

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN OF THE SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA®

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The University of Tampa, a medium sized private comprehensive university located downtown in the heart of Tampa, Florida, is searching for the next dean of the Sykes College of Business. The dean is responsible for academic and administrative planning; fundraising; external relations with alumni, the local community, and businesses; accreditation; and budgeting. UTampa seeks an exceptional and engaged leader who will continue to build upon Sykes' growth and expand its reach to students, donors and Tampa's thriving business community.



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

From the gleaming minarets of Plant Hall – Tampa's signature [National Historic Landmark](#) – to the \$1.06 billion in new construction completed or underway since 1998, the University of Tampa (UTampa) is a private, comprehensive university located in downtown Tampa, Florida, and is currently ranked highly by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Forbes*, and *The Princeton Review*. The University's 110-acre residential campus provides an exceptional setting for learning both on and off campus. Valuing the community's international heritage, the University attracts students, faculty and staff from around the world to facilitate intercultural learning. Known for its dynamic combination of academic excellence, personal attention, and vibrant urban campus, UTampa offers a globally connected education that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world.

Since 1931, the University of Tampa has provided its students with exceptional learning experiences in a global context. The administration, faculty, and staff are committed to supporting every student's development and success, recruiting and promoting faculty of the highest credentials and standards of excellence, creating a supportive campus community, and engaging the larger community and world. UTampa has grown roughly tenfold over the past 30 years and currently has over 11,500 students from all 50 states and approximately 130 countries.

UTampa's academic structure – the four-college model – has helped the University retain its small-school ambience despite rapid growth. Together, the University offers over 200 [academic programs of study](#), including 22 master's degree programs, three doctorates, and numerous study abroad opportunities. Each college is headed by a dean who reports to the provost and vice president for academic affairs. The four colleges are:

- [College of Arts and Letters](#)
- [College of Natural and Health Sciences](#)
- [College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education](#)
- [Sykes College of Business](#)

The four-college model allows each academic area to have a greater sense of identity and gives students and faculty an academic home to support their experience of scholarly community. In addition to the four colleges, UTampa has four major interdisciplinary areas that draw students, faculty and resources from across the colleges and curriculum:

- [Graduate and Continuing Studies](#) coordinates all-university programs for adult and part-time learners.
- [Spartan Studies](#) supports the general education program that is the liberal arts core required of all undergraduate students not participating in the Honors Program.
- [International Programs](#) oversees study abroad programs, international majors and certificates, and international student services.
- [Honors Program](#) offers an innovative curriculum, a close-knit community and undergraduate research experiences for high-achieving UTampa students.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- One of the Best 391 Institutions for Undergraduate Education by *The Princeton Review*
- Named by *U.S. News & World Report* in the top tier of the category Regional Universities (South) and noted as a most innovative school, a top performer on social mobility, and a best college for veterans.
- America's Top Colleges by *Forbes*
- Circle of Excellence Platinum Chapter *Phi Kappa Phi*
- Top-producing *Fulbright Scholar* institution – Three faculty members from UTampa were selected for Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program awards for 2025. UTampa was the only university in Florida with that designation in the master's institution classification and was tied with four other institutions with the second highest number of scholar grants in the nation.
- 1:17 Full time Faculty to Student ratio
- Average class size of 21



THE SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The University of Tampa's Sykes College of Business offers a world-class education with an international reputation for success through collaborations with the business community in areas such as innovation, engagement, and impact. It is AACSB-accredited at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, placing it among the higher tier of business schools globally.

Over 5,000 highly qualified students of diverse ages and backgrounds receive advanced training in an array of disciplines from over 140 faculty members. Undergraduates can major in one of 12 areas including Accounting, Business Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Economics (B.S. and B.A.), Entrepreneurship, Finance, Financial Enterprise Systems, International Business, Management, Management Information Systems and Marketing. At the graduate level, Sykes offers multiple MBA formats (full-time, part-time, executive, etc.), specialized Master of Science degrees in Accounting, Business Analytics, Cybersecurity, Finance, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Information and Technology Management, Entrepreneurship, and certificates in business and related fields. Sykes also offers an Executive Doctor of Business Administration.

VISION

To be a pre-eminent business school for preparing global business leaders.

MISSION

Preparing students to succeed globally through multifaceted, experiential, and academic learning opportunities.

VALUES AND GOALS

People First: The college attracts, develops, and supports talented students, faculty and staff.

Teaching Excellence: The college focuses on teaching excellence and high-quality student-centered education by preparing learners for success in technologically changing, complex business environments.

Dynamic Programs: The college offers academically challenging and innovative graduate and undergraduate programs that prepare lifelong learners for the dynamic local, regional, and global workplace.

Scholarship: The college enhances faculty teaching effectiveness and advance business knowledge through impactful, high-quality intellectual contributions and scholarship.

Partnerships: The college forms strong alliances with universities, communities, and businesses through centers, institutes, and other programs that impact the college's local and global communities by enhancing learning and engagement.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Ranked No. 40 in entrepreneurship, No. 42 in learning, and No. 67 in networking by Bloomberg Businessweek
- Outstanding Business School for 20 years in a row by The Princeton Review
- Best Graduate Business Schools of 2025 by Bloomberg Businessweek
- The on-campus MBA program was recognized as one of the best in the U.S. in 2024 by The Princeton Review
- Named a top undergraduate school of business by U.S. News & World Report.
- AACSB accredited
- 112% undergraduate enrollment growth in the last decade

THE SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (CONT.)

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

The Sykes College of Business is home to six centers and institutes that focus their efforts and activities on ethics, leadership, strategy, entrepreneurship, sales and cybersecurity. These centers and institutes impact learning by providing an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to network and collaborate through public lectures, conferences, development programs, and much more.

- **Center for Ethics:** The Center for Ethics is dedicated to educating individuals on the importance of ethics in business. The center provides educational and professional resources to promote the use of sound ethical analysis, high standards of ethical behavior, and individual responsibility in the academic, business, and civic communities.
- **TECO Energy Center for Leadership:** Endowed by TECO Energy Inc., the TECO Energy Center for Leadership is one of the nation's most innovative leadership development initiatives. The programs are designed to provide transformative learning experiences for individuals and organizations pursuing sustainable business excellence.
- **Naimoli Institute for Business Strategy:** The Naimoli Institute provides opportunities for innovative learning about strategy to students and organizations throughout the Tampa Bay region.
- **John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center:** The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center is a model entrepreneurship space incorporating state-of-the-art design elements to enhance creativity, inquiry, introspection and innovative thinking and learning. It brings together student entrepreneurs, educators and experienced entrepreneurs to generate, refine, and develop business concepts and to launch new ventures.
- **Southard Institute for Sales Excellence:** The Southard Institute for Sales Excellence is designed to prepare the next generation of sales leaders. The curriculum provides exposure to best practices and trending sales methodology and offers real-world sales experience through internships, job shadowing, and networking opportunities with the institute's corporate partners.
- **Center for Cybersecurity:** The vision of the Center for Cybersecurity is to become a prominent leader in cybersecurity education and training.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

With the dynamic changes in technology and new business practices globally, UTampa's state-of-the-art, high-tech facilities provide a hands-on learning environment for students. Recent innovations within the Sykes College of Business include:

- **Incubator and Accelerator:** The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center, recognized as a model program, was creatively designed to bring the ideas of aspiring student entrepreneurs to life. The center's incubator and accelerator programs facilitate collaboration between students and experienced executives to turn their entrepreneurial concepts into new ventures.

- **Cybersecurity Labs:** The cybersecurity labs give students access to the latest advances in technology and provide them with opportunities to gain valuable experience with network security and virtual computing. A state-of-the-art security operations center provides valuable learning opportunities for students in monitoring, detecting and responding to potential security incidents in a protected simulation environment.
- **Financial Trading Center:** The Huizenga Family Foundation Trading Center provides a significant hands-on dimension to finance curriculum with Bloomberg Professional real-time trading information. The trading center offers customized programs to meet the corporate community's growing demand for analysts, financial managers, brokers/dealers and global custodians, bridging the gap between academia and the business environment.
- **New Sales Facility:** The Southard Institute for Sales Excellence recently moved into a new space in UTampa's Grand Center, which includes offices, learning spaces, and a conference room and classroom. This move came alongside a naming gift that includes support for the building of the center and institute operations, as well as providing for student support services and the funding of an endowment for student scholarships.

ACCREDITATIONS

The Sykes College of Business has achieved the following accreditations:

- **AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business):** The Sykes College of Business is accredited at both the graduate and undergraduate levels by AACSB International.
- **ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology):** The Sykes College of Business boasts the only management information systems (MIS) program in Florida that is accredited by both AACSB and ABET. UTampa's MIS program is one of only 40 programs nationwide to receive this prestigious accreditation.
- **(ISC)2 Global Academic Program** is the largest nonprofit membership body of certified cyber, information, software and infrastructure security professionals. Through this collaborative partnership, (ISC)2 will provide UTampa students with additional opportunities to gain the skills and industry certifications needed to enter the high-demand, high-paying cybersecurity workforce.
- **SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges)**
- **National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense:** UTampa has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the U.S. National Security Agency. This designation offers students opportunities for scholarships, resources, training, workforce development, and internship opportunities.
- **The University Sales Center Alliance (USCA)** is an organization of sales centers for the continuing advancement of the sales profession through teaching, research and outreach. As an associate member of USCA, UTampa is one of 53 universities worldwide to offer this certification.



TAMPA, FLORIDA

Located at the heart of Tampa, UTampa's riverfront campus provides the benefits of city living while working on a 110-acre campus with historic and modern facilities. With 3.4 million people, the Tampa Bay area is West Central Florida's center of government, commerce, communications, business, health care, scientific research, sports, culture and entertainment. Tampa Bay is also home to several major corporations including Publix, Raymond James Financial, Jabil Circuit, and Bloomin' Brands. Other major corporations with a significant presence in Tampa include Fisher Investments, Cisco, General Dynamics, HDR, IBM, EPAM Systems, Novetta, Procore Technologies, Gartner, JPMorgan Chase, Progressive Insurance, and USAA.

Prominent area attractions, including the [David A. Straz Jr. Center for Performing Arts](#), [Tampa Museum of Art](#), and the [Benchmark International Arena](#), are a five-minute walk from campus. [Busch Gardens](#), [ZooTampa at Lowry Park](#), and the [Florida Aquarium](#) are also popular Tampa attractions. UTampa is a 30-minute drive from the front gates of [Ruth Eckerd Hall](#), the [Mahaffey Theater](#), [Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#), and the [Salvador Dalí Museum](#).



DEAN OF THE SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the next dean will provide visionary leadership to fulfill the value and goals of the college with an emphasis on fundraising, teaching excellence, dynamic programs, scholarship, and partnerships. The dean will build upon the success of high growth enrollment; expand a strong external presence to secure partnerships, funding, and student internships; and prioritize a collaborative environment focused on student success. The selected individual will be a consultative decision maker and will work collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community and industry partners.

Key qualifications of the next dean of the Sykes College of Business will include extensive experience and a strong track record of fundraising and building external relationships, a demonstrated record of significant and progressively responsible academic leadership appropriate to this role, with substantial experience at an AACSB-accredited business school preferred, and a record of instruction, scholarship, and research excellence that merits appointment as a full professor in one of the departments in the Sykes College of Business.

LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The ideal candidate will demonstrate the skills and experience to achieve the following:

- Increase fundraising support to support the further growth and development of the college and the university. The new dean will build upon the success of current centers and institutes, and partner with university administration, corporations, foundations and private donors to secure new funding to expand resources and programming.
- Cultivate community partnerships to increase collaborations between the business and non-profit communities, Sykes, and students. This includes building out partnerships and enhancing relationships with the growing tech industry in the Tampa Bay area, as well as with more established sectors.
- Support faculty and staff to maintain a robust academic environment with a strong focus on student success and positive outcomes. This includes working with faculty to further develop their research profiles and increase sponsored research within the college, while also identifying resources and opportunities for further professional development for faculty and staff across the college.
- Continue enrollment growth across the undergraduate and graduate divisions. The dean will build upon the momentum of historic growth in the undergraduate division resulting in increased competitiveness of admissions. Within the graduate division, the dean will focus on increasing growth across current masters programs and 4+1 programming, as well as look to additional new opportunities within Sykes or in collaboration with other academic divisions at UTampa.



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:

UTampaSykesDean@academicsearch.org

The position is open until filled but only applications received by **Monday, Jan. 26, 2026**, can be assured full consideration. The University is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org or Anne Briggs at Anne.Briggs@academicsearch.org. Further information about the University of Tampa can be found at www.utampa.edu

The University of Tampa is committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship status (as defined under the Immigration Reform and Control Act), disability, or marital status, sexual orientation or veteran's status. The University of Tampa is also committed to provide all of its programs and activities to its students and alumni on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Equal employment opportunity extends to all aspects of the employment relationship including hiring, recruiting, interviewing, selection, transfer, promotion, training, working conditions, compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting University of Tampa 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.

