



Dean, Beasley School of Law

Leadership Profile

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WittKieffer



Executive Summary

Temple University, a vibrant R1 institution in the heart of Philadelphia, seeks a bold and dynamic leader to serve as dean of the Beasley School of Law (Temple Law). Temple University invites inquiries, nominations and applications for this exciting opportunity to join a law school with extraordinary momentum and promise, as the university builds on its proud legacy of access and excellence under the experienced leadership of President John Fry.

Founded in 1884 to serve working-class Philadelphians, Temple remains deeply committed to its mission of providing a high-quality, affordable education that transforms lives and strengthens communities. Since then, Temple has evolved into one of the nation's most comprehensive and globally engaged urban public research universities, with 17 schools and colleges, more than 600 academic programs and more than 32,000 students across eight campuses – including international locations in Rome, Tokyo and Kyoto.

The university's institutional budget for FY2024 was approximately \$1.2 billion, with a workforce of more than 8,100 faculty and staff. Notably, Temple received a record number of undergraduate deposits from first year admitted students for the Class of 2029, reflecting its growing reputation and appeal.

Temple is a catalyst for innovation, discovery and opportunity. The university consistently ranks among the top public research universities in the nation, with annual research expenditures exceeding \$300 million.

Since its founding in 1895, Temple Law has been committed to preparing bright students for success as lawyers and advocates. By engaging in experiential learning that dovetails with and informs doctrinal coursework, Temple Law students are educated in the lived experiences of real people and inspired to pursue the big ideas that can move the law forward. Temple Law graduates have excelled in every imaginable practice area and setting, locally and around the world, and are sought after by employers who know the value of a Temple Law degree. Temple Law students consistently demonstrate practice readiness and professional-level excellence, equipped with the skills, judgment, and experience to thrive from day one in any legal setting. Temple Law's institutional mission is to deliver an accessible, affordable, and excellent legal education.

In addition to outstanding faculty, Temple Law students learn from, and teach, each other. Committed to building an inclusive community, Temple Law welcomes individuals who have historically faced barriers to legal education, recognizing that exposure to varied viewpoints deepens understanding of how laws affect real lives and strengthens both the legal profession and society. Grounded in its mission to provide accessible, affordable, and excellent legal education, Temple Law integrates these principles into every aspect of academic and student life—from curriculum design to career services. Since its founding, Temple Law has prepared talented individuals to become successful lawyers and advocates through a rigorous, experiential approach that connects doctrinal learning with real-world application.

Temple Law is #50 in US News & World Report's 2026 Law School Rankings, with the part-time division ranking #9. Temple Law's health care and international law programs are both ranked #13— the highest ever for health

care law at Temple. The trial advocacy program ranked #2 and has been consistently recognized by US News & World Report as one of the top three trial advocacy programs in the nation for more than 30 years. Last summer, 90.57% of Temple Law graduates taking the Pennsylvania bar exam for the first time passed – the highest mark in eleven years. As a result, Temple Law produced more new Pennsylvania lawyers than any other law school. This past spring, Temple Law reported that 95.5% of the Class of 2024 was employed ten months after graduation. Also, a record for Temple Law, of 2024 graduates, 93.3% had what are considered “good jobs” – full-time, long-term, bar-required or JD-advantage positions.

Temple Law is not merely a center for classroom instruction but also a vibrant community of scholars and advocates. Temple Law faculty produce impactful academic work and contribute to national and international debates across numerous disciplines. Many members of the faculty blend scholarly rigor with civic engagement. The school is a leader in public-interest initiatives that combine research, community engagement, and experiential education, including the Sheller Center for Social Justice and the Center for Public Health Law Research.

Temple Law seeks a dean who will build upon the school’s strong foundation, reputation, and positive momentum to advance academic excellence, innovation, and community engagement. As Temple Law’s chief academic and administrative officer, the dean will report directly to the university’s provost and serve as a key liaison between Temple Law and the broader university. The dean will collaborate closely with fellow deans and senior administrators, managing personnel and financial resources to ensure the Law School fulfills its mission and remains responsive to the evolving demands of legal education.

The dean will provide visionary leadership and strategic direction, fostering a collaborative decision-making environment that actively engages faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external partners - including those beyond the local region—to strengthen Temple Law’s impact within the broader legal and civic communities. The ideal candidate will bring demonstrated organizational and management expertise, a commitment to inclusive excellence, and the ability to lead transformative legal education initiatives. A proven track record - or clear potential—in fundraising and resource development is essential, as the dean will play a central role in securing financial support to sustain and grow Temple Law’s academic programs, student services, and institutional impact. The dean will possess a J.D. or its equivalent and a record of teaching and scholarship that meets the standards for appointment to the law faculty as a full professor with tenure.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see [Procedure for Candidacy](#).

Role of the Dean

The dean of Temple Law serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the Law School, reporting directly to the provost and working collaboratively with the president, fellow deans, and university leadership. The dean is responsible for articulating and advancing the strategic vision of Temple Law, ensuring its continued excellence, relevance, and financial sustainability in a rapidly evolving legal education landscape.

As a key university leader, the dean will be a strong advocate for Temple Law within the broader university and external communities, including legal, governmental, nonprofit, and alumni networks. The dean will represent the Law School's interests in university-wide planning and decision-making, while fostering partnerships that enhance the school's visibility, impact, and resources. While the Dean serves as a passionate advocate for the Law School, their role must also encompass active engagement in broader university governance. As a senior academic leader, the Dean should contribute meaningfully to institutional decision-making, collaborate across disciplines, and champion university-wide initiatives. This dual responsibility ensures that Temple Law remains integrated within the university's strategic vision while also advancing its own mission and goals.

The dean provides leadership for faculty, staff, and students in establishing and achieving Temple Law's strategic priorities and goals. This includes promoting academic excellence, supporting faculty scholarship and teaching, and ensuring a vibrant, inclusive, and intellectually rigorous environment. The next dean will bring visionary leadership, strategic insight, and a deep commitment to Temple's mission of access, academic excellence, and public service.

Temple Law is nationally recognized for its strengths in public interest law, trial advocacy, health care and international law, experiential learning, and community engagement. The dean will be expected to champion the values of Temple Law while guiding the school through challenges such as budgetary constraints, shifting enrollment patterns, and increased competition. This includes exploring innovative approaches to curriculum development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and online education to meet the needs of today's students and legal professionals.

In particular, the dean will ensure that Temple Law continues to offer academic programs of the highest quality and effectiveness, programs that cultivate professional knowledge, practical skill, ethical character, and a deep commitment to justice. The dean will champion excellence in faculty and student recruitment that reflects Temple Law's longstanding dedication to access and inclusion.

Working in close partnership with Temple Law's faculty and university leadership, the dean will assess and enhance the school's current programs including international partnerships and programs as well as pedagogical approaches. The goal is to prepare graduates who are not only well-educated and highly skilled but also equipped to thrive in a rapidly evolving legal marketplace. This role requires a leader who can balance innovation with history and who will guide Temple Law in advancing its mission within both the university and the wider legal community. The dean will also play a critical role in external engagement, including fundraising, alumni relations, and community partnerships. In addition to overseeing traditional enrollment and recruitment strategies, the dean should actively explore and develop innovative pathways to legal education. This includes identifying and cultivating new markets, expanding access through programs such as 3+3 accelerated degree options, and leveraging partnerships with undergraduate institutions. The dean will play a key role in shaping forward-thinking initiatives that enhance the Law School's reach and long-term enrollment sustainability. By cultivating relationships across Philadelphia and beyond, the dean will help secure the resources and support necessary to sustain and grow Temple Law's impact.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Temple Law seeks a dean who will contribute expertise, energy, and leadership to a Law School that has a strong reputation both regionally, nationally, and internationally. The dean will lead Temple Law to fulfill its mission and foundational ideal of making legal education accessible to all talented individuals. As the leader of Temple Law, the dean will provide strategic vision and operational leadership to all aspects of the academic program, support and encourage excellence in faculty scholarship, and maintain a collegial and inclusive environment and community that supports faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni. In addition, the dean will be expected to:

- **Continue to elevate Temple Law's stature and further expand its national recognition**

The next dean will be expected to elevate the school's stature and national recognition by championing both academic excellence and a deeply rooted sense of community. Temple Law's faculty and staff are united in their commitment to rigorous scholarship, impactful teaching, and a collaborative academic environment. The dean must be a leader who not only upholds these values but actively strengthens them—supporting faculty research and innovation, investing in programmatic quality, and fostering a culture of intellectual vitality. At the same time, the dean must nurture the school's strong sense of community by promoting transparency, collegiality, and shared purpose among faculty and staff, recognizing their vital contributions by actively seeking their input and promoting a culture grounded in respect, collaboration, compassion, inclusion, and trust. This includes prioritizing service to students, supporting faculty and staff development, and ensuring that Temple Law remains a place where academic rigor and human connection thrive side by side.

- **Advance a nationally recognized public interest mission**

Temple Law has long been recognized – locally and nationally – as one of the nation's leading institutions in public interest and social justice legal education. The next dean will have the opportunity to build on this legacy, strengthening the school's identity as a hub for civically engaged legal training and community impact. The next dean will bring a strategic focus on a program of legal education that prepares students to be effective advocates who are committed to public service and social justice. The dean will remain vigilant about students' needs and assess allocation of current and new resources to assist students in their efforts to pursue public interest and social justice careers. The dean will be asked to assess the strength of current programs and help identify, with input from the faculty and staff, which programs would best serve the needs of students and the practicing legal community. It is important that the next dean lead and support administrators and faculty in ensuring a strong public interest-focused education and overall academic success.

- **Be a visionary leader with strong administrative skills**

The dean will assume critical administrative and strategic leadership responsibilities, guiding the identification and execution of priorities that build on Temple Law's existing strengths and signature programs, respond to emerging legal and societal trends, and align with the university's overarching commitments. To realize this vision, the dean must effectively manage the school's academic and operational infrastructure, ensuring that resources, personnel, and systems are aligned to support innovation and excellence. Through dynamic engagement with internal and external constituencies, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners beyond the Philadelphia region, the dean will cultivate broad-based support for the school's direction. Collaborating with leaders across Temple's schools and colleges, the dean will champion interdisciplinary initiatives and join a management team dedicated to the efficient and effective administration of Temple Law. Situated in Philadelphia, the school offers a unique opportunity to deepen local impact while leveraging the city's rich legal, governmental, and nonprofit landscape.

- **Strengthen financial sustainability and strategic networks with support from alumni and external partners**

The dean must be entrepreneurial and forward-thinking in identifying innovative approaches to managing expenses and new revenue-generating opportunities to ensure the Law school's long-term fiscal health and academic excellence. The dean must be a proactive and visible leader in engaging the school's extensive and loyal alumni network, leveraging their expertise, influence, and generosity to advance the Law School's mission. This includes cultivating meaningful relationships with alumni and developing a comprehensive strategy to deepen their involvement in the life of the Law School—as mentors, employers, donors, and ambassadors. The dean will be expected to expand Temple Law's alumni engagement efforts, building a robust pipeline of support that aligns with the Law School's financial, educational, and professional development goals.

A central responsibility of the dean will be to strengthen Temple Law's fundraising efforts and lead strategic fundraising initiatives. This is especially important with the upcoming capital campaign. The dean will play a vital role in generating resources to support legal education by cultivating donor relationships, engaging alumni, and partnering with university leadership on fundraising efforts aligned with the university's strategic priorities. This will require close collaboration with Temple University's central advancement office and Temple Law's dedicated advancement professionals to identify priorities, craft compelling cases for support, and execute high-impact campaigns.

Additional philanthropic resources will be essential to fund strategic initiatives, expand academic programs, support faculty research, and attract top-tier students through scholarships. As Temple Law strengthens its development efforts, the dean must be adept at engaging individual donors, corporate sponsors, grant-making organizations, and the broader legal community—while safeguarding the school's academic freedom and institutional independence. Transparent and principled communication with alumni and other constituencies will be key to building trust and sustaining support. The Dean's Board of Visitors will serve as a vital resource, offering insights and connections that can help advance Temple Law's mission without compromising its core academic values.

- **Champion a student-centered culture**

Temple Law holds a strong national reputation for academic excellence, innovative legal education, and a commitment to justice. Central to its identity is a deeply student-centered culture, and the next dean must embody this ethos in both philosophy and practice. The dean will be a visible, engaged presence in the life of the Law School - actively listening to students, advocating for their needs, and championing policies and resources that promote academic success, personal well-being, and professional development. This includes enhancing student services, mental health support, career readiness, experiential learning, and post-graduate outcomes such as job placement and bar passage rates.

- **Support faculty and promote the development of scholarship**

The new dean will inherit a strong cohort of recent faculty hires. The dean must continue to lead the faculty by respecting and appreciating a shared governance structure, encouraging and supporting faculty scholarship, facilitating teaching excellence, cultivating collegial and constructive relations with and among faculty, encouraging faculty service, addressing faculty issues, and ensuring that library and information resources continue to effectively support the academic program and faculty scholarship.

The dean will exhibit a strong commitment to and personally exhibit a track record in scholarly, creative, and professional endeavors that will differentiate Temple Law and fulfill its promise. The dean will play a central role in encouraging this activity as well as identifying promising new areas for inquiry that support Temple Law's mission. The dean will continue to develop and implement Temple Law's efforts to enhance its reputation and influence.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will be a collaborative, forward-thinking leader with a distinguished record of academic achievement and professional accomplishment. Candidates should demonstrate a deep appreciation for innovative, interdisciplinary, and socially responsive legal scholarship; the ability to inspire and lead a diverse and accomplished faculty; and a strong commitment to Temple Law's mission of access, public service, and academic excellence within a major urban research university. A J.D. or equivalent degree is required, along with the scholarly credentials necessary for appointment as a tenured professor at Temple Law.

- **Vision, Strategic Thinking, and Execution:** A demonstrated ability to articulate a bold and inclusive vision for legal education and to mobilize the community around shared goals. Proven capacity to translate strategic priorities into actionable plans that strengthen academic programs, student outcomes, and institutional reputation.
- **Collaborative and Decisive Leadership:** A leadership style grounded in transparency, trust, and shared governance. The ability to engage diverse stakeholders in meaningful dialogue, while also making timely and principled decisions in the best interest of the institution.
- **Fundraising and External Relations:** Proven or potential ability to lead successful fundraising efforts, engage alumni and donors, and build external partnerships that support the school's mission and strategic goals.
- **Mission Alignment:** A deep appreciation for Temple's mission and values, including its commitment to academic and research excellence, access, affordability, diversity, community and civic engagement.
- **Student-Centered Focus:** A deep commitment to student success and well-being. The ability to engage meaningfully with students, advocate for their needs, and ensure that Temple Law continues to provide a rigorous, accessible, and relevant legal education.
- **Academic and Professional Credibility:** A reputation for excellence in scholarship, teaching, or legal practice. Intellectual breadth and the ability to advocate for the value of legal education across disciplines and sectors.
- **Understanding of the Legal Profession:** Insight into the evolving demands of legal practice and the ability to align academic programs with the needs of employers in law firms, government, business, and public interest sectors.
- **Global Perspective:** A commitment to preparing students for global legal challenges and opportunities. Experience building international partnerships and fostering cross-border academic and professional engagement.
- **Operational and Financial Acumen:** Experience managing complex organizations, including oversight of budgets, personnel, and strategic initiatives. A data-informed approach to resource allocation and institutional planning.
- **Shared Governance and Community Engagement:** A demonstrated commitment to working collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and university leadership. The ability to build consensus and cultivate a strong sense of community and shared purpose.
- **Resilience, Adaptability, and Innovation:** The ability to lead through change with creativity, pragmatism, and resolve. A readiness to seize emerging opportunities while navigating institutional and financial constraints.

- **Emotional Intelligence:** Strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and the ability to build trust and rapport across diverse constituencies. A leadership presence that inspires confidence and collaboration.
- **Integrity and Ethical Leadership:** Unwavering commitment to ethical conduct, sound judgment, and principled decision-making.
- **Relationship Building and Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** A track record of building productive relationships across sectors and disciplines. The ability to connect Temple Law's strengths with broader university and community initiatives. The ability to build and sustain strong relationships with the greater Philadelphia legal community, including active engagement with the Bar Association, law firms, public interest organizations, and other key stakeholders to enhance the Law School's visibility, influence, and collaborative opportunities.
- **Exceptional Communication Skills:** The ability to clearly and persuasively communicate Temple Law's mission, values, and vision to internal and external audiences. Comfort engaging with diverse groups, from students and faculty to alumni, donors, and public leaders.

Temple University Beasley School of Law

Like Temple University, the Law School was founded with the mission of providing a legal education to those students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, socioeconomic background, or support to receive such training. While adhering to its founding mission, Temple has, over time, developed a national profile of excellence in teaching and scholarship, drawing students from around the world.

Temple Law is located on Temple's main campus in Philadelphia, and as of the fall of 2024 had 649 full-time and part-time J.D. students and 123 LL.M. students, with 208 faculty and staff, 56 of whom are full-time faculty members. Temple Law's diverse and talented students bring a wide range of interests and backgrounds to the study of law. The [fall of 2024](#) entering class is comprised of 54 percent women and 38 percent minorities. There are 189 students enrolled in the day division and 31 students enrolled in the evening division. The median LSAT is 163 and undergraduate GPA is 3.67.

The J.D. program serves both day and evening students and the law school offers a number of degree programs in addition to the J.D., including an LL.M. for Foreign-Trained Lawyers, LL.M. as well as a non-legal Master in Taxation, LL.M. in Trial Advocacy, LL.M. and J.D./LL.M. in Transnational Law, LL.M. in Beijing, China, an LL.M. in Asian Law, an S.J.D. (Doctor of Juridical Science) as well as a JD/MPH, JD/MBA and JD/MSW. Temple Law offers multiple specialized areas of study and has nationally ranked programs in Advocacy, International Law, and Legal Research and Writing. Temple Law houses six centers and institutes, including [The Sheller Center for Social Justice](#), [Institute for International Law and Public Policy](#), [Center for Public Health Law Research](#), [Center for Compliance and Ethics](#), [Center for Tax Law and Public Policy](#), and [The Institute for Law, Innovation, and Technology](#).

Temple Law offers a broad range of experiential programs allowing students to work on real-world problems with lawyers representing clients or pursuing advocacy projects that directly impact individuals and communities through [in-house clinics](#), [external clinics and externship courses](#), and [practicums](#).

Mission

Temple University Beasley School of Law is committed to excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, and service. The faculty is dedicated to preparing students to enter and continue in the legal profession with the highest level of skill possible, with a firm commitment to principles of professional responsibility, and with a sense of personal obligation to lead and to serve the communities in which they live and practice. Temple Law is dedicated to the foundational ideal of making legal education accessible to all talented individuals, including individuals who otherwise might not have that opportunity or who might encounter barriers because of race, creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, socioeconomic background, or other personal characteristics. Temple Law endeavors to create and sustain a law school community that is diverse, inclusive, and committed to equal justice under the law.

History

Founded in 1895 as Temple College's Department of Law, Temple Law has a long-standing tradition of innovation, access, and excellence in legal education. Initially offering evening courses to prepare students for the bar, the Law School quickly established itself as a vital institution in Philadelphia's legal landscape. The Law School's first Dean, Henry S. Borneman, proposed to Russell Conwell, the university's founder, that Temple open an evening school for students in preparation for the bar examination. The first law school class graduated in 1901, and the school was accredited by the Pennsylvania State Board of Bar Examiners in 1907. Over the decades, Temple Law has evolved through strategic growth, including the creation of a day division, accreditation by the American Bar Association, and membership in the Association of American Law Schools.

The Law School returned to Temple's main campus in 1954 and now occupies Klein Hall, Shusterman Hall, and Barrack Hall—facilities made possible through generous alumni support. Under the leadership of transformative deans such as Peter J. Liacouras, Robert Reinstein, JoAnne Epps, Gregory Mandel, and Rachel Rebouché, Temple Law expanded its academic offerings, clinical programs, and global reach, including pioneering international study opportunities and specialized LL.M. programs.

With a strong foundation and a forward-looking mission, Temple Law continues to prepare students for leadership in law and society.

James. E. Beasley

In 1999, the Law School was renamed for James E. Beasley, Sr., a member of the Temple Law School class of 1956 and legendary Philadelphia trial lawyer, to express gratitude for one of the largest gifts ever given to an American law school at the time. Jim Beasley was, in many ways, the consummate “Temple Lawyer” – tenacious, hard-working, and committed to helping people who had nowhere else to turn. Born to a working-class family in West Philadelphia, Beasley attended Temple University on the GI Bill and then enrolled in Temple Law School. He went on to establish his own firm, now known as The Beasley Firm, and became nationally known as an outstanding litigator with several landmark verdicts. His transformative gift has helped to ensure that new Temple lawyers will have what it takes to succeed on their terms for generations to come.

Advocacy

Temple Law believes that advocacy is the very essence of lawyering – the practice of telling each client's story with skill, passion and authenticity. For more than two decades, Temple has transformed law students into some of the best trial advocates in the country with our award-winning curriculum taught by brilliant, passionate faculty. Every Temple lawyer has a story to tell. Now, more than ever before, the advocacy skills that have set Temple trial lawyers apart are ensuring that clients' stories get told in places far beyond the courtroom. From the halls of government to corporate board rooms and community nonprofits, Temple lawyers are proving every day that advocacy is at the heart of everything they do. That is the power of a Temple Law education in advocacy; it prepares every Temple lawyer to listen, to speak, to act – in the courtroom and beyond. To learn more about Temple Law's diverse academic offerings, including areas such as trial advocacy, international law, business and tax, and public interest, visit [Areas of Study](#).

About Temple University

Overview

Temple University was founded in 1884 as a night school for working-class Philadelphians aspiring to the American dream. As Philadelphia's only four-year public university, Temple is one of the top 50 largest public, four-year universities in America with campuses in Philadelphia and the region, Rome, Tokyo and Kyoto.

The university offers more than 600 degree and certificate programs and is among America's largest educators in the combined fields of dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy and podiatry. In recent years, Temple students have become Rhodes, Goldwater, Knight-Hennessy, Gates Cambridge and Marshall Scholars. Temple alumni include trailblazers ranging from the first female president of Princeton University to the first Indian American anchor on ESPN.

Temple's bustling Main Campus is set against the backdrop of the Philadelphia skyline in America's first World Heritage City. Green space, athletic facilities and eclectic architecture ranging from the historic Temple Performing Arts Center to the Snohetta-designed Charles Library form a vibrant residential setting. More than 400 student organizations, as well as Temple's NCAA Division I athletic programs, thrive on campus.

Temple's momentum is fueled by growing enrollments, established and nationally recognized graduate degree programs, new facilities, and groundbreaking work in science education and research. In the latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, Temple is in the "highest research activity" category, or R1, placing it among the top 4% of all four-year institutions in the nation. It has also been designated a top opportunity college and university, one of just 21 institutions nationwide to earn both. Earlier this year, Temple was invited to join the University Innovation Alliance, a leading national consortium of public research universities committed to improving student success and broadening participation in higher education for all. Temple is the only Pennsylvania university represented in the alliance.

Temple continues to expand its campuses in Philadelphia and abroad. Paley Hall, the newly renovated home of the College of Public Health and School of Social Work, will open in Fall, 2025. The university also recently broke ground on the Caroline Kimmel Pavilion for Arts and Communication, which will house Klein College and the Center for Performing and Cinematic Arts and is supported by a recent \$27.5 million gift – the largest in Temple history. In September 2024, Temple Rome moved to an expanded, centrally located campus at Piazza di Spagna, providing more opportunities for high-quality instruction, experiential learning and cultural immersion. Temple University Japan opened an additional location in Kyoto in January 2025, fostering new student opportunities in a vibrant city steeped in culture and history.

Temple's total budget for FY2024 is \$4.0 billion, which includes \$2.8 billion for the Temple University Health System and \$1.2 billion for the university. Approximately 71% of the university's operating budget is derived from tuition and fees and 13% from Commonwealth appropriation. The remaining budget comes from indirect cost recovery, philanthropy, clinical revenue, auxiliary enterprises and other sources.

Temple is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In 2020, during its most recent reaccreditation, reviewers commended the university for its distinctive mission, which is widely valued and deeply internalized across the institution.

Founded by Russell H. Conwell in 1884, Temple's official motto – Perseverantia Vincit, or Perseverance Conquers – reflects its students' drive to succeed and ability to turn opportunities into accomplishments. Conwell's purpose was "to give education to those who were unable to get it through the usual channels." In Temple's earliest incarnation, working-class citizens were taught late in the evening, and referred to as "night owls," giving rise to the school's mascot and team name.

In 1965, the university became a member of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education; it is one of four state-related, comprehensive research universities in Pennsylvania. In addition to its Main Campus in North Philadelphia, Temple has three additional locations in Philadelphia: Temple University Center City; the Health Sciences Center, also in North Philadelphia; and the School of Podiatric Medicine near Philadelphia's historic district. Regional campuses are located in Ambler and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with international campuses in Rome and Japan.

Mission

Temple University educates a vibrant student body and creates new knowledge through innovative teaching, research and other creative endeavors. Our urban setting provides transformative opportunities for engaged scholarship; experiential learning; and discovery of self, others and the world. Temple opens its doors to a diverse community of learners and scholars who strive to make the possible real.

Temple is committed to the ideals upon which it was founded.

- Providing access to an excellent, affordable higher education that prepares students for careers, further learning and active citizenship.
- Creating a collaborative community of outstanding faculty and staff who foster inclusion and encourage the aspirations of Temple students.
- Promoting service and engagement throughout Philadelphia, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the nation and the world.

Strategic Plan Update

Temple University is embarking on a [Strategic Plan Update](#), which builds on the foundation of the current plan, to ensure institutional priorities align with the evolving needs of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding community. The timeline anticipates the update will launch in December 2025.

Academics

Temple offers 651 academic degree and certificate programs including two associate degree programs, 187 bachelor's programs, 180 master's programs, 54 doctoral programs, 14 professional practice degree programs, and 214 post-secondary and graduate certificate programs. The 17 schools and colleges, including five professional-level schools, focus on providing an education that is practical, hands-on and led by expert faculty.

Colleges or Schools

In addition to the Beasley School of Law, university academic programs are organized into the following schools and colleges:

The [Tyler School of Art and Architecture](#) educates and inspires students to be active participants in society with the highest aspirations for creative and social achievement, individual expression, scholarly discovery and innovation. The school offers more than 40 degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Bachelor of Fine Arts programs are also offered as a BFA with Entrepreneurial Studies or a BFA with an Art Education concentration.

The [Fox School of Business and Management](#) transforms students into responsible professionals and leaders through engagement with Fox communities committed to lifelong learning, service and the advancement of

management practice. The school is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

The [Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry](#) promotes health and wellness through the comprehensive education of general and specialty dentists from all backgrounds, utilizing inter-professional collaboration; providing compassionate, comprehensive, patient-centered, evidence-based and outcome-driven oral health care; engaging in research and scholarly activities; and serving the community. Graduate programs include dental public health sciences, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and periodontology and oral implantology.

The [College of Education and Human Development](#) educates, supports and prepares learners and leaders to advance equitable systems and practices in schools and communities. Through research, teaching, service and community partnerships, the college creates positive change in the city of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth and beyond. The college offers 50+ degrees and certificates in undergraduate and graduate programs, situated within three academic departments: Policy, Organizational & Leadership Studies (POLS), Psychological Studies in Education (PSE) and Teaching & Learning (T&L).

The [College of Engineering](#) provides students with a high-quality and globally competitive learning experience in engineering, engineering technology and the applied sciences. The college's programs are accredited by the national accreditation board, ABET, and consist of the following departments: Bioengineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering, Technology and Management and Mechanical Engineering.

The [College of Liberal Arts](#) prides itself on developing informed, socially aware global citizens, equipped with the transferable skills to adapt and keep pace with a rapidly evolving job market. Offering 30+ majors, 42 minors and 47 graduate programs, the College of Liberal Arts gives students the opportunity to explore a wide range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, including psychology and neuroscience, criminal justice, political science, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, English and foreign languages.

The [Lew Klein College of Media and Communication](#) is rooted in creativity, collaboration and innovation. Located in one of the nation's largest media markets, students have a front-row seat to the ever-changing media industry. The college offers nine undergraduate programs, four graduate programs and one doctoral degree, covering all aspects of communication including interpersonal communication, media production and alternative modes of journalism.

The [Lewis Katz School of Medicine](#) strives to align with diverse communities to advance medicine and improve health through education, research, training and development of the next generation of clinicians, educators and scientists.

The [Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance](#) is committed to nurturing talented students through its high-quality programs and by promoting music and dance as art forms, as media for human expression and as subjects of intellectual inquiry. The college seeks to provide an inclusive educational community that honors the uniqueness of the individual, values diversity of perspective and affirms music and dance as central to society and culture. The college offers a diverse array of undergraduate and graduate opportunities for students to hone their craft and prepare for a professional career as well as minors, certificates and performance opportunities for non-Boyer students.

The [School of Pharmacy](#) maintains the vision of Temple's founder, Russell Conwell – to provide opportunities for people to transform their lives – even against all odds. In addition to advanced degree programs in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences and regulatory affairs and quality assurance, the school offers a Pre-Pharmacy (early assurance program) and bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The [School of Podiatric Medicine](#) educates a diverse, engaging and highly capable body of student doctors to be ethical, professional and prepared for licensure and entry into post-graduate medical education. The school

models the commitment espoused in students through research, entrepreneurial spirit and the provision of compassionate, high-quality care to patients in Philadelphia and beyond, irrespective of socioeconomic background. The school is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).

The [College of Public Health](#) engages in interprofessional education, community and clinical practice, impactful research and service learning with a cultural humility approach, advocating for positive change and preparing leaders to address the most pressing health issues. The college is home to the Departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Health Services Administration and Policy, Nursing, and Social and Behavioral Sciences, as well as the School of Social Work, offering more than 40 academic programs across 20 disciplines and is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

The [College of Science and Technology's](#) mission is to inspire, mentor and empower the next generation of scientists through transformative experiences in the classroom, the lab and around the world. In a welcoming and engaging learning environment, the college strives to meet the evolving needs of students by offering innovative academic programs, career development services and research opportunities aimed at broadening access, enhancing academic achievement and fostering life-long success. The college offers dozens of undergraduate majors across six academic departments and more than 20 graduate programs leading to MA, MS, Professional Science Master's (PSM) and PhD degrees.

The [School of Social Work](#) is committed to eliminating social, political and economic injustices for poor and oppressed populations and advancing the quality of life for all. The school's faculty are committed to fostering societal transformation through education that emphasizes solutions and action; research that generates evidence-based strategies to resolve problems at local, national and global levels; and public service that shares this knowledge with a wider audience. The school offers a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and a Master of Social Work (MSW) and is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The [School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management](#) has a distinguished tradition preparing leaders in the sport, recreation, tourism and hospitality industries. The innovative approach to learning combined with a location in the heart of Philadelphia fosters transformational education experiences. The school offers three undergraduate programs, two master's programs and a PhD degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Tourism and Sport accredited by (AACSB).

The [School of Theater, Film and Media Arts'](#) mission is to advance the role of film, media arts and theatrical performance in public life by preparing students for global, professional careers in film, theater and media arts, through rigorous scholarship, professional training, experiential learning, research and trans-disciplinary exploration. The school houses two outstanding departments, the Department of Film and Media Arts and the Department of Theater. The Department of Theater is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theater (NAST).

Recent News Bulletins

- [Temple receives record number of undergraduate first-year deposits](#), July 7, 2025
- [Budget Update](#), June 18, 2025
- [Update on University Progress](#), June 6, 2025
- [Facing Uncertainty Together](#), May 29, 2025
- [Carnegie Classifications](#), May 15, 2025

Additional news bulletins may be viewed [here](#).

Leadership

President John Fry



John Fry took office as Temple University's president on Nov. 1, 2024, having established a reputation as both a civic leader in Philadelphia and national leader in higher education.

In the few months since President Fry began his tenure as Temple's president, the university has achieved several significant milestones under his leadership. In February, Temple launched Temple Future Scholars, a college pipeline program that supports low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Philadelphia public middle schools.

In Winter 2025, the university also acquired Terra Hall, the former main academic building for the University of the Arts. With this acquisition, Temple now has a prominent and permanent presence in the heart of Philadelphia, as the building will be the home for Temple's Center City campus. Then, in March, Temple joined the distinguished University Innovation Alliance (UIA) as its Pennsylvania institution. The UIA is a leading national coalition of public research universities committed to increasing the number of college graduates in the United States, and Temple is one of just 18 universities who have joined the prestigious organization. In April, the Temple community gathered to celebrate the university and the [investiture](#) of President Fry, who shared his vision and outlined key priorities for the future.

Prior to his arrival at Temple, President Fry served as president of Drexel University from 2010 to 2024, where he elevated Drexel's global presence through academic and research partnerships, major NIH and NSF research programs, as well as hubs for innovation and collaboration. Under his leadership, Drexel set a national example for the successful execution of public-private partnerships and became a powerful force for economic development in the Greater Philadelphia region. He championed major neighborhood revitalization initiatives, including the creation of a multifaceted university extension center in Mantua – the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships – extensive economic development efforts, and significant partnerships to support local neighborhood public schools.

In 2019, Drexel and Tower Health acquired St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, thereby ensuring that St. Christopher's will remain a source of health and healing, medical education and research and jobs and economic benefit for its North Philadelphia neighborhood and the broader region. President Fry spurred the creation of Schuylkill Yards, a \$3.5 billion mixed-use development on Drexel's campus, and he also oversaw historic mergers with Salus University and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Before joining Drexel, he served as president of Franklin & Marshall College from 2002 to 2010 and executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania from 1995 to 2002. A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Fry graduated from Lafayette College and earned a master's degree in business administration from the New York University Stern School of Business.

Interim Provost David Boardman



David Boardman is the interim provost of Temple University and the dean of the Klein College of Media and Communication. As a leader in the university community for more than a decade, David's love and commitment to Temple is profound. While he has chosen not to be a candidate for the permanent position of provost, David is devoted to moving the university forward in his interim role while the search is underway.

As Temple's chief academic officer, David works with President Fry, other university leaders and faculty to set the academic strategy and vision for the future. His portfolio includes overseeing the university's 17 schools and colleges and numerous divisions that support the academic mission, faculty affairs, student success, global engagement, and strategic planning, among others.

David has served as dean of the Klein College of Media and Communication since 2013. Over that time, the school has dramatically increased its national profile, its research output and its fundraising. In 2018 and 2022, Temple University Television, an enterprise of the Klein College, was named the nation's best college television station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. Also in 2022, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication named David the Administrator of the Year.

Previously, David was a journalist and served as president of the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Immediately before joining Temple, he was executive editor and senior vice president of The Seattle Times, the largest news organization in the Pacific Northwest.

Under his leadership, The Seattle Times won four Pulitzer Prizes and produced 10 Pulitzer finalists. David personally has been the recipient of numerous other major national awards, including the National Ethics Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Goldsmith Prize in Investigative Reporting from Harvard University, the Worth Bingham Prize in Investigative Reporting, the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award and the Associated Press Managing Editors Public Service Award.

David remains active in the journalism industry and in the Philadelphia community. He is founding chair of the Lenfest Institute for Journalism, the nonprofit that owns The Philadelphia Inquirer. He also chairs Spotlight PA, a nonprofit news organization focused on public affairs. He is the immediate past chair of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and is a member of its executive committee. He also serves on the boards of the Solutions Journalism Network, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, and the Metcalf Institute for Environmental Journalism. He also serves on the advisory board of ProPublica.



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia is the largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sixth most populous in the United States. In the Northeastern United States, at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, Philadelphia is the economic and cultural anchor of the Delaware Valley; the metropolitan area is the seventh largest in the United States and home to 6.2 million people.

Philadelphia is the center of economic activity in Pennsylvania with three Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the city in 2024, and the metropolitan area is home to twenty-six Fortune 1000 companies. Philadelphia is known for its arts, culture and history, and has five professional sports teams and one of the nation's most loyal fan bases. The city welcomed nearly 43 million people in 2024. The 67 National Historic Landmarks in the city helped account for the \$12 billion generated by tourism.

Philadelphia has a plethora of educational options with many private and public institutions. The Philadelphia School District is the eighth largest school district in the United States with 197,288 students in 217 public schools and 83 charter schools as of 2022. Philadelphia has the third-largest higher education student concentration on the East Coast and is home to 32 public and private colleges and universities.

For law students, attending law school in Philadelphia has its advantages. The city is home to state and federal courts at every level, countless law firms, large and small, dozens of municipal agencies and hundreds of other legal employers.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.visitphilly.com/>.

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.

WittKieffer is assisting Temple University in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by November 3rd, 2025.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Werner Boel, LL.M. and Ashlee Musser

TempleLawDean@wittkieffer.com

Temple University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all in every aspect of its operations, including employment, service and educational programs. The University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or veteran status.