

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Shape academic distinction. Advance student success. Lead VSU's future.

Institution	Valdosta State University
FLSA Status	Exempt (Executive)
Job Type	Full Time
Posting Details	Posted: October 20, 2026 Application Due: Open Until Filled Apply: Click here

THE OPPORTUNITY

Valdosta State University seeks an academically accomplished, visionary, and collaborative leader to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Reporting directly to the President and serving as the University's chief academic officer and a member of the President's Cabinet, the Provost will provide strategic and operational leadership for the academic enterprise and play a central role in major decisions affecting the University as a whole.

The Provost will lead a broad portfolio that includes the academic colleges, Graduate School, Honors College, VState, vice provost leadership, and academic support functions. This leader will have the opportunity to shape VSU's academic identity, strengthen a culture of excellence and shared purpose, expand programs responsive to student and workforce needs, and align academic quality with enrollment growth, student success, research, and long-term financial sustainability.

WHY VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

At VSU, academic leadership has a direct and visible connection to student opportunity and regional vitality. The next Provost will join an executive team focused on building momentum in enrollment, strengthening retention and completion, expanding the University's distinctive academic portfolio, and deepening partnerships across the communities VSU serves. The role offers an exceptional platform for an innovative academic leader to develop people, champion faculty achievement, influence institutional strategy, and create lasting impact.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

- Academic vision and distinctiveness: Identify opportunities to strengthen VSU's academic identity, institutional brand, program relevance, and competitive position through innovative, labor-market-informed programs aligned with the President's emerging vision and the University's mission.
- Student success through academic excellence: Advance strategies that improve learning, retention, persistence, progression, and completion through effective instruction, academic support, course availability, faculty engagement, and a cohesive student success structure.
- Academic leadership and culture: Strengthen leadership effectiveness, shared governance, accountability, communication, civility, and collaboration across colleges, departments, and academic support units.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide leadership

- Provide vision and executive leadership for the academic enterprise, including the academic colleges, Graduate School, Honors College, VState, vice provost leadership, and academic support functions.

- Serve as the University's chief academic officer and principal advisor to the President on academic strategy, faculty matters, educational quality, student success, and the effective administration of Academic Affairs.
- Advance faculty excellence in teaching, scholarship, research, and creative activity while fostering academic freedom, shared governance, professional development, accountability, and a visible, collaborative academic culture.
- Lead a cohesive institutional approach to student success by aligning academic leadership, faculty engagement, academic support, course availability, and appropriate cross-divisional resources around retention, progression, and completion.
- Partner closely with Research and Economic Development, Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs to strengthen research capacity, graduate and doctoral education, recruitment, retention, persistence, progression, and completion.

Develop and implement goals, policies, and procedures

- Translate the President's vision and the University's strategic plan into clear academic goals, priorities, implementation plans, measures, and accountability structures.
- Lead strategic review and management of the academic portfolio, including program development, expansion, redesign, consolidation, and discontinuation based on student demand, workforce needs, academic quality, mission alignment, and financial sustainability.
- Guide the development of innovative, labor-market-informed degree programs and learning opportunities that strengthen VSU's academic distinctiveness and competitive position.
- Develop, implement, interpret, and assess academic policies, procedures, standards, and practices consistent with faculty governance, accreditation expectations, University System of Georgia requirements, and applicable law.
- Lead continuous improvement in academic planning, curriculum, instruction, faculty support, institutional effectiveness, and the use of data to improve academic and student outcomes.

Manage personnel

- Provide leadership, direction, supervision, and evaluation for deans, vice provosts, senior academic administrators, and other direct reports within the Academic Affairs portfolio.
- Build and support a highly productive leadership team through clear expectations, professional development, succession planning, constructive feedback, and accountability for institutional results.
- Oversee faculty and academic leadership matters, including recruitment, appointment, development, evaluation, promotion, tenure, workload, recognition, and retention, in accordance with established policy and shared governance responsibilities.
- Promote an academic workplace characterized by civility, integrity, open communication, collaboration, fair process, and respect for the contributions of faculty, staff, and students.
- Address complex and sensitive personnel, performance, and organizational matters with sound judgment, discretion, consistency, and appropriate consultation.

University representative

- Represent VSU with the University System of Georgia, accrediting bodies, governmental and educational organizations, community and industry partners, donors, alumni, and other external constituencies.
- Serve as a compelling advocate for VSU's academic mission, faculty, students, programs, research, and contributions to the region and state.
- Develop and sustain external partnerships that expand educational opportunity, support workforce and economic development, strengthen research and graduate education, and enhance the University's impact.
- Communicate effectively with faculty, staff, students, executive leaders, governance bodies, and external audiences regarding academic priorities, decisions, progress, challenges, and opportunities.
- Represent the President and University at meetings, ceremonies, public events, and other functions as requested.

Manage budget

- Lead academic planning and the development, administration, and monitoring of Academic Affairs operating, personnel, strategic, and capital budgets.

- Align resources with academic priorities, enrollment demand, student success, faculty excellence, program quality, research growth, and long-term financial sustainability.
- Use data, transparent criteria, and strategic fiscal management to evaluate program investments, resource allocation, organizational structures, and emerging opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with the President, Chief Business Officer, deans, and other leaders to develop responsible financial strategies and address institutional priorities and constraints.

Participate in university decision-making

- Serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and contribute an academic perspective to institution-wide strategy, policy, planning, risk assessment, resource allocation, and decision-making.
- Advise the President on emerging issues and recommend appropriate responses or actions affecting Academic Affairs or the University as a whole.
- Organize and present complex information, options, and recommendations to facilitate timely, informed, and transparent executive decisions.
- Build alignment across divisions and governance groups, address interdependencies, and lead implementation of decisions requiring coordinated institutional action.
- Serve on and lead University, system-level, and external committees or initiatives as assigned by the President.

COMPENSABLE FACTORS

- Work requires exceptional academic leadership, communication, interpersonal, political, and decision-making skills to address matters critical to educational quality, student success, faculty effectiveness, institutional reputation, and long-term sustainability.
- Decisions shape the scope, direction, goals, academic portfolio, and long-range future of the University and may require action by the President, governing authorities, accreditors, or other external entities.
- Work requires considerable judgment, initiative, creativity, and ingenuity in formulating and administering policies and programs for a major University division.
- The position regularly manages high-volume and variable demands, competing priorities, sensitive academic and personnel matters, and interactions with concerned or distressed stakeholders.
- The role supervises and evaluates senior academic administrators and other professional leaders responsible for major University functions.
- The nature of the position regularly requires work beyond 40 hours per week, including evenings, weekends, travel, and availability during critical institutional matters.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- An earned doctorate from an appropriately accredited institution.
- At least ten years of progressively responsible academic administrative experience, including successful senior-level leadership and at least seven years of responsibility for supervising and developing highly productive teams.
- A record of teaching and scholarship sufficient to qualify for appointment as a tenured full professor in an academic discipline represented at VSU.
- Progressively responsible experience in academic leadership, strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, program development and review, and strategic fiscal management.
- Demonstrated understanding of graduate education and the requirements for excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activity.

PREFERRED LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Successful leadership of a complex academic portfolio at a regional comprehensive university or similarly multifaceted institution.
- Experience strengthening enrollment, retention, progression, completion, and student success through close partnership among Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs.
- Demonstrated success developing, expanding, redesigning, consolidating, or discontinuing academic programs using evidence related to quality, demand, mission, workforce need, and sustainability.

- Experience advancing graduate and doctoral education, research capacity, external partnerships, and faculty achievement.
- Experience working effectively within shared governance and with a university system, governing board, regional accreditor, or other oversight body.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Ability to articulate a compelling academic vision and translate that vision into aligned goals, decisions, implementation, and measurable results.
- Exceptional judgment, integrity, discretion, courage, and the ability to navigate complex and sensitive situations fairly and constructively.
- Strong understanding of contemporary higher education, academic affairs, faculty governance, accreditation, enrollment dynamics, student success, research, graduate education, and institutional finance.
- Ability to build trust and productive relationships with the President, faculty, staff, students, governance bodies, executive leaders, and external partners.
- Exceptional written, oral, listening, presentation, negotiation, and executive-advising skills for varied audiences.
- Ability to lead organizational change, manage competing priorities and interdependencies, resolve conflict, and sustain accountability in a multi-constituency environment.
- Ability to interpret complex data, assess academic and financial implications, and communicate clear recommendations for decision-making.
- Demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, civility, student success, faculty achievement, shared governance, and collaborative executive leadership.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate is an academically credible, forward-looking, and highly collaborative leader who can honor the traditions of the academy while moving decisively toward VSU's future. This leader will be equally comfortable engaging faculty in shared governance, evaluating the academic portfolio, aligning resources with strategy, partnering across divisions, representing VSU externally, and advising the President on consequential institutional decisions. The successful candidate will bring intellectual curiosity, integrity, transparency, courage, fiscal discipline, and a deep commitment to creating the conditions in which students, faculty, staff, and academic programs can thrive.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit all required application materials through the Careers portal. Questions regarding the search may be directed to Ethan Rountree via email at etroutree@valdosta.edu.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution committed to fostering a welcoming and respectful environment. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, or other status protected by applicable law.