



Position Brief

Provost

Harrisburg University
of Science and Technology

June 2023



About The University

[Harrisburg University of Science and Technology](#), commonly known as Harrisburg University, is a private nonprofit institution located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States. Established in 2001, the university was founded with the goal of providing comprehensive education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to prepare students for successful careers in these rapidly advancing areas. With nearly 7,000 students hailing from 102 countries, the university has one of the most diverse student bodies among private colleges.

Harrisburg University fosters a unique community of learners, provides access and support to students who want to pursue a career in science and technology, and supports business creation and economic development. The institution deeply values and fosters a culture of entrepreneurial thinking among its students, faculty, and leadership, recognizing and nurturing their innovative spirit to drive transformative ideas and solutions.

The vision of Harrisburg University is to provide academic programs at undergraduate and graduate levels for learners, using student-centered, technologically advanced, and experiential learning designs that emphasize student success, with a sharp focus on specific interdisciplinary competencies and strong linkages to career development.

One of the distinguishing features of Harrisburg University is its strong industry partnerships. The university actively collaborates with leading companies, organizations, and government agencies to bridge the gap between academia and industry. This strategic approach ensures that students gain practical, real-world experience and have access to valuable internship and job placement opportunities. Additionally, these partnerships facilitate research collaborations, enabling faculty and students to tackle complex challenges and contribute to scientific advancements.

The faculty at Harrisburg University consists of accomplished scholars, researchers, and industry professionals who bring their expertise and experience into the classroom. They are dedicated to providing students with a rigorous and engaging education that combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on application. Small class sizes allow for personalized attention and foster a supportive learning environment where students can actively participate and collaborate with their peers.

Harrisburg University's state-of-the-art facilities and resources are designed to enhance the educational experience and support research and innovation. The campus features modern laboratories, specialized equipment, cutting-edge technology, and collaborative spaces where students can work on projects, conduct experiments, and explore their ideas. The university also maintains strong ties with the local community, regularly hosting events, workshops, and conferences that promote engagement and knowledge sharing.

In addition to its academic offerings, Harrisburg University promotes a holistic approach to student development. The university offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations that cater to students' interests and passions. These opportunities allow students to pursue their hobbies, develop leadership skills, and form lasting connections with their peers.

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Master of Science in Project Management is accredited by the Global Accreditation Center from the Project Management Institute. HU's M.S. program in Project Management is one of only 110 programs around the world to achieve this accreditation. The Computer and Information Sciences undergraduate program has been awarded ABET accreditation, a prestigious standard that guarantees HU CISC graduates are prepared to excel and lead in their field.



The Role

Overview

As one of three main leaders of Harrisburg University, the Provost works closely with the President and the COO/CFO to lead the institution. Currently occupied by a thirteen-year incumbent, some aspects of the role may change over time but at present, the Provost acts as Chief Academic Officer and is responsible for all aspects of academic and student affairs at the university including but not limited to development of all new academic programs and approvals; recruitment and supervision of faculty; oversight of curricular, academic policy, and student success. Harrisburg University is a truly unique institution that regularly adapts to the needs of its students, faculty, partners, community, and market conditions and its next Provost will need to be agile, collaborative, thoughtful, and enthusiastic about focusing on what is best both for the student and the University.

Traits Needed in the Ideal Candidate

- A genuine willingness to fully embrace and embody the distinctive culture of Harrisburg University, demonstrating a deep appreciation for its values, mission, and ethos, all of which are focused on entrepreneurship, collaboration, a willingness to take risks, and operating at an accelerated pace.
- An enterprising mindset, possessing a keen ability to identify opportunities, think creatively, take calculated risks, and drive innovation within the institution.
- Ability to engage with the university community, fostering a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and shared purpose that permeates all aspects of the institution's operations and interactions.
- A decision-making process to achieve comprehensive and robust outcomes by demonstrating a balance between astute practical thinking and data-driven assessment.
- The ability to introspectively identify areas of potential weakness and adeptly assemble a high-performing team that complements their skill set, enabling comprehensive coverage and proficient support in areas where they may require assistance.
- A diverse range of professional experiences across various institutions, showcasing adaptability and a breadth of knowledge.
- Experience either in or working closely with the private sector/commercial community that lends itself to understanding the needs of employers.
- A proven track record of success in effectively serving and leading sizable teams, demonstrating exceptional leadership acumen in fostering collaboration, motivating team members, and driving collective achievements towards organizational goals.
- A clear and comprehensive understanding of the profound significance of faculty excellence and ability to articulate a compelling vision for faculty members to pursue and achieve the highest standards of academic excellence.
- Candor, a balance of confidence and humility, and a good sense of humor.
- Relevant STEM experience strongly preferred, but not absolutely required.



Essential Qualifications

- Ph.D., MD, or equivalent terminal degree – a strong academic background demonstrative of expertise and credibility in the academic community.
- Demonstrable skill in each area of the Provost's portfolio, as described above.
- A minimum of ten years of progressively greater levels of responsibility in a higher education setting at the level of dean, director, or higher.
- Deep understanding of current trends in higher education and ability to promote innovation and academic excellence.
- Experience in promoting diversity in faculty recruitment, student enrollment, and creating an inclusive academic environment.
- International and online experience strongly preferred.

How to Express Interest

We appreciate all expressions of interest, referrals, or nominations for this role. A comprehensive CV along with a cover letter which sets out your motivation to take on such a role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria would be appreciated.

To do so, or to arrange for a conversation in confidence, please contact:

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