## **SEARCH PROFILE:**

# ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES



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Seton Hill University is seeking candidates for the Associate Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences in the College of Health and Natural Sciences. The successful candidate will be an innovative and collaborative leader who will provide the vision and creativity in developing new academic health programs with an initial emphasis on launching graduate nursing programs. Seton Hill is a Catholic University founded by the Sisters of Charity with a legacy built on resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. A newly

restructured College of Health and Natural Sciences has seen progressive growth in the health sciences, with the addition of undergraduate nursing in 2019, DPT in 2021, and a developing Doctorate in Occupational Therapy program. Reporting directly to the Dean of the College, the Associate Dean will be a key leader in oversight of the health programs in the College and advancing the mission of Seton Hill in preparing students to practice in an increasingly complex society.

#### OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

At Seton Hill University, we prepare students for the world in which they are destined to live and for the career in which they will succeed.

The Sisters of Charity founded Seton Hill in 1883, first as a boys' preparatory school and then as a residential Academy for girls. It was chartered as a four-year college for women in 1918 and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in 1921. In 2002, Seton Hill was granted university status by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and officially became a coeducational institution in that same year.

A leading Catholic liberal arts university, Seton Hill remains committed to welcoming students of all backgrounds and faith traditions. Located in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, just 35 miles from Pittsburgh, Seton Hill provides students with a rigorous education, personal support, and a strong liberal arts foundation that prepares them for success in their chosen careers.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Seton Hill is a Catholic university rooted in Judeo-Christian values. In the tradition of Elizabeth Ann Seton, we educate students to think and act critically, creatively, and ethically as productive members of society committed to transforming the world.

"I would wish to fit you for that world in which you are destined to live." — Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

### A WELCOMING, LEARNING, CELEBRATING, AND SERVING COMMUNITY

Seton Hill's Catholic identity is a defining mark of the university, shaping its mission, values, and academic approach. Seton Hill's vibrant campus culture is built on four pillars of community:

**Welcoming Community** – An inclusive environment where all students feel supported and valued.

**Learning Community** – A commitment to academic excellence and personal growth.

**Celebrating Community** – Honoring faith, traditions, and achievements together.

**Serving Community** – Giving back through service and leadership.

This dynamic approach integrates Seton Hill's Catholic heritage with a spirit of discovery, compassion, and global responsibility.

#### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & CAREER FOCUS**

Seton Hill offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs across five schools:

- Business & Technology
- Natural & Health Sciences

- Humanities
- Education & Applied Social Sciences
- Visual & Performing Arts

With small class sizes and a student-to-faculty ratio that ensures personalized attention, Seton Hill creates an engaging and supportive academic environment where students can develop the skills and confidence needed to thrive.

Seton Hill is also an Apple Distinguished School, providing every full-time, traditional bachelor's degree-seeking student with a MacBook Air laptop to enhance their learning experience and offering faculty professional development programs to integrate technology effectively into their courses.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS & AFFORDABILITY

Seton Hill is affordable and career-focused, offering students an education that combines high academic quality with personal and financial value. The university's dedication to student achievement is reflected in its impressive 98% career and graduate school placement rate within one year of graduation. Seton Hill also offers unlimited career and professional development services for alumni, ensuring lifelong success.



#### STRATEGIC PLAN

Seton Hill University is currently engaged in a strategic planning process that will continue to move the university forward. With participation from faculty, staff and administration, the SHU 2030 Strategic Plan builds from the university's current strategic plan as we begin a new five-year cycle in July 2025.

SHU 2030 includes five strategic priorities that drive the plan: Mission; Academic Rigor and Innovation; Educating Current and Future Generations; Financial Stability and Viability; and Catalyst for Positive Change.

The plan's three focus areas, Faith, Knowledge and Action, will help guide the university with specific goals and objectives to achieve the strategic priorities.

#### STUDENTS AND STUDENT LIFE

Seton Hill University has a total enrollment of 1,927 students, with 1,501 undergraduate students and 426 graduate students. The Online Bachelor's & Certificate (OBC) program enrolls 151 students.

Students hail from 40 states and 26 foreign countries, with 49.2% of undergraduate students from households within southwestern Pennsylvania. The student population consists of 65.9% females and 16.9% students of color. In addition, 30.2% of students are Pell-eligible and more than one quarter are first-generation.

An additional 400 medical students are enrolled in the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at its satellite location established on Seton Hill's campus in 2009, and with whom the university has a number of pathway programs for medical, dental, and pharmacy school.

Seton Hill is a welcoming, historic residential university with eight residence halls and a strong sense of community. The Office of Student Leadership and Involvement organizes weekly student-friendly activities, and students have access to 70+ student clubs, intramural sports, Esports, and 20 NCAA Division II athletic teams. The university's location in Greensburg and proximity to Pittsburgh provide additional learning, dining, and career opportunities.

Seton Hill competes in 20 NCAA Division II sports, primarily in the PSAC conference.

- Women's Sports: Basketball, Cross Country, Equestrian, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball.
- Men's Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Track & Field, Wrestling.
- Co-Ed Sports: Esports.
- Additional Sports: Intramurals.

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

Seton Hill University offers more than 100 undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs through our five schools: Business and Technology; Education and Applied Social Sciences, Humanities, Natural and Health Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 50 Regional Universities in the North, Seton Hill is also ranked as a Best Value School and a Best College for Veterans.

Seton Hill prepares students for future success through both rigorous professional preparation programs and a strong liberal arts core.

The liberal arts aspect of a Seton Hill education marks an integral expression of the University's commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition. The teaching of critical, creative, and ethical modes of thought and action define the liberal arts at Seton Hill, and is manifest through a wide variety of university activities, including the Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC) required of all undergraduate students. The curriculum offers ample



student engagement, a focus on practical application, and exposure to new ideas and cultural diversity. It also fosters global awareness, prepares students to analyze political issues with greater depth, and increases student marketability.



Dedicated to transforming the world, Seton Hill has a longstanding dedication to the sciences. Today, the natural and health sciences continue to represent some of the university's strongest (and most popular) academic programs with graduates moving on to careers in medicine, research, science, healthcare and education.

Seton Hill University is in the process of converting its School of Natural and Health Sciences to a College of Health and Natural Sciences to better reflect the university's emphasis on the Health Sciences, the popularity of those programs of study and the breadth and depth of both undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students for the health professions.

The College of Health and Natural Sciences enrolls the largest number of students on the Seton Hill campus with a total of 733 students in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Key Enrollment Figures for Health and Natural Sciences:

Undergraduate Programs:

Biology - Pre-Medical: 46Exercise Science: 97

• Health Science: 32

Nursing: 68

Nutrition & Dietetics: 38

RN to BSN: 17

Physician Assistant B.S/M.S. (Undergraduate): 114

#### Graduate Programs:

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT): 83

Physician Assistant: 60

Nutrition & Dietetics: 9

The Physician Assistant program, which offers an accelerated BS/MS track and a traditional graduate track, was among the first graduate programs at Seton Hill. The excellence of the Physician Assistant program is demonstrated by the overall pass rate of 100% for Seton Hill graduates on the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE). Seton Hill PA graduates can be found working in a variety of healthcare settings across the country.

The Daniel J. Wukich School of Nursing opened in the fall of 2019 to help alleviate the regional and national nursing shortage. Seton Hill currently offers a traditional BSN and

an online RN to BSN program through the Wukich School of Nursing and is exploring new graduate nursing programs in the future.

Additionally, the university graduated its first doctoral students through its Doctor of Physical Therapy program in May 2024. The program was fast-tracked through the accreditation process in order to meet the high demand for new Physical Therapists. Seton Hill's DPT program gets students involved in clinicals in their second semester and puts a strong emphasis on service that includes work both in the local community and abroad.

Seton Hill is currently working towards the development of a Doctor of Occupational Therapy program that is expected to launch in fall 2026.

The University also offers an MS in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, providing orthodontics care to patients of all ages throughout the Pittsburgh region at a low cost.

Because southwestern Pennsylvania has a large rural and aging population, Seton Hill University initiated partnerships and programs to help forestall the looming healthcare crisis related to physician shortages. In 2008, Seton Hill partnered with the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to add a new location to educate and train osteopathic medical students in southwestern Pennsylvania (LECOM at Seton Hill). With 13.65% of D.O.s specializing in primary care and 50% of LECOM's 1,500 graduates remaining in Pennsylvania, LECOM at Seton Hill provides significant value to the region. The LECOM partnership also includes spots for Seton Hill graduates in dental medicine and pharmacy.

Additionally, affiliations with Salus University's doctoral programs in Optometry and Audiology were added in 2017.

Seton Hill University is accredited nationally by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Discipline Accreditations held by Seton Hill University within the College of Health and Natural Sciences include: Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA); Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND); Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA); Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES); Council on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE); and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).



Students are taught by approximately 200 full-time and adjunct faculty who are committed to preparing their students for professional success by providing a solid discipline knowledge base within a liberal arts and faith-based context. The learning environment is one of patience, encouragement, challenge and respect where each student's potential flourishes.

The faculty at Seton Hill are seen as a considerable strength and demonstrate passion for areas of expertise and teaching. Faculty share research and provide high levels of access to and engagement with students.

Seton Hill maintains a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio, fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment.

Seton Hill has a dedicated staff of approximately 250 individuals who support the university and its students through both direct and indirect services. Major departments include Student Support Services, Student Affairs, IT, Campus Police, Institutional Advancement, Maintenance and Grounds, and the Business Office. Contract employees from Xerox and Aramark operate areas such as printing and mailing, food service and custodial services.



#### **PRESIDENT**

Seton Hill is led by President Mary C. Finger, Ed.D., who began her tenure as Seton Hill's tenth president in June 2014. Under her leadership, Seton Hill has initiated a number of new programs to enhance the university's already robust academic offerings, including The Office of Academic Innovation and Planning, through which faculty work with community and business leaders to develop new academic programs that align with the Pittsburgh region's workforce needs. She has also expanded student opportunities for experiential learning through study abroad, internships and student research and working to enhance career readiness preparation through its nationally-recognized Fit for the World program; and has implemented a new three-year degree program to provide a defined pathway for students entering Seton Hill with college credit so they may graduate early.

Dr. Finger has continued to manage the university's financial resources, building on her predecessor's history of balanced budgets. The institution has had 25 years of balanced budgets, and the endowment has risen to approximately \$65 million from \$33 million in the last decade. The university is in the quiet phase of a \$100 million capital campaign with approximately \$77 million raised. One of the goals of the capital campaign is renovation of a historic building on campus that will house some of the health science programs.

Previously, Dr. Finger was senior vice president for advancement at DePaul University in Chicago and, prior to that, served as vice president for planning and institutional advancement at Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. Finger is fluent in Spanish and worked in the Bilingual Education Department of Milwaukee Public Schools. Dr. Finger received her Ed.D. in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts degree from Mount Mary College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marquette University.

#### **PROVOST**

The Chief Academic Officer for Seton Hill is Provost Susan Yochum, SC, Ph.D., who has served in this role since July 2015. She brings a distinguished 30-plus-year career serving Seton Hill students as a chemistry professor and

as Chair of the Division of Natural and Health Sciences to her position.

As Chair of the Division of Natural and Health Sciences for 18 years prior to her appointment as Provost, Sister Susan's leadership led to growth in both academic programs and enrollment. She also managed many of the strategic decisions as the University constructed The JoAnne Woodyard Boyle Health Sciences Center, which opened in 2015.

She has been recognized as a Seton Hill Professor of the Year and has been a leader in integrating mobile technology into her classroom and laboratory. In addition, she has earned awards for her contributions to science and education, including the Women Chemist Committee of the American Chemical Society Regional Award for Contributions to Diversity and The Council of Independent Colleges Heuer Honorable Mention Award for Outstanding Achievement in Undergraduate Science Education.

Sister Susan, a Seton Hill chemistry alumna, joined the chemistry faculty at Seton Hill in 1985. She earned her master's degree in chemistry from Duquesne University and her Ph.D. from Cleveland State University

President Finger's Council includes the Provost, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Vice President for Mission and Identity, Vice President for Student Affairs, Athletics and Planning, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, General Counsel and Vice President, Vice President for Finance and Administration (CFO) and the Chief Information Officer. Two Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill serve on the President's Council – the Provost and Vice President for Mission and Identity.

Seton Hill is governed by a Board of Trustees that consists of 30 members, including 7 Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, the Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, 21 Lay At-Large Trustees, and the President of Seton Hill University. The Chair and Chair-Elect of the Board are Lay At-Large Trustees, the Bishop of Greensburg serves as the Honorary Chair, the Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Charity serves as Vice Chair, and a Sister of Charity of Seton Hill currently serves as the Secretary to the Board. Twenty-five percent of the total number of Trustees are Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

#### **FACILITIES**

Seton Hill University offers state-of-the-art facilities that enhance hands-on learning across multiple disciplines. The facilities used by students in the School of Natural and Health Sciences, include:

#### **BOYLE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**

Seton Hill's Boyle Health Sciences Center provides stateof-the-art technology and resources throughout its clinical and research classrooms and labs. The Boyle Center is home to many of the University's premier programs, including Physician Assistant, Exercise Science and Biology.

#### **WUKICH SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Seton Hill's Wukich School of Nursing contains new nursing skills and simulation suites that replicate actual medical environments and situations. The Nursing Skills Lab and Simulation Suite are state-of-the-art instructional facilities that provide students with the opportunity to translate theoretical knowledge into a safe clinical experience using realistic patient scenarios. High-fidelity manikins used in the laboratory are capable of numerous physiological states and responses, giving the student "real-life" experiences.

**CENTER FOR ORTHODONTICS** 

Seton Hill's Center for Orthodontics provides the highest standard of treatment for patients. The Center is part of the graduate-level Advanced Specialty Education Program in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, which provides the education and training needed for dentists to specialize in orthodontics.

#### **CRIME SCENE HOUSE**

At Seton Hill, we have a ranch-style house that is dedicated to the creation of "crime" - and its solution. Here, forensic science majors use the knowledge they gain in the classroom and the lab to analyze mock crime scenes constructed by professors.

#### **HUMAN ANATOMY LAB & ANATOMAGE TABLES**

Anatomage tables allow students to take a digital. interactive look into the systems that make up the human body, from muscular and skeletal systems to nerve pathways. This learning is supported by hands-on experiences in our Human Anatomy Lab.

Seton Hill's Anatomy Lab, housed in the Boyle Center for Health Sciences, provides students with the unique opportunity to have firsthand experience with real human anatomy. The Human Anatomy Lab features medicalgrade equipment, including lighting that emulates that found in operating rooms.

#### LOCATION

Seton Hill University offers a unique blend of a scenic campus and urban opportunities, providing students with the best of both worlds. The main campus sits atop 200 wooded acres in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. While the university enjoys a peaceful, picturesque setting, it also extends into Greensburg's historic cultural district, where the Seton Hill Arts Center and Performing Arts Center provide students with access to vibrant creative experiences.

Located just 35 miles from Pittsburgh, Seton Hill offers easy access to big-city attractions while maintaining the close-knit, student-centered atmosphere of a small college town. The campus is also conveniently situated near Pittsburgh International Airport and Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe, making travel seamless for students.

When they aren't in class, Seton Hill students enjoy a variety of activities, including:

- Exploring local restaurants, cafés, and coffee shops in downtown Greensburg.
- Attending concerts, plays, and art exhibitions at the university's Arts and Performing Arts Centers.
- Supporting the Seton Hill Griffins at athletic events.



- Getting outdoors with hiking, skiing, biking, and kayaking in the scenic Laurel Highlands.
- Taking a quick trip to Pittsburgh for professional sports, shopping, museums, and entertainment.
- At Seton Hill, students get the best of a peaceful campus, a vibrant local community, and exciting travel opportunities that enrich their college experience.



The selected candidate will join the Seton Hill community at an exciting time of change, opportunity, and challenge occurring across higher education. The Associate Dean for Nursing and Health Sciences will impact growth through new program development and interdisciplinary collaboration among graduate healthcare programs. The Associate Dean will assist with oversight of assessment and accreditation, management and operations of the graduate healthcare programs. The Associate Dean will have the following key leadership agenda priorities:

Program Development: The School of Natural and Health Sciences has seen dramatic growth with the addition of the Wukich School of Nursing in 2019 for undergraduate nursing (BSN, RN - BSN online completion), a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program in 2021, and a developing Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program with enrollment of the first cohort planned for Fall 2026. The School of Natural and Health Sciences which includes the School of Nursing will be restructured effective July 1, 2025, with the establishment of the College of Health and Natural Sciences (CHNS). The Associate Dean will play a vital leadership role in the College of Health and Natural Sciences. The initial and primary role of the Associate Dean will be to develop graduate programs in nursing and supervision of the Director of Undergraduate Nursing.

At the appropriate time, the Associate Dean will also oversee graduate programs including Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Physician Assistant (PA), and Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD). Innovation in cutting-edge teaching methodologies and in the classroom and laboratories will also be an important emphasis for the health programs advancing into the future.

Exercise and demonstrate a strong collaborative style of leadership and change management in operational oversight of the health programs within the CHNS: A key priority for the new Associate Dean is to lead in a strong collaborative style and to be skilled in change management and working with others to further the goals of the University and the College. While working with others internally and externally, the Associate Dean will be an important change agent for the institution in moving forward with academic excellence, ongoing assessment/accreditation requirements and rigor, staffing, and interprofessional education and training. Strong communication and collaborative skills will be essential in working with faculty, staff, administrators and community partners. Additionally, strong administrative experience in leadership and accreditation expertise with professionally licensed programs is a necessity.

Collaboratively work with the Coordinator of Interprofessional Education (IPE) and program directors to increase IPE among the health care programs and serve as a spokesperson for the healthcare programs: The Associate Dean will be a leader in responding to regional and national needs in healthcare and position Seton Hill University as a key regional institution in the delivery of healthcare education. The select candidate will act as a spokesperson for the University regarding healthcare education and develop and engage with an advisory board of regional and national experts in healthcare delivery and education.

# LEADERSHIP AGENDA FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES (CONT.)

Provide the leadership and support for faculty development and mentorship in growing an interdisciplinary college with multiple and growing health care programs: The successful candidate will possess the experience, creativity and collaborative skills to work effectively with the Administration and Office of Academic Innovation and Planning in the pursuit of new markets/programs that align with the University Strategic Plan and mission. The Associate Dean will provide the leadership and mentoring to a committed group of faculty and staff to ensure that Seton Hill continues to provide rigorous health care programs by faculty who remain current in their fields and are productive in scholarship.

Strategically build on the mission, vision and core values of Seton Hill in further development and strategic growth of the College: Along with the Dean of the CHNS, the Associate Dean's leadership will be critical. As the University continues to prepare students for healthcare professions in an increasingly complex, multicultural society, a commitment to working with students and living the University's motto of "Hazard Yet Forward", moving forward with purpose to prepare students who serve as productive members of the healthcare professions is essential.

As a liberal arts university, rooted in Judeo-Christian philosophy and in the Catholic intellectual tradition, Seton Hill is committed to the holistic development of students who are pursuing graduate education. By providing advanced study within a liberal arts context, Seton Hill University aims to contribute to the preparation of highly qualified professional women and men whose education will enable them to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century and enjoy fruitful personal and professional lives.

Seton Hill believes that the preparation of persons for specialized careers within a small, private university permits greater attention to all aspects of individual development - intellectual, social, moral, aesthetic, and physical. It hopes in turn that these professionals will share their knowledge and talents with those whose lives they touch.

The ideal candidate to become the Associate Dean for Nursing and Health Sciences will possess:

#### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

- An earned doctorate degree from an accredited institution (PhD, EdD, DNP), with at least one graduate degree in nursing.
- Certification as a nurse practitioner, along with licensure or eligible to practice as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania
- A record of achievement in teaching, scholarship and service that merits appointment at the associate or full professor rank
- Significant and progressive academic administrative experience

### DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS, EXPERIENCES & ATTRIBUTES

- Excellent communicator with strong interpersonal and listening skills. Ability to engage collaboratively with multiple constituents on campus and with the external community.
- Experience with and willingness to work with other disciplines to further the work of an interdisciplinary college and the educational needs of the student population.
- Experience in budgetary and fiscal management skills needed in a higher education environment
- Experience with professional accreditation processes with healthcare programs
- Experience building partnerships and promoting collegiality and collaboration amongst internal and external constituencies
- Demonstrated effectiveness in team building and conflict management
- Understanding of, and appreciation for the University's Catholic identity, mission and core values.





Academic Search is assisting Seton Hill University in this national search. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest may be submitted in confidence to: <a href="mailto:SetonHillAssocDean@academicsearch.org">SetonHillAssocDean@academicsearch.org</a>.

Applications should consist of three PDF documents including:

- A letter of interest that addresses qualifications;
- A complete curriculum vitae (CV);
- The names and contact information (phone and email) of five professional references, none of whom will be contacted without prior notification to the candidate.

The position is open until filled, but only applications received by April 25, 2025 can be assured full consideration.

Confidential conversations about this opportunity may be arranged by emailing the Senior Consultant for the search: <a href="mailto:Suzanne.Mellon@academicsearch.org">Suzanne.Mellon@academicsearch.org</a> or via the following booking link: <a href="mailto:Suzanne's Calendar">Suzanne's Calendar</a>.

### ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Seton Hill University. 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.



