



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Opportunities and Priorities

The next dean will have the opportunity to shape a young and rapidly growing school at a pivotal moment in its development. Key priorities include:

- Successfully securing initial nursing accreditation and establishing a culture of continuous assessment and improvement.
- Recruiting, supporting, and retaining outstanding faculty and academic leaders, including filling the vacant associate dean positions.
- Enhancing the school's reputation and visibility within nursing and health sciences education, including the development of graduate programs.
- Expanding strategic partnerships with healthcare systems, industry leaders, and community organizations.
- Advancing research, scholarship, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Realizing the school's vision for technology-enabled and human-centered healthcare education.
- Strengthening philanthropic support and external engagement to accelerate strategic priorities.
- Supporting enrollment growth while maintaining excellence in teaching, advising, and student outcomes.

Strategic Leadership

The dean establishes and implements the long-term strategic vision for the School, leads the development and periodic revision of the School's Strategic Plan, and aligns priorities with the mission and strategic direction of the Division of Academic Affairs and Providence College as a whole.

The dean shall:

- Develop, articulate, implement, and periodically evaluate the school's long-term strategic vision in collaboration with faculty, staff, students, college leadership, the Dean's Advisory Board, alumni, healthcare partners, and other stakeholders.
- Lead the development, implementation, assessment, and continuous refinement of the school's strategic plan while ensuring alignment with Providence College's institutional priorities.
- Identify opportunities for strategic growth through new academic programs, graduate and professional education, certificates, interdisciplinary initiatives, and innovative educational delivery models.

- Promote organizational effectiveness through thoughtful planning, sound governance, operational excellence, and continuous quality improvement.
- Foster a culture that embraces innovation, entrepreneurship, collaboration, adaptability, and responsible stewardship.
- Ensure that the organizational structure of the school evolves appropriately to support its strategic priorities, enrollment growth, academic quality, and long-term sustainability.
- Promote a culture of assessment and evidence-informed decision making that supports institutional effectiveness and continuous improvement.
- Position the school to respond proactively to emerging opportunities in healthcare education, research, administration, technology, and workforce development.
- Advance the school's regional and national reputation through strategic leadership, innovation, academic excellence, and meaningful engagement with the healthcare community.

Research, Scholarship, and Innovation

The dean will advance a vibrant culture of research, scholarship, innovation, technology-enhanced learning, and externally funded programs that strengthen the school's regional and national reputation and positions the school as a contributor to improving healthcare practice, education, and policy.

The dean shall:

- Promote faculty scholarship, research, and creative activity.
- Encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives.
- Expand externally funded research through federal agencies, foundations, healthcare organizations, and industry.
- Support research infrastructure, faculty mentoring, and grant development.
- Encourage student participation in scholarly and research activities.
- Promote innovation in simulation, healthcare technology, artificial intelligence, and emerging educational methodologies.
- Advance the dissemination of scholarly work through publications, presentations, and professional leadership.

Healthcare Partnerships and Community Engagement

The dean serves as the school's principal ambassador to the healthcare community by cultivating partnerships with healthcare systems, hospitals, community and non-profit organizations, government agencies, industry, professional associations, and academic institutions. These relationships strengthen clinical education, workforce development, research, innovation, and community impact.

The dean shall:

- Develop and sustain strategic relationships with healthcare systems, hospitals, community organizations, government agencies, and professional associations.
- Expand clinical education and experiential learning opportunities.
- Identify collaborative opportunities in workforce development, continuing education, and community health initiatives.
- Represent the School at regional, national, and international professional organizations.
- Promote partnerships that enhance the School's visibility, reputation, and impact.
- Encourage faculty and student engagement in meaningful community service.

Student Experience and Signature Programs

Through immersive classes, collaborative team projects, and real-world, co-curricular activities, SNHS students are prepared to excel and to lead with intent, integrity, and responsibility. Academic and Health Professions Advisors partner with students to help them achieve their personal, academic and career objectives.

The SNHS has launched and supports inaugural school-specific clubs and organizations, including the Faith & Nursing Club, Men in Nursing Club, the Providence College Student Nurses Association, and the Health Care Club which provide leadership and service opportunities to all students.

The school has recently structured the nursing curriculum to allow students to participate in semester abroad programs in London and Sydney. Health Sciences students have a broad array of study abroad opportunities through the Center for Global Education.

Other signature initiatives and programs include the following:

- The SNHS Summer Healthcare Academy provides nursing, health sciences, and health policy and management majors opportunities to work in a clinical setting, participate in internships, have field experiences, and conduct mentored research. Students can elect to live on campus during the summer while working shifts at local hospitals as licensed nursing assistants, gaining direct exposure to patient care in acute care settings. Non-nursing students can become certified ambulance drivers for Brewster Ambulance on their way to EMT qualifications. Others work with faculty mentors to conduct extensive research in the Mondor Human Performance Lab and specialty research labs. During the summer of 2026 over 125 students participated in the Summer Academy.
- St. Martin de Porres Center for Health and Human Dignity integrates the study and practice of healthcare with the principles and values of the Catholic Church, especially as articulated in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. An explicitly theological focus on the God-bestowed dignity of each human person at every stage of life—with a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.
- As a valued partner of the MGH Institute of Health Professions, Providence College Bachelor of Nursing graduates have access to one of New England's top schools in the health professions. The Advanced Practice Nursing Pathway Agreement (Pathway Program) allows graduates of Providence College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to enroll in the MGH IHP's Master of Science in Nursing program, preparing them to become nurse practitioners.
- For the past two summers, students have embarked on a 10-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, immersing themselves in the Dominican tradition and Catholic social teaching. Students also serve with the Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Pern and Paris, encountering aging and ill populations with compassion and respect. The pilgrimage invites students to reflect on the intersection of faith, healing, and human dignity—core to their formation as nurses.

More About the SNHS

Mission

The mission of the SNHS is to produce skilled, empathetic, committed healers, educators, researchers, and health professionals who will have a profound impact on promoting equitable health and human dignity for all people.

Vision

The SNHS will become a nationally distinctive model for human-centered healthcare education — where a high-touch student experience is seamlessly integrated with technological innovation and interprofessional scholarship. We will advance teaching and learning through immersive, technology-enabled environments; prepare students for dynamic careers in health and science; and catalyze research that promotes dignity and well-being. This vision will guide our strategic investments, shape our partnerships, and serve as the benchmark for assessing our institutional impact and growth.

Values

Our values reflect a deep commitment to academic excellence, compassionate care, and community engagement. Grounded in the Catholic and Dominican tradition, we uphold integrity, respect, collaboration, and service as guiding principles in our pursuit of preparing future healthcare leaders. These values shape our learning environment, inform our clinical practice, and inspire our dedication to advancing health and well-being for all.

- **Upholding the Catholic and Dominican Traditions:** We embrace the Catholic and Dominican heritage of Providence College, fostering a learning environment rooted in faith, reason, and service.
- **Human Dignity, Compassionate Care, and Holistic Development:** We honor the inherent dignity of every individual by promoting compassionate care and supporting the holistic development of our students, faculty, and the communities we serve.
- **Innovation, Excellence, and the Pursuit of Truth:** We strive for excellence in teaching, research, and clinical practice by embracing innovation and evidence-based approaches. We prepare students to lead with integrity and curiosity in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.
- **Service to Community and a Commitment to Global Health and Equity:** We are dedicated to serving local and global communities through initiatives that promote health equity and align with our mission and the mission of the college.
- **Collaboration, Integration of Knowledge, and Interdisciplinary Engagement to Advance Health:** We foster a collaborative spirit across disciplines, encouraging the integration of diverse perspectives and knowledge to solve complex health challenges. Through interdisciplinary engagement, we prepare students to work effectively in team-based care and leadership roles.

Academic Programs

The SNHS consists of two academic departments: the Department of Nursing and the Department of Health Sciences. The school offers three bachelor of science degrees—health policy and management, health sciences, and nursing—and a minor in Spanish for the health professions.

Reporting Relationships

The following positions report to the dean:

- Associate Dean of Nursing (vacant)
- Associate Dean of Health Sciences (vacant)
- Associate Vice President of Special Projects
- Director of St. Martin de Porres Center
- Director for Strategic Innovation & Technology

Advisory Board

The SNHS Advisory Board was implemented in 2023 during the inaugural year of the establishment of the school. The main function of the advisory board is to provide sound advice on business decisions related to the continuous development of the SNHS.

Members serve as a resource for creative ideas and provide input on curricular and co-curricular programs and activities that support teaching-learning and scholarly excellence. They also advise on the development and growth of collaborative partnerships and actively facilitate the expansion of a vast network of contacts for student internships, clinical placements and professional experiences.

All members are leaders in healthcare who are committed to supporting the development of the SNHS in the college's Catholic-Dominican tradition and liberal arts foundation.

More About Providence College and Providence, Rhode Island

College Leadership

Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. '78, '82G, President

A native of Westport, Mass., Father Kenneth Sicard took office as Providence College's 13th president on July 1, 2020.

From July 2018 to December 2018, he served as acting president while Father Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80, the college's 12th president, was on sabbatical.

Father Sicard was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. He holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. His first assignment after ordination was to Ohio Dominican College in Columbus where he served as chaplain and a full-time faculty member, teaching courses in finance, money and banking, auditing, and accounting from 1990 to 1997. He also was responsible for the spiritual and sacramental needs of students and Dominican religious sisters.

Father Sicard returned to PC to serve as dean of residence life from 1997 to 2005. He oversaw the supervision and security of all residence halls, the department's operating budget, the hiring and supervision of more than 100 staff, and the creation of policies that ensured a quality of life for students consistent with the college's mission.

During that time, he also served the Dominican Province of St. Joseph as director of vocations for two years. In addition, he served as provincial treasurer from 2002 to 2010 and as a member of the

Economic Council from 2010 to 2016, working on behalf of the order in international operations related to portfolio management, accounting operations, property sales and acquisitions, construction and renovation, and financial planning.

In 2005, he was appointed executive vice president and treasurer. In that role, Father Sicard directly supervised many college operations, including athletics, student affairs, general counsel, mission and ministry, external affairs and marketing, human resources, and public safety. Father Sicard served as the president's chief of staff and was a member of the president's senior cabinet. He oversaw the creation of three of the college's strategic plans, including *PC200*, adopted in 2018.

Father Sicard earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1978 and a master's degree in business administration in 1982, both from Providence College. He earned a Ph.D. in business education from The Ohio State University in 1997. Prior to entering the Dominican Order of Preachers, he was employed by Fleet Financial Group in Providence, beginning in an entry-level position and rising to audit manager.

Thomas Smith, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Thomas Smith, Ph.D., took office on July 1, 2025, as Providence College's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

As leader of the Office of Academic Affairs, Provost Smith oversees an array of academic and administrative units, including academic services, assessment, the Center for Engaged Learning, the Center for Global Education, the Center for Teaching Excellence, institutional research, instructional technology, the Phillips Memorial Library, the Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers program, and the registrar's office. The deans of PC's four schools report to the provost.

Before joining the PC community, Dr. Smith served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at The Catholic University of America. Prior to taking that position in 2020, he spent 27 years at Villanova University, where he began his academic career as an assistant professor in political science in 2000. He was named founding chair of Villanova's Department of Humanities in 2003 and was promoted to associate dean for humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences in 2008. He served as director of Villanova's University Honors Program from 2010 to 2020.

Dr. Smith earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, a master's degree from Catholic University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

About Providence College

Providence College is a Catholic, Dominican, four-year liberal arts college located on a picturesque 108-acre campus in Providence, Rhode Island. The college was founded in 1917 by the Dominican friars at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Harkins to provide an education in the arts and sciences. PC is the only college or university in the United States founded by and conducted under the auspices of the Dominican friars.

Today, the college enrolls nearly 5,000 students taught by approximately 400 faculty across the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Education and Social Work, and a new School of Nursing and Health Sciences, which enrolled its first class in fall 2023.

For almost 30 years, Providence College consistently has been ranked among the top five regional universities in the North according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges." The college competes in 19 varsity sports, all at the Division I level, with membership in the NCAA, the BIG EAST Conference, and the Hockey East Association.

PC Mission and Values

Providence College is a Catholic, Dominican, liberal arts institution of higher education and a community committed to academic excellence in pursuit of the truth, growth in virtue, and service of God and neighbor. PC operates with a set of deeply held core values:

- **Faith and Reason:** Providence College is confident in the appeal of reason, believes that human beings are disposed to know the truth, and trusts in the power of grace to enlighten minds, open hearts, and transform lives. PC maintains that the pursuit of truth has intrinsic value, that faith and reason are compatible and complementary means to its discovery, and that the search for truth is the basis for dialogue with others and critical engagement with the world.
- **Academic Excellence:** Providence College is committed to academic excellence and holds itself to the highest standards in teaching, learning, and scholarship. Its core curriculum addresses key questions of human existence, including life's meaning and purpose, and stresses the importance of moral and ethical reasoning, aesthetic appreciation, and understanding the natural world, other cultures, and diverse traditions. PC honors academic freedom, promotes critical thinking and engaged learning, and encourages a pedagogy of disputed questions.
- **Community and Diversity:** The college seeks to reflect the rich diversity of the human family. Following the example of St. Dominic, who extended a loving embrace to all, PC welcomes qualified men and women of every background and affirms the God-given dignity, freedom, and equality of each person. Providence College promotes the common good, the human flourishing of each member of the campus community, and service of neighbors near and far.
- **Veritas and Providence:** Providence College brings the more than 800-year-old Dominican ideal of *veritas* to the issues and challenges of today. It seeks to share the fruits of contemplation in an increasingly global and diverse society, and to praise and bless all that is good and vital in human endeavors. Providence College supports the Dominican mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to a new generation of students and helping them discover God's providence in their lives.

The Dominican Community

Providence College enjoys a robust level of religious presence and engagement. Alumni and students have benefited greatly from the engagement of Dominican friars and sisters in the life of the community, and many have established lifelong relationships with Dominicans. Most of the 39 Dominican Friars assigned to Providence College live in St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, although several live in residence facilities.

Dominicans serve as faculty in numerous academic departments and programs, including the Development of Western Civilization, philosophy, theology, applied physics, biology, economics, math, psychology, history, Theatre/Dance/Film, and finance. Others serve as college chaplains and

in key administrative positions. Individual friars also serve as chaplains in each residence hall, and a chaplain has been assigned to each athletic team.

The engagement of Dominicans in teaching, scholarship, and service at Providence College reflects the Dominican commitment to the pursuit of truth in the conviction that all truths find their ultimate aim and unity in the one Truth that is God. This pursuit of truth has marked the lives and contributions of Dominican philosophers and theologians such as Thomas Aquinas, scientists like Albert the Great, and artists like Fra Angelico. This same pursuit can be seen in the mysticism of Catherine of Siena, the defense of Indigenous peoples by Bartolomeo de Las Casas, and the contributions of Yves Congar and Dominique Chenu to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. It is a rich legacy that has been bequeathed to PC and one the college humbly seeks to honor and continue.

Honoring and advancing this legacy is the shared responsibility of the entire Providence College community. All are called to participate in the college's mission, and each makes a specific and important contribution to the common good. It is through study and scholarship, prayer and contemplation, and a deep and abiding respect for others that Providence College will be faithful to its mission as it engages the promises and challenges that lie ahead.

Providence, Rhode Island

The City of Providence is an extension of the Providence College campus. Known as the Creative Capital, it combines the accessibility and friendliness of a small town with the culture and sophistication of a big city. Providence is collection of neighborhoods, each with a distinct character and feel that ranges from the European charm of Federal Hill to the history and beauty of College Hill, to the hip, trendy shops and cafés along Thayer Street and Wickenden Street.

Downtown, one can take in a Friar men's basketball game or a Providence Bruins hockey game at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, see a touring Broadway show at the Providence Performing Arts Center, shop at Providence Place Mall, visit many fine museums and the fourth oldest library in the nation, or dine in some of the best restaurants in the Northeast.

A major industrial, commercial, medical, and financial center for New England, Providence's economy is based on manufacturing and service enterprises. The city is a major supplier of jewelry and silverware to the United States and Europe. Providence is home to four multibillion-dollar financial concerns and many smaller ones. Tourism and conventions are emerging industries. As the capital of Rhode Island, Providence supports a number of government-related jobs.

Providence College's proximity to metropolitan centers opens doors to a robust healthcare ecosystem and the opportunity for academic partnerships, as well as jobs and internships.

Position Salary Range: \$275,000 to \$350,000 dependent upon qualifications and experience.