

Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Programs
Duke University
April 2026

The Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Programs is a senior leadership position, reporting directly to the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, responsible for driving interdisciplinary research, teaching, and external engagement at Duke University, with a focus on cross-school and cross-unit undertakings. The Vice Provost collaborates closely with deans, vice provosts, vice presidents, and directors, and has regular interaction with a wide array of faculty and staff across campus.

The Vice Provost's responsibilities include:

- **Strategic oversight of an evolving set of university-wide interdisciplinary units** that receive core funding from the provost. This includes partnering with unit directors on oversight of budgets, space, faculty affairs, partnerships across the college/schools, and academic and research programs offered by these units. Direct reports include:
 - University-wide institutes
 - Duke Institute for Brain Sciences (with the School of Medicine)
 - Duke Global Health Institute (with the School of Medicine)
 - Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability (with Climate & Sustainability)
 - Duke Margolis Institute for Health Policy (with School of Medicine)
 - Social Science Research Institute
 - Franklin Humanities Institute (with the Trinity Dean of the Humanities)
 - Kenan Institute for Ethics
 - University-wide initiatives
 - Rhodes Information Initiative at Duke
 - Duke Innovation and Entrepreneurship (with Fuqua)
 - Science & Society
 - Other units
 - Duke Center for Community Engaged Scholarship (with Duke Community Affairs)
 - Center for Computational Thinking
 - Triangle Center for Evolutionary Medicine
 - Cook Center
- **Oversee [Bass Connections](#)**, a major university program that fosters problem-based, interdisciplinary research teams involving faculty and students in six themes (Brain & Society; Energy & Environment; Global Health; Race & Society; Health Policy & Innovation; and Information, Society & Culture), as well as an “Open Channel” and

topical “pop-up” areas. The program also partners with the college/schools, units, and the Center for Teaching and Learning to foster integration of collaborative, project-based learning into the curriculum and summer experiences such as the +Programs. This includes oversight of the Bass Connections staff and faculty theme leaders who are nested within university-wide units, stewardship of donors and resources, and oversight of academic credit offered through the program.

- **Develop and oversee strategic initiatives to support interdisciplinary research, teaching, and engagement**, including: convening of the Interdisciplinary Strategy Council; running internal seed grant opportunities to foster interdisciplinary research and connections such as the [Multi-year Interdisciplinary Hubs](#) and [Intellectual Community Planning Grants](#); and fostering the creation/review/refinement of interdisciplinary degree programs, including working with the the Dean of the Graduate School on the [Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Collaboratives](#).
- **Partner with [deans](#), [other vice provosts](#)**, institute/initiative directors, and senior faculty to **facilitate boundary-spanning activity** including: identification and removal of barriers to cross-school partnerships; connections to support shared goals; generation of major institutional grant proposals to prospective funders; and development of priorities for space allocation. Facilitate and maintain updated MOUs between the Provost’s Office and other parties occasioned by joint appointments with interdisciplinary units, interdisciplinary gifts, or other interdisciplinary partnerships.
- Collaborate with Alumni Engagement & Development and Foundation Relations **in fundraising for and stewardship related to interdisciplinary programs**, including Bass Connections; work with the provost and president to develop and articulate interdisciplinary fundraising priorities; partner with college/school deans and interdisciplinary directors to steward donors who have supported interdisciplinary undertakings, facilitating new fundraising strategies, and fostering relationships with prospective donors; advise on the selection of proposals for large-scale interdisciplinary grant opportunities with limited institutional submissions.
- **Promote interdisciplinary work through a cohesive communications strategy** that raises Duke’s profile as a leader in this arena; engage with senior leaders at other universities in the United States and abroad, including through domestic and international travel, around mechanisms for fostering interdisciplinary, problem-centered, collaborative research and teaching.
- **Serve as a connector on campus** by meeting with faculty and academic leaders to discuss new ideas for interdisciplinary research and education, linking faculty who share interests, and integrating new faculty into Duke’s interdisciplinary environment; mentor

faculty who wish to develop collaborative research projects, build interdisciplinary community, and/or explore career paths that include academic leadership.

- **Serve as *ex officio* on search committees and review committees for senior university leaders** and on other faculty governance bodies; member of provost's senior leadership team; member of president's [senior leadership group](#).
- Other responsibilities at request of the provost.

In order to succeed in these primary tasks, the Vice Provost must be:

- an intellectual leader among the faculty and a champion of interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching and research;
- an energetic, organized, and conscientious administrator broadly familiar with issues in higher education and with Duke's academic structure, trajectory, policies and processes;
- a person who possesses an understanding of the landscape for international and domestic research;
- a strong advocate for Duke University and its teaching and research mission and an advocate for the institution's priorities;
- a strong proponent for faculty and students; and
- a preeminent and collaborative University citizen.

This is 5-year term with possibility of renewal.

See [Office of Interdisciplinary Programs](#) for additional information.

The search committee invites confidential nominations of candidates and comments about the position via email to provostofficesearch@duke.edu. Applications will be accepted from regular-rank faculty. Candidates should submit a cover letter, vision statement, and current CV **no later than May 6, 2026**. All submissions to the search committee will be kept confidential.