



# DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP PROFILE  
DECEMBER 2025





## THE OPPORTUNITY

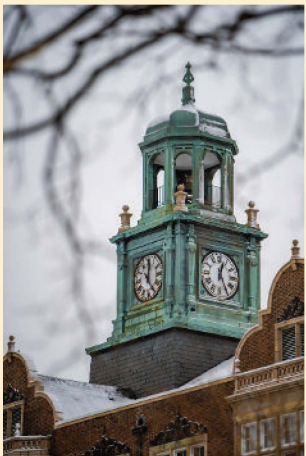
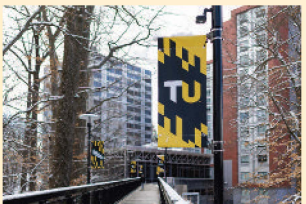
Towson University ("TU"), Maryland's largest comprehensive university and a recognized leader in student learning, research, and community service, seeks a visionary, collaborative, and innovative leader to serve as its Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Melanie Perreault, the Dean provides executive and strategic leadership for the new College of Graduate Studies at TU. The Dean is responsible for advancing the quality and reach of graduate education across the university, fostering innovation in program development, and enhancing student success at the graduate level. The Dean works collaboratively with academic leaders, faculty, and external partners to align graduate education with the university's mission and its strategic goal of achieving a Carnegie classification of Doctoral University with High Research Activity (R2) status.

The College of Graduate Studies supports over 3,000 graduate students enrolled in more than 80 degree and certificate programs across the university. The guiding principles of the College of Graduate Studies center on advancing a culture of academic excellence that empowers graduate programs to develop students' critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and discipline-specific expertise. These principles promote a commitment to ongoing, self-directed learning and discovery, encouraging students to take ownership of their intellectual and

professional growth. By supporting innovative and transformative educational practices, the College fosters a passion for lifelong learning, the creation and application of new knowledge, and meaningful scholarly contributions. It further emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary engagement and collaborative learning within multicultural communities.

The College of Graduate Studies is expected to advance enrollment growth, strengthen faculty engagement and position TU to continue progress toward Carnegie R2 research classification. Success in the role will require an individual who can provide executive and strategic leadership for a college with ambitious goals.

As a passionate, energetic champion for the educational mission and student success, the incoming Dean must be an effective communicator who is skilled at building relationships with internal and external partners; represents the College on university-wide, regional and national committees and initiatives; and demonstrates an uncompromising commitment to excellence and the values embodied in Towson University's [strategic plan](#).





## THE ROLE OF THE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The Dean reports to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and will advance the quality and reach of graduate education across the university, fostering innovation in program development, and enhancing student success at the graduate level. Additional essential job functions and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

### LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC VISION:

- Develop and implement a strategic vision for the College of Graduate Studies aligned with the University Strategic Plan “Leadership for the Public Good” and which supports the university’s research and graduate education goals, particularly as TU advances toward R2 status.
- Provide executive and strategic leadership to maintain and grow a diverse portfolio of high-quality graduate programs.
- Collaborate with TU’s Vice President for Research to enhance the quality and expand opportunities for graduate student research.
- Represent the College on university-wide, regional and national committees and initiatives to strengthen the visibility and impact of graduate education.
- Cultivate a network of connections comprised of the workforce leaders guiding key aspects of Maryland’s current and likely future economic sectors.
- Lead advancement efforts to secure external funding and philanthropic support.

### PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT:

- Collaborate with deans, chairs, graduate program directors, and external partners to develop innovative graduate and certificate programs responsive to emerging workforce and societal needs.
- Oversee graduate program analysis, assessment, accreditation, and evaluation to ensure continuous improvement.
- Promote interdisciplinary and cross-college collaboration in graduate education.

### GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS:

- Oversee graduate student recruitment, admissions, and retention initiatives to ensure a high-quality experience for graduate students.
- Serve as an advocate for graduate students, supporting their academic progression, professional growth, access to student services, career development and program completion.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Graduate Student Association, fostering communication between graduate students, faculty and university leadership.

### ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS:

- Oversee the College’s marketing, budgeting, and curricular processes to ensure fiscal responsibility and program excellence.
- Lead fiscal planning and resource allocation to support strategic priorities in graduate education.
- Work collaboratively with academic deans and serve as an active member of the Deans’ Council.
- Ensure the College operates in alignment with principles of shared governance and academic integrity.



## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Dean of Graduate Studies must hold an earned doctoral degree from an accredited institution and a record of teaching and scholarly achievement commensurate with the tenured rank of professor.

Applicants must have at least five years of academic leadership experience with supervisory responsibilities.

Other qualifications include:

- Demonstrated record of effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- Extensive knowledge of graduate education and programs, including experience supervising graduate students.

- Proven ability to foster collaboration across multiple disciplines and a strong commitment to interdisciplinary education and research.
- Demonstrated success in fiscal planning, budgeting, and resource management.
- Commitment to the value of shared governance in graduate education.
- Familiarity with policies and practices related to graduate student funding, assistantships, and research support.



# TOWSON UNIVERSITY: AN OVERVIEW

Located on a 330-acre campus in Towson, Maryland, just ten miles from Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and a short drive or train ride to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, or New York City, Towson offers an environment for living and learning, close to many educational, cultural and community resources. The Wall Street Journal named TU the top public university in Maryland and second overall, public or private in its 2026 College Rankings. Forbes ranked TU as a top-100 national public university in its 2025 top colleges list. Also in 2025, TU was named one of the 2025 Great Colleges to Work For by Great Colleges and ModernThink. TU is recognized for its quality and value with a growing research and innovation enterprise deeply connected to people and place.

TU is also well-known for its leadership in rigorous undergraduate and graduate education, relevant research, and service to the state of Maryland as the largest producer of K-12 educators in the state, among many other accolades. Its more than 19,500 students are enrolled in over 110 undergraduate majors, 47 master’s programs, and 7 doctoral degree programs spanning the liberal arts, fine arts, health professions, education, business, and natural and physical sciences.

TU offers a personal class experience, with a 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio and an average class size of 24 students. 90% of TU graduates from the class of 2024 secured a job or enrolled in continuing education/graduate school, with an average salary of \$60,840 after graduation. 79% of working graduates are employed in Maryland.

## ACCREDITATION

Towson University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). MSCHE is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Towson University’s accreditation was reaffirmed by MSCHE on March 10, 2022, following an extensive self-study process.

## ENROLLMENT

Over 19,500 students were enrolled in the fall of 2025, including nearly 17,000 undergraduates and 3,000 graduate students. This fall, TU welcomed more than 5,700 new students to campus, between first-time freshmen, transfers and graduate students. Retention reached nearly 91% for all continuing students and over 83% for first-year students. TU has first-year students from 28 other states and 25 other countries.

# TOWSON UNIVERSITY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

TU has invested in the following exciting projects to enhance the student experience:

- **College of Health Professions:** Opened in summer 2024, in the heart of campus, the College of Health Professions building has world-class resources to support the teaching and research as the largest provider of health professionals in Maryland.
- **Science Complex:** Opened in fall 2021, the new facilities provides new academic and research space for TU's expanding Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. The heart of the five-story, 320,000 square-foot complex is a multistory atrium located at its center. In addition to the classrooms and labs inside the building, the complex contains an outdoor classroom overlooking the Glen Arboretum, a 10-acre wooded area adjacent to the academic core. The complex was intentionally designed to connect to the forest, making the Glen an educational extension of the building and a hub of scientific exploration.
- **StarTUp:** Opened in fall 2021, the StarTUp at the Armory serves as TU's front door for start-ups, small businesses, as well as our region's largest corporations. This public-facing vibrant space reflects the university-wide effort to place entrepreneurship and leadership as a university priority.
- **University Union:** A two-phase project has transformed TU's University Union. The first phase created an 85,000 square-foot-addition offering expanded event and dining space and two main entrances connecting to a spacious plaza. Phase two included a renovation to the original building to update Paws Cafe and provide new homes for Student Life, Civic Engagement, and more.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS, OPENED SUMMER 2024



SCIENCE COMPLEX, OPENED FALL 2021



STARTUP AT THE ARMORY, OPENED FALL 2021

## TOWSON UNIVERSITY — KEY RANKINGS AND AWARDS

- **FORBES:** Ranked TU as a top-100 national public university and the third-best public university in Maryland in its 2025 top colleges list.
- **WASHINGTON MONTHLY:** Named TU the nation's 15th best "Masters University" and ranked TU as the number 1 public university in Maryland.
- **WALL STREET JOURNAL:** The 2026 College Rankings placed TU number 26 among public institutions nationwide. TU was named the top public university in Maryland and second overall, public or private.
- **PRINCETON REVIEW:** Included TU among the best colleges in the Mid-Atlantic in its 2025 Best Colleges: Region by Region list. The Mid-Atlantic list includes 97 universities across 5 states and the District of Columbia.
- **GREAT COLLEGES AND MODERNTALK:** Named TU as one of the 2025 Great Colleges to Work For, with faculty experience being recognized as an area of strength.
- **CAMPUS PRIDE INDEX:** TU boasts a five-star ranking for our efforts to create a safe, inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ students.

## PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume, and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Professional references are not requested at this time.

For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by January 15, 2026.

Application materials should be submitted to Towson University's employment site: [www.towson.edu/jobs](http://www.towson.edu/jobs).

The target hiring range for this position is \$230,000 - \$240,000. To learn about employee benefits, please visit our Benefits page.

*Towson University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## PROVOST AND PRESIDENT BIOS

[Meet Provost Perreault](#)

[Meet President Ginsberg](#)



## TU IS A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS

# 19

NCAA Division I Sports

# 250+

Clubs and Organizations

# 700+

Study Abroad Programs

# 5,500

Students live on campus

# 8,100+

Internships  
each year