

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTIAL
LEADERSHIP
PROFILE





THE OPPORTUNITY

Utah Valley University (UVU) seeks a dynamic president who can build upon a strong foundation, foster alignment across a complex environment, and guide the institution with clarity and care. This leader will bring a collaborative, bridge-building approach; a spirit of curiosity and continuous learning; passion for higher education; and a deep respect for the mission of the institution as **“an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, service, and scholarship.”**

This is an opportunity to lead a university where students are invited to come as they are and leave ready to make a difference in Utah Valley and beyond. UVU is defined by access, engagement, and impact, and guided by the enduring belief that “UVU has a place for you.” The next president will be expected to build upon the momentum of prior leadership while articulating a clear and distinctive vision for the future that reflects UVU’s evolving identity, strengthens institutional trust, and responds to a rapidly changing higher education landscape.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Champion Student Success and Academic Excellence

Utah Valley University (UVU) seeks to continually strengthen academic standards and outcomes. The new president will champion high standards and academic program excellence. This includes strengthening opportunities for hands-on learning, service learning, and community engagement, ensuring students are connected to their education and to the communities they will serve. In this effort, the president will need to navigate emerging challenges and opportunities related to artificial intelligence and technology, including maintaining academic integrity, adapting pedagogy, and preparing students for a rapidly evolving workforce. The next president will support a culture of continuous improvement, working in partnership with faculty to ensure programs remain rigorous, relevant, and responsive.

Clarify Institutional Identity and Advance UVU's Mission Within the System

Located in the heart of Utah County, UVU is one of the fastest-growing public universities in the United States. Positioned near Utah's thriving tech corridor (Silicon Slopes) and a rapidly expanding job market, UVU offers students access to real-world learning experiences in one of the nation's most dynamic economic regions.

As UVU continues to grow, there is an opportunity to further define how its mission, academic offerings, and enrollment trajectory align within the broader state system of higher education. The next president will be a leader who can unify the university's mission, role, and priorities with the Utah Board of Higher Education's strategic direction for the Utah System of Higher Education and collaborate with partner institutions to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and advance statewide goals related to access, affordability, student success, completion, and workforce alignment. The president will give priority to the system while ensuring accountability to UVU's distinct mission and regional identity. Success should be measured not only in enrollment, but in completion, student outcomes, and long-term institutional impact.

Grow Partnerships and External Engagement

UVU operates within a highly engaged public and governmental context. The next president will navigate changing demographics and the evolving higher-education landscape, and sustain and cultivate partnerships outside of the institution, with government, industry, and community leaders. By serving as a thoughtful bridge builder — seeking common ground and communicating with clarity — the president will help ensure the university's priorities are clear and aligned with broader state interests. Through a collaborative and outward-looking approach, the president will help elevate UVU's visibility, strengthen workforce connections, and cement UVU's role as an engine of economic development. The president must serve as a compelling storyteller who can elevate UVU's reputation, communicate its value, and strengthen its standing locally, statewide, and nationally.

Foster a Connected and Collaborative Campus Community

The university is at a crucial point in its evolution. Continued growth, increased visibility, and expanding expectations from stakeholders create both opportunity and complexity. UVU's next president will play an important role in fostering a powerful sense of connection and transparency within the university community. The president will be visible, approachable, and engaged with faculty, staff, students, and community partners. By listening actively and encouraging open dialogue, the president can help strengthen trust, reinforce a positive campus climate, cultivate a shared sense of purpose, and engender high morale. The new president must embrace change and communicate effectively to help the community navigate the challenges facing higher education.



QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Required Qualifications

- A master's degree from an accredited institution is required; a doctoral degree is preferred
- Progressive senior leadership experience in higher education or a comparably complex organization
- Strong understanding of institutional governance, higher education in the public context, and stakeholder engagement

Leadership Qualities

The successful candidate will demonstrate all or most of the following qualities and experience:

Leadership and Approach

- Collaborative, bridge-building leadership style that brings people together around a shared vision focused on helping students thrive
- Curiosity, genuine passion for higher education, and a commitment to lifelong learning
- Growth-minded perspective with openness to new ideas and approaches
- Deep belief in human potential and the transformative power of education
- Accessible, visible, and engaged leadership presence on campus and throughout the community

Academic Leadership and Credibility

- Commitment to student success, academic achievement, and continuous improvement in academic quality
- Demonstrated appreciation for the faculty experience, including teaching, scholarship, the tenure process, and shared governance
- Strong understanding of higher education and respect for the academic enterprise
- Experience teaching in a higher education setting (or equivalent experience), reflecting an understanding of faculty roles and student-centered instruction

Strategic and Organizational Leadership

- Experience leading complex organizations with multiple stakeholders
- Ability to align strategy, operations, and resources effectively
- Ability to build, sustain, and support high-performing leadership teams
- Financial and operational acumen necessary to manage a large and complex institution

Governance and External Engagement

- Demonstrated ability to work constructively with governing boards and public stakeholders
- Commitment to balancing responsibility to the system with accountability to institutional mission and identity
- Ability to represent the institution effectively in public settings
- Skill in building partnerships and strengthening external relationships
- Demonstrated success in fundraising and partnership development

Culture and Community Engagement

- Ability to foster collaboration and shared purpose across stakeholders
- Excellent communication and listening skills
- Commitment to building trust through transparency and sustained engagement

Personal Leadership Traits

- Integrity, sound judgment, and personal accountability
- Resilience and steadiness in complex and evolving situations
- Humility, excellent interpersonal skills, and a servant-leader mindset
- Thoughtful and shared decision-making

Strategic Adaptability

- Deep understanding of the evolving higher education landscape
- Ability to guide the institution through change in a thoughtful and intentional manner

OUR HISTORY

Utah Valley University (UVU) was founded in 1941 as Central Utah Vocational School, created to meet the workforce needs of the nation and a rapidly growing region. It expanded over time from technical training to comprehensive higher education. It became Utah Valley State College in 1993 and achieved university status in 2008, when the name changed to Utah Valley University. UVU's history reflects the institution's commitment to access, workforce alignment, and community impact.

UVU TODAY

With fall 2025 enrollment topping 48,000 students (including concurrent enrollment students), UVU plays a pivotal role in advancing Utah's educated workforce, providing accessible, high-quality programs to a diverse and growing student population. UVU offers a full spectrum of academic programs from certificates and associate degrees to bachelor's and master's degrees, combining the flexibility and accessibility of a community college with the rigor and quality of a teaching university. This dual mission is central to UVU's identity.

As an open-admissions institution, UVU emphasizes student success at every level, supporting learners from all backgrounds with the guiding invitation to "come as you are" and find "a place for you." The university is nationally recognized for this approach: The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designated UVU as a top "Opportunity College and University – Higher Access and Higher Earnings," and in 2026, UVU received the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, highlighting its commitment to creating partnerships and positive impact.

Academically, UVU is known for applied, career-connected learning and responsiveness to workforce needs. It is the first university in Utah to establish an applied artificial intelligence institute, and it continues to expand programs aligned with high-demand fields. Its graduates, drawn from all backgrounds, go on to make meaningful contributions across Utah and around the world, reinforcing UVU's role as a powerful engine of opportunity, economic mobility, and community advancement.

The recent launch of the Our Better Selves for a Better America initiative equips individuals with durable skills — civil dialogue, conflict navigation, principled negotiation, and peacemaking — for better listening, communication, and connections.



UVU AT A GLANCE

Mission

Utah Valley University (UVU) is an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship.

Values

UVU's culture embraces human potential and supports our mission of student success. Student success encompasses both terminal degrees and the holistic education of students, and we believe that we can fulfill this mission best in an environment that allows all individuals to thrive personally and professionally. To this end, UVU operates in accordance with three core values: exceptional care, exceptional accountability, and exceptional results.

Exceptional Care

Care means that we strive to “see” the person in front of us — their strengths and weaknesses, struggles and triumphs, past and potential, and inherent dignity and worth. This does not mean that we set low expectations or make excuses for poor efforts. Instead, our commitment to exceptional care means that we set the bar high and provide challenging, honest conversations and feedback because we are deeply invested in seeing every member of our community succeed.

Exceptional Accountability

We are strongly committed to working ethically and effectively. We approach each situation from a position of integrity, knowing that everything we do can help or hinder a positive student experience. We honor the resources and mandates we have been entrusted with and strive always to do our best to honor that trust. We respect each member of our community, seek to understand and fulfill our responsibilities, and recognize both individual and collective successes.

Exceptional Results

We are committed to creating opportunities for as many people as possible. Our engaged curricula, programs, and partnerships address the intellectual and practical needs of our service area and the larger community. We seek to prepare our students to thrive in a rapidly changing economy and an interdependent, complex world. We aspire to greatness in all that we do, while also measuring progress against rigorous metrics that show our students are becoming competent and ethical professionals, lifelong learners, and engaged citizens.

Vision 2030

We believe every individual has unlimited potential and deserves the transforming benefits of a high-quality education. Student success is at the heart of UVU's mission. UVU meets and supports students where they are, welcoming all who seek learning at every level of preparation through individualized, flexible programs and services.

With one of the most dynamic educational models in the country, UVU and its in-demand graduates make meaningful and lasting contributions to their employers, families, and communities. We accomplish this by providing excellent faculty, flexible learning, holistic support services, and real-world experiences that empower students to reach their personal, academic, and professional goals.

UVU's goal is Utah's goal: to provide cost-effective, easily accessible, high-quality education that meets the state's workforce needs, strengthens the economy, and helps people live productive, dignified, and meaningful lives.

TENETS OF VISION 2030

Flexible and Relevant Educational Options

More organizations are moving aggressively into the higher education space. Students have more options. To continue attracting and retaining students, UVU must accelerate scalable innovation to offer flexible, responsive educational options.

Return on Investment

UVU continues to be one of the nation's best universities in terms of value. UVU's open enrollment and low tuition cost, combined with post-graduation earnings, give our students the greatest value proposition in the state.

Accelerated Innovation

The higher education landscape is changing at a rapid pace. UVU will sustain and accelerate innovation to stay relevant and impactful in serving students.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

48,669 FALL 2025, INCLUDING
18,163 CONCURRENT
ENROLLMENT STUDENTS

2025 GRADUATION OUTCOMES

12,940 GRADUATES

17,278 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES
AWARDED

72% RETENTION RATE

47% COMPLETION RATE

EDUCATING UTAH'S WORKFORCE

94% OF STUDENTS ARE UTAH RESIDENTS

74% OF ALUMNI LIVE IN UTAH 10 YEARS
AFTER GRADUATION

#1 IN UTAH FOR PRODUCING
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS
(SWITCH ON BUSINESS, 2024)

73% OF ALUMNI GRADUATE WITH
DEGREES LEADING TO 4- AND
5-STAR JOBS IN UTAH'S ECONOMY

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

18% ADULT LEARNERS (AGE 25+)

50% FEMALE

11% SUPPORT AT LEAST ONE CHILD

47% AWARDED ANY FINANCIAL AID

41% OF STUDENTS ARE FIRST-
GENERATION STUDENTS

79% OF STUDENTS WORK WHILE
IN SCHOOL

20% IDENTIFY AS STUDENTS
OF COLOR



GROWTH AND STUDENT SUCCESS

UVU has grown **14.3%** over the past five years — more than any other public university in the state

UVU's retention rate has **increased 5 percentage points in five years, reaching 70%**



PROGRAMS

- 99** undergraduate certificates
- 11** graduate certificates
- 65** associate degrees
- 110** bachelor's degrees
- 22** master's degrees
- 73** online programs

FACULTY AND STAFF

- Full-time: **2,376**
- Part-time: **3,748**
- 25:1** student-to-faculty ratio

ATHLETICS

- 92%** graduation rate of athletes
- 3.45** average GPA
- 16** teams

Conferences:

- Western Athletic Conference (until July 1, 2026)
- Big 12 Conference (wrestling only)
- Big West Conference (starting July 1, 2026)

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

- College of Health and Public Service
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Science
- School of Education
- School of the Arts
- Smith College of Engineering and Technology
- Woodbury School of Business

CAMPUSES

- Orem Campus (main campus)
- Lehi Campus
- Vineyard Campus
- Canyon Park
- Wasatch Campus (Heber)
- Provo Airport
- Capitol Reef Field Station

RANKINGS AND RECOGNITIONS

OPPORTUNITY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY-HIGHER ACCESS, HIGHER EARNINGS

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, 2025

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION

American Council on Education and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 2026

#6 BEST VALUE COLLEGE IN THE WEST

Research.com, 2026

Utah Worksite Wellness Council (UWWC)

PLATINUM WORKSITE WELLNESS AWARD

UVUFit Employee Wellness Program, 2025

#1 BEST VALUE COLLEGE IN UTAH

Research.com, 2025

#3 FINANCIAL PLANNING PROGRAM IN THE U.S.

#1 in the west, Wealthmanagement.com

#1 IN UTAH FOR ONLINE PROGRAMS

Newsweek, 2025



UVU'S FUTURE IMPACT

Vineyard Campus: Building an Innovative Education and Health District

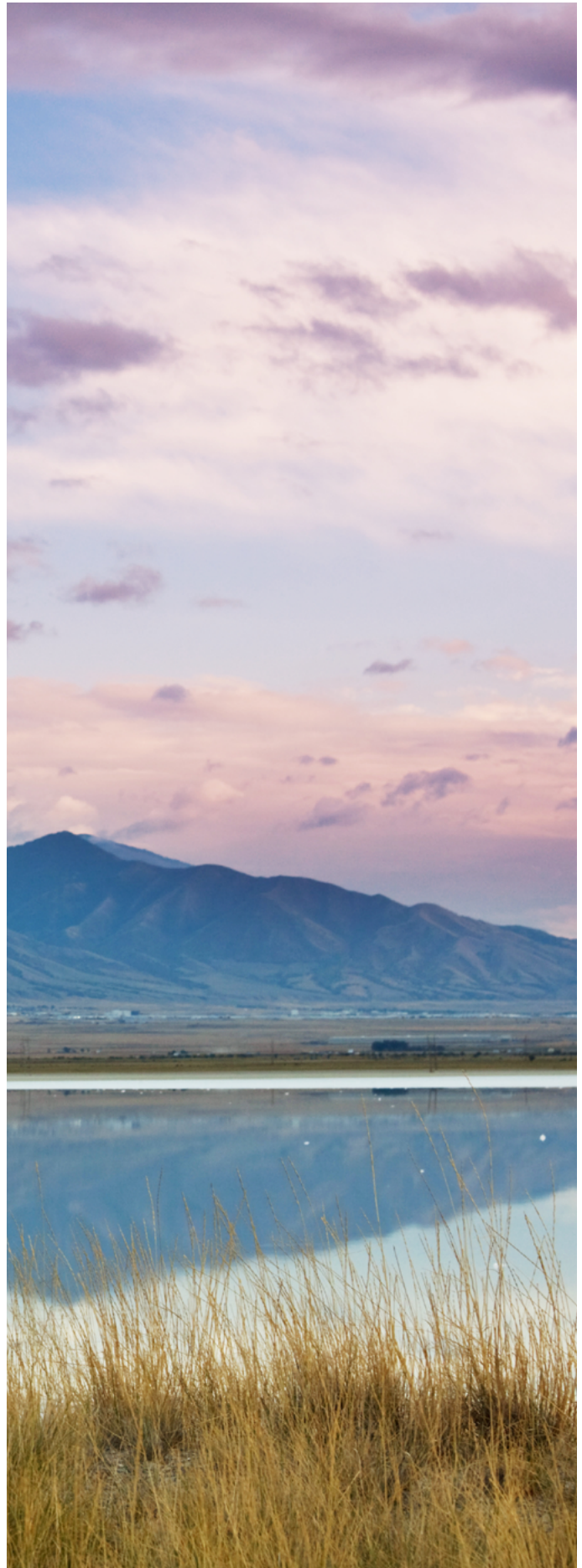
Located in Utah County between I-15 and Utah Lake, UVU's 225-acre Vineyard Campus is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape a new academic, health, and community-centered district in one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. In the next few years, the university will seek to secure legislative funding for a new College of Health and Public Service building to anchor the campus. A \$25 million naming gift from Rich and Marla Linder positions this project for success, with an additional \$25-30 million opportunity to name the college and expand scholarships and academic programming.

Vineyard offers significant potential for industry, healthcare, and community partnerships. Collaborations with the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Bingham Family Free Clinic will expand clinical education, research, and applied learning. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the university's first lessor in Vineyard. Xenter — a technology, data, AI, and healthcare firm founded by Rich Linder — will be locating in Vineyard. Additional partners of this caliber will be critical to realizing Vineyard's full potential.

Faculty and students in architecture have developed a mixed-use vision emphasizing health, wellness, housing, and community engagement. Expanded community gardens, mental health services, culinary arts, and housing for faculty, staff, and students are central to this plan. A focus on Vineyard development will be essential as the campus builds out.

Oxford: A Permanent Global Presence

Utah Valley University (UVU) is advancing plans for a permanent facility in Oxford, England, building on its long-standing partnership with Pembroke College and The Quill Project. Led by UVU's Center for Constitutional Studies, this initiative will support study abroad and engaged learning in constitutional studies, political science, literature, history, theatre, architecture, and related disciplines. The Oxford facility will transform the student experience and elevate UVU's global profile. The project reflects the best of UVU's approach: bold partnerships that expand access and opportunity for students. The university will sustain momentum through planning approvals, donor engagement, and site development.



Innovation in an AI-Driven Era

UVU is taking a thoughtful, institution-wide approach to artificial intelligence. The Kahlert Applied Artificial Intelligence Institute, supported by a \$5 million endowment from the Kahlert Foundation, is positioned to influence curricula, operations, and decision-making across the university.

Key priorities include secure AI infrastructure for faculty and staff, expanded training, evaluation of administrative and academic processes, and leadership competency in data-informed decision-making.

Student Success Efforts

UVU has made significant gains in enrollment, retention, and completion. With a flexible, relevant approach, enrollment has grown by 20% since 2018, and the graduating class has more than doubled since 2019. UVU's eight-year completion rate now exceeds that of its peer institutions. This progress reflects strong collaboration across Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and other divisions.

Continued investment in advising — now housed in Student Affairs — will be critical, along with expanded support for first-generation students, military-affiliated students, childcare services, interfaith engagement, and student organizations. These efforts are central to UVU's mission of educating every student for success in work and life.



Workforce Alignment Efforts

UVU operates within one of the most supportive and strategically aligned higher education environments in the nation. During the 2026 Utah Legislative Session, state leaders — including the governor, legislative leadership, the Utah Board of Higher Education, and other institutional presidents — [affirmed](#) a shared commitment to a student-centered, affordable, accessible, and outcome-focused Utah System of Higher Education. Lawmakers approved more than \$86 million in new ongoing funding for higher education, with targeted investments in compensation, performance funding, workforce alignment, technical education capacity, research, and artificial intelligence.

UVU secured \$500,000 one-time funding from the legislature for its Workforce 2034 initiative, reinforcing the university's role in preparing talent for Utah's rapidly evolving economy. Every part of the student experience supports workforce readiness. The Workforce Alignment team facilitates and coordinates workforce efforts across campus and with external partners, connecting what happens at UVU to regional and state workforce needs so that graduates are prepared to make a positive difference in their communities.

Utah ranks third nationally for higher education attainment, with 61% of working-age adults holding degrees or high-quality certificates. It remains the fourth-lowest state in the nation for tuition and fees at public four-year institutions, reflecting sustained legislative commitment to affordability. The university will build on this foundation through strong legislative engagement, responsible stewardship of public and philanthropic resources, and continued alignment of academic programs with workforce and economic needs.

UVU hosts the Jobs CEO Council, which brings together business, education, and community leaders to cultivate a stronger, more dynamic workforce. By fostering collaboration, UVU is developing sustainable career pathways to support Utah's diverse population and prepare individuals to thrive in high-demand fields.

Applied Learning

Applied learning defines the UVU experience. Programs such as the Innovation Academy, the Chelsea and Casey Baugh Entrepreneurship Institute, internships, study abroad, project-based learning, and accelerated degree pathways prepare students with technical and critical thinking skills. UVU boasts the largest high school concurrent enrollment program in the state and has created a record number (80+) of technical college articulation agreements to support UVU's dual-mission model.



UTAH COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Location and Regional Access

Utah Valley University (UVU) is located in Orem, Utah, in the heart of Utah County. Part of the Provo-Orem metropolitan area, Orem and the surrounding area offer a balance of safety and a high quality of life in a rapidly growing region. UVU's School of Aviation Sciences is housed at the regional airport in Provo, seven miles from the Orem Campus. Just 40 miles to the north, Salt Lake City is a major metropolitan center with arts and culture, professional sports, and an international airport. The area is well-connected by the I-15 corridor and regional public transit systems, providing convenient travel across the Wasatch Range, the western front of the Rocky Mountains.

Historic Growth in Utah

Utah County is projected to add more than one million residents by 2065, accounting for nearly 40% of Utah's population growth. Education and health services are among the fastest-growing sectors, reinforcing UVU's central role in workforce development and economic mobility along the Wasatch Front. UVU's size, mission, and ability to scale position the institution as a primary driver of opportunity for students and communities across the region.

Utah Leads in Innovation and Quality of Life

Utah consistently ranks among the nation's top states for economic performance, business climate, workforce quality, and quality of life (business.utah.gov/accolades). It is a leading hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, ranking second nationally for unicorn startups per capita, with one in every 61 venture capital-backed companies reaching a \$1 billion valuation. This innovation ecosystem is concentrated along the Wasatch Front in the Silicon Slopes corridor — home to companies such as Qualtrics, Pluralsight, Vivint, Domo, Awardco, and many others. UVU sits at the center of this ecosystem and is nationally recognized as the leading institution for producing homegrown entrepreneurs.

Utah's momentum will accelerate further as the state prepares to host the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, which will bring global visibility, infrastructure investment, and long-term economic impact. These conditions create an exceptional environment for institutional leadership, partnership, and national influence.

Year-Round Outdoor Recreation

UVU's Orem Campus is positioned between Utah Lake and Mount Timpanogos, offering immediate access to outdoor recreation. Utah is known for its four-season outdoor recreation opportunities, where residents can seamlessly transition from work or campus life to hiking, biking, climbing, and water sports. Multiple world-class ski resorts are within an hour's drive. Outside of the Utah County area, Utah's five National Parks — called the Mighty Five — offer unique opportunities for weekend exploration or experiential learning at UVU's Capitol Reef Field Station.

Arts, Culture, Athletics, and Community

Utah Valley offers a vibrant and growing arts and culture scene. Downtown Provo features a mix of restaurants, music venues, galleries, and community events that contribute to a dynamic local culture. At UVU, the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major hub for the arts, hosting nationally and internationally recognized performers, such as a recent performance by Yo-Yo Ma. The UCCU Center on UVU's Orem Campus is a venue for sports, community events, and world-famous performers, including Olivia Rodrigo, Maroon 5, and Fall Out Boy. UVU also enriches the region through its Museum of Art at Lakemount, which offers high-quality visual art experiences for the broader community.

UVU's sports teams include basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, cross country, softball, track and field, golf, and wrestling. Opened in 2025, the UCCU Stadium provides a state-of-the-art facility for UVU's women's and men's soccer teams, and Orem Campus boasts a 5,000-seat ballpark and other top athletics facilities.



APPLICATION INFORMATION

For full consideration, applications should be received by **May 28, 2026**

Candidates should provide the following:

- Letter of interest addressing the experience and qualifications identified in the profile.
- A curriculum vitae/resume.

Applications should be in PDF format and submitted through the AGB Search portal at:

[President - Utah Valley University](#)

Nominations and expressions of interest may be submitted to:

UVU-President@agbsearch.com

AGB Search is assisting with this search. Nominators and prospective applicants may contact the executive search consultants for additional information:

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