



Dean, Dornsife School of Public Health

Drexel University invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the Dornsife School of Public Health. Drexel University seeks an accomplished and inspiring leader to serve in this key leadership position to develop and advance a vision of education, research, and practice, and provide support to a talented faculty and staff and a supportive administration. This position represents an opportunity to build on the remarkable successes the School has achieved over the past decade and extend the positive trajectory for many years to come. With a focus on sustaining and advancing the School's academic excellence, research agenda, and community partnerships, the next dean will lead the Dornsife School of Public Health to its next era of impact and renown.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Drexel University was founded in 1891 as the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry, by Philadelphia financier and philanthropist Anthony J. Drexel. Coeducational since its inception, the original mission of the institution was to provide educational opportunities for women and men of all backgrounds in the "practical arts and sciences" while responding to societal needs.

Today, Drexel is a comprehensive global R1 [research university](#) with a unique model of experiential learning that combines academic rigor with one of the nation's premier cooperative education programs. Located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a vibrant city of 1.6 million residents, Drexel is central to research and practice hubs in the academic, health, industry, and government sectors. Drexel is home to [15 colleges and schools](#), offers over 200 degree programs, and provides educational opportunities in person and online through [Drexel Online](#). A hallmark of the Drexel education is the cooperative education program, or [co-op](#). Most [undergraduates](#) and [graduates](#) from select graduate programs alternate classroom study with up to three periods of full-time, paid, or unpaid employment in their field. Co-op programs enable students to gain hands-on experience locally, nationally, and internationally, and many students will ultimately find post-graduate employment with the industry leaders who partner with Drexel to offer co-op programs.

Drexel currently enrolls 22,344 students, of which 13,977 are undergraduates, 8,367 are graduate and professional students, and 4,029 are online students. On-campus undergraduates have access to over 300 clubs, 70 cultural organizations, 30 fraternities and sororities, and performing arts opportunities. Drexel Athletics consists of 18 Division I teams, which play as the Drexel Dragons, as well as 34 club, 22 intramural, and 15 tournament sports.

The University's faculty are actively engaged in research across all disciplines. Medical and health sciences research complements traditional strengths in engineering, biotechnology, basic science, information

science, and business, alongside innovative scholarship in media arts and design, the social sciences, education, and law. Interdisciplinary research efforts and entrepreneurship opportunities are also strongly supported. In FY2019, research and development expenditures totaled over \$149 million. In FY2020, researchers submitted 949 proposals, received 684 obligated awards, and were granted 36 patents. The [Office of Research and Innovation](#) is committed to facilitating all research efforts.

Drexel is one of Philadelphia's top 10 private employers, and a major engine for economic development in the region. Drexel has committed to being the nation's most civically engaged university, with community partnerships integrated into every aspect of service and academics. More information about Drexel University may be found [here](#).

STRATEGIC PLAN

Drexel University announced a new ten-year strategic in Fall 2020, "Transforming the Modern Urban University," which guides the University's 21st-century trajectory. Built on six strategic imperatives with six corresponding initiatives, the strategic plan plots a course for Drexel's ability to serve its mission and achieve its vision "to design the future through the innovative integration of education, scholarship, diverse partnerships, and our global community." Learn more at the [Strategic Plan website](#).

LEADERSHIP

John Fry, President

John Fry was appointed Drexel University's 14th president in 2010 and set out to transform Drexel into a private research university with a strong public purpose — an institution that harnesses its strengths to serve its students, its neighborhood, city, and the nation. Prior to Drexel, Fry was president of Franklin & Marshall College, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania, and a management consultant for the higher education and nonprofit sectors.

Under Fry's leadership, Drexel has set a national example for the execution of public-private partnerships and become a powerful force for economic development in Greater Philadelphia. He has championed major neighborhood revitalization initiatives, including the creation of a multi-faceted university extension center in Mantua — the [Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships](#) — extensive economic development efforts, and significant partnerships to support local neighborhood schools. He negotiated a groundbreaking affiliation with the [Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia](#), launched the [Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship](#) to foster entrepreneurial learning, and forged a series of academic and research partnerships to enhance Drexel's global connections in China, Turkey, Israel, Brazil, Chile, India, and South Korea. Also, during Fry's tenure, Drexel has seen a significant increase in fundraising and a growing number of philanthropic partners.

Fry serves on the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Advanced Functional Fabrics of America, the Kresge Foundation, the Wistar Institute, Lafayette College, and the Philadelphia Orchestra Association. He also served two years as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, concluding his tenure in October 2018. Fry graduated from Lafayette College and earned a master's degree in business administration from the New York University Stern School of Business.

More information about President Fry may be found [here](#).

Paul Jensen, Provost

Paul Jensen, PhD, was appointed Executive Vice President and Nina Henderson Provost in 2019 after serving as Dean and R. John Chapel, Jr., Dean's Chair of the LeBow College of Business. Early in his tenure as Dean, Jensen developed and won support for a new strategic plan that leverages faculty research strengths and strong industry relationships. The plan marked a transitional moment for the College, heightening the focus on developing interdisciplinary, market-driven curricula to better prepare students for success in the rapidly changing economy.

As Dean, Jensen also led two of the College's most successful fundraising years and launched what is now the Drexel Solutions Institute – a University-level initiative that builds on Drexel's rich history of industry partnerships. The Institute serves as the primary gateway for organizations to connect with the University's student and faculty talent, intellectual expertise, and R1 research capabilities – empowering organizations with full-scale, measurable solutions while expanding interdisciplinary research and experiential learning opportunities across the University.

Jensen has had a broad impact on academic programs across the University, leading two other academic units. At the Goodwin College of Professional Studies, he led the creation of Drexel's First-Year Exploratory Studies Program, which allows students to explore their academic options before declaring a major. Joining the Drexel economics faculty in 1997, Jensen brought research expertise in the areas of international trade and industrial organization, with a specific focus on the determinants of bilateral trade patterns and the welfare implications of various trade and industrial policies. He has been recognized for his teaching with awards from both Drexel and Pennsylvania State University.

Prior to his academic career, Jensen worked as an engineer in the power generation division of General Electric. He received undergraduate degrees in economics and mechanical engineering from Syracuse University and holds a doctorate in economics from Pennsylvania State University.

THE DORNSIFE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The [Dornsife School of Public Health](#) was founded on the principle of health as a human right and the recognition of the importance of social justice as a means to achieve health for all. Dornsife is the top public health school in Philadelphia and number #19 in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The School's [academic programs](#) are [fully accredited](#) by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

The Dornsife School of Public Health's mission is to provide education, conduct research, and partner with communities and organizations to improve the health of populations. The School weaves together three public health challenges: urban health, health equity, and policy translation. [Epidemiology and Biostatistics](#), [Community Health and Prevention](#), [Health Management and Policy](#), and [Environmental and Occupational Health](#) comprise the School's four in person departments.

The School [honors over 25 years](#) of training public health students using a curriculum focused on problem solving and real-life practical experiences. The School is home to a dynamic community of 84 full-time faculty, 136 staff, and over 500 students; 40 percent of the faculty identify as BIPOC, 46 percent of the School's students identify as BIPOC, and among undergraduates 20 percent identify as first-generation

students. Dornsife's annual budget is \$45 million, including over \$20 million in sponsored projects. The growth of research at Dornsife is one of the School's defining features, having more than quintupled since 2014. Dornsife accounts for 39 percent of the University's research growth since 2016 and boasts the highest research productivity per faculty member of any academic unit at Drexel.

Since 2015, the Dornsife School of Public Health has received over \$56 million in gifts. These gifts have dramatically enhanced the capacity of Dornsife's faculty, students, and staff to conduct research and engage in practice that improves health and wellbeing around the world. In 2021, Dornsife's \$14.4 million [Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation \(FIRST\) initiative](#) led to the hire of 12 diverse NIH-supported faculty to work on health disparities and promote sustainable institutional changes necessary to create a culture of inclusive excellence at the School and at the University more broadly. The most recent gifts, in 2020, include \$7 million for the development of the [Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements & Population Health Equity](#) and a \$2 million deanship naming.

Dornsife's research centers include the [Urban Health Collaborative](#), the [Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements & Population Health Equity](#), the [Center for Hunger Free Communities](#), the [Center for Non-Violence and Social Justice](#), the [Medical Cannabis Research Center](#), and the [Center for Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends](#).

Academic programs launched in the last five years include the undergraduate Global Public Health BA, MS in Population Health Sciences, MS in Global Health (online), Epidemiology MPH (online), Global Health MPH (online), Urban Health MPH (online), PhD in Biostatistics, PhD in Community Health, and a PhD in Environmental and Occupational Health. Additionally, an undergraduate Health Data Analytics program and an MS in Infection Prevention and Control will begin in 2023-24.

THE ROLE OF THE DEAN

Drexel University seeks a visionary dean who is creative and inspirational to lead the Dornsife School of Public Health (DSPH) and continue the significant momentum established over the last decade. Reporting to the Provost, the dean of the School is a member of the University's academic leadership team and is the School's principal academic and administrative officer. The dean will lead the vision of DSPH, integrate that vision with the mission of Drexel University, and communicate this vision to internal and external partners.

The dean will provide leadership for School-wide and institution-wide efforts that contribute to the advancement of Drexel University's excellence in teaching, research, and service. The dean will develop external relationships with partners; work internally to foster collaboration with other academic units; and create a welcoming environment within DSPH to recruit, develop, and partner with faculty, staff, students, and administration to continue the University's tradition of producing students who are well prepared for rewarding careers and service to advance population health equity.

The School's department chairs; associate deans for education; public health practice; research; diversity and inclusion; finance and administration; faculty affairs; and the directors of global health, the Urban Health Collaborative, and the Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements, and Population Health Equity are among the faculty and staff who report to the dean. The dean has financial and administrative management responsibility for the School. This position will also oversee the School's research output

and expenditures, which are roughly \$20 million annually. The dean will lead a group of 84 full-time faculty and 136 full-time staff. The dean also chairs the school council, a body made up of faculty, staff, and students who provide insight and support to decision making.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

To succeed in this role, the dean will address several key opportunities and challenges, as detailed below:

Enrollment Growth and Student Success: The dean will provide strategic planning, vision, and lead the implementation of academic offerings that increase student enrollment. While current enrollment represents nearly 70 percent growth over 2018 figures, and reflects significant diversity of student body and programs, the desire to further grow enrollment and reduce financial and other barriers to enrollment by highly motivated students is significant. This includes undergraduate offerings, graduate programs at the master's and doctoral level, and shorter-duration offerings like certificates. A strategy for reaching more students through online offerings will need to be considered carefully by the next dean. The expansion of enrollment strategies such as 4+1 programs with liberal arts undergraduates at Drexel and beyond will be important for the dean to assess as well.

Research Growth and Innovation: The next dean will build on the significant momentum in research that has been created with the help of a research-oriented faculty and student body. Dornsife has the fastest growing research program at the University and the second largest program University-wide. At the Dornsife School, the synergy between research/scholarship and teaching/learning is recognized and continually enhanced to support the success of students and build a body of research that addresses key issues in public health. In line with Drexel's strategic plan, the dean will prioritize the growth of externally-funded research, scholarship, and creative activity, including innovative teaching, within the School. In close partnership with faculty and research leaders across the University, the dean will work to identify multiple sources of funding and support personnel to help further expand the research capacity of the School – in alignment with University-wide initiatives to maintain the R1 status of the University. The dean will undertake sustained efforts to ensure growth in scholarly activity across all disciplines and interdisciplinary pursuits within the School as well as inter-School scholarly activities at Drexel. Importantly, along with the Provost and Executive Vice Provost for Research and Innovation, the dean will provide leadership into the continued development of University administrative services that support research and faculty development, including pre/post award services, IRB, contracts, research training, and related research administration functions.

Faculty and Staff Development: As the School's leader, the dean will have abundant opportunities to interact with the accomplished and diverse faculty and staff and its high achieving students who comprise the School. The dean will nurture the careers of all faculty and staff and will lead the School during a time of exceptional faculty growth as a result of the [FIRST](#) program. Over the past seven years, Dornsife's total faculty and staff have increased 50 percent. The dean will authentically and persuasively share Dornsife's story to recruit new colleagues who will add to the Dornsife School's strength and retain valued members of the faculty and staff. Simultaneously, the dean will explore pathways for faculty inclusion beyond traditional research and displays of qualification for tenure. Engaging accomplished professionals who serve in adjunct faculty roles and considering optimal approaches for their training and participation in the School will be a priority as well.

Pillars of Excellence: The success of the Urban Health Collaborative is a point of pride for all members of the Dornsife School. The Collaborative and the research its investigators pursue undoubtedly has increased the visibility of the School.

The Urban Health Collaborative continues to attract outstanding new faculty and students as well as significant external funding. The UHC currently includes 13 core faculty members, 31 faculty affiliates, 40 staff members, seven postdoctoral trainees, 18 doctoral trainees, 49 master's students, two research co-op students, two visiting scholars, and 23 temporary employees. It is home to 38 externally funded research awards totaling \$5,564,430 in annual direct expenditures. Experts from across the Dornsife School of Public Health lead the five UHC cores (Administrative Core, Training Core, Research and Data Core, Policy Core, and Community Engagement Core).

The Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements, and Population Health Equity was launched in November 2021. Ubuntu represents the South African humanist philosophy, "I am because we are." The mission of the Ubuntu Center is to unite diverse partners to generate and translate evidence; accelerate antiracism solutions; and transform the health of communities locally, nationally, and globally. In the 2021 academic year, Sharrelle Barber, ScD, MPH led the planning committee for the Center, to establish the basis of the Ubuntu Approach. The Ubuntu Center also established a Strategic Council to guide the Center's work—including Dornsife faculty members across all departments and external partners based in Philadelphia and Brazil. In addition, the Center identified three movement fellows and has also been active in submitting grant proposals. In its first year, the Center has already received substantive research funding.

The arrival of the next dean coincides with a recognition across the School that an opportunity for strategic growth is the establishment of centers, institutes, or focused pursuit of excellence in areas other than or that complement urban health, such as public health policy or environmental and occupational health. A center for the translation of study and research to action is another potential possibility. The next dean will work together with faculty, staff, students, and supporters of the School to identify possibilities for national distinction and bring the best options to life. A new Dornsife strategic plan will be a natural mechanism to undertake this effort.

Donor Engagement and Support: DSPH has been generously supported by several engaged donors, most notably David and Dana Dornsife, with a naming gift and several other gifts. The growth and visibility of the work of DSPH combined with a growing global interest in public health creates the opportunity for accelerated growth. The dean will seek external funding for the School by working with University Advancement leaders to identify and cultivate relationships with foundations, corporations, alumni, and donors who support the mission and vision of the School. The dean will embrace the rich history of the School and its exciting trajectory and engage potential donors who have a desire to give back and help educate future generations of professionals working to improve the health of others. Maintaining positive relations with existing donors will be critically important as well.

Partnership Cultivation: The dean will have a unique opportunity to build upon existing and develop new partnerships within Drexel and beyond the University. Since its inception, Drexel's commitment to experiential learning has distinguished the University and propelled its schools and colleges with momentum to engage in the broader world. As such, the Dornsife School of Public Health is uniquely positioned to collaborate across disciplines with its many partners to study and improve the health of the communities with which we work. While impactful collaborations across Drexel schools exist, there is

much more that can be done—and done exceedingly well in part due to the University’s collective history of partnership—in the future.

Simultaneously, community-engaged approaches with external partners, including public health and business communities, will be critical for the dean to explore and realize. These types of collaborations have been central to the Dornsife School’s identity for 25 years. The School would be joining forces with partner organizations from a place of stability and strength that has been built over many successful projects. The School’s many connections to Philadelphia government, the current dean’s role on the Philadelphia Board of Health, and the School’s 2018 receipt of the ASSPH Harrison C. Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service are recent examples of the School’s presence and impact in the community. Greater reach in the world of international public health and further engagement in the realm of practice are two potential areas for focused exploration. The Dean’s Advisory Council is one of the assets available to support growth in these areas – as is the significant body of distinguished alumni and faculty.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Drexel University seeks a nationally recognized leader with broad intellectual insights, top-tier scholarly credentials, and strong management and leadership skills. The selected candidate will bring successful experience in a university or public health organization with a distinguished record of leadership and intellectual achievement; a doctoral degree or equivalent is required.

The position requires a leader with strategic capacity and an outstanding record in research and teaching; fundraising; superior communication skills; and the ability to inspire and elevate the faculty, staff, and student members within the Dornsife School of Public Health.

The successful candidate will embody many of the following qualifications and attributes:

- A record of alignment with the Dornsife School’s founding principle of health as a human right and the recognition of the importance of social justice to achieve health for all;
- Demonstrated leadership experience, including a strong vision for the future of global health who can formulate and execute a strategic plan that will grow the ability of DPH to deliver on its mission and support the growth of the organization in terms of faculty, staff, budget, activity, and impact;
- Recognition and esteem across fields of public health that will facilitate recruitment of new and established faculty across multiple disciplines of public health;
- Outstanding diplomatic and negotiation skills and the ability to articulate complex and nuanced topics accurately in multiple contexts;
- An agent of change with the ability to influence and persuade peers and partners;
- A clear, open, and relatable communication style, with the skills to effectively deliver information to a wide array of internal and external constituents;
- A demonstrable commitment to policies and practices that promote equity and a more just society, particularly for underserved communities;
- Experience collaborating with interdisciplinary teams and an ability to work across constituencies;

- Keen emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, and the ability to work well on a team in a fast-paced environment;
- Demonstrated success in securing major sources of external funding support, including experience coordinating ideas around large institutional grants;
- An interest in advancing and expanding the active relationships that DSPH faculty, staff, and students have with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and Pennsylvania Department of Health;
- Excellent decision-making and delegating abilities paired with a transparent, collegial, inclusive, and consensus-building approach to implementing change that draws in talented parties;
- The ability to develop positive, memorable experiences that attract leaders, participants, and collaborators from diverse fields within the School's topical foci for the long term;
- Excellent public speaking skills coupled with a demonstrated ability to represent the Dornsife School of Public Health to a wide array of constituents to bolster research-to-impact opportunities and communicate this work externally in ways that focus positive attention on the School and its partners;
- Demonstrated success in developing and motivating internal teams, especially those consisting of world-class researchers and thought leaders;
- Facility with budgets and a record of effectively allocating resources;
- A record of leadership and intellectual achievement in public health;
- Demonstrated leadership practices that foster diversity, inclusion, and equity within an organization and a history of promoting initiatives and practices that support scholars and practitioners from underrepresented groups with tangible results;
- Interest and ability to work in partnership with communities facing inequity and hardship, including Drexel's immediate community, a neighborhood that has faced chronic disinvestment;
- A record of successfully building connections with other organizations, industries, and government partners;
- A commitment to continue the Dornsife history of engaging staff and students in the decision-making of the School and valuing of students and professional staff as equal partners in the School;
- Demonstrated ability and interest in furthering established partnerships between the School, the local department of public health, and other public health agencies and actors in the city and state and at the federal level;
- Demonstrated commitment to transparency; and,
- Integrity and the highest standards of ethical behavior.

The salary range for this position is \$360,000-\$450,000. Drexel University has provided a compensation range representing its good faith estimate of what the University may pay for the position at the time of posting. The University may ultimately pay more or less than the posted compensation range. The salary offered to the selected candidate will be determined based on factors such as the qualifications of the selected candidate, budget availability, internal salary equity considerations, and available market information, but not based on a candidate's sex or any other protected status. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, 403(b) retirement, health saving account, life, STD, and LTD insurance.

For best consideration, please send all nominations and applications to:



Jim Sirianni, Managing Director
Mark Halligan, Senior Associate
Storbeck Search
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Drexel University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer that welcomes individuals from diverse and neurodiverse backgrounds and perspectives, and believes that an inclusive and respectful environment enriches the University community and the educational and employment experience of its members. The University prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, status as a veteran or special disabled veteran, gender identity or expression, genetic information, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions and any other prohibited characteristic.