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Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic  
Affairs

2022

# Georgia State University

## The Institution

Georgia State University is a comprehensive research and doctoral granting institution in the Carnegie Foundation's elite category of R1: Very High Research Activity. With more than 54,000 students from nearly 130 nations and territories, it is the largest university in the state and one of the largest in the nation. Georgia State offers more than 250-degree programs in 100 fields of study, taught by more than 1,500 faculty members who generate groundbreaking research and educate one of the most diverse student populations in the nation. In 2022, Georgia State University was identified as the second most innovative university in the country by the *U.S. News and World Report*.

With a research campus in downtown Atlanta and five associate-degree granting campuses throughout the metro Atlanta area, the university provides its world-class faculty and students with unsurpassed connections to the opportunities available in one of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's great global cities. A leader in graduating students from diverse backgrounds, Georgia State provides a rich experience with award-winning housing, hundreds of student clubs and organizations, an NCAA Division 1 sports program, and one of the most dynamic and determined student bodies in the country. Nearly two-thirds of students are Pell-eligible, 35% are first generation, and 70% come from under-represented groups.

Georgia State is a national model for student success. Over the past decade, the university has increased its graduation rate by 23 points, the most dramatic increase of any national university and eliminated achievement gaps for associate and bachelors-level students. The University has graduated 2,800 more students a year than just five years ago and reduced the time to degree by half a semester, saving students \$18 million a year. By utilizing predictive analysis, academic support, and financial support, Georgia State was named as the #2 institution for an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, #6 institution for best first-year experience, and #11 institution for advancing social mobility, according to the *U.S. News and World Report*. To read more about Georgia State's commitment to student success, please review: <https://success.qsu.edu/>

Over the last ten years, Georgia State has also experienced significant research success. Georgia State university's 12 colleges and schools are home to many nationally ranked academic programs and excellent research and teaching faculty. Research expenditures at Georgia State increased by more than 141% in the past decade topping more than \$150 million in the last fiscal year; achieving the rank of one of the fastest-growing research institutions in the nation. Georgia State has established centers to advance the university's identity as an urban research institution and significantly expanded opportunities for international engagement. To read more about research at Georgia State please visit, <https://research.qsu.edu/>

Now at the conclusion of the highly transformative 2011 – 2021 strategic plan, it is time for Georgia State to chart its next innovative and impactful decade. During 2022, the university will engage in strategic planning, and President M. Brian Blake has laid forth four pillars to enhance the future of the university: research and innovation; student success; colleges to careers; and identity and placemaking. The university has assembled a strategic planning committee to lead these efforts and has established immediate initiatives focused on research innovation and scholarly excellence, assessing the student experience, and conducting a third-party compensation study of all university employees. You can read more about the strategic plan and its pillars here: <https://strategic.qsu.edu/>.

### Academic Programs

Georgia State combines access to education with excellence. It is home to 12 colleges and schools, with nationally ranked and recognized programs:

- Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
- Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of the Arts
- College of Education & Human Development
- College of Law
- Graduate School
- Honors College
- Institute for Biomedical Sciences
- J. Mack Robinson College of Business
- Perimeter College
- School of Public Health

Georgia State offers more than 250 majors, minors, and pathways at the university, the widest variety of fields of study in Georgia. The university offers associate degrees through Perimeter College; the largest selection of bachelor's degree programs in the state at a university known as a national leader for its commitment to student success; and 150+ distinctive graduate degree programs across nine colleges, schools and institutes.

Georgia State is ranked as the #1 public university in the nation for its commitment to undergraduate teaching. It offers 85+ online and hybrid degree and certificate programs, the largest online program in the state.

### Faculty and Research

Georgia State strives to be a leader in cross-disciplinary research with life-changing impact with its 1,500+ faculty expanding scientific knowledge, developing innovative technologies and tackling global challenges in health, sustainability, data science, cybersecurity, and more.

Georgia State has 79 research centers, including six university-level centers focused on addressing critical quality-of-life issues such as cancer, obesity, brain health, and infectious disease. Over the last decade, there has been a 150% increase in research expenditures, making Georgia State one of the nation's fastest-growing research institutions. Its faculty earned \$142 million in external research funding in fiscal year 2021, the seventh consecutive year that funding has exceeded \$100 million.

The funding comes from federal government agencies, private nonprofits, large corporations, and the state of Georgia, among other sources. The total includes \$44.8 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$14.6 million from the U.S. Department of Education, \$11.5 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF), and \$8.2 million from the Georgia Department of Human Services.

Thirty-seven faculty members were awarded more than \$1 million, a university record. Among the university's top 20 grant recipients, half are women.

The Office of Technology Licensing & Commercialization works to ensure that great ideas find their way out of the lab and into the hands of the people who need them. It plays a critical role in developing and protecting the intellectual property of Georgia State faculty, staff and students, with 165 total active technologies based on Georgia State research and 14 startups led by faculty.

### Atlanta

With its location in the economic hub of downtown Atlanta, the university is able to provide its students with significant connections to the city's business, government, non-profit, and cultural organizations, as well as access to internships and jobs. Atlanta is the headquarters of more than a dozen

Fortune 500 companies, and the world's busiest airport is just minutes from campus.

The city is also home to over 25 consulates and diplomatic missions, and Georgia State's global connections are growing, with faculty task forces focusing on university collaborations in China, Korea, Turkey, Brazil, South Africa, and beyond. Atlanta provides Georgia State's faculty and students with a vibrant urban experience and the university is acknowledged as a central catalyst for the revitalization and growth in downtown Atlanta, contributing a \$2.8 billion economic impact on metro Atlanta each year.

### **New Presidential Leadership**

Dr. M. Brian Blake was appointed as President of Georgia State University in June 2021. Prior to joining Georgia State, he was Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at George Washington University. As the highest-ranking academic officer, he oversaw academic programs across the 10 schools and colleges, three campuses and 28,000 students.

Dr. Blake was hired to lead George Washington's new enrollment strategy to rescale and reconfigure the entering class in context of the changing student demographics in the Northeast and the nation. He led the academic enterprise of George Washington through the COVID-19 pandemic and spearheaded a university-wide plan to assess new innovations in pedagogy and teaching modalities in a post-COVID world.

Prior to joining George Washington University, Dr. Blake was Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Nina Henderson Provost at Drexel University, overseeing its 14 schools and colleges and more than 25,000 students. He led the implementation of a responsibility-centered management budget model across all schools and colleges and led the implementation of the university's strategic plan. Dr. Blake also led the development of an academically focused strategic vision entitled "Creating the 21st Century Academic Experience."

Under his academic oversight, Drexel maintained its Top 100 ranking by having its largest, most academically gifted freshman class, the university's highest retention rate and the highest research activity in its history, leading to the university's first-ever Carnegie Classification as a R1 Doctoral University: Very High Research Activity as well as a significant increase in the enrollment of professional master's students.

Prior to his time at Drexel University, Dr. Blake also served in leadership roles at the University of Miami, University of Notre Dame, and Georgetown University.

### **The University System of Georgia**

Georgia State is part of the University System of Georgia (USG) which is composed of 26 higher education institutions including four research universities, four comprehensive universities, nine state universities, and nine state colleges. It also includes the Georgia Public Library Service, which encompasses approximately 389 facilities within the 61 library systems throughout the State of Georgia.

## The Position

<b>Title</b>	Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
<b>Location</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<b>Summary of the Role</b>	<p>Georgia State seeks as its Provost a strategic and creative academic leader at an exciting and critical moment for the institution. Building upon its remarkable gains over the last decade — including the institutional expansion with the addition of Perimeter College; student success in one of the most diverse student bodies in the country; and growth in research spending — Georgia State is poised to reach its next level under an ambitious new president. Since his arrival, President Blake has launched a strategic planning process in which the Provost will play a significant role in further developing and moving the strategy forward. More details on this strategic planning process may be found at <a href="https://strategic.qsu.edu/">https://strategic.qsu.edu/</a>. The Provost will promote continued access, excellence, and innovation for the university and will be deeply committed to inclusion, supporting diversity in all forms, and ensuring the well-being of the academic community.</p> <p>Reporting to the President, the Provost is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and the second senior-most leader at the university with responsibility for all academic units and related operations.</p> <p>The Provost oversees academic and institutional strategic planning and plays a major role in the budgeting and allocation of university resources. This individual also provides leadership for the development and implementation of the university's academic programs and policies; supervises the university's deans and associate provosts; and directs other programs under the purview of the Provost's office. Additionally, the Provost directs activities in the recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion processes for faculty positions.</p> <p>In conjunction with the senior administration of the university, the Provost develops and manages the portion of the university budget allocated to academic programs and functions.</p> <p>The Provost also represents the university to system-level bodies such as the Regents Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs, and to other academic affairs interest groups in organizations to which the university belongs such as the <a href="#">Association of Public and Land Grant Universities</a> and the <a href="#">American Council on Education</a>.</p> <p>The Provost will be a key leader in implementing the university's strategic plan and shaping the academic vision for the next decade and beyond. The Provost will work with the university's schools' and colleges' leadership to advance its excellence in research, innovation, curricula, and service.</p>

<p><b>Reporting Units and Direct Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Reporting Units</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deans of the Schools and Colleges</li> <li>• Academic and Administrative Units: Faculty Affairs, Georgia State Online (Online Strategies), Institutional Effectiveness, and International Initiatives</li> <li>• Special Efforts and Initiatives: Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion, The Next Generation of Faculty, Strategic Planning, and Second Century Initiative and Next Generation Program (strategic and interdisciplinary faculty hiring)</li> </ul> <p><b>Direct Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Deans of the Colleges and Schools</li> <li>• Associate Provost, Faculty Affairs</li> <li>• Associate Provost, Institutional Effectiveness</li> <li>• Associate Provost, International Initiatives</li> <li>• Associate Provost, Online Strategies</li> <li>• Assistant Provost, Administrative Operations</li> <li>• Director &amp; Ombudsperson, Officer of the Ombudsperson</li> <li>• Director, Faculty Programming for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</li> <li>• Executive Officer, Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Administrative Director to the Provost</li> <li>• Communications Manager</li> <li>• Special Advisor to the Provost</li> </ul>
<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p>	<p>The Provost at Georgia State has the responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with the President, set the long-term vision and strategy for the university to ensure and advance academic excellence. Oversee the implementation of this vision for Georgia State.</li> <li>• Manage the academic organizational structure of the university and articulate the roles and responsibilities of the major academic leaders within that structure along with milestones and measures against which progress can be measured.</li> <li>• Through oversight of academic units, set academic policy to create an environment of success and support for students</li> <li>• Establish standards for the quality of the student body and maintain educational excellence.</li> <li>• Foster student academic success, development, and well-being.</li> <li>• Champion innovation to increase access (including online education), lifelong learning, student success, and learning effectiveness.</li> <li>• In partnership with Deans, Chairs, and Directors, recruit, hire, and retain top-quality faculty and academic administrators who excel in both research and education.</li> <li>• Administer Georgia State’s promotion, tenure, and other faculty review processes.</li> <li>• Foster a commitment to diversity and equity throughout the university by building a more inclusive and supportive environment for teaching, learning, service, and scholarship.</li> </ul>

- Support, nurture, and develop key positive and productive relationships and partnerships for Georgia State in the community of Atlanta and beyond. Serve as an advocate for Georgia State within the University System of Georgia.

## The Person

<p><b>Pivotal Experiences &amp; Expertise</b></p>	<p><b>Academic and Research Credentials:</b> The successful candidate should have a terminal degree in a discipline represented within the university and a record of outstanding scholarship, which would allow the candidate to have both full professor rank and tenure in one of Georgia State’s academic departments.</p> <p><b>Operational &amp; Administrative Management:</b> A strong administrative record in a complex organization working effectively with multiple constituencies, including superior management experience collaborating with a sophisticated and robust academic research community, as well as complex, cross-organizational projects across multiple campuses. Exceptional financial acumen and strategic financial management skills. Demonstrated ability to allocate resources effectively according to the budgetary needs and revenue models of diverse units.</p> <p><b>Strategic Leadership:</b> A track record of success in developing and articulating an organizational vision and priorities and executing against that vision. Demonstrated history of innovation in higher education and ability to adapt strategies to serve the evolving modalities of education delivery. An effective leadership through times of change.</p> <p><b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Experience:</b> A track record of increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion practices including experience recruiting and retaining faculty and students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Proven experience as a champion for all types of diversity and inclusion and actively advocates for and welcomes a diversity of gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, disabilities, racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, religious, national, and international backgrounds.</p>
<p><b>Leadership Competencies</b></p>	<p><b>Visionary Leadership:</b> A vision for higher education with the ability to imagine creative programs and initiatives for the future. A strong sense of entrepreneurship, innovation, and vision that will help guide the university in determining creative areas of focus for its strategic plan.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Leadership Skills:</b> Builds relationships and teams through trust and has the ability to be an effective collaborator with individuals across Georgia State’s multiple campuses and with broader stakeholders, including the broader business community, the government, and USG leadership.</p> <p><b>Communication and Interpersonal Skills:</b> Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, and an ability to inspire and engage faculty, staff, and students.</p> <p><b>Effective Decision-Making Abilities:</b> The ability and courage to make difficult but informed decisions and set priorities for a large and complex institution.</p>

## Nomination and Application Information

Initial screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Georgia State University will be assisted by Ellen Brown Landers, Jackie Zavitz, and Meghan Ashbrock of Heidrick & Struggles, Inc.

Nominations and applications should be directed to:

[GSUprovost@heidrick.com](mailto:GSUprovost@heidrick.com)

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