Are you an exceptional leader?
THE SEARCH

Drake University seeks a forward-thinking leader with the skills, knowledge, and experience to lead its School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Drake is a private, comprehensive university of approximately 5,000 students located in Des Moines, Iowa’s capital city. Drake is an equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity and equity. We seek experienced candidates with similar commitments and lived experiences that contribute to fulfilling our mission and inspiration. These candidates will be committed to excellence and blend a collaborative leadership style with an ability to be bold and decisive.

**Required Qualifications**

- Strong record of leadership experience in higher education or journalism/mass communication field that promotes excellent performance and advocacy for equity and inclusion.

- Strong record of fiscal and personnel management within programs with multiple funding streams.

- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

- Demonstrated commitment to uphold the principles of the First Amendment.

**Desired Qualifications**

We seek applications from and nominations of experienced candidates who are curious, forward-looking, and innovative, who blend a collaborative leadership style with an ability to be bold and decisive. Candidates will model calm, effective, and dynamic leadership and build relationships within, across, and beyond the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Drake University. To be successful, a candidate must demonstrate a proven ability to provide support to and work with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds. The candidate will have a strong record of promoting innovation in teaching and program development. The candidate should articulate a vision of higher education and the journalism and communication industry as it adapts to dynamic changes in the student and labor force markets. Ideally, the candidate will have experience attaining and maintaining accreditation. A candidate may also be eligible for tenure in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.
The School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) is home to approximately 400 students who enjoy hands-on training in professional skills with a strong liberal arts education. Our students are prepared not just for their first job, but for a lifetime of personal and professional service as leaders in their fields. Professional education begins early in the School. First-year students take SJMC courses and are encouraged to participate in campus media opportunities so they are soon ready to take advantage of the hundreds of internship opportunities available to Drake SJMC students in Des Moines and all over the world. One of very few private schools in the country to earn ACEJMC accreditation, Drake SJMC offers six undergraduate majors (Advertising, Digital Media Production, Magazine Media, Multimedia Journalism, Public Relations, and Strategic Political Communication), an online bachelor’s degree completion program in communication and an online interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Communication with three tracks: Communication Leadership, Brand Communication, and Public Policy & Advocacy. Students from all majors win dozens of top awards for their hands-on work in journalism, media, and communication projects every year in local and national contests, helping the SJMC to be known on campus, locally, and nationally as an innovative leader in communications education. The SJMC recently celebrated its centennial (www.drakesjmc100.com), and continues to enjoy strong connections to the professional community, including a partnership with global leader Meredith Corporation.

As the chief academic officer of the School, the dean is responsible for visionary leadership, the development of faculty, staff, and budget, and clear and persuasive communication with internal and external constituents. The dean is an effective advocate for the SJMC and Drake University within the community, and provides collaborative yet decisive leadership.
Facilitate an Inclusive Environment

• Foster individual commitment to and engagement in building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

• Effectively lead, manage, and delegate responsibilities to the School faculty and staff team to promote a collaborative, supportive, and inclusive work environment.

• Assist faculty and staff in understanding the changing needs of a contemporary student body and the organizations that employ them so qualified students are recruited, served, and graduated with the knowledge and skills required by a dynamic marketplace.

• Create avenues for ongoing student input and feedback, including hosting regular meetings of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board.

Provide Leadership

• Articulate and promote a clear and collaborative vision of the School as an innovating leader in journalism and mass communication in a rapidly changing industry.

• Highlight, support, and maintain existing strengths in the School while identifying areas of opportunity and engaging in collaborative planning for continuous improvement.

• Create and maintain strong relationships with other academic leaders on campus and at other institutions.

• Clearly communicate priorities and engage in transparent processes that encourage and promote faculty and staff development.

• Support the development of innovative partnerships and encourage SJMC student participation in experiential learning and internships that enhance the learning experience.

Engage in Fundraising, Budgeting, & Advocacy

• Provide effective financial management, including budget preparation, monitoring, and analysis.

• Support grant programs and applications that are integral to the vision of the School.

• Participate in advancement and development efforts as an advocate, fundraiser, steward, and enthusiast. Drake University will kick off a three-year comprehensive campaign in October 2021, and the dean will play a critical role in University development activities.

• Advocate for the School within the University’s prioritization and planning processes and within, across, and beyond the University.

• Engage in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels in industry and professional organizations.

Manage Structures & Processes

• Apply data-informed decision-making to facilitate assessment, planning, and provision of a quality educational experience for a diverse student body.

• Work with the Office of Admission to support recruitment efforts that help the School and University meet their enrollment goals.

• Leverage SJMC National Advisory Council meetings and other connections among alumni and professionals to diversify curricular and co-curricular offerings that meet industry needs.

• Provide leadership that promotes fairness and mutual respect among faculty, staff, and students while also recognizing individual differences, aspirations, and responsibilities.

• Effectively work within the shared governance structure of higher education.

• Lead the SJMC’s efforts to attain and maintain accreditation and certifications.
A private university in Iowa’s capital city, Drake offers more than 150 majors, minors, and concentrations for undergraduates, more than 20 graduate degrees, online graduate and undergraduate programs, and a variety of career-focused continuing education programs through seven colleges and schools. With about 5,000 students, the Drake experience is characterized by close relationships among faculty, staff, and students, and an emphasis on ethics and developing reflective practitioners of their disciplines. National rankings recognize Drake for strengths that range from academic quality to excellent value. Recent rankings highlight Drake as:

- Among the top 10 midsized universities nationally (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- A “Best College in the Midwest” (Princeton Review)
- One of the nation's best values in higher education (U.S. News & World Report and Barron’s 300 Best Buys in College Education)

The University currently enrolls nearly 3,000 undergraduates and more than 1,900 graduate, law, and pharmacy students from 45 states and more than 40 countries. More than 150 student organizations tap into interests from politics to music to the outdoors. Twelve national social fraternities and sororities provide another way for students to build community at Drake. Of Drake’s 300 full-time professors and instructors, 95% hold the highest degrees in their field. With an overall student-faculty ratio of 10-to-1, all are focused on student success. The faculty stand out not only as dedicated teachers but also as accomplished researchers—experts in their fields doing important work on current issues. There are more than 70,000 Drake alumni worldwide. Reflecting the University’s emphasis on leadership and its impressive accomplishment rates for both bachelor and graduate degree recipients, Drake alumni can be found in positions of influence in business, the arts, education, law and politics, health care, and in their communities.

Commitment to community is part of the Drake ethos. The student service-learning program that was formalized in 2011 has now become one of the cornerstones of the Drake experience. Before they graduate, more than 80% of students in all fields learn by contributing professional services to nonprofits, schools, associations, or government offices in Des Moines and around the world. Nearly 70% of Drake faculty and staff serve in the community. Thousands of Drake alumni volunteer in their communities each year.
Drake University’s campus sits on approximately 150 acres, two miles from the city center. Residence halls are connected to academic and administrative buildings and athletic facilities by open green space, a planted prairie, outdoor art, a reflecting pool, and pedestrian plazas and walkways. The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Drake’s efforts to foster a healthy urban forest, awarding the University a Tree Campus USA designation. The perimeter of campus is defined by diverse businesses and destinations—retail shops, coffee houses, and restaurants.

Recent capital projects have invested more than $100 million in new landscaped gateways, residence hall upgrades, improved and new lab space, a renovated 200-seat theater, new collaborative and after-hours space, the 6,000-square-foot University Archives (providing research opportunities and access to significant collections), and a state-of-the-art basketball practice facility.

Known as a center of creativity on campus, Meredith Hall is the home of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC). Designed by famed German architect Mies van der Rohe, the iconic building’s design marries industrial metal and concrete with nature through an atrium and huge windows, creating a dramatic signature space in the heart of campus. The SJMC is currently working with architects from BNIM to reimagine the space to make it more environmentally friendly and better suited to the teaching and learning styles of today’s faculty and students, while honoring Mies’ original vision.

A bold, forward-thinking strategy led to the completion of an interconnected science, technology, education, and math complex. STEM@DRAKE—with its ‘E’ for education—includes a distinctive interdisciplinary vision, one that places future scientists and educators together in a synergistic learning environment. Ultimately encompassing six buildings on campus—this hub of exploration pairs leading-edge technologies with innovative spaces for collaborative study, research, and experimentation. In response to career trends and employer demands, Drake also added programs in data analytics, kinesiology, occupational therapy, and athletic training as part of the STEM@DRAKE initiative.

Renowned for extraordinary athletic feats in track and field, Drake is home to the celebrated Blue Oval and each year hosts the Drake Relays, regarded as one of the top events of its kind in the world. Also in Drake Stadium, the Bulldogs play in the Pioneer Football League on Johnny Bright Field. A number of other athletics facilities serve as home to the Bulldogs, including The Knapp Center, where students compete in the NCAA Division I as members of the Missouri Valley Conference.

Campus conveniences are valued, but perhaps more significant are the powerful ways in which the city of Des Moines enriches learning, connections, and experiences at Drake. With a multitude of businesses and nonprofits just minutes from campus, Drake can provide exceptional opportunities for students to work, play, explore, and put what they’re learning into practice.

Des Moines is a national hub for financial services, insurance, publishing, manufacturing, and politics; the nexus of Iowa’s state government; the headquarters of industry giants (Principal, Meredith Corporation, and more); and the front-row seat of democracy every four years during Iowa’s first-in-the-nation caucuses. More than 95% of Drake students graduate having had one or more internship, practical, or field experiences. Drake’s rigorous academic programs complement Des Moines’ professional opportunities, and students benefit from a central Iowa alumni network of more than 19,000 Drake graduates—many of whom lead businesses and are eager to hire Drake students.

A dynamic metropolitan area holds attractive quality-of-life options for not only students but also faculty and staff. From a diverse live music, theater, and arts scene to sports, cultural festivals, farmers markets, shopping, and outdoor trails, Des Moines offers plenty of options for entertainment and play.
AT A GLANCE

DRAKE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC UNITS
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Business & Public Administration
College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
John Dee Bright College
Law School
School of Education
School of Journalism & Mass Communication
Cowles Library

INSTITUTION: Private

ENROLLMENT:
  Undergraduate 2,848
  Graduate, Law, part-time 1,926

PROGRAMS OF STUDY: 150+

CLASS OF 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENT RATES:
  Undergraduate 95.5%
  Graduate, Law, Pharmacy 98.8%

FULL-TIME FACULTY: 300
FULL-TIME STAFF: 682
TUITION 2021–2022: $45,734
STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:
  Nearly 100%

ENDOWMENT: $219.8m

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKING:
#124 in the National University category

ATHLETICS: NCAA Division I, Missouri Valley Conference, Pioneer League

INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH & OUTREACH CENTERS
The Center for the Humanities
The Buchanan Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership
The Constitutional Law Center
The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement
The Kelley Continuing Education Programs
The Law School’s Legislative Practice Center
The Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship Outreach
Principal Center for Global Citizenship
The School of Education’s National Rehabilitation Institute
The Slay Fund for Social Justice
The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center
The Rolland and Mary Nelson Institute for Diplomacy & International Affairs
Agricultural Law Center
Intellectual Property Law Center
Neal & Bea Smith Legal Clinic
Middleton Center for Children’s Rights
E.T. Meredith Center for Magazine Studies
AT A GLANCE

DES MOINES

Location, location, location. It’s rare to find a ranking of cities without Des Moines near the top. Come and see what all the fuss is about.

#7 Best Place to Live
U.S. News & World Report, 2021

“A breakout city on the forefront of America’s economic recovery”
Wall Street Journal 2021

#4 Best Place to Raise Kids
SmartAsset, 2021

Top 10 Most Artistic Medium-Sized City
Expedia, 2018

#2 Safest Place to Live
U.S. News & World Report, 2021

#11 Most Affordable City to Buy a Home
Forbes Advisor, 2021

One of “10 Cities That are Blooming, Not Rusting”
Manhattan Institute, 2019

Visit drake.edu/about/drakedesmoines to explore further.
Find application information at drake.edu/sjmc-dean-search.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication Dean Search Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by October 1, 2021, and include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, a diversity statement, a leadership philosophy statement, and five professional references with email addresses and telephone numbers. References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant.

Applications should be completed using the online application system for Drake University at: drake.edu/sjmc-dean-search.

We are actively seeking applicants reflecting diverse backgrounds and experiences. Drake University is proud to support equal opportunity in the workplace and provide diversity, equity, and inclusion programming for faculty, staff, and students. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all Drake community members. Drake University does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination on the basis of protected class status, including race, color, national origin, creed, religion, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, or veteran status.

Drake University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation at any point during the application or interview process, simply reach out to Drake Human Resources at 515-271-3133 or email drakehr@drake.edu.