In keeping with the liberal arts tradition, Wake Downtown also hosts classes in the humanities and arts, using the urban environment as an extended classroom for subjects such as urban planning, art and literature.



The School of Professional Studies is Wake Forest's newest school, established in 2021 and strategically based in Charlotte, North Carolina. It offers graduate degree and non-degree programs specifically designed for adult and working learners, primarily through online and hybrid formats. The programming is market-relevant and career-focused, often integrating AI tools and data analytics into fields like cybersecurity leadership, digital marketing, health administration, sports marketing and financial technology. While serving a global online student body, the school is anchored in Charlotte to address the high demand for professional education in the region's rapidly growing business economy. Wake Forest is also expanding the presence of both its School of Business and School of Medicine in Charlotte as part of this major strategic growth initiative.



For 50 years, Wake Forest has been recognized for its strong commitment to global education, with more than 85% of undergraduates studying abroad. This high participation rate places Wake Forest consistently among the Top 5 doctoral universities in the country for study abroad participation. The University owns and operates three academic-residential houses where students live and study with Wake Forest faculty also in residence – Worrell House in London; Casa Artom in Venice; and Flow House in Vienna. Beyond its own houses, Wake Forest offers exchange and affiliate programs in nearly three dozen countries across six continents, with popular destinations including Spain (Barcelona, Salamanca), Chile (Santiago), and various cities in Australia and New Zealand. Inspired by strong student interest in national and international politics, Wake Forest opened an educational center in the heart of the

nation's capital. The Wake Washington program offers students an educational curriculum that is enhanced by major internships at all levels of government and in related organizations in D.C.

Wake Forest's next president will lead and continue to refine and re-define Wake Forest's complex educational environment – encompassing the traditional Reynolda Campus, the specialized Wake Downtown hub, the market-driven presence in Charlotte and the extensive international programs. In various ways, this leader will simultaneously uphold, reinterpret, and amplify the relevance of the traditional liberal arts mission in the modern world. The University's distinctive Program for Leadership and Character is but one example of the power and capacity of the liberal arts to prepare students to meet the challenges of the times.

To learn more about Wake Forest University, please visit wfu.edu.



Advocate Health / Wake Forest University School of Medicine

In 2022, Wake Forest University and Advocate Health formalized a major academic partnership in which the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, along with its academic medical center, is the core academic and research engine for the third-largest non-profit health systems in the United States. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., the Advocate Health system includes 69 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations. The Wake Forest University School of Medicine, situated in downtown Winston-Salem, recently opened a second campus in Charlotte. Located in the recently established innovation hub known as the Pearl, the second campus of the Wake Forest School of Medicine is the anchor to a vibrant new development aimed at inventing solutions to many of the world's most complex medical challenges.

On the research side, this partnership significantly expands the clinical network available for Wake Forest School of Medicine researchers, allowing for large-scale, multi-state clinical trials and research studies across Advocate Health's six-state footprint.

Wake Forest's relationship with Advocate Health also creates one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs. Wake Forest University School of Medicine students, residents, and fellows gain access to over 200 residency and fellowship programs across numerous Advocate Health teaching hospitals principally in North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois, and Wisconsin. These diverse training environments – from rural to large urban centers – allow Wake Forest University School of Medicine to train more physicians and researchers and provide an anchor for the University's medical mission in the state's largest city as well as Winston-Salem.

The next president will be a guiding voice and collaborative partner in one of the nation's most significant health care systems. He or she will ensure the highest quality of medical training and opportunities for innovation while appropriately advancing the interests of the University throughout that system.

To learn more about Wake Forest University School of Medicine, please visit school.wakehealth.edu.





Intercollegiate Athletics / Atlantic Coast Conference

As one of the nation's premier universities competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics, Wake Forest offers a distinctive platform where rigorous academics and Power Four competitiveness reinforce one another. A charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Demon Deacons have won 59 ACC championships and are one of just nine league institutions to claim 11 or more national titles. With 1.7 million people living within 30 miles of campus, Wake Forest anchors the seventh-ranked college sports media market in the country, according to ESPN viewership metrics. The football program has qualified to play in 17 bowl games, including the 2025 season with head coach Jake Dickert leading Wake Forest to a bowl game in his first season.

Athletics play a central role in elevating Wake Forest's national profile, driving student recruitment, deepening community engagement and advancing philanthropic support. The visibility of its athletic program complements the University's comprehensive excellence.

As the landscape of Division I athletics continues to evolve – particularly in light of the financial modeling required by the House v. NCAA settlement – Wake Forest's next president will partner with University and Athletics leadership to steward the University's approach. This includes strengthening a sustainable model that supports competitive success, enhances the student-athlete experience, bolsters the University's mission and reputation, and engages and supports the city and region.

To learn more about Wake Forest's athletics, please visit godeacs.com.

Higher Education / Governmental Relations

The current relationship between higher education institutions and the federal government is marked by financial instability, intense political scrutiny and regulatory upheaval, creating an atmosphere of deep uncertainty for colleges and universities nationwide. Many leading universities face challenges centered on the politicization of campus affairs, cuts to research funding and a push for greater state control over education policy. While mindful of these tensions and pressures, Wake Forest has enjoyed the guidance and support possible in a politically balanced state, as well as the particular guidance of alumni in key leadership positions across the state.

Colleges and universities nationwide are grappling with financial pressures stemming directly from federal policy. Wake Forest's emphasis on undergraduate research, which receives less federal funding than other programs, has meant less reliance on federal funding. Wake Forest enjoys a reputation as a politically neutral campus that invites open debate within a respectful culture.

Wake Forest's next president will leverage the extensive relationships and solid reputation of the University to navigate the current involvement of the federal government in higher education. The central challenge is balancing the dependence on federal funding (for research and student aid) with the protection of institutional autonomy and academic freedom, which are often political targets.



THE WAKE FOREST EXPERIENCE

Wake Forest is committed to developing students to be leaders of character who move into the world with the competence and confidence to lead purposeful, fulfilling lives and to make a difference in the quality of life for all. In many ways, Wake Forest has found a distinctive position in higher education in which a rigorous liberal arts foundation powers the quality and breadth of nationally significant research. Ultimately, Wake Forest is a place where a vibrant and caring learning community pursues knowledge, enjoys rich personal experiences and develops a habit of service. The Wake Forest experience is characterized by some ideas and principles understood by almost all.



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As we look to the future, I hope that we will remember “friendliness” and “honor” and “*Pro Humanitate*” as cornerstones of what I think of as the uniqueness of Wake Forest as a university. I do not like to talk about “peer institutions,” and may I say that for me national rankings of universities are invariably shallow and partial and not to be trusted. Wake Forest really has no “peers.” There is no other school quite like us. We stand alone. We are what we are. We do not exist in relation to other schools; we succeed or we fail only in so far as we are true to our commitments, to our own ambitions, to our own destiny, to friendship and honor.

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- Dr. Edwin G. Wilson ('43), Provost Emeritus

Pro Humanitate

Wake Forest University's motto, *Pro Humanitate*, which translates from Latin as "For Humanity," is the central ideal that guides the University's mission, curriculum and community engagement. It is the defining feature of the education model. It's more than a motto; it's a call to action that encourages students, faculty and staff to use their knowledge, resources and talents to serve others and better the world.

The motto is often interpreted at Wake Forest as an obligation to use one's education, skills and resources to address societal problems, both locally and globally. It is a call to ground all endeavors in a context of ethical responsibility. It is an expectation that leadership is exercised for the benefit of humanity, not just personal gain. And *Pro Humanitate* is the impetus that drives students to find a calling or vocation that aligns their personal passions and talents with the world's needs.

Educating the Whole Person

As a core concept of the 2007 Strategic Plan, The Collegiate University, Wake Forest University's approach to educating the whole person is rooted in its commitment to *Pro Humanitate*. Learning at Wake Forest begins in the classroom and flowers across campus and beyond. The University is dedicated to partnering its faculty and students in an array of co-curricular programs ranging from health and wellbeing to personal and career development and growing exploration of experiences that blend academic and social initiatives using its residential model as a base. It is a commitment that integrates traditional academics with personal development and service into a single cohesive experience – simultaneously exploring the development of intellect, character, career and wellbeing.

Teacher-Scholar Model

Wake Forest University's teacher-scholar model is a core philosophy embedded in practice. The teacher-scholar model formally defines the relationship and dedication of faculty to their students and is evident in the professional schools as well as the undergraduate programming. The ideal teacher-scholar is one who engages students in their research, scholarship and creative expression – a dynamic in which research informs teaching and teaching informs research. It is the principle that allows Wake Forest to offer the resources of a major research university in a setting redolent of the intimacy of a small liberal arts college.

This model is supported by faculty and serves as the standard for merit, promotion and tenure decisions.

The teacher-scholar ideal rests on the belief that continuing intellectual inquiry is critical to achieving excellence in both scholarship and student learning. A critical component is the direct involvement of students in the faculty's research and scholarly work, including robust student-faculty mentorship opportunities in formal and informal ways. It is not uncommon for first-year students to be offered opportunities to engage with faculty in primary research projects.



Leadership and Character

Leadership and Character is in the DNA of Wake Forest University. Its academic program, under the leadership of Michael Lamb who pioneered this work in Oxford, is widely recognized as a national model in character education among U.S. colleges and universities. Its approach is distinguished by being research-based, fully integrated across the University and generously funded by major foundations such as the John Templeton Foundation, Kern Family Foundation, and Lilly Endowment Inc. to support not only its students but also other institutions nationwide. In addition to the Program for Leadership and Character, Wake Forest has extended its expertise beyond its own campus to support character development in higher education nationally. The Educating Character Initiative (ECI), established with tens of millions of dollars in grant funding, awards grants (up to \$1 million) to other U.S. colleges and universities to help them create, strengthen and implement their own character education programs. This establishes Wake Forest as a national hub and resource center. The ECI fosters a national community of educators from over 400 higher education

institutions who engage in workshops, webinars and convenings to learn how to integrate character education into their unique institutional contexts. Wake Forest doesn't just teach character to its students; it actively leads the national conversation and implementation of character education across the entire sector.

Wake Forest's leadership in character education stems from its commitment to integrating character development with rigorous academic study and cutting-edge research. Wake Forest has dedicated faculty scholars who are among the world's leading experts on the academic study of character, psychology and moral development. Faculty across disciplines – not just in the humanities, but also in law, medicine and engineering – integrate character-focused topics (like integrity, courage and justice) into existing coursework. This ensures that character is viewed as inseparable from professional competence. Wake Forest aims to help students develop specific, desirable dispositions – such as courage, humility, honesty, integrity, compassion, empathy and wisdom – and grounds its efforts in a set of seven research-based strategies for educating character.

Intentional, Relational Student Experience

Wake Forest University has a deeply relational culture that intentionally prioritizes and structures meaningful, sustained relationships – especially between students and faculty – as the core mechanism for learning, personal growth and wellbeing. This culture is a natural outgrowth of the University's history, size, residential nature and commitment to the teacher-scholar model. The student experience is composed of an array of opportunities that can be shaped by each student into a personalized four-year experience. The abundance of opportunities at Wake Forest opens pathways for experiential learning, study abroad, career and personal development, student organizations, leadership education, service and mentored research. Creating these pathways with students helps them to overcome the one-dimensional identity that may be associated with the socioeconomic status or other social markers. These possibilities invite students correspondingly to focus on belonging for all students.

The relational aspect of the culture is intensely valued by members of the Wake Forest community. Perhaps it was best articulated by long-time Wake Forester and beloved former provost and professor of English, Dr. Ed Wilson, when he described Wake Forest as a place of “friendliness and honor.”

Wake Forest’s culture is the result of an intentional commitment to creating relationships that enhance both the intellectual curiosity and the personal capacity of its students to lead purposeful lives.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Wake Forest has identified opportunities and initiatives that will generate resources and enhance University culture. The Board of Trustees has demonstrated a clear commitment to investing in opportunities that contribute to student success, community welfare and financial strength. The new president will work closely with the Board and other University leaders to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit, manage ongoing projects and identify new strategic opportunities.

Academic Excellence

As noted at the outset in this document, Wake Forest's unique educational model – a comprehensive University offering the resources of a larger institution while maintaining the intimacy and quality of an exceptional private liberal arts college – presents great opportunity for the next president. Strategically optimizing the faculty-intensive, high-cost teacher-scholar model to ensure financial sustainability while simultaneously elevating the intellectual profile of Wake Forest to remain competitive with larger, better-resourced research universities is challenging. The thoughtful pursuit of new fields of study, combined with the need to adapt to the dramatic reorienting impact of AI on education at all levels, creates a fresh opportunity to assess where the next set of investments will be made to sustain the reputation for academic quality while expanding into new areas of excellence and thought leadership. In 2022, the University undertook a strategic framework process to begin this inquiry, and in 2025

added a financial plan to identify where resource growth was possible and to prioritize near-term investments to sustain Wake Forest's current position.

Wake Forest University Provost

Dr. Michele Gillespie served as the provost of Wake Forest University from July 2022 to June 2025 after serving as dean of the College for more than seven years. A highly-respected historian and academic administrator, her tenure was characterized by a commitment to strategic planning, faculty development and integrating the University's academic components around a set of interdisciplinary concepts captured in the strategic framework. She returned to the faculty as the Presidential Endowed Professor of Southern History after her time as provost. As of July 1, 2025, the role is held by an interim leader, creating an opportunity for a new president to recruit an outstanding leader of character to serve as chief academic officer of the University.

Philanthropic Investment

In 2020, Wake Forest successfully completed its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Wake Will: The Campaign for Wake Forest, which surpassed \$1 billion in philanthropic support (adding over \$400 million to the endowment, mainly for scholarships). This effort galvanized the community, significantly expanded the donor base – notably through strong support from North Carolina and high participation from Wake Forest parents – and positioned the University to rely on steady philanthropic revenues. At the inauguration of President Susan Wente in the spring of 2022, the University launched a scholarship campaign, called For Humanity, that has added more than \$180 million in new current-use and endowed scholarships, with a goal of reaching \$200 million by June 30, 2025. Buoyed by this success, the University returned to the campaign trail, seeking to raise an ambitious \$2 billion by 2034, and is currently in a quiet phase, building the capacity to rally its community to this objective.

This sustained philanthropic energy directly enables major initiatives like the North Carolina Gateway to Wake Forest (announced September 2025 and effective Fall 2026), which dramatically expands financial aid for North Carolina residents: admitted students from families with an annual family income \$100,000 or less will receive aid covering full tuition and standard living expenses, while those with an annual family income between \$100,000 and \$200,000 will receive full tuition coverage, ensuring affordability and greater access for high-achieving students across the state. Admitted students from North Carolina with an annual family income between \$200,000 and \$300,000 will receive financial aid covering 50% of tuition.

Other projects that will be a focus of the quiet phase of the campaign include endowing the Program for Leadership and Character; adding academic space to campus; and infusing the institution with scholarship aid.



Advocate Health Partnership

The partnership formed between Wake Forest University and Advocate Health has created an expansive new academic medicine collaboration. The Advocate Health CEO and board have a far reaching vision for the power of innovation to drive solutions to the world's most challenging health crises. Based in the Pearl district in Charlotte, Advocate Health is a collection of acquisitions largely aggregated over the past 10 years and is now among the most powerful health networks in the country. There remains

significant opportunity to define and enrich Wake Forest's position in this network, working in close collaboration with the Wake Forest Board of Trustees and the Board of Advocate Health. This relationship has the potential to propel the Wake Forest School of Medicine into the top ranks of its field by significantly expanding teaching and research programs. The incoming president will be key to realizing the opportunities for the University, while upholding Wake Forest's academic excellence and core values.

Expansion in Charlotte

The Charlotte expansion is a major strategic move anchoring Wake Forest's growth in one of the nation's fastest-growing cities. The partnership with Advocate Health is central to developing the new academic campus in Charlotte. This expansion is poised to combine medical education, research and economic development, significantly amplifying the Wake Forest University School of Medicine's presence and impact. Another key element of Wake Forest's presence in Charlotte is the School of Professional Studies. Each of the professional schools is creating strategies to offer more opportunities in Charlotte, as the presence of many competitors increases with the city's extraordinary growth and prosperity. Just 82 miles south of Winston-Salem, Charlotte is the 6th fastest growing city in the country, has the 7th busiest airport nationally, and it just became the 14th largest city in the U.S. It does not have a top-ranked university and, until Wake Forest opened its medical school there last year, Charlotte did not have a medical school. By strengthening its base in Charlotte, which is home to the largest concentration of alumni outside Winston-Salem, the University is committed to greater engagement within this dynamic metropolitan area.



The Grounds

Wake Forest University, along with partners Carter, Front Street Capital and the City of Winston-Salem, is developing The Grounds, a transformative, 100-acre mixed-use project in the Deacon Boulevard area. This community hub, located near the University's athletics facilities and event venues, will be a year-round destination blending unique retail, dining, entertainment, office and residential space. Phase One is currently under construction and includes a new office building for non-student-facing Wake Forest administrative departments. This evolving project is a significant community partnership, with some funding from both state and city. The Grounds builds upon the success of Wake Downtown and the revitalization of the urban core of Winston-Salem, and further expresses Wake Forest's commitment to bettering its community and to being a good partner to the city.





Leverage the Strategic Power of Wake Forest Athletics

The state of intercollegiate athletics in the NCAA Division I Power Four conferences is currently defined by unprecedented change, massive financial expansion and a significant shift in governance to place more influence in the hands of conferences and student-athletes. Wake Forest University's position in college athletics is unique: it is a charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), and it maintains the distinction – and pressure – of being the smallest school in any of the Power Four conferences, when measured by undergraduate enrollment. In this current landscape, Wake Forest's student-athlete experience is marked by high academic success with a 96% graduation rate.

As intercollegiate athletics evolve, the University faces the challenge of maintaining its competitive position, commitment to student-athletes and expectation of excellence in both academics and competition. Athletics are a vital component of Wake Forest's mission, profile, recruitment and fundraising. The next president will partner with other leaders across the University, the Board of Trustees and the

Atlantic Coast Conference to make sound decisions regarding Wake Forest's approach to athletics. The University and its leaders will face the continued and anticipated fundamental shifts, including legal settlements, financial pressures, conference realignments, and potential new models for intercollegiate athletics played at the highest levels.

Space Needs and Real Estate Development Opportunities

To ensure future resilience and competitiveness, Wake Forest University must prioritize near- and long-term campus planning to align its facilities with the academic mission and holistic student experience. Wake Forest has a long history of acquiring property around its perimeter and has ample opportunity to grow the footprint and functional value of its holdings. The University is currently focused on a bicentennial comprehensive campus space plan to create a strategic focus as it considers how to enlarge and improve the Reynolda Campus. This long-range effort will integrate the future needs of academics, residential life, athletics, and all real estate holdings and will require sustained leadership attention.

THE LEADER WAKE FOREST SEEKS

*Wake Forest University is defined by its motto, *Pro Humanitate*, and is known for its commitment to educating leaders of character. It is a community that prides itself on deep relationships and a personal educational experience. In order to lead this kind of institution and guide the community, the next president must embody the characteristics that Wake Forest values and espouses.*

Therefore, Wake Forest needs a president **who values relationships and champions *Pro Humanitate* – in word and deed**. This leader is an authentic, empathetic and highly relational individual who will serve as a genuine culture carrier of the *Pro Humanitate* ethos. This person consistently demonstrates integrity, possesses a strong moral compass, holds high standards and ethics and approaches leadership with a servant mindset. Wake Forest's next leader is the person who can hold self-confidence and humility in tension.

As noted above, the next president faces complex demands of modern higher education. Therefore, Wake Forest requires a leader who **has dual acumen: a business mindset and academic credibility**. The next president will successfully navigate both the business and academic worlds. This individual must demonstrate a strong business sense, with a focus on financial stability, operational efficiency and managing complex organizations. The leader also must be a highly effective, energetic fundraiser with outstanding communication skills and the inspiration to tell and spread the story of Wake Forest. This business acumen must be balanced by a deep understanding of and commitment to the liberal arts foundation, academic excellence and rigor, and research opportunities. Academic qualifications and respect will be critical to the success of this individual at a University which prides itself on academic quality and expectations.

The Wake Forest community has always been eager to **face challenges with innovation and creativity**. Therefore, the next president of Wake Forest should be a strategic and visionary leader with the ability to shape a clear, long-term strategy for institutional impact. This leader must be open-minded and innovative, ready to challenge the status quo, and to, as needed, embrace or leverage disruptive forces. The goal is to approach the uncertainties facing higher education while advancing the institution on all fronts.

Ultimately, Wake Forest is seeking a leader who is **willing to join the community and make the University a better version of itself**. The institution is not interested in chasing after what others do, but rather, to be a place that offers a distinct and valuable educational experience. Therefore, the next president should be a person who honors the institution's narrative and guides the future

without losing the University's unique essence. The ideal candidate will understand the culture, history, values, and "magic" of Wake Forest while casting a vision to carry forth those components into the third century in a meaningful and highly relevant way.

This duality – upholding tradition while chasing innovation – is just one of many of the paradoxes this leader will need to hold in tension. Wake Forest's next leader is the person who has self-confidence and humility; who can lead while empowering others around them; who understands his or her strengths and seeks to hire leaders better than themselves; and who enjoys building dynamic teams and comes from a place of distributed power.

Wake Forest is a special place, and the leader who will best fit this position will be a person who will embrace this large, complex and relational community while making it even better.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For candidates interested in learning more about this position, please contact Steve Newton at Russell Reynolds Associates at WFUPresident@russellreynolds.com.



In order to provide a safe and productive learning and living community, Wake Forest University conducts background investigations and drug screens for all final staff candidates being considered for employment. Wake Forest seeks to recruit and retain a diverse workforce while promoting an inclusive work environment committed to excellence in the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*. In adherence with applicable laws and as provided by University policies, the University prohibits discrimination in its employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability and veteran status and encourages qualified candidates across all group demographics to apply.

FACT SHEET

Overview

Wake Forest University, originally founded in 1834 in Wake Forest, N.C., is a private university now located in Winston-Salem, N.C., with more than 9,000 students – over 5,400 undergraduates and more than 3,800 graduate and professional students. The undergraduate population hails from 49 states and 35 countries.

Founded in 1834, Wake Forest is a vibrant and diverse academic community in which students pursue learning in one or more of the 50 majors, 62 minors, and additional programs within seven colleges and schools: the College; Schools of Business, Divinity, Law, Medicine, and Professional Studies; and a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Vision Statement

Wake Forest University aspires to:

- emphasize exceptional teaching, discovery, and student engagement within a dynamic academic community;
- integrate the intimacy of an undergraduate liberal arts college with the academic vitality of a research university;
- become a crossroads of discussion on the important national and international issues of our time;
- attract a diverse community of the brightest educators and students from throughout the country and the world; and
- link intellectual curiosity, moral reflection, and a commitment to service, shaping ethically-informed leaders to serve humanity.





Mission Statement

Wake Forest is a distinctive university that combines a liberal arts core with graduate and professional schools and innovative research programs. The University embraces the teacher-scholar ideal, prizing personal interaction between students and faculty. It is a place where exceptional teaching, fundamental research and discovery, and the engagement of faculty and students in classrooms and the laboratories are paramount.

The University continues to fulfill its ideal of a more diverse learning community, providing students an example of the world they will be called upon to lead. The University sustains a vibrant residential community with a broad-based program of service and extracurricular activities. The University recognizes the benefits of intercollegiate athletics conducted with integrity and at the highest level.

Central to its mission, Wake Forest University believes in the development of the whole person – intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical. From its rich religious heritage, Wake Forest is committed to sustaining an environment where vital beliefs and faith traditions can engage secular thought in a climate of academic freedom and an unfettered search for truth. The University embraces the challenges of religious pluralism.

While national and global in its perspective, Wake Forest has a distinctive sense of community and responsibility in North Carolina. In extending its reach, the University has made a priority of international study and international understanding. Ultimately, Wake Forest is a place where a vibrant and diverse learning community weds the pursuit of knowledge, the enjoyment of rich personal experiences, and a commitment to public service.

Academics

College

Undergraduates at Wake Forest represent 49 states and 35 countries. They select from 50 major fields of study and some 62 minors, many of them interdisciplinary, and are taught by more than 600 faculty members across five disciplinary divisions. The faculty to student ratio is 1:10, and Wake Forest has the smallest proportion of classes over 50 (1 percent) among top-ranked research universities. In the Class of 2025, 85% of undergraduates declared a second major and/or minor or minors.

Since 2000, Wake Forest students have received numerous prestigious national awards and scholarships, including: eight Rhodes Scholars, four British Marshall Scholars, three Gates Cambridge Scholars, 25 Barry S. Goldwater Scholars, nine Truman Scholars, more than 100 Fulbright Scholars, three Beinecke Scholars, two Schwarzman Scholars, one Udall Scholar, and one Luce Scholar.

In recent years, 97% or more of Wake Forest undergraduate degree recipients have landed employment and/or graduate school placement within six months of earning their bachelor's degrees.

School of Divinity

Wake Forest University School of Divinity is a graduate, professional school that is Christian by tradition, Baptist in heritage, and ecumenical in outlook. Consistent with the commitment of Wake Forest to academic excellence and in the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*, the School of Divinity prepares leaders informed by a theological understanding of vocation. Through imaginative courses and compelling programs of community engagement, students are equipped to be agents of justice, reconciliation, and compassion in Christian churches and other ministries.

School of Law

The formal study of law has been part of Wake Forest University since 1894. Wake Forest Law School is distinctive in many ways, in no small measure due to its culture. While Wake Forest is nationally prominent in professional placement and bar passage, the atmosphere in the law school is unusually warm and supportive. Students, faculty, and staff at Wake Forest Law care deeply about one another. The School has maintained its commitment to providing a strikingly personal legal education by continuing the intimate learning experience. The School's Legal Writing Program is recognized as one of the top programs in the nation. The School of Law, which has worked to meet the needs of a changing legal profession as well as the changing needs of students, continues to be a national leader in legal education by modeling engagement and professionalism through academic excellence and a thorough commitment to service.

School of Business

Wake Forest School of Business provides top quality undergraduate and graduate education. Its world-class programs are routinely recognized in major national and international rankings. In 2025, the part-time MBA program is ranked #1 in North Carolina and in the top 20 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The School of Business has achieved greater national recognition in the past five years, in part due to a clarity of vision and mission that has resulted in a stronger, more coherent brand. The mission of the Wake Forest School of Business is to develop passionate, ethical business leaders driven to achieve results with integrity, through a dynamic combination of thought leadership, rigorous academic preparation, and unrivaled connection to the market.

School of Professional Studies

The School of Professional Studies, established in 2021 and located in Charlotte, works to accelerate the professional growth of adult learners across their careers through accessible, flexible, and cutting-edge educational experiences by leveraging the University's academic areas of excellence and external strategic partnerships. The School currently offers 23 master's programs and two certificate programs. As it continues to grow its footprint, the School seeks to be the premier educational institution of choice for working professionals and leading organizations in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and beyond.





Graduate School

Wake Forest offers 35 master's and Ph.D. disciplinary or interdisciplinary programs and sponsors 14 programs jointly with Business, Divinity, Law, Medicine and the College. The joint-degree programs involve bioethics, sustainability, business administration, counseling, education and other disciplines. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is one of the engines of creativity of Wake Forest University. Its hallmark is world-class scholarship fueled by an interdisciplinary, collaborative environment. Whether it is a traditional liberal arts approach or cutting-edge training in biomedical innovation, the Graduate School's small size of approximately 800 students ensures individual attention, tailored advising, and research opportunities well matched to student interests.

School of Medicine

Wake Forest School of Medicine, one of the top medical schools in the country with campuses now in Winston-Salem and Charlotte, prepares the next generation of healthcare leaders through education, research, and innovation. The School of Medicine is also one of the most selective medical training programs in the nation and encompasses multiple programs including M.D., P.A., C.R.N.A., D.N.P., and a variety of biomedical graduate programs. With more than \$223 million in annual extramural research funding, the Wake Forest School of Medicine is committed to addressing our nation's most challenging healthcare needs. Wake Forest School of Medicine provides for the education of 1,845 students, residents and fellows. The faculty includes physicians, basic scientists, and clinical professionals. The School of Medicine strategically invests in basic and clinical research, resulting in nationally and internationally recognized biomedical research. The School of Medicine seeks to leverage its current areas of greatest strength and focus to improve integration of its research programs and to maximize multidisciplinary and translational approaches.

Facilities

Reynolda Campus

The College, the School of Business, the School of Law, the Graduate School and the School of Divinity are located on the Reynolda Campus in northwest Winston-Salem.

Reynolda House

In addition to excellent campus art, dance, music, and theater programs, the University oversees Reynolda House, a magnificent 64-room home that houses a stunning collection of American art. The surrounding 300-acre estate features woodlands, fields, wetlands, and a formal garden. Together the museum and grounds are a cherished center for learning and quiet recreation.

Winston-Salem

The Wake Forest School of Medicine is located in Innovation Quarter, four miles from the Reynolda Campus, in downtown Winston-Salem. The Brookstown Campus, also located in downtown Winston-Salem, houses select Graduate School programs.

Charlotte

The Wake Forest University Charlotte Center, located in Charlotte's innovation district known as the Pearl, is anchored by a second home for the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. The School of Professional Studies, established in 2021, is also a key component of Wake Forest's Charlotte-based academic programming.





Washington, D.C.

Wake Forest has a presence in the nation's capital at Wake Washington Center on Dupont Circle.

International Houses

The University also offers instruction regularly at Casa Artom in Venice, at Worrell House in London, at Flow House in Vienna, and in several other places around the world.

Athletics

Competing in the NCAA Division I Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Wake Forest teams are consistently among national leaders both athletically and academically. In the past 25 years, the Demon Deacons have:

- ~ won seven NCAA championships: three in field hockey (2002-04); two in men's tennis (2018, 2025); and one each in men's soccer (2007) and women's golf (2023);
- ~ played in 12 bowl games in football, including the ACC Championship Game appearance in 2021 and the Orange Bowl as part of their 2006 ACC championship season; and
- ~ won 22 ACC championships in 10 unique sports.

Academically, Wake Forest student-athletes graduate at a 96% rate according to the most recent NCAA-measured data, released in November 2024.

