



LEADERSHIP SEARCH

VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



The Opportunity

The Vice President of Academic Affairs plays a pivotal role in shaping Holy Family University's academic vision, fostering innovative pedagogies, and ensuring the highest standards of educational quality. The University has partnered with a national search firm to recruit exceptional candidates who will contribute to the continued success and growth of the University.

Overview

Holy Family University is a private institution in the Catholic tradition with campus locations in Philadelphia and Newtown, PA. Founded in 1954, the University is informed by its values-driven mission. Holy Family embraces diversity and inclusion, ensuring a welcoming and accessible learning community for all. The University comprises four schools: Arts & Sciences, Business & Technology, Education, and Nursing & Health Sciences. Nestled in the heart of a historic residential neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia, and a bucolic setting in Bucks County, the University is just minutes from the excitement of Center City. Holy Family enrolls more than 3,600 students at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels and was rated the 2023 Safest College in Philadelphia by Niche.com.



The Value of Family

- Named by NPR as one of its Top 50 "Schools that Emphasize Upward Mobility."
- Named by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a Top 10 school nationally for Best Salary Outcomes.
- Named by MONEY Magazine in its Added Value All-Star ranking. (2014-16)
- Ranked in the Top 30 in Pennsylvania for earning potential by the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard.
- Named by MONEY Magazine as a Best College based on educational quality, affordability, and alumni success, noting, "Holy Family University gives their students as much financial help as possible to make their college experience less stressful." (2017-present)
- HFU is one of the region's lowest net cost options. (National Center for Education Statistics)
- 100% internship placement of students with over 60 businesses and nonprofits welcoming HFU students to their organizations.
- More than 1,300 employers currently partner with Holy Family University's Career Development Center including American Red Cross, Morgan Stanley, Walt Disney World, and Fox Chase Cancer Center.
- Nearly 100% of first-year students participate in community service activities.
- Opportunities for student research, including Clare Booth Luce Scholarships for female students conducting summer research in STEM fields.

Lifelong Responsibilities Towards God, Society, and Self

Holy Family University, a ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, offers education in the liberal arts and professions through graduate, undergraduate, and non-degree programs. As a Catholic University, Holy Family seeks direction and inspiration from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, affirms the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition, and witnesses to the dignity of each person and the oneness of the human family.

Holy Family University educates students to assume lifelong responsibilities towards God, society, and self. The core values of family, respect, integrity, service and responsibility, learning, and vision inform the mission.

President Anne M. Prisco, Ph.D.

Dr. Anne Prisco began her tenure as the sixth president of Holy Family University in July 2021. She has dedicated herself to advancing higher education and student success. Over the course of her impressive career, Dr. Prisco has served as an administrator, faculty member, researcher, and consultant. From 2012 to 2020, Dr. Prisco served at Felician University where she was their first lay leader. Prior to that, Dr. Prisco served at a number of higher education institutions including as a Vice President at Loyola Marymount University, and as a faculty member at St. John's University. She has also held senior leadership roles at Hunter College and Lehman College, CUNY, and participated in research supported by the Ford Foundation on international education systems at New York University.

She is the recipient of numerous academic, leadership, and service awards including a public policy fellowship from Columbia University and the Wise Woman award from the National Organization for Italian-American Women. She was also named to the Top 50 Business Women in New Jersey. In 2022,

Dr. Prisco was honored with the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Women of Distinction Award.

Dr. Prisco serves on the board of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). She is also on the board of DePaul University. She is a member of the Forum of Executive Women, and a founding president of Excelencia in Education's Presidents for Latino Student Success. She is a member of the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and is a visiting faculty at Pepperdine University.

Dr. Prisco is frequently invited to speak on higher education policy, leadership, and transformational change. She has served on both state and national boards. Dr. Prisco holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona with the highest distinction, an MBA in Finance from Fordham University, and a Ph.D. in Economics and Education from Columbia University.



Holy Family Faculty

Holy Family University faculty are renowned for their teaching, research, and practice. In addition to their expertise, they ensure that students succeed by creating an open and caring learning environment. They serve as content experts, mentors, principal investigators on research projects, and academic coaches.

Educational excellence is paired with a philosophy that each student arrives with a unique learning style. Our students consistently report that the dedication of our faculty is what makes a Holy Family education not only valuable, but truly special.

Beyond academic qualifications, one of the key personality traits that we look for at Holy Family University in our faculty members is the willingness to be helpful. Through our dedicated faculty, we provide a supportive environment with a student to faculty ratio of 12:1.

Four Schools of Study

Undergraduate students enrolling at Holy Family can select from more than 40 majors and 625 courses built upon a foundation of foundation of social and natural sciences and humanities. At the graduate level, Holy Family offers 19 master's and doctoral programs, some in traditional formats with a 15-week cycle and others in an accelerated 8- week class schedule. Our students thrive in an environment that is challenging, demanding, and rewarding in four schools of study.



School of Arts & Sciences

The School of Arts & Sciences constitutes the liberal arts core of Holy Family University. We provide instruction in natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences and offer 13 Bachelor of Arts degree programs, one Bachelor of Science degree, four interdisciplinary degrees, and an associate's program in radiologic science. Our nationally and internationally recognized faculty members excel at sharing their expertise in the classroom and through research opportunities for students. The School of Arts & Sciences offers highly relevant liberal arts undergraduate programs that integrate traditional disciplines with interdisciplinary and international perspectives that optimize opportunities within the surrounding community and the greater Philadelphia region.

Our Arts & Sciences alumni have brought honor and recognition to the School and to the University with their outstanding achievements in the sciences, government and nonprofits, media, and the arts.



School of Business & Technology

The School of Business & Technology serves the community and the region by cultivating knowledge, ethical judgment, global perspectives, innovative approaches to problem-solving, and robust partnerships. We are deeply connected to the local business community as well as the City of Philadelphia, providing students with a wide range of internship and career opportunities.

From Accounting and Business Analytics to Computer Information Systems, Marketing Management, or Sport Marketing-Management, Holy Family University's School of Business & Technology delivers current and relevant courses that are immediately applicable to today's workforce. Leadership skills, communication concepts, ethical reasoning, and strategic planning are embedded throughout our courses, giving students a distinct advantage in achieving their career objectives.



School of Education

The School of Education and many of its programs are widely regarded as being among the best in the region. In addition to our first-rate academic programs, the faculty within the School are committed to addressing some of society's most critical needs. Our renowned faculty are thought leaders in education and practitioner-educators, and are driven by the conviction that their work in the classroom and in the community should benefit the City of Philadelphia, the region, and the world. Since 1977, more than 3,200 of our students have earned Pennsylvania teaching certification.

The Early Childhood Pathways Program (ECE Pathways) allows qualified students who have an Associates Degree to earn a BA in Education with teaching certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in Kindergarten to fourth grade (K-4) with the option to add a Special Education (K-12) certification. Students who qualify receive full tuition paid through a grant with a lending library for textbooks. There are approximately 50 students in the program and several graduating in May 2024.



School of Nursing & Health Sciences

The 2023-24 academic year has been a celebration of Holy Family's 50 Year of Excellence in Nursing Education. For five decades, Holy Family has educated generations of nurses in practice and leadership to advance compassionate care. Holy Family University nursing graduates are found in every major hospital and healthcare institution throughout our region and beyond. Our highly skilled graduates make Holy Family University synonymous with educational excellence in nursing and the health sciences.

The School of Nursing & Health Sciences provides a variety of degrees and study options for full- and part-time students. These include a traditional four-year bachelor of science in nursing, an accelerated RN to BSN nursing degree option, an accelerated second degree BSN, a Master of Science in Nursing and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Our program ranks in the top 24 percent in Pennsylvania, and the top 18 percent in the nation.





Our Students

Holy Family University enrolls a diverse population of approximately 3,600 students, 94 percent of whom come from within a 50-mile radius of our campus. Since 2019, new, traditional undergraduate enrollment has increased from 1,617 to 2,048, with 36-percent of our students being the first in their families to attend college, 38 percent are Pell eligible and 36-percent are under-represented minorities.

Student Success

At Holy Family University, our entire community is focused on student success. Our Office of Student Success works collaboratively with faculty, staff and students to offer extensive Orientation, Transition, and Retention programs and services aimed at empowering students toward degree completion. This team works directly with students to establish strategies for success, including self-advocacy, time management, prioritization, and communication with professors.



36%
of students are first-generation college students



38%
of students are Pell eligible



36%
of students are underrepresented minorities



11 countries & 33 states
are represented



Our Campuses

Holy Family University currently offers academic programs in two physical locations, as well as on-line. As the area's anchor institution, our **Northeast Philadelphia campus**, which hosts the traditional undergraduate program and many graduate courses, is nestled in the heart of Torresdale, a historic residential neighborhood. The campus was rated the 2023 Safest College in Philadelphia by Niche.com. The University is accessible by public transportation, just minutes away from the world-class history, art, culture, technology, and excitement of Center City, and offers an entry to the fully Philly Experience. This major hub not only provides close proximity to thousands of cultural events, but also an opportunity for internship and experiential learning experiences in Philadelphia, as well as in nearby New York City and Washington, D.C.

Our **Newtown East campus** is located 18 miles north in nearby Bucks County and is home to our graduate Nursing and Counseling Psychology programs and the site of our annual Commencement exercises.

The **Newtown West campus**, our newest expansion located just one mile away from Newtown East, will be outfitted to house new programs in Entrepreneurship, Life Sciences, Nursing and Cybersecurity.

Position Summary

The Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) supports an environment in which the University's Mission is tangible in the efforts and experiences of the community of faculty, students and staff. In so doing, the VPAA oversees and coordinates the academic functions of the University including planning, development, implementation, assessment and ongoing improvement as applied to the areas of structure, programming, policies, services, and students/faculty/personnel.

- Coordinates and oversees fiscal planning and expenditures in the academic areas.
- Serves as liaison/representative of the University's academic community to various internal and external constituencies.
- Coordinates and oversees the preparation of relevant publications and reports.
- Requires a dynamic academic leader reporting directly to the President, and an active member of the President's Cabinet.

The VPAA must have a record of visionary leadership that engages the entire University community in building upon the existing foundation of scholarship and academic rigor in order to ensure that Holy Family University graduates are workforce-ready for the twenty-first century.

The VPAA must be a data-driven, innovative, outside-the-box thinker, and strong problem solver in order to oversee the development and implementation of strategic initiatives, and to advance the academic programming and workforce readiness of the University curriculum in collaboration with all stakeholders. A clear understanding of best practices in undergraduate, graduate and professional programming and curricula is necessary in order to meet the criteria for student success in today's marketplace, as is knowledge of current trends in online teaching and learning. Additionally, the VPAA is charged with ensuring that the University complies with the standards of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and alignment with both the academic and spiritual mission of the University. This position serves as a liaison for the Board of Trustees' Committee for Academic Affairs and Student Life.

Direct Reports

- School Deans:
 - Arts & Sciences
 - Business & Technology
 - Education
 - Nursing & Health Sciences
- Registrar
- Executive Director Center for Teaching & Learning
- Executive Director Library Services
- Executive Director Retention & Persistence
- Academic Affairs Administrative Assistant
- Instructional Technologist
- Director of Student Success
- Executive Director Global Initiatives
- Director of Honors Program in Gen Ed





Strategic Opportunities

The Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) serves as the university's Chief Academic Officer, with responsibility for the extensive academic portfolio of undergraduate and graduate programs as well as to uphold the University's values-based mission of the Catholic ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and education in the liberal arts, pre-professional, and non-degree programs.

The strategic opportunities for the next VPAA include:

- Articulating a strong vision for the highest levels of teaching excellence and innovation, quality learning experiences for all students, along with supporting faculty research and scholarship and the professional development of faculty and staff.
- Working in close collaboration with President Anne Prisco, Cabinet members, and a myriad of campus constituents to further the mission and vision of Holy Family to meet the needs of current and future students.
- Envisioning and implementing transformational change at a revered institution celebrating 70 years of Catholic education that prioritizes the personalized academic and co-curricular experience of students, supported by faculty and staff in an exceptionally caring community.
- Forging a vision bolstered by leadership supportive of making strategic enhancements to the academic portfolio to meet the needs of students, including expanding undergraduate and graduate programs in Business, Education, Nursing, and Healthcare, relevant to emerging trends and industry needs.
- Furthering Holy Family's commitment to adult learners and understanding the potential for strategic curricular design that promotes pedagogical innovation, new modalities of teaching and learning, and excellence in delivering high quality online education.
- Leveraging Holy Family's strong institutional foundation, positive enrollment trends, sound financial position, and palpable dedication to a student-focused mission to continue to be one of the top drivers of social-mobility in the country.
- Ensuring Holy Family's excellent reputation in Northeast Philadelphia to promote experiential learning, internship opportunities, career support, and lifelong learning of its graduates.
- Exploring new community partnerships with industries and businesses, as well as strengthening pathways with community colleges and high school dual enrollments.
- Leveraging the growth potential of campus locations in Northeast Philadelphia and East and West Newtown to serve students in the greater Philadelphia area.
- Promoting the commitment to Inclusive Excellence and Social Justice efforts on campus, and promoting equity-based student success initiatives to ensure robust persistence and retention, completion, and time-to-degree. In addition, leading recruitment and retention efforts for outstanding faculty and staff members, including efforts to increase diversity within the community.

Desired Qualifications & Leadership Qualities

- An experienced senior academic leader, who has demonstrated successful management of a complex organization with multiple units and a track record of successful budgetary and resource prioritization and allocation.
- An earned doctorate and rank of Professor are required, along with a background of at least ten (10) years of progressively responsible leadership experience.
- Demonstrated success as a seasoned, student-focused leader, respectful of the history and values-based mission of Holy Family University, with an understanding of the commitment to a high-touch student experience with the goal of a transformative comprehensive education.
- Demonstrated experience in the policies and procedures under the purview of the Office of Academic Affairs and the host of responsibilities related to ensuring the standards and rigor of the academic programs as well as the oversight of those charged with carrying out critical functions.
- Academic experience as a faculty member, with deep knowledge of and appreciation for teaching, scholarship or creative endeavor, and service of the faculty across the schools, units, and programs represented at Holy Family.
- Exceptional communicator, able to articulate the academic mission of Holy Family University and to engage with empathy and emotional intelligence with a variety of constituents, ranging from students, faculty, staff, Cabinet, President, Board of Trustees, alumni, as well as external partners in the community.
- A track record of commitment to equity-based student success initiatives and an understanding of data-informed best practices in today's higher education landscape in improving student retention and completion with measurable goals.
- Demonstrated experience in collaborative leadership, working with Deans, Directors, Staff, Faculty, and student leaders to move projects, initiatives, strategic plan implementation, program assessment practices, policies, and procedures forward with a spirit of inclusion and respect for the expertise and intellectual diversity of all who contribute to the work of moving the institution forward.
- A senior academic leader comfortable with leading strategic change and the capacity to envision programmatic and curricular growth and intersections of both undergraduate and graduate programs relevant to students and industry partners. Also, experience in ensuring all standards and requirements of institutional and unit accreditation are met, including MSCHE, CCNE (Nursing), and AACBS (Business).
- Demonstrated commitment to a shared governance environment, building trust and championing the inclusion of voices in the shared responsibility of moving the institution forward.
- A strong advocate for faculty, with experience in mentoring faculty at all ranks in reappointment, tenure, and promotion, and supportive of professional development.
- Approachable, honest, transparent, and, above all, committed to leading with integrity and by example. A leadership style in which the VPAA is visibly engaged in the life of the campus community.
- A commitment to the importance of Holy Family to the larger community and comfortable as the face of Academic Affairs to external constituencies, including industry and other higher education institutional partners, foundations, and grant awarding agencies.



Nondiscrimination Policy

Holy Family University seeks to foster an inclusive and healthy educational and work environment based on respect, the dignity of each person, and the oneness of the human family. The University prohibits harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and bias incidents in any form, including, but not limited to, those based upon race, color, religion, religious-expression, age,

sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, military/veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws, in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies and practices, financial aid programs, athletic programs,

and other school-administered activities and rights and privileges generally accorded or made available to employees and students at the University.

Holy Family University complies with Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education

programs and activities. Holy Family University is dedicated to ensuring an environment free of discrimination or harassment of any kind, and promotes equal opportunity and inclusion in its education programs.



Accreditation

Holy Family University is an accredited private, coeducational, four-year university.

Holy Family University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and undergoes periodic reviews to maintain its accreditation. The latest MSCHE reaffirmation self-study was conducted in 2020 and in spring 2021, the MSCHE Committee conducted a site visit.

In addition, Holy Family University receives accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education**, and the [Joint Review Committee of Education in Radiologic Technology](#) (20 N. Wacker

Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182; Tel: 312-704-5300.

Several traditional undergraduate programs offered from the School of Business and Technology are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. For more details regarding specific program accreditation, please see the School's accreditation page.

[School of Business & Technology Accreditation](#)

[Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs](#)

Holy Family School of Education (SOE) is part of the university's accredita-

tion with the Middle States regional accreditation agency. Teacher certification programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels are approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education (PDE) to offer programs leading to over 15 certification and endorsement areas.

Holy Family has also been approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, the Veterans Administration, and New York State Regents, and is a member of the American Association for Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

** *The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, and Family Nurse Practitioner-Doctor of Nursing Practice at Holy Family University are [accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#), 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001; Tel: 202-887-6791*

The Doctor of Psychology in Counseling Psychology (Psy.D.) program at Holy Family University is an APA-accredited doctoral program. APA has granted the Psy.D. program accreditation on contingency status through March 18, 2025.

Applications, Nominations, & Expressions of Interest

To assure full consideration, applications should be received by April 19th, 2024 and must include the following:

- A letter of interest addressing the strategic objectives and qualifications identified in this profile;
- A curriculum vitae; and
- Five professional references with email addresses and telephone numbers, including their relationship to the candidate. References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the candidate.

Application materials should be submitted in PDF format through the [AGB Search Portal](#).

Please direct any nominations, expressions of interest, or questions regarding the application process to HolyFamilyVPAA@agbsearch.com or to the AGB Search team:

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