

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



UHCL University of Houston
Clear Lake

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The University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL), a nationally ranked and regionally focused comprehensive university within the University of Houston System, seeks its next Dean of the College of Education (COE).



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE

Situated on a 524-acre wildlife preserve, UHCL has become a cornerstone of higher education in Texas. [Since opening its doors in 1974](#), the university has awarded more than 80,000 degrees, each resulting in expanded employment prospects, brighter futures and changed lives. UHCL is a regional comprehensive university that is classified as a doctoral university and offers more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs through its four colleges: Business, Education, Human Sciences and Humanities, and Science and Engineering. The university annually enrolls more than 9,000 students and has earned a distinctive reputation as a student-centered, community-minded, partnership-oriented university. UHCL's more than 80,000 alumni are leaders in a variety of fields and include 10 astronauts, more than 400 CEOs and at least one best-selling author. Through its ongoing community engagement, UHCL has developed alliances with area businesses, organizations, schools, and governmental agencies that enhance the educational, economic, cultural, scientific, and professional environment across the region. The university is proud to be classified as both a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and a Minority Serving Institution (MSI). During the 2021-2022 academic year, UHCL welcomed its sixth president, [Richard Walker](#), Ed.D., and its eleventh provost, [Christopher Maynard](#), Ph.D.

Recognizing the need for higher education in the growing Clear Lake area, the 62nd Texas Legislature authorized the establishment of a second University of Houston (UH) campus in 1971. Since opening its doors in 1974, the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) has been pushing the boundaries of human thinking to create solutions for the world's leading challenges. Situated adjacent to NASA's Johnson Space Center, UHCL was created to meet a vital demand for trained engineers, physicists, and

mathematicians to join the U.S. space program. UHCL is within close proximity to numerous science and engineering-driven facilities, organizations and complexes including the Port of Houston, NASA's Johnson Space Center, and several major chemical manufacturing operations. UHCL is located in [Clear Lake](#), which is part of the Bay Area of thriving and cosmopolitan [Houston](#) – the fourth-largest city in the United States – and is near the charming and historic city of [Galveston](#) and the broader [Galveston Bay](#).

VISION

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will lead as a learner-centered university dedicated to achieving national prominence in transformative education grounded in creative activities, innovative research, and community partnerships that serve regional, state, and global locations.

MISSION

The University of Houston-Clear Lake places its highest priority on serving a diverse body of students in every aspect of their university experience. UHCL's teacher scholars provide high quality, student-centered undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students to thrive in a competitive workplace and to make meaningful contributions to their communities. UHCL fosters critical thinking and lifelong learning through a strong legacy of vibrant community partnerships complementing its historical focus on teaching, research, creative activity, and service.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE (CONT.)

CORE VALUES

Learner-focused: UHCL is committed to maintaining and building strong degree plans that foster creativity and critical thinking. UHCL is invested in its students and is committed to their growth, development, and transformation. Impact: Inspire individuals to grow to their fullest potential.

Transformation: UHCL empowers individuals to learn, grow, and develop as leaders and contributors. UHCL supports and fosters leadership and collaboration among students, faculty, and staff. Impact: Forge Visionary leaders who are agents of change in their fields.

Innovation: UHCL cultivates fearless imagination when creating new programs, teaching methods, and research opportunities that prepare students to meet the challenges of the changing global economy. UHCL is attuned to social, economic, and environmental changes and takes timely action to respond to them. Impact: Deliver the solutions to challenges of today and tomorrow.

Welcoming Community: UHCL embraces openness to students, staff, faculty, and partners from all the communities it serves. UHCL celebrates its status as a Hispanic-serving and as a Minority-serving institution. UHCL is distinguished by providing a welcoming learning environment with respect and care for all. Impact: Create a community that develops well-rounded individuals who contribute to the global society.

Resilience: UHCL embodies perseverance, passion, commitment, resolve and grit to bring positive change to the university and community. Impact: Evolve as a community to persevere through challenges and adversity.

Service: UHCL is committed to community values, partnerships, and collaboration. UHCL creates a service culture among faculty, staff, and students. UHCL maintains strong sustainable relationships by engaging various stakeholders to achieve mutual goals and objectives. Impact: Develop leaders who foster the growth and well-being of the communities they serve.

Integrity: UHCL fosters honesty and trust among all internal and external constituents. UHCL is committed to its values and to being accountable to its constituency in an atmosphere of generosity and kindness. Impact: Build a community of trusted individuals.

Sustainability: UHCL maintains stewardship over resources including but not limited to university finances and operations and the socio-physical environment. Impact: Make a difference in the world for generations to come.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

As part of the University of Houston System (UHS), UHCL remains focused on providing high quality, student-centered programs that prepare graduates to thrive in a competitive workplace and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Innovation and creativity fuel studies at UHCL, and the university's small class sizes ensure ample guidance from expert faculty every step of the way. Top-of-the-line campus labs offer specialized research in fields as diverse as biotechnology, computer security, plasma physics, marine ecology, robotics and more.

The College of Business: With each degree backed by accreditation from the esteemed Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, UHCL's College of Business offers a stellar education in a variety of disciplines, complete with numerous online and face-to-face class options. UHCL's College of Business ranked among University HQ's Best 55 Business Schools and Colleges in the U.S. in 2020 — attesting to the faculty's ongoing commitment to student-centered practices.

Departments: Accounting; Decision Sciences, Economics, Finance and Marketing; Healthcare Administration; Management; Management Information Systems

The College of Education: Accredited by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), the College of Education at UHCL provides students ample opportunities to receive hands-on learning through professional development school sites, partnerships, and innovative classes to give them real-world experience. Faculty are active researchers and practitioners, contributing to evolving teaching practices and academic scholarship. **Departments:** Teaching, Learning, and Educator Preparation; Transformative Leadership, Counseling, and Innovation

The College of Human Sciences and Humanities: UHCL's College of Human Sciences and Humanities offers a robust liberal arts education that puts the tools for discovery, reflection and critical thinking into their hands. Students in the College of Human Sciences and Humanities have internship options with more than 300 community partners, giving them the chance for a personalized career experience.

Departments: Psychological and Behavioral Health Sciences; Communication and Social-Cultural Sciences; Humanities and Fine Arts; Psychological and Nursing Sciences

The College of Science and Engineering (CSE) continues the tradition of innovation and excellence derived from UHCL's foundation as an institution designed to meet the higher education needs of those working at NASA's Johnson Space Center during the early days of space exploration. As the fastest-growing college at UHCL, CSE is working to build new and expand existing programs to meet the workforce demands of the region. The college currently includes more than 1,700 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students, and 130 faculty across four departments. **Departments:** Computing Sciences; Engineering; Biological and Environmental Sciences; Mathematical, Applied, and Physical Sciences



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE (CONT.)

STUDENTS AND CAMPUS LIFE

UHCL is committed to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for its more than 9,000 students. Approximately half of the university's incoming students each year are first-generation college students. UHCL is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as both a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) and a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).

More than 100 [student organizations](#) are available at UHCL. Whether interested in giving back to the community, joining an Honor Society, making new friends, or starting a new organization, students are in control of their leadership experience at the university. From annual traditions like the Cultural Extravaganza and "I Heart UHCL Day", to faculty vs. student kickball games, UHCL's campus activities offer many opportunities to explore life outside the classroom. Additionally, UHCL students have access to the [Counseling and Mental Health Center](#), [Health Services](#), and [Campus Recreation and Wellness](#).

UHCL ADMINISTRATION

- [Office of the President](#) – The public face of the university, while providing the necessary leadership for all activities, goals, and directives.
- [Academic Affairs and Provost](#) – The leading voice for the faculty and students in all academic matters and concerns.
- [Administration and Finance](#) – The driver for day-to-day operations related to budget, human resources, campus safety, and more.
- [Student Affairs](#) – The anchor for campus life, student engagement, and support services.
- [Strategic Enrollment Management](#) – The office aimed at helping the university achieve and maintain optimal recruitment, retention, and graduation rates.
- [University Advancement](#) – The division that elevates the university through engagement, promotion, and fundraising.

To view UHCL's Org Chart, [click here](#).

CAMPUS

UHCL is a [beautiful, safe campus](#) located on 524 acres of natural green space. UHCL's campus houses five classroom buildings, a recreation and wellness center, on-campus housing, and a newly updated [welcome center](#). Additionally, programs and courses are offered at the university's Pearland location, and programs are housed on the 14th floor in the Fannin Tower at the Texas Medical Center. For a virtual campus tour, [click here](#).

Campus highlights include:

- The STEM and Classroom Building: A state-of-the-art, 121,000-square-foot building featuring 13 faculty research labs, 15 teaching labs, a 100-seat tiered lecture hall, and an astronomy observation deck.
- The Recreation and Wellness Center: A 81,709-squarefoot facility offering dozens of amenities health and wellness amenities, including two regulation-sized basketball courts, a large weight room, and a cardio room.
- Hunter Residence Hall: A 294-bed residence hall with community-style living in the shared common areas, quiet study spaces, community lounges, a spacious community kitchen, laundry facilities on each floor, mailboxes, and a full-service front desk.
- The Health Sciences and Classroom Building (UHCL at Pearland): A 69,539-square-foot facility that includes simulated hospital rooms with a nurses' station and a pharmacy station for hands-on training, a 100-seat tiered lecture hall, chemistry and biology laboratories, 19 faculty offices, and private study rooms.
- The Bayou Building: The main hub for UHCL. Houses classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, the [Alfred R. Neumann Library](#), the Campus Store, Patio Cafe, the IT Support Center, copy services, the [Art Gallery](#), and the [Bayou Theater](#). Currently, the Bayou Building is in the beginning phases of undergoing a nearly \$50M renovation.
- The Arbor Building: Houses painting, ceramics, weaving, and photography studios, as well as educational centers and teaching methods labs.
- The Delta Building: Home to classrooms, computer labs, and some College of Science and Engineering faculty offices.
- The Student Services and Classroom Building: Serves student academic, enrollment, and general wellness needs.



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE (CONT.)

STRATEGIC PLAN

The [Impact 2025 and Beyond Strategic Plan](#) is a complete framework for envisioning a dynamic future for students, faculty, staff, the university's community, and the world. The strategic plan is a real-time roadmap that provides guidance and clarity regarding UH-Clear Lake's priorities, objectives, and overall direction for the next five years. The plan is intentional and strategic and provides guidance that will impact student success and elevate UHCL's profile as a thought leader. It creates the pathways towards collaboration with community partners to provide innovative opportunities to create a more welcoming culture for students on campus and throughout the region.

The strategic plan will be implemented using the university's formula for success, called the Three Ts approach:

UHCL transforms student lives through experiential learning and workforce readiness, using highly credentialed faculty with real-world experience, focusing upon all of the communities served by the university, first-generation students, and lifelong learners.

UHCL translates knowledge to actionable solutions and interventions by generating and applying research and discovery learning through multidisciplinary approaches to solve crucial social and scientific problems.

UHCL transcends boundaries to collaborate across industry and community partnerships to develop the economy, educational systems, the physical and social ecology, and quality of life.

UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

U.S. News & World Report's Best Online Programs (2024):

- No. 74 for Education Psychology
- No. 100 for Business Programs (excluding MBA)
- No. 159 for MBA Programs
- No. 90 for MBA Programs for Veterans
- No. 162 in top public schools
- No. 183 in undergraduate engineering programs
- Niche Best Colleges Rankings (2024):
- No. 8 Best HSI in Texas (out of 118)
- No. 30 Best HSI in America (out of 572)

U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges (2024):

- No. 12 in "Top Public Schools" among public Texas universities
- No. 162 within "Top Public Schools" nationally
- No. 304 among all national universities
- No. 143 in "Top Performer for Social Mobility" rankings among national universities (up 66 spots)
- For the second consecutive year, UHCL was recognized for Least Debt, highlighting the university's commitment to all of UHCL's students and providing an affordable education.

Resulting from 88th Legislative Session:

- UHCL received an allocation of \$2.49 million through the Comprehensive Regional University funds to support at-risk students.
- UHCL also secured \$1 million for the university's Student Teacher Education Program (STEP). This innovative program aims to mitigate the teacher shortage by partnering with local school districts.

SACSCOC Accreditation: In 2022, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmed UHCL's accreditation until 2032. This reaffirmation is a seal of approval of the quality of the academic experiences the university offers its students.

Academic Achievement: In the past five years, UHCL has proudly graduated almost 12,000 students, exemplifying UHCL's dedication to student success and academic excellence.

Philanthropic Engagement: During the 2023-2024 academic year, UHCL garnered support from over 343 individual donors and 98 corporations, foundations, and donor advised funds, surpassing its fundraising goal by over seven hundred thousand dollars. Raising \$3.78M against a \$3M goal, this achievement continues to demonstrate the community's belief in UHCL's mission and their commitment to the university's continued excellence.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL IMPACT

In the 2023-24 academic year, UHCL collaborated with 549 community partners and enrolled 1,332 students in internship courses. These real-life opportunities enrich the learning experience for the university's students while offering valuable talent and innovation to business and community partners.

According to a recent economic impact study, a large number of UHCL's 80,000+ alumni remain employed within the UHCL Service Region. These alumni are community leaders, skilled professionals, and are actively participating in the local economy, showing that UHCL is more than an institution for learning; it's a driving force for regional growth and prosperity. Their contribution to the workforce boosts the local economy and when combined with UHCL's other areas of impact, including operations spending, research expenditures, student spending, and volunteerism, the total economic contribution of UHCL to the Service Region amounts to \$1.1 billion or the equivalent of 12,578 jobs.



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

UHCL is part of the [University of Houston System](#) (UHS), which is governed by the Board of Regents composed of nine regular members (chair, vice chair, secretary, and six members) and a student regent. Every two years, the Governor of the State of Texas, subject to Senate confirmation, appoints three members to the Board of Regents. Each regular member serves a six-year term. The

student regent, who has the same powers and duties as the regular members of the Board of Regents, does not vote and is not considered as part of a quorum. [Renu Khator](#) is chancellor of the University of Houston System — the longest-serving chancellor in the state of Texas — and president of the University of Houston.

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The [College of Education](#) at University of Houston-Clear Lake is divided into four departments that encompass [17 undergraduate degrees with certification plans, eight graduate degrees and three doctoral degrees program options as well as 16 post-baccalaureate teacher certification plans and four teaching minor options](#). Accredited by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), the College of Education at UHCL provides students ample opportunities to receive hands-on learning through professional development school sites, partnerships, and innovative classes to give them real-world experience. Faculty are active researchers and practitioners, contributing to evolving teaching practices and academic scholarship.

Departments: Teaching, Learning, and Educator Preparation; Transformative Leadership, Counseling, and Innovation

The College of Education:

- Is mission-driven and dedicated to preparing future educators and leaders to be transformative forces in classrooms and communities.
- Is student-centered and committed to student success through the motto: “Learn to Teach, Teach to Transform Lives.”
- Offers hands-on learning and real-world experiences via professional development school sites, local partnerships, and innovative coursework.
- Emphasizes academic excellence in order to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogy to create effective learning environments.

- Focuses on research-based instruction that emphasizes evidence-based strategies in curriculum design, classroom management, and assessment.
- Prepares graduates to meet the needs of all students.
- Offers leadership development in which Educational Leadership and Policy programs empower students to influence education systems and shape policy.

MISSION

UHCL College of Education’s mission is to prepare skilled professionals who make a profound and transformative impact and exemplify our core values.

- Fostering excellence and innovation in learner-centered teaching and learning.
- Advancing effective communication, teaching, and learning, through the use of innovative technologies.
- Nurturing partnerships through, and engaging in, service to the community.
- Engaging in research that informs practice, adds to the scholarly literature, and positively impacts the profession.
- Supporting the development of theoretical knowledge and its integration into practice to add to the scholarly body of literature.
- Developing critical thinking and inquiry-based learning with real-world applications.
- Developing ethical leadership rooted in professional and personal integrity and moral responsibility.

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (CONT.)

HIGHLIGHTS

STEP Programs: The Success Through Education Programs (STEP) at UHCL is a collaborative effort between UHCL, local school districts, and community colleges. It aims to provide opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in teaching. STEP focuses on identifying first-generation and low-income students with the potential to become exceptional educators, offering them support and guidance from high school through community college and then into the teacher preparation program in the College of Education at UHCL over six years.

Annual Greater Houston Area STEM Conference: The UHCL STEM conference hosted annually by UHCL draws hundreds of attendees, exhibitors, presenters, students, and volunteers. STEM audiences from various backgrounds, including pre-service teachers, K-16 educators, EDCI doctoral students, and community partners, gather to enrich their knowledge and skills in STEM education. COE's goal in hosting events like the annual STEM Conference is to nurture relationships with educators and community stakeholders in Greater Houston by promoting experiential learning and workforce readiness.

UHCLTeach: The UHCLTeach program aims to train top-notch science and mathematics high school teachers in the country. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the College of Education and the College of Science and Engineering. Currently, UHCLTeach has 36 participants working towards Life Sciences certification and 45 participants working towards Mathematics certification. UHCLTeach has secured several prestigious grants, including an NSF Grant, the Noyce Grant from the STEMHawks: Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and the STEM4ALL: Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Grant. Furthermore, UHCLTeach offers scholarships funded by the Powell Foundation and the Greater Texas Foundation.

Center for Education Programs (CEP): UHCL's Center for Educational Programs provides academic and outreach services to students, faculty, schools, school districts, other educational entities and members of the community. The CEP also coordinates several community programs in conjunction with the College of Education, and collaborates with area school districts, educators and professors to determine how it can meet the community's needs.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- No. 35 nationally for Best Online Master's in Education Programs (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2024)
- In fall of 2023, the College of Education initiated a cohort of Master's in Instructional Design and Technology at UHCL-Pearland. The first cohort graduated in August 2024.
- The Early Childhood Education program earned full accreditation for its Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Care and Education and its Bachelor of Applied Science Educator of Young Children Interdisciplinary Studies from the National Association for Educators of Young Children. In addition, the department has launched a new PreK-3 Certification program, distinguishing UHCL as the only university in the Houston area to offer this certification.
- In 2024, the COE received \$1 million dollars from the Texas State Legislature for the STEP to offer scholarships to incoming teacher education students from Clear Creek and Pearland ISDs.
- In 2024, the COE Received the Moody Foundation Grant for \$583,590 three years to strengthen the Early Education Workforce project.
- 180 teacher candidates graduated from the College of Education's Teacher Preparation Program in 2024, with approximately 90% hired by school districts upon graduation.
- 92.3% of 2022 undergraduate teachers have secured employment in school districts. Data from the Texas Education Agency indicates that the 4-year retention rate of first-year teachers from UHCL is 83.5%, while the state average is 72.2%.

THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Reporting to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the next Dean will contribute to an emerging university experience, participate in institutional planning, build external relationships and community partnerships, develop fundraising and alumni relations efforts, and advance a welcoming culture. To fulfill these needs, the next Dean will demonstrate a record of administrative leadership, which will include effective human resource and financial experience, adeptness at conflict resolution and negotiation, extensive experience with grants and partnerships, and a clear focus on student success. The next Dean will also have a record of instruction, scholarship, and research excellence that merits appointment as a tenured professor in one of the departments in the College of Education.





HOW TO APPLY

Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a CV, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of your working relationship with each. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to:

UHCLDeanCOE@academicsearch.org

The position is open until filled but only applications received by Wednesday, November 5, 2025, can be assured full consideration. The University is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultant Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org. Further information about the University of Houston-Clear Lake is available at <https://www.uhcl.edu/>.

The policy of the University of Houston-Clear Lake is to ensure equal opportunity in all its educational programs and activities, and all terms and conditions of employment without regard to age, race, color, disability, religion, national origin, ethnicity, military status, genetic information, or sex (including gender and pregnancy), except where such a distinction is required by law. Additionally, The University of Houston-Clear Lake prohibits discrimination in all aspects of employment and educational programs on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting University of Houston-Clear Lake 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.



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