

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN, WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC
AND THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE



Oklahoma City
UNIVERSITY

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THE OPPORTUNITY

Oklahoma City University (OCU)—a private, non-profit university established in 1904 and affiliated with the United Methodist Church—invites inquiries, nominations, and applications in the search for its next Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre (hereafter abbreviated as “Dean”). The University seeks an experienced, creative, and talented academic leader with a commitment to advancing programs of music and theatre education.

Reporting to the next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will be named by December 2025 after a national search, the next Dean will provide academic and administrative leadership for both the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre, advancing their missions through strategic planning, budget oversight, and program development ensuring excellence in curriculum design, scholarly activity, instructional delivery, assessment, and outcomes. The Dean will cultivate faculty development and student success, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensure compliance with accreditation standards. In partnership with University leadership and external stakeholders, the Dean fosters innovation in arts education, leads fundraising and community engagement efforts, and maintains a visible presence at performances and campus events.

Oklahoma City University is now engaged in this important search because [Mark Edward Parker](#), who served OCU for more than 35 years and elevated the Schools of Music and Theatre into the ranks of top performing arts schools, has recently retired from his role as Dean. Jane Jayroe Gamble, chair of the Board of Trustees, notes that “it is remarkable the degree of success that OCU students have attained under Mark’s leadership, not just on the national and international stages but in schools and universities around the world.”

The University now seeks a leader who values and can build on this legacy of strong academic programs, talented faculty, and an international reputation for excellence in the fusion of arts, technology, and creativity. This is a remarkable opportunity for an engaging and collaborative performing arts education professional to lead already strong programs to the next levels of recognition and success.

The next Dean is expected to begin in 2026. Further details about [Oklahoma City University](#), the position requirements, the leadership agenda for the next Dean, and the application process are provided in this profile.



OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

As the OCU website explains about its [founding and history](#), the institution known since 1924 as Oklahoma City University had several names and locations in its early years. One thing has remained constant; the university has remained firmly attached to its Methodist roots. The connection to the Oklahoma City region and its people through more than a century is also a constant—even as the population and educational needs have changed since 1904.

Every era since its founding has kept the values of the institution at the core of its education for each generation of students. The OCU website notes that the Great Plan developed in the early 1950s emphasized the importance of broad learning for everyone, instead of technical training: that Plan was designed to elevate the academic discourse and thereby deepen the quality of education offered to all students. In the decades that followed, with enrollment increasing, this approach was successful not only in offering a distinctive education but in promoting the value of liberal education: the Great Plan inspired positive changes across campus and a move toward interdisciplinary approaches at all levels. Departments worked together to create courses that approached lofty topics from a variety of perspectives and taught students to look at life in a new way.

As a result of the commitments of leaders, students, faculty, staff, and donors, this private, nonprofit university located on 104 park-like acres in the heart of the historic Uptown 23rd District of Oklahoma City, is now a diverse community of academic achievers, big thinkers, independent spirits, and dedicated artists. At OCU, students from across the globe follow their passions and excel in the liberal arts, fine and performing arts, sciences, law, health professions, and business.

The University continues to build on its reputation for academic success: OCU achieved its first institutional accreditation in 1951, with the most recent reaffirmation from the Higher Learning Commission in 2022. Specialized [accreditation](#) for many programs (including NASM, the National Association of Schools of Music) attests to the strengths and reputation of the distinctive academic programs. OCU now offers more than 70 undergraduate majors and 20 graduate degrees, including the Juris Doctor, Master of Business Administration, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Music, Master of Science, and Doctor of Nursing Practice.

According to national rankings, Oklahoma City University continues to stake its claim as one of the top private, not-for-profit universities in the nation. The college and information planning site [Niche](#) listed OCU among the top 10% of colleges in these categories: Best Small Colleges in America, Best Christian Colleges in America, Best Colleges for Performing Arts, Best Colleges for Music in America. OCU also ranks among the top 20% nationally in these categories: Top Private Universities, Colleges with the Best Academics, Best Colleges for Nursing, Best Colleges for History, Best Colleges for Kinesiology and Physical Therapy.

Serving as OCU's 19th President since 2021, [Dr. Kenneth R. Evans](#) leads with a focus on growth and innovation that benefits the University, its faculty, staff, and students, and the regional and global communities it serves. Under his leadership, OCU continues to engage College leaders in implementing the six goals of its [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#). In addition to continued emphasis on inclusion, belonging, equity, accessibility, and diversity, this Plan calls for collaboration, partnerships, and attention to critical issues related to enrollment, student success, compensation, and other areas.

MISSION

Inspired by a culture of creativity, Oklahoma City University fosters an immersive, personalized experience that welcomes and prepares students to pursue boundless opportunities.

VALUES

Create: Be innovative and enterprising

Excel: Be extraordinary

Lead: Empower yourself and others

Respect: Value each other

Serve: Pursue generational impact

Collaborate: Cultivate community

VISION

Oklahoma City University will be an innovative academic institution with local impact and global reach and reputation. By providing a student-focused learning environment and an inclusive, values-centered culture that engages the community and the world, Oklahoma City University will be a university of choice for talented and high-potential students, faculty, and staff.

OCU FAST FACTS (FALL 2024)

Total enrollment:

2,966 (1,514 undergraduate; 1,025 graduate; 427 law)

Full-time undergraduate enrollment:

1,432

Known race/ethnicity of student body:

55% White; 13% Hispanic; 10% International; 8% Multiple Race; 6% Black or African American; 4% Asian; 3% American Indian or Alaska Native; <1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Gender of undergraduate student population:

66% female, 34% male

Pell-eligible students:

14%

Origin of student population:

55% from Oklahoma, 34% from other U.S. states, 11% from more than 40 other countries

Undergraduate admissions acceptance rate:

~70% (ACT range 21-25)

Student-faculty ratio:

11:1

Average class size:

17 (first-year students); 13 (upper-division students)

Number of faculty:

328 (88 full-time, tenure-track; 96 full-time, non-tenure-track; 144 adjunct)

Number of athletic teams:

19 (Sooner Athletic Conference, NAIA)

Nickname:

Stars

Mascot:

Starsky the Ram

Colors:

Blue and white





OCU POINTS OF PRIDE

- Student enrollment in fall 2024 increased for the second straight term to the highest level in eight years.
- Connections with local, state, and federal government and issues are strong, as [David Holt](#), Dean of the OCU School of Law, has been serving as the Mayor of Oklahoma City since 2018.
- Seventy-eight percent of faculty members hold the highest degrees in their fields. Professors, not graduate assistants, teach all classes.
- As this news release notes, the [Tribal Sovereignty Institute](#) was established in 2024 to build on the long-standing relationships of OCU School of Law with tribal and Nation leaders and OCU's scholarship on sovereignty and American Indian law. Now under development as one of the specialized centers of the School of Law, this Institute seeks to pursue sovereignty initiatives beyond the legal realm through cultural preservation, language revitalization, and economic development.
- Overseen by the [Division of Student Affairs](#), more than 60 [student organizations](#) encourage students to connect with others and develop their interests, explore new perspectives, and prepare for their careers. These organizations range from those focused on academic excellence, Greek life, performing arts, student government, multicultural student associations, community service, as well as political and religious interests.
- OCU's [Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Entertainment](#) has been consistently rated one of the top U.S. destinations for dance programs on industry lists such [Backstage](#), [DanceUSA.org](#), and [College Magazine](#). More than 60 OCU dancers have gone on to become Rockettes or Radio City song and dance ensemble members, and more than 100 OCU graduates have been featured in Broadway musicals.
- The [Wanda L. Bass School of Music](#) boasts a reputation for producing star performers, like like Kristin Chenoweth, Leona Mitchell, and Kelli O'Hara. Designated as an [All-Steinway School](#) and a Yamaha Institution of Excellence, the School is a premier destination for aspiring performers, composers, and educators.
- The [OCU Stars](#) have won more than 70 national championships and consistently field top programs in a variety of sports in the Sooner Athletic Conference (NAIA). OCU student-athletes also excel in the classroom, with athletes typically maintaining an overall GPA of 3.0.
- More than \$34 million is awarded annually in academic merit or performance scholarships, with automatic academic scholarships for first-year students reaching as high as \$13,000 a year. Many other scholarship programs—such as the Clara Luper Scholars and the American Indian Scholarship Program—offer additional assistance to students. More than 90% of students receive academic merit, performance, or need-based [financial aid](#).
- Since 1978, part of the OCU campus has been listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. This district, comprised of the Administration Building, Fine Arts Building, and Goldstar Building, was nominated for its statewide significance in education and in the United Methodist community.
- OCU was designated by Victory, an advocacy organization for supporting students in the military, at the Gold level on its [Military Friendly® School](#) List for 2025-26.
- The Meinders School of Business recently [launched the Executives-in-Residence](#) Program to connect students with a select group of top executives, offering invaluable mentoring, one-on-one conversations, and potential career networks.
- The Kramer School of Nursing addressed a critical workforce and health need in 2023 by establishing the first and only 12-month, in-person [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing \(BSN\)](#) program in Oklahoma; all students in this cohort passed the NCLEX exam.



OKLAHOMA CITY AND THE REGION

In conversations about the appeal of working at OCU, faculty, staff, and administrators described their excitement about Oklahoma City itself. Home to more than 1.2 million Oklahomans enjoying an average of 300 days of sunshine per year, [Oklahoma City](#) (OKC) is the capital and most populous city in the state of Oklahoma. With a cost of living significantly lower than the national average, Oklahoma City offers a unique blend of affordability, opportunity, and community that makes it an attractive place to call home. The City also boasts a strong and diverse job market, particularly in sectors like energy, aviation, healthcare, and technology—offering career stability and growth. Beyond economics, Oklahoma City is known for its friendly, welcoming atmosphere and a sense of community that appeals to both residents and visitors. Oklahoma City has the 4th highest Native American population of any city in the United States. Home to 38 federally recognized tribes, Oklahoma is in the heart of Indian Country.

The City has invested heavily in revitalization efforts, which have led to a vibrant downtown area filled with restaurants, entertainment venues, galleries, museums, and cultural attractions such as the [Oklahoma City Museum of Art](#) and the [Civic Center Music Hall](#). Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy easy access to [gardens and parks](#), lakes, and the extensive Oklahoma River [trail system](#). Positioned near the geographic center of the United States, Oklahoma City serves as a major transportation and logistics hub, with easy access to major highways, like I-35, I-40, and I-44, making it ideal for businesses and convenient for travel. As the [VisitOKC website](#) states, “Oklahoma City offers all of the culture, cuisine, attractions, and amenities you’d expect in a modern metropolis. . . [offering] plenty of hustle without all the hassle.”



THE WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE

The Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre at Oklahoma City University are nationally recognized centers for performing arts education, known for their rigorous training, distinguished faculty, and a legacy of excellence in music and performance. Together, the School of Music and the School of Theatre form a dynamic performing arts community, collaborating with faculty and leaders in OCU's [Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Entertainment](#) to blend conservatory-level training with a liberal arts foundation, making OCU a standout institution for students pursuing careers in music and theatre.

The Wanda L. Bass School of Music. The [Wanda L. Bass School of Music](#) has been continuously accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) since 1944. As the [2025 Bass School of Music Viewbook](#) notes, few schools have produced so many graduates who excel across the musical spectrum, as performers, educators, and composers. Fewer still have alumni recognized with Grammy, Emmy, and Tony Awards. Only one institution from that elite company—OCU—is recognized as an [All-Steinway School](#), a Yamaha Institution of Excellence, the nation's first Conn-Selmer School, and an Apple Digital Campus. The School of Music has also been honored by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) with its prestigious national orchestral award for adventurous programming of contemporary music.

The School is named for [Wanda L. Bass \(1927-2008\)](#), an Oklahoma banker and philanthropist who with her husband, Clark Bass, contributed countless hours and millions of dollars to arts, educational, and civic projects in Oklahoma. As her obituary notes, "She was known for her purchase of 105 pianos from Steinway & Sons. At the time, it was the single largest order in the history of the 150-year-old New York piano maker. Her donation of the Steinways to the music school at Oklahoma City University made headlines from New York to Japan. In her honor, the school became the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and, in 2002, the university presented her with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters." Her gift and legacy continue in the School of Music, described on the OCU website as a "close-knit community of over 350

students. Creativity, excellence, and opportunity converge in over 250 performances each year, ranging from solo recitals to choral and orchestral works, as well as six opera and music theater productions."

Since opening in 2006, the \$38.5 million, 113,000-square-foot [Bass Music Center](#) has hosted artists and educators from around the world, including the International Society of Bassists, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Society of Composers, Inc., and the NEA-sponsored Arts Education Partnership. The [Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center](#) houses the performance venues for the Wanda L. Bass School of Music, the School of Theatre, and the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Entertainment. As the website explains, it is "the site of numerous music, theater, and dance productions throughout the year. It includes a three-theater complex comprised of Kirkpatrick Auditorium (1,100 seats), Margaret E. Petree Recital Hall (500 seats) and Burg Auditorium (250 seats)." The Center also includes classrooms, a costume shop, scene shop, dressing rooms, a large dance studio, and three large, multipurpose rehearsal halls.

The Wanda L. Bass School of Music offers 16 degree programs (11 undergraduate, 5 graduate):

- [BMus in Guitar Performance](#)
- [BMus in Instrumental Music Education](#)
- [BMus in Instrumental Performance](#)
- [BA in Music](#), and [BA in Music with Elective Studies in Pre-Law](#) and [Pre-Medicine](#)
- [BMus in Music Composition](#)
- [BMus in Music Theater](#)
- [BMus in Piano Performance](#)
- [BMus in Vocal Music Education](#)
- [BMus in Vocal Performance](#)
- [Master of Music in Conducting](#)
- [Master of Music in Music Composition](#)
- [Master of Music in Music Theater](#)
- [Master of Music in Performance](#) (tracks in Instrumental, Vocal, Opera, and Multiple Woodwind Performance)
- [Master of Music in Vocal Coaching](#)

THE WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE (CONTINUED)

The School of Music emphasizes professional readiness, offering countless performance opportunities, including fully staged operas, musicals, and concerts, supported by some top-tier facilities and accomplished artist-faculty. Alumni have appeared in numerous Broadway productions, Metropolitan Opera performances, and international tours, with many graduates working as professional performers, educators, and composers.

The School of Music is also home to the renowned [Oklahoma Opera and Music Theater Company](#), one of the few university programs producing six full-scale opera and musical productions each year. Community partnerships and programs include [Canterbury Voices](#), [Canterbury Youth Voices](#), [El Sistema Oklahoma](#), [Oklahoma Youth Orchestras](#), and [Summer Music Programs](#).

The School of Theatre. The OCU [School of Theatre](#) complements the School of Music by offering programs “grounded in the philosophy of putting theory into practice from the classroom to the stage and screen to produce creative, culturally aware, and highly effective theatrical artists.” The School is recognized for its dedicated mentorship, small class sizes, and strong connections to professional networks. Students participate in multiple productions annually, including partnerships with regional theatres and professional internships. Many graduates have gone on to prominent careers in New York, Los Angeles, and regional theatre scenes, as well as in film and television.

OCU School of Theatre students are motivated, hardworking artists training to be highly skilled, well-rounded professionals who collaborate across OCU and with external partners. As this [TheatreOCU recruitment brochure](#) shows, theatre academic programs are founded on a comprehensive curriculum that offers conservatory-style training within the broader context of liberal arts education—with many faculty holding not only academic credentials but also membership in industry unions such as SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), AEA (Actors’ Equity Association), USA (United Scenic Artists, Local 829), and IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees). Therefore, the School creates an environment that encourages the synthesis of the professional craftsman with the passionate artist.

The School of Theatre offers these three degree programs:

- [Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting](#) with two tracks: Stage and Screen and On-Camera
- [Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Production](#)
- [Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(BATIE\)](#)



The BA and BFA in Theatre Design and Production programs include pathways to the MA in Arts Administration at OCU, completing both the undergraduate and graduate degrees at OCU. Students benefit from professional training with strong foundational experiences in all areas of theatre, design, technology, and management, paired with specialization options in acting; writing for stage and screen; stage management; entrepreneurship; costume, lighting, properties, scenic, and sound design; and technical production.

The BFA in Acting combines technique with contemporary and screen performance grounded in classical training but adapted for current industry needs, focusing on stage, film, voiceover, and devising new work. The BFA in Design and Production immerses students in the full technical and artistic process through studio and mainstage work. Students earning the BA in Theatre Innovation and Entrepreneurship receive an individualized program of study to become the next generation of theatre artists and leaders including directors, playwrights, arts administrators, dramaturgs, teachers, and more.

The School of Theatre’s community and regional partnerships include [Oklahoma Children’s Theatre](#), [Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma](#), [Oklahoma City Ballet](#), [Music Theatre Wichita](#), and [Factor 110](#).

The Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre thus share a collaborative culture and cross-disciplinary opportunities, reflecting OCU’s commitment to the holistic development of artist-scholars. The Schools are supported by strong alumni networks and an excellent track record of graduates working on Broadway, in opera houses, in film and television, and in educational institutions worldwide. The Schools also have an important role in the inclusive, vibrant arts culture in Oklahoma and beyond, as they nurture and develop musical and theatrical talent in people from all ages and backgrounds.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEAN

One of six deans who report to the Provost (as shown on this [organizational chart](#)) the Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre is the chief academic and administrative leader of both Schools, fostering a culture of creativity, collaboration, and academic rigor. The Dean advances the Schools' missions through strategic planning, budget oversight, program development, and consistent fundraising. Working closely with and directing the Associate Dean in ensuring excellence in curriculum design, scholarly/creative activity, instructional delivery, assessment, accreditation, and outcomes, the Dean cultivates faculty development and student success, promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, fosters innovation in arts education, and partners with University leadership and external stakeholders in fundraising and community engagement efforts. The Dean maintains a visible presence at performances and campus events.

These are the key responsibilities the Dean is expected to perform or oversee:

- Manage the overall operations of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre in accordance with the University's mission, core values, policies, and procedures.
- Actively participate in fundraising and development activities for both Schools in coordination with the Office of Advancement, cultivating donor and alumni engagement and major gift solicitations.
- Provide strategic leadership to increase student enrollment and support appropriate student retention efforts across both Schools.
- Develop, oversee, and execute budgets for the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre, ensuring all necessary programs are appropriately funded and that operations remain within budgetary allocations.
- Lead continuous improvement of academic programs through the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of curricula and co-curricular offerings.
- Collaborate with faculty and University leadership to maintain accreditation and compliance with relevant academic and professional standards.
- Play a key role in the strategic planning processes of both the Schools and the broader University, aligning School priorities with institutional goals.
- Ensure that students in the music and theatre programs receive high-quality academic advising and support services to foster their academic and artistic development.
- Recruit and retain well-qualified faculty whose credentials support accreditation standards and who contribute positively to the cultures of the Schools and University.
- Oversee faculty workload and performance; work with the Provost on matters such as promotion and tenure, faculty development and evaluation, and adherence to faculty policies.
- Ensure that both the School of Music and the School of Theatre are structured effectively to support academic programming, governance, and administrative functions.
- Promote the integration of emerging technologies in performance, production, and instruction to advance artistic and academic innovation.
- Use assessment data and institutional research to inform strategic decisions, enhance program quality, and improve student outcomes.
- Maintain collaborative relationships and represent the Schools in interactions with other academic and administrative offices on campus.
- Promote interdisciplinary programming and creative collaborations across academic units to enrich student learning and artistic innovation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEAN (CONTINUED)

- Represent the University and the Schools locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, including participation in public speaking, conferences, and artistic communities.
- Engage in campus-wide initiatives and activities as appropriate and as directed by senior University leadership.
- Promote responsiveness to the needs of students, faculty, and University administration through transparent and effective academic and operational leadership.
- Serve as a visible and active liaison between the University and the broader music and theatre communities.
- Lead and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives to enrich the academic environment and faculty profile of the Schools.

The Dean reports to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and receives broad direction with a high degree of autonomy in managing the academic and operational functions of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre. The Dean is expected to align initiatives of the School of Music and the School of Theatre with institutional goals and to consult with the Provost on strategic priorities, major decisions, and policy implementation.

The Dean provides direct supervision to academic faculty and operational staff, setting clear expectations for performance, teaching excellence, and professional conduct. This includes oversight of workload assignments, annual evaluations, professional development, and adherence to university policies, while fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and student-centered work environment.

The Dean regularly collaborates with the Provost, academic leaders, senior leadership, and other deans on strategic planning, budgeting, and policy matters. They work closely with faculty, department chairs, and staff within the Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre to support academic programs, operations, and student success. Additionally, the Dean engages with students and university committees to promote interdisciplinary initiatives and foster a vibrant creative community.

The Dean engages with external stakeholders such as alumni, donors, community arts organizations, and industry professionals to build partnerships, secure funding, and further enhance OCU and the Schools' reputation. The Dean also collaborates with accrediting bodies, professional associations, and other educational institutions to ensure program quality and stay current with industry standards. These contacts are strategic and relationship-driven, supporting growth and community engagement for the School of Music and School of Theatre.





LEADERSHIP AGENDA FOR THE NEXT DEAN

The next Dean will build upon the strong reputation of the Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre and lead both units into a bold and sustainable future. The Dean will be expected to nurture artistic and academic excellence while enhancing the Schools' visibility regionally, nationally, and internationally. The ideal candidate will be a dynamic and experienced arts administrator with a deep commitment to student success, artistic excellence, and inclusive leadership.

In addition to collaborating with the Provost and other deans on achieving the six shared goals of the OCU [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#), these are the other priorities for the next Dean of

the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre:

- In partnership and collaboration with University Advancement, the President, and other senior leaders, lead successful fundraising and external engagement to generate human, financial, and artistic resources that support the work of the School of Music and the School of Theatre.

- Advocate for and steward resources needed for competitive faculty compensation and spaces that are a source of pride.
- Demonstrate the interdependent nature of performing arts at OCU by actively participating in regular meetings with the Deans and Associate Deans of the Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre and the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Entertainment to foster collaboration and leverage joint opportunities to raise the status of all Schools.
- Oversee recruitment and retention of talented faculty in music and theatre, and work with the University to address issues related to faculty compensation.
- Lead processes to assess all performance, rehearsal, and classroom spaces for the programs and events in the Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre, leading to strategies and plans for improvement, updating, or replacement.
- Expand, engage, and strengthen the network of alumni who are now working professionally in music and theatre.
- Provide steady, strategic leadership for the programs and people in the School of Music and the School of Theatre.

QUALITIES EXPECTED IN THE NEXT DEAN

Based on pre-search listening sessions, surveys, and conversations about the desired characteristics for the next Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and The School of Theatre, the following are the personal and professional qualities that Oklahoma City University colleagues and stakeholders expect:

- Alignment with OCU's values and student-focused mission.
- Exceptional communication skills: interpersonal, written, speaking, and listening.
- Ability to engage and inspire stakeholders across the University and beyond.
- Forward-thinking approach to interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative programming.
- Enthusiasm for championing the arts both within and outside the University.
- Visibility on campus and in the vibrant arts community in Oklahoma City, engaging with audiences at performances and celebrating the work of others.
- Ability to manage multiple roles, separating roles in fundraising from operational roles with the faculty, staff, and people.
- Understanding of accreditation needs for distinctive academic programs in the arts.
- Ability to build trust among faculty, staff, community members, alumni, and donors.
- Strong connections to arts communities and networks.
- Ability to collaborate across departments and schools at OCU.
- Understanding of the performance and learning space needs of successful programs for music and theatre.
- Impeccable character, integrity, and compassion.



REQUIRED AND PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

To be effective in leading faculty in academic programs in music and theatre, fundraising, and connecting with alumni and supporters, the successful candidate for Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre **shall demonstrate all these required qualifications:**

- **Degree:** A terminal degree (beyond baccalaureate) in a discipline related to music or theatre (e.g., D.M.A., Ph.D., M.F.A.); OR a baccalaureate degree and exceptional professional experience in music or theatre; OR a Master's degree in Arts Administration/Management and significant related professional experience.
- **Academic/Professional Achievement:** A distinguished record of achievement in music, theatre, or a related field appropriate for a faculty appointment with tenure.
- **Fundraising Experience:** A proven record of successful fundraising.
- **Inclusive Excellence:** A demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the arts.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

To be effective in leading faculty in academic programs in music and theatre, fundraising, and the successful candidate for Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and The School of Theatre **may also demonstrate some of these preferred qualifications:**

- Significant leadership experience in higher education, including budgetary oversight, strategic planning, faculty development, and accreditation processes.
- A record of alumni engagement and building external partnerships.
- Experience integrating performing arts education with broader university and community initiatives.
- Demonstrated success in recruiting and retaining faculty, staff, and students of diverse backgrounds.
- Knowledge of current and emerging trends in higher education, music, theatre, and the performing arts industry.



NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS, AND TIMELINE

Academic Search is assisting Oklahoma City University in this search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications will be held in strict confidence. To learn more about this opportunity and discuss your qualifications and interest, potential applicants are welcome to email OCUDeanBSMandST@academicsearch.org.

To schedule a conversation with either of the Senior Consultants for this search, please email a draft of your CV to Dr. Ginny Horvath (ginny.horvath@academicsearch.org) or Dr. Dan DiBiasio (dan.dibiasio@academicsearch.org).

APPLICATIONS

Applicants should send these documents (three separate PDFs) and only these documents to OCUDeanBSMandST@academicsearch.org:

- A detailed **cover letter**, addressed to the search committee, expressing your interest in this position and addressing how you meet the specific qualifications and expectations outlined in this profile.
- A current **curriculum vitae** that includes relevant responsibilities and accomplishments.
- A **list of five professional references**, including their names, titles, organizations, phone numbers, and email addresses; indicate the perspective on your work that each reference could provide.

References will not be contacted until later in the search process and only with the candidate's permission. A full background check (including verification of identity, degrees, and employers; criminal background check; and sexual misconduct check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered this position.

NOMINATIONS

Although nominations are not required to be considered for this position, leaders who know of outstanding candidates are welcome to submit confidential nominations in an email to OCUDeanBSMandST@academicsearch.org. Be sure to include the nominee's full name and contact information. Academic Search will notify people of their nomination, provide details about the position, and encourage them to apply.

SEARCH TIMELINE

Although the position remains open until filled, for full consideration by the Search Committee, candidates should submit their application materials by September 16, 2025. Finalists for the position are expected to participate in campus interviews that will include a public presentation.

The search timeline plans for screening and interviews in Fall 2025, with an expected start date for the new Dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and the School of Theatre in early 2026.

Oklahoma City University is committed to diversity and equal opportunity in education and employment. We do not discriminate based on sex, race, age, ancestry, color, disability, genetic history, national origin, marital or medical status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, parenting, veteran status, or perceived characteristics.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Oklahoma City University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

