

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

WOFFORD COLLEGE





FRANKLIN W. OLIN
BUILDING



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THE OPPORTUNITY

The Wofford College Board of Trustees and Wofford College community seek in their 12th president a visionary, highly engaged, student-focused and deeply committed servant leader. The next president of Wofford College will bring a significant record of success in executive leadership, a strong affinity for the liberal arts educational experience, a focus on Wofford's mission and core values, and the desire to be a valued and visible member of the community.

THE COLLEGE

Mission

Wofford's mission is to provide superior liberal arts education that prepares its students for extraordinary and positive contributions to a global society. The focus of Wofford's mission is upon fostering commitment to excellence in character, performance, leadership, service to others and lifelong learning. Wofford strives for sustainability in all aspects of college life through respect for the environment and through our core values.

Core values

Wofford College is committed to these core values, which reflect both the United Methodist tradition of the college and values common to faith-based and secular philosophies:

- + Collaborative teaching and learning.
 - + Freedom of inquiry.
 - + Academic excellence.
 - + Intellectual curiosity.
 - + Critical thinking.
 - + Integrity.
- + Community and global engagement.
 - + Diversity and inclusiveness.
 - + Sustainability.

Overview and history

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The college is nationally known for its outstanding faculty, study abroad participation, successful and supportive graduates, and commitment to making college affordable and accessible; 99% of students receive some form of financial assistance. The college's 180-acre campus, located within walking distance of Spartanburg's thriving downtown, is home to about 1,800 undergraduates. In addition to a rigorous academic program and experiential learning opportunities (study abroad, career preparation, research and community-based learning), Wofford students enjoy NCAA Division I athletics, fraternity and sorority life and a creative visual and performing arts scene.

Eleven presidents have led the college over the past 171 years. What started as a small, regional campus with Main Building, five original faculty homes (most of which are still in use today) and seven students has grown to encompass faculty and students from across the globe, an expanded original campus footprint and satellite learning and research hubs in Spartanburg's Northside and the Glendale communities.

Wofford College held its first classes in Main Building in 1854. The Rev. Benjamin Wofford left a \$100,000 bequest in his will to "establish a college of literary, classical and scientific education" to be located in Spartanburg County under the control and management of the Methodist Church. At the time, it was one of the largest financial contributions made to American higher education. Wofford's generosity was made possible by his first and second wives, Anna Todd Wofford and Maria Barron Wofford; both were women of means who valued education.

Throughout war, the Great Depression, a pandemic and periods of societal unrest, Wofford College and the greater community of students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and friends have been resilient and committed to the college's mission and core values. Phi Beta Kappa, the country's oldest academic honor society, established a charter at Wofford College in 1940, recognizing the college's emphasis on academic excellence. Wofford began admitting Black students in the late 1960s, becoming the first private college in the state to do so, and women joined the community as residential students in the late 1970s.

Other highlights of the college's history include the development of Interim (an experiential-learning January term), the move to NCAA Division I athletics, the successful application for a technology and capital grant from the Franklin W. Olin Building, the construction of the senior village apartments and the infrastructure expansion and enhancements of the past decade, including the construction of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall and the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies. In 2021, the late Jerry Richardson, a 1959 Wofford graduate and founder of the NFL's Carolina Panthers, gave the college \$150 million, boosting the endowment, increasing the minimum wage on campus, providing a maintenance fund for Richardson-named buildings and funding need-based aid for experiential learning and scholarships.

For more information about the college's history by era or to follow the student-led walking tour, visit: wofford.edu/about/wofford-history.





Fast facts

- + 1,817 undergraduates, representing 41 states and 21 countries.
- + 11:1 student-to-faculty ratio; average class size of 16 students.
- + 51% women; 49% men.
- + 13% first-generation students; 15% Pell-eligible.
- + Affiliation with the United Methodist Church means the college welcomes students from more than 20 faith perspectives. Wofford is a national leader in interfaith initiatives.
- + 20 NCAA Division I athletics teams.
- + About 55% of students participate in one of the college's 13 fraternities or sororities.
- + Nearly 100 chartered student organizations and clubs, including an active Campus Union student government.
- + 180-acre campus within walking distance of downtown Spartanburg.
- + 99% of students receive some form of financial aid; the average financial aid package exceeds \$49,000.
- + 98% of graduates report positive career outcomes (employment, graduate school, military service, internships, volunteer placement) within six months of graduation. More than 35% continue their education; popular graduate paths include healthcare, science, law and business.
- + Retention rate (first year to second year) is 91%.
- + The four-year graduation rate is almost 80%.
- + Student-athletes make up about 23% of the student body.
- + 10 residence halls and 6 dining locations on campus.
- + 90% of students live on campus all four years.

Highlights

Wofford continues to be ranked nationally for value, academic rigor, alumni network, Greek life and study abroad participation. Read reviews in U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, Forbes, Kiplinger's and The New York Times.

For decades, Wofford College has been listed in IES's Open Doors Report as a Top 20 undergraduate institution for the percent of students who study abroad for academic credit and short-term study abroad opportunities. In the most recent report in 2024, Wofford was ranked No. 6. Wofford students have studied abroad on all seven continents and in more than 70 countries.

Wofford recently completed compensation studies for faculty and staff and developed a compensation philosophy and structure in response. The process was led by external consultants, and the campus community participated fully throughout, considering a variety of factors. This has added a level of equity and transparency to the compensation process. In addition, the college is completing a Workday transition that has gone smoothly and is on target.

For regular updates and Wofford stories, subscribe to the Conquer and Prevail bi-weekly e-newsletter (WoffordNews@wofford.edu), visit Wofford.edu or follow Wofford College on social media.

     @woffordcollege



Academics

As a premier liberal arts college, Wofford remains dedicated to providing students with an education that is both comprehensive and deeply rooted in the traditions linking a Wofford education with the curricula of the great universities that proliferated in Europe during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The general education program continues to offer a wide range of subjects while also focusing on the fundamental skills of close reading, clear writing and critical reasoning — skills that are highly valued in the job market. At the same time, the curriculum equips students for the pluralistic society they will encounter upon graduation. Wofford's over 80 academic majors, minors, programs and concentrations offer students the chance to explore topics in depth while gaining a breadth of knowledge that allows students to make connections across disciplines. Increasingly, students, their families, prospective employers and graduate school admissions officers expect graduates from top colleges like Wofford to have engaged in a variety of important co-curricular activities, including:

RESEARCH WITH FACULTY MENTORS

Wofford's Student-Faculty Collaborative Summer Research program supports the work of faculty-student teams across dozens of disciplines. Students also conduct summer research across the globe. Read more [HERE](#) to see a list of the projects from summer 2025.

STUDY AWAY

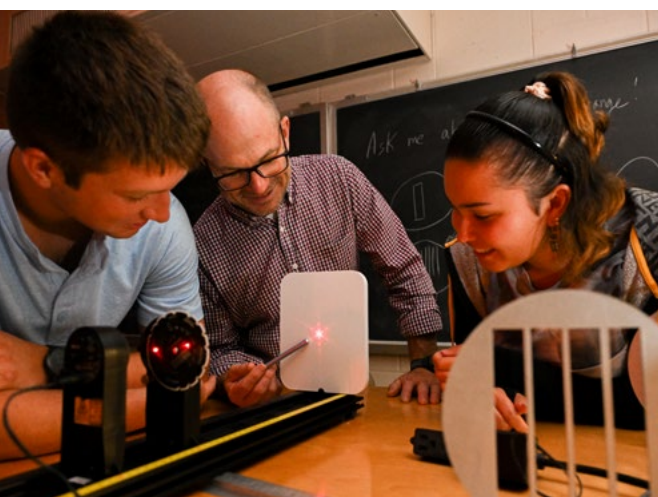
At a time when the national trend for long-term study abroad has shifted in favor of shorter-term experiences, Wofford has seen an increase in both semester-long and short-term study abroad with partner organizations during the January Interim. Short-term faculty-led programs remain popular as well. In the most recent Open Doors Report, Wofford ranked No. 6 nationally for the percent of students who study abroad for academic credit.

THE CAREER CENTER

The Career Center focuses on helping students translate their classroom experiences into descriptions of résumé-worthy skills and opportunities for further career exploration. Increasingly, the Career Center engages Wofford alumni to provide greater internship and networking opportunities. In collaboration with the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson '78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, and faculty members, Wofford applied for and received a three-year Vocation Across the Academy Grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, which focuses on integrating vocational discernment into an undergraduate education.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Wofford has developed partnership with more than 25 local community organizations. Students prepare tax returns for low-income local families; offer programming for older adults through the Intergenerational Fellows program; teach local elementary-age children to grow, harvest and prepare food; and volunteer with St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic, to name a few. Wofford is also a Bonner Scholar campus, providing a cohort of students who serve and learn in exchange for scholarship assistance. Central to community-based learning initiatives is the Milliken Sustainability Initiative, a \$4.25 million grant that created a sustainability living learning community in the Northside area of Spartanburg and provided funding for two faculty members who work with students using the college's connections with the Northside and Glendale communities to explore, teach and promote environmental and human sustainability.



The faculty

The college has 151 fulltime and 30 parttime faculty for a total of 181 teachers, mentors and scholars. At Wofford, faculty teach all classes; there are no graduate assistants. The faculty is led by the Willimon Family Provost and Professor and three associate provosts who manage the curriculum and co-curriculum, administration and faculty development.

The faculty of Wofford College are first and foremost effective teachers, which assumes active engagement in scholarship. According to the college's faculty handbook, "Teaching is more than the transfer of information or knowledge; it includes the development of abilities to create, to question appropriately, to learn and discover

independently, to integrate and to apply information, to think and communicate clearly and precisely, to make wise judgements, to know excellence in human achievement and to enjoy learning. Faculty are expected to attend to all these objectives."

As stakeholders, the faculty determine the curriculum and help govern the college. They also provide service to the college in the form of committee work and academic advising. The faculty's commitment to Wofford students and this institution provides the backbone of Wofford College, and alumni unfailingly list the faculty as a primary reason for their affinity for the college.



Student success

When first-year students arrive on campus, they are met at their cars by a cheering Orientation team that within minutes has new students celebrated and moved into their rooms. Wofford does the heavy lifting. The support continues as each student meets a success team that includes a faculty academic advisor, staff guide, personal librarian and student peer leader. The first several months of the semester include opportunities to find community with interest fairs, block parties, events such as Blessing of the Books and an inspiring Opening Convocation. A robust Campus Life and Student Development team leads these efforts.

Because student success is foundational to the academic program as well, the college has intentionally developed an array of academic support services. The Sandor Teszler Library, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Academic Advising, the Office of the Registrar, Information Technology Services, Academic Grants, Institutional Research, the co-curricular partners in the Mungo Exchange (the Office of International Programs, Undergraduate Research and Postgraduate Fellowships, the Career Center and the Center for Community-Based Learning) and the Office of Student Success are all staffed with individuals who support teachers and learners.

Athletics

In the early 1900s, Wofford College athletics teams chose the Boston Terrier as their mascot. The small but tenacious and fierce dog is full of intelligence and energy making it an ideal mascot for one of the smallest colleges to compete in NCAA Division I athletics.

- + **Wofford College supports 20 teams and is a member of the Southern Conference.**
- + **Men's sports:** baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer and tennis
- + **Women's sports:** basketball, cross country, golf, indoor track and field, lacrosse, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball
- + **Co-educational sport:** Rifle

The college boasts one of the highest student-athlete graduation rates in the country and is competitive across the board with recent SoCon team championships in volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball and baseball and individual championships in track and field and cross country. The men's basketball team has made three trips to the NCAA men's basketball tournament in the past decade.

OTHER RECENT SUCCESSES INCLUDE:

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

For the 10th time, Wofford was honored with the 2024-25 D.S. McAlister Award, presented to the Southern Conference school that is judged to have exhibited the highest degree of sportsmanship in the conduct of its athletic program.

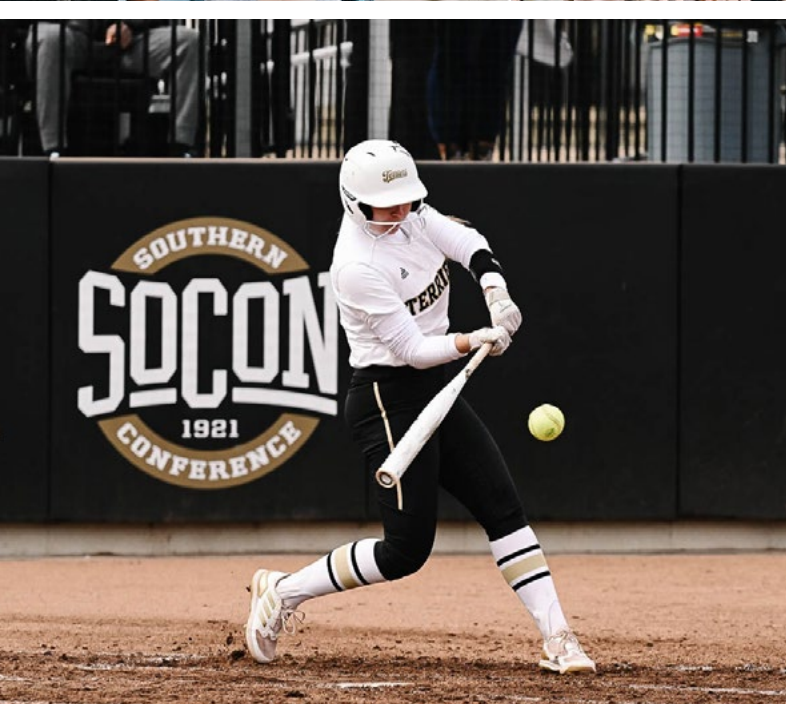
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

In 2024-25, Wofford had 314 student-athletes named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll and 83 student-athletes named to the Academic All-Conference team, both of which were records for the college. There were 29 Terriers with a perfect 4.0 GPA this academic year, also a record.

NCAA APR SCORES

The NCAA released the latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) results in August, and 13 of the 20 teams at the college were above the Division I institutional average of 984. The Wofford men's cross country, women's basketball, men's tennis, women's tennis, women's soccer, softball, volleyball and rifle teams earned scores of 1,000, the most of any SoCon school.







The presidents home

THE PRESIDENCY OF WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College is seeking an innovative visionary leader to become the 12th president of this extraordinary institution of higher learning. The next president will bring a passionate commitment to the value and importance of the liberal arts and have a proven record of success in senior leadership in higher education and/or a complex organization. A terminal degree is preferred but not required.

Strategic opportunities

Key strategic opportunities for the next president of Wofford College include:

- + Articulate clearly and passionately Wofford's momentum and many successes, as well as its mission, core values, community strength and value proposition, to increase brand visibility and meet enrollment goals.
- + Continue to model the college's culture as a highly visible, student-centered leader who is an engaged and active member of the Wofford, Spartanburg and South Carolina communities.
- + Build upon Wofford's positive trajectory of endowment growth, financial sustainability and budget surpluses, strategic enrollment growth and fundraising success.
- + Prepare for the public phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign to boost endowment growth and support of the people, places and programs that will establish Wofford College among top-tier national liberal arts colleges. That work will involve a focus on:
 - + Overall external resource development.
 - + Major gift cultivation and solicitation.
 - + Corporate and foundation partnerships.
 - + Community engagement, particularly with all alumni, parents, friends and other potential supporters of the college.
- + Navigate the increasingly complex and unpredictable landscape of NCAA Division I athletics, supporting student-athletes, coaches and athletics staff while managing the challenges of resource allocation.
- + Continue to build scholarship support for students, professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and a fully diverse and accessible community of learning — with opportunities for all both inside and outside the classroom — that will lead to the transformative experiences, lifelong bonds and post-graduate outcomes for which Wofford is known.
- + Invest strategically and thoughtfully in academic programmatic offerings that benefit students, yield market value now and in the future, and align with Wofford's mission and core values.
- + Partner with a talented and deeply committed board of trustees to innovate, envision and prepare for the future while also celebrating Wofford's rich history and traditions.
- + Celebrate and promote the enhancement of the full student experience, including academic rigor in the classroom, co-curricular experiential learning (study abroad, career exploration, research and community-based learning), sorority and fraternity life, student-led clubs and activities, health and wellness services, creative outlets and athletics participation.
- + Engage and leverage a dedicated and loyal alumni base to advance the Wofford brand, attract students and increase community support.





Qualifications and attributes

Following are additional expectations for the successful candidate:

- + Dedication to academic quality and intellectual rigor that will strengthen Wofford's already distinctive reputation and ensure graduates are prepared for life, learning and work in a global society.
- + Familiarity with artificial intelligence and other technological changes that will alter the learning process and the way colleges operate.
- + An unwavering commitment to academic freedom and the free expression of ideas.
- + Evidence of a highly functional partnership with a governing board.
- + A track record of successful leadership in strategic planning and implementation.
- + A record of successful major gift/endowment fundraising or the aptitude for this vital area.
- + Strong business and financial acumen and a record of effective fiscal management.
- + A commitment to be active in the Spartanburg area and to form partnerships that benefit the college and city.
- + An appreciation for the importance of competitive athletics and its role in Wofford's co-curricular program, with an understanding of the changes sweeping Division I NCAA athletics.
- + A commitment to collaborate with colleagues to expand Wofford's recruiting footprint and increase the percentage of students underrepresented in higher education.
- + An energetic, approachable style that relates well to students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, parents and families, donors, elected officials and community members from a wide set of backgrounds.
- + A relationship and "bridge builder," someone who is trustworthy and authentic, who can consider a variety of generational and constituent group viewpoints and act with integrity, decisiveness and courage based on the college's mission and core values.
- + A superb communicator and listener.
- + A highly visible presence on campus and a regular at college events.
- + Experience navigating the regulatory changes facing higher education today.
- + Will "join" Wofford and embrace the unusually strong culture and affinity that members of the Wofford family experience.

The Office of the President

The president of Wofford College is the chief executive of the college. Elected by the board of trustees, the president attends all meetings of the board and serves as an ex officio non-voting member of all standing and special committees of the board. In addition, the president:

- + Attends meetings of the faculty.
- + Ensures that the directions of the trustees affecting the administration and work of the college are implemented.
- + Provides for the internal governance of the college.
- + Directs, subject to the authority of the board of trustees, internal affairs of the college, leading all campus constituents.

President's leadership cabinet

The president of Wofford College leads a skilled, dedicated and experienced leadership cabinet. The following are cabinet-level direct reports to the president:

- + Willimon Family Provost
- + Senior vice president of administration and secretary to the board of trustees
- + Vice president for enrollment
- + Chief financial officer
- + Vice president for marketing and communications
- + Vice president for philanthropy and engagement
- + Chief equity officer and vice president for community initiatives
- + Vice president for campus life and student development and dean of students
- + Robert D. Atkins '65 Director of Athletics

Other reports to the president include the director of human resources, an administrative assistant and a special assistant to the president/campus events management coordinator.



Wofford's 11th president

Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford College's 11th president, will step down at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year, following 13 years of transformational advancement in the college's academic, cultural and physical landscape. Since assuming the presidency in 2013, Samhat has led Wofford College through extraordinary growth and innovation.

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THE COLLEGE HAS COMPLETED:

- + Two strategic visioning processes.
- + A record \$470 million comprehensive fund-raising campaign, including endowment growth of over \$300 million.
- + The construction of eight campus facilities, including the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall and the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies.
- + The major renovation of more than a dozen facilities, including the Mungo Student Center, Sandor Teszler Library, Burwell Building dining hall, the Blackwell-Quattlebaum Center for Wellness and Counseling Services, the senior village apartments and the Keisler Family Building in the Reeves Tennis Center.
- + The addition of two women's sports: lacrosse and softball.
- + SACSCOC reaccreditation.

He has served as chair of the Annapolis Group of Liberal Arts Colleges and on the SACSCOC and IES boards of directors. Other past national service includes the Council of Independent Colleges, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities boards of directors, the NCAA Division I board of directors and the NCAA board of governors.

President Samhat holds a B.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University School of International and Public Affairs, a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University.

Application and nomination process

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee will begin the review of applications immediately and continue work until an appointment is made. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by Monday, December 1, 2025, and must include:

- + A letter of interest addressing the strategic objectives and qualifications identified in the profile.
- + A current curriculum vitae.
- + The contact information (email and phone) for five professional references, including their relationship to the candidate.

Wofford College is being assisted by AGB Search. Application materials should be submitted through the AGB Search portal system here: **Wofford Presidential Search Portal**.

Please direct nominations and expressions of interest or any questions regarding the application process to **WoffordPresident@agbsearch.com** or:

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Wofford College provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and employment applicants without regard to unlawful considerations of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation and related medical conditions), physical or mental disability, genetic information, military status or any other legally protected status.





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