



University of Lynchburg

Inviting Applications and Nominations for

Dean of the School of Nursing

The University of Lynchburg School of Nursing invites applications for the position of **DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING**. The Dean also serves as Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences. This tenure-track position reports directly to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences. The School of Nursing is recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. The nursing program has received this designation twice and continues to ensure that graduates complete the program competent in the latest technology and provide the safest care possible to their patients.

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UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG

The University of Lynchburg was founded in 1903 in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The University is nationally recognized for its distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs that offer quality educational opportunities while building the character and leadership ability of its students.

Lynchburg is one of only 40 educational institutions nationwide to be included in Loren Pope's *Colleges That Change Lives*. It also is one of 60 institutions nationwide selected to participate in the Bonner Leaders Program.

The University has a growing enrollment. The 3,100-member student body represents 38 states and 15 foreign countries. Of the 2,100 undergraduate students, 39 percent are male, 61 percent are female, 21 percent are multicultural, and 74 percent live on campus. Lynchburg fosters a student-centered environment designed to prepare students for successful engagement in a global society and for effective leadership in the civic, professional, and spiritual dimensions of life. The 10:1 student-faculty ratio enables the 200 full-time faculty members to develop individual relationships with students, connecting beyond the coursework with mentoring and guidance.

Students are offered a wide range of rigorous educational experiences delivered through multiple modes of instruction. While maintaining its commitment to the liberal arts, the university also

encourages professional preparation in the belief that the two areas of study support and complement one another.

The University offers 51 undergraduate majors, 62 minors, and 15 pre-professional programs. Graduate programs include the Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Education in Leadership Studies, Doctor of Medical Science, Master of Arts in Music, Master of Business Administration (management and cybersecurity), Master of Education in seven concentrations, Master of Criminal Justice, Master of Health Benefits Design, Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership Studies, Master of PA Medicine, Master of Public Health, and Master of Science in Athletic Training.

Academic programs are provided through the University's five colleges: Lynchburg College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business; College of Education, Leadership Studies, and Counseling; College of Health Sciences; and Westover Honors College. The School of Nursing is part of the College of Health Sciences.

The University of Lynchburg, located in the Central Virginia region at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains along the bank of the James River, is approximately 135 miles west of Richmond, the state capitol.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Dean of the School of Nursing provides leadership for the planning, workload, community involvement, student advising, student recruitment, program development, teaching, and operational aspects of the BSN and Accelerated BSN programs. Additionally, the Dean represents the nursing programs at local, state, national, and international meetings/conferences, provides service to the University and profession, and supports scholarly activities.

Experience in academic leadership and an understanding of nursing and institutional accrediting agencies (CCNE and the Board of Nursing) are required. The Dean must have the ability to evaluate faculty in areas of teaching, scholarship, and service of both clinical and tenure-track faculty. Evidence of the ability to create student-centered teaching and learning is expected. The Dean will actively mentor faculty, provide support and teach in an interactive academic nursing environment, strengthen the nursing programs' relationships in the community, and foster clinical relationships and affiliations.

QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Current active and unrestricted Registered Nurse (RN) licensure in state of practice
- License or eligible for licensure as a nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia (Virginia licensure is expected within one year of employment.)
- A terminal degree (PhD, EdD, or DNP) from an accredited college or university, which includes coursework in nursing, education, or administration
- Evidence of leadership, including curriculum development and teaching inclusive pedagogy
- Experience teaching in a pre- or post-licensure registered nursing program
- Demonstration of cultural competency and sensitivity to diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds of students, faculty, and staff



A. Russell Smith, Jr., PT, DPT, EdD Dean of the College of Health Sciences

A. Russell Smith, Jr. (Rusty) has a diverse background as a physical therapist educator, administrator, clinician, and researcher. Teaching at the University of Lynchburg since 2011, he is currently a tenured Professor and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences (2018-present). Previous leadership positions at the University of Lynchburg include Dean, School of Graduate Health Sciences (2015–2018), and Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (2012–2016).

Prior to joining the faculty at Lynchburg, Dr. Smith served as Chair at the University of North Florida, Department of Clinical & Applied Movement Sciences (2005–2011).

He was the founding co-director in 2007 of the Brooks/University of North Florida Residency and Fellowship programs.

Rusty's clinical expertise is in orthopedic physical therapy; particularly caring for patients with disorders of the spine. His educational interests include the adult learner, interdisciplinary education and practice, clinical reasoning, transformational leadership, and the use of technology in education. Dr. Smith received his Bachelors in Physical Therapy degree in 1980. He was awarded the Masters of Medical Science from Emory University in 1991 and the Doctor of Education; Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida in 2004. He completed the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Montana in 2020.

Dr. Smith has been an adjunct instructor, teaching orthopedic physical therapy, at the University of Maryland, Emory University, University of St. Augustine, and the University of Delaware. His professional experience includes 41 years of clinical practice as a physical therapist, largely in outpatient settings. Since 1993 Rusty has been a Board Certified Specialist in Orthopedics (OCS) by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, receiving Recertification in 2002 and 2011. Additionally, he received Certification as a Manual Therapist in 1986 from the University of St. Augustine, Health Sciences, and was recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy in 1999 and in 2009 and is now a lifetime fellow.

Preferred qualifications include:

- Prior experience as a dean or director of a school of nursing
- Prior experience as a clinical leader
- Evidence of experience with accrediting agencies
- Understanding of alternative teaching styles including, but not limited to, simulation, online learning, and flipped classrooms

The University of Lynchburg offers a competitive salary with a generous benefits package, relocation reimbursement, a promotion and/or tenure system that is compatible with the clinician/teacher model, and an opportunity for faculty members to grow clinical practice skills. Salary and rank are commensurate with experience and academic qualifications. Candidates must pass a background check that is satisfactory to the University.



University of Lynchburg Mission Statement

The mission of University of Lynchburg is to develop students with strong character and balanced perspectives and to prepare them for engagement in a globally diverse society and for effective leadership in the civic, professional, and spiritual dimensions of life.

University of Lynchburg provides its students with a wide range of rigorous educational experiences delivered through multiple modes of instruction. Undergraduate programs are grounded in the liberal arts, enhanced by professional studies, and nurtured by a residential community. Further, the University's quality graduate programs respond to identified community needs, advance scholarship in the discipline, and promote student career goals. University of Lynchburg extends its reach beyond the campus through experiential learning, culturally diverse opportunities, and service by sharing the expertise and commitment of faculty, staff, and students with the broader community.

In support of its mission, University of Lynchburg is an academic community that:

- fosters a student-centered environment;
- develops the breadth of knowledge associated with liberal education;
- develops depth of knowledge and promotes focused inquiry in academic disciplines;
- respects and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- values and celebrates diverse faith traditions; and
- sustains close working relationships among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners.



Lynchburg, Virginia

The University's 250-acre campus is located in Lynchburg, Virginia. The city has a population of more than 75,000, with the metropolitan area, the fifth largest MSA in Virginia, tallying more than 250,000 residents.

Situated on the banks of the James River, Lynchburg has a vibrant central city that fosters a strong sense of community and offers outstanding cultural venues, performing arts, and recreational opportunities. Locally

owned stores, casual and fine dining restaurants, art galleries, theatre, and special events mean something is always happening downtown. The area has numerous historical sites to visit and explore. Lynchburg operates one of the top school systems in the state.

Outdoor recreational opportunities include hiking, camping, biking, fishing, boating, rowing, rock climbing, and more. Eight miles of hiking and biking trails, including portions through downtown, run through the city's Blackwater Creek Natural Area.

APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS

Confidential inquiries are welcomed, and nominations are invited.

Applications

- 1) Application packet must include:
 - a) A letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position
 - b) Current curriculum vitae
 - c) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement outlining how you approach diversity, equity, and inclusion in your work
 - d) *Copy* of Transcripts (Original transcripts will be requested later in the search.)
 - e) At least four references with full contact information including e-mails (References will not be contacted without consent from applicant.)

- 2) Submit application packet (preferably as PDFs) to:

Lynchburg21@myersmcrae.com

Additional information will be requested upon receipt of application.

Nominations

Submit nominations to:

Lynchburg21-nominate@myersmcrae.com
with complete contact and e-mail information for the individual being nominated.

Emily Parker Myers, CEO, and Jennifer Barfield, Senior Vice President, of Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting, are assisting the University of Lynchburg with this search.



MYERSMCR AE
EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND CONSULTING
(478) 330-6222 **MyersMcRae.com**

Review of applications begins immediately. **For best consideration, submit applications by October 18, 2021.** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The preferred start date for the position is **May 01, 2022.**



**University of
Lynchburg**

The University of Lynchburg is committed to diversity within its community and welcomes applications to persons of color, women, indigenous/aboriginal people of North America, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of the University of Lynchburg community. The University of Lynchburg is an equal opportunity employer.