

President Profile

Lisle Campus



Mesa Campus



Benedictine University (BenU) announces the search for their next President and invites applications and nominations for the position.



Benedictine University Mission

Benedictine University is an inclusive academic community dedicated to teaching and learning, scholarship and service, and truth and justice, as inspired by the Catholic intellectual tradition, the social teaching of the Church and the principles of wisdom in The Rule of St. Benedict.

Benedictine University Vision

Benedictine University aspires to be a thought leader in Catholic higher education. We seek to provide a transformative and integrative educational experience grounded in Benedictine values, helping students shape lives of meaning and purpose as engaged citizens who care for the earth, welcome people of diverse faiths and cultures and promote the common good.

Commitment Statement

Benedictine University's mission and vision reflect its Catholic and Benedictine identity, providing continuity with the past and a direction for the future.

In 1887, the monks of St. Procopius Abbey founded Benedictine University, first as St. Procopius College, later as Illinois Benedictine College and today as Benedictine University. The monks base their lives on The Rule of St. Benedict, written in the sixth century. They share the Benedictine charism with all who embrace the University's Catholic and Benedictine mission:

- love of Christ and neighbor;
- prayer: a life marked by liturgy, lectio and mindfulness;
- stability: commitment to the daily life of this place, its heritage and tradition;
- conversatio: the way of formation and transformation;
- obedience: a commitment to listening and consequent action;
- discipline: a way toward learning and freedom;
- humility: knowledge of self in relation to God, others and creation;
- stewardship: responsible use of creation, culture and the arts;
- hospitality: openness to the other; and
- community: call to serve the common good.

Inspired by these hallmarks and convinced of the harmony of faith and reason, Benedictine University cultivates virtues of intellect and character, encouraging people to study, listen and engage the ideas of a variety of persons, cultures and disciplines, while imparting "the love of learning and the desire for God" to guide a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. Visit our [Center for Benedictine Values](#) for more information

Motto

Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus – That in all things God may be glorified.



History of Benedictine University

Benedictine University was founded by the Benedictine monks of St. Procopius Abbey in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago in 1887. The Benedictine Order bears the

name of St. Benedict, born in 480, who is acknowledged as the father of western monasticism. In 528, he established the famed monastery of Monte Cassino.

The first building on the Lisle campus was dedicated in September 1901. That building was expanded into the 1920s, with new buildings added in 1950. The University was originally founded to educate men of Czech and Slovak descent, and in the early years most of the students were from those ethnic groups. The University became coeducational in 1968. Recognizing the social, economic and building changes taking place around the University community (which in its earliest days had a significant agricultural character), the University added necessary buildings and facilities to accommodate the needs of contemporary students including residence halls, independent living apartments, a fitness center and state-of-the-art athletic fields. The University added the Kindlon Hall of Learning and the Birk Hall of Science in 2001. In 2015, Benedictine unveiled the four-story, 125,000-square-foot Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, which features a 600-seat auditorium.

A renovated quad area, which includes landscaped walkways, gothic-style lighting and rain gardens, connects the front entrance of Goodwin Hall with other academic, enrollment and student life buildings.

The University has gained national and international recognition through major partnerships. In 2003, Benedictine and Springfield College in Illinois partnered to bring Benedictine programs and services to the state capital.

In 2004, Benedictine collaborated with Shenyang University of Technology and Shenyang Jianzhu University in China to bring M.B.A. and M.S. in Management Information Systems programs overseas where



there is a great demand for American business programs.

Also in 2004, the University partnered with the Village of Lisle to construct the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex, a multi-purpose facility featuring lighted athletic fields with a nine-lane track. In 2012, the University partnered with the city of Mesa, Arizona, to establish a campus in that community. Benedictine University's Mesa campus welcomed 93 students into its inaugural class in September 2013.

Benedictine University Today

Today, in addition to 41 undergraduate majors, Benedictine University offers 11 graduate programs and 3 doctoral programs.

Locations include the campus in Lisle and a campus in Mesa, Arizona. There are also 4 class sites in China and 2 in Vietnam. In addition to our on-site programs, we offer online programs that reach students across the United States and internationally.

Students come to us from different walks of life. They come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They have different religious beliefs and value systems. They are introduced to customs, religions, ethnicities or backgrounds they might not have been exposed

to before. They see a full representation of the world. They have the opportunity to interact and study with students from 47 states and 9 countries. We are one of the most diverse campuses in the state and in the country.

Academic Structure

Undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs are housed in the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Business, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science and Health and the School of Education.



Educational Programming

Benedictine fulfills its commitment to the liberal arts, teacher education and professional programs through excellence in teaching and interaction between students and faculty.

A liberal arts core prepares all undergraduate students to participate fully in a diverse and dynamic society, balancing their rights and duties as individuals with the demands of the common good.

Professional education infused with Benedictine values at the traditional and adult undergraduate, graduate and certificate levels builds on the liberal arts background of students, is multidisciplinary in nature and prepares graduates for roles of leadership and social responsibility.

External Recognition



In 2022, Benedictine ranked 58th out of 167 in Regional Universities in the Midwest by U.S.

News and World Report. The University also ranked 38th in top performers for social mobility (which measures how well schools graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants).



Forbes magazine named Benedictine among "America's Top Colleges" from 2010 to 2019.



Thebestcolleges.org ranked Benedictine's online M.P.H. and M.S.N. programs among the top ten in the nation in 2019.



In 2019, Benedictine's Lisle campus was named the safest campus in Illinois and the second-safest in the nation by yourlocalsecurity.com.



Benedictine University continues to earn top awards for being one of the top military friendly schools in the Nation by GIJobs.com.



SR Education Group's *Graduateprograms.com* ranked Benedictine's online M.P.H. among the top programs in the nation in 2018.

Campus Life

The Benedictine tradition celebrates community as a gathering of people who share a commitment to a common mission, and Benedictine University is dedicated to the academic success, social development and personal growth of every student. At BenU we value each student and provide the resources necessary to help guide their success. Varied and demanding academics, successful athletics and extensive extracurricular activities are essential elements for their development. We also believe that community service is an integral part of the college experience, and provide service learning opportunities that combine formal instruction with a related service in the community.

Benedictine University has a well-known reputation as a leader in pre-professional health programs. Our students are prepared to meet the challenges of professional lives under the close guidance of faculty and staff, as well as the Health Professions Recommendation Committee. We provide cutting-edge science education and students are able to participate in exciting research projects with nationally-recognized faculty members (<https://ben.edu/academics/college-of-science-and-health/faculty-and-student-research/>). Undergraduate and graduate students interested in Pre-Health programs benefit from the partnerships built with some of the top professional schools in the nations. This includes dual acceptance affiliations, partnerships and fast-track programs, as well as clinical practicum experiences (<https://ben.edu/pre-health/>).



Campus in Lisle, Illinois

Benedictine University is located 25 miles outside of Chicago in Lisle, Illinois. This location allows faculty, staff and students to experience the amenities of suburban life and the close availability of metropolitan life in Chicago. The Lisle campus features 22 buildings. Approximately 500 students live on campus. Benedictine offers 40+ student clubs and organizations, 19 athletic teams and many extracurricular activities such as Homecoming, India Night, service opportunities, lectures, seminars, Teach-In on Social Justice and Family Weekend. The campus is also close to shopping, dining and entertainment, including picturesque downtown Naperville, the fifth-largest city in Illinois.



Campus in Mesa, Arizona

In its ninth academic year in operation, the Benedictine University Mesa campus continues to grow its academic and athletic programs. BenU prepares students for the workplace through hands-on, interactive and team-based learning in a technology-enhanced environment. Majors are offered in Accounting, Communication Arts, Criminology, Entrepreneurship, Fine Arts, Graphic Arts and Design, Health Education and Promotion, Management and Organizational Behavior, Nutrition and Allied Health, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, and Theology. A minor in Religious Studies is also available. Benedictine has partnered with Co+Hoots to provide a purpose driven space and continued opportunities for our students to get real work and experience in our Entrepreneurial Immersion Program.

As the third largest city in Arizona, Mesa is surrounded by the natural Sonoran Desert and is home to the largest arts and cultural complex in the Southwest. Benedictine University is located in downtown Mesa.



Asia

Benedictine University operates degree programs in both China and Vietnam with partner universities for the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Management Information Systems, Master of Public Health, and Master of Arts in Linguistics with TESOL Concentration. The university also offers undergraduate business coursework in China. The university currently partners with Shenyang University of Technology and Shenyang Jianzhu University in Shenyang, China, Dalian Medical University in Dalian, China, Changchun Financial College in Changchun, China, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the University of Economics and Business in Hanoi, Vietnam. Coursework is offered by BenU faculty who travel to those locations to teach.

Lisle, Chicago and the western suburbs

Benedictine University is located in suburban Lisle, Illinois, in prosperous DuPage County. Lisle is situated in the heart of a major transportation network that serves the area's extensive inventory of corporate headquarters and regional offices. With a population of 24,589, an average household income of \$120,512 and a median value of housing at \$361,400, Lisle has a wide range of housing options including expansive executive estates, single

and multi-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, apartments and starter homes. Lisle schoolchildren are primarily served by two public school districts: Lisle Community School District 202 and Naperville Community School District 203. In addition, two highly regarded private schools, Benet Academy (one of the premier high schools in Illinois academically and athletically) and St. Joan of Arc Elementary School are located in Lisle. Known as the "Arboretum Village," Lisle is home to the world-renowned Morton Arboretum, which encompasses 1,700 acres of woodlands, wetlands, prairies, lakes and meadows.

With a population of 151,078, adjacent Naperville is the fifth-largest city in Illinois, yet it has a quaint small town feel that just happens to boast big-city amenities and one of the most thriving downtown restaurant, entertainment and shopping districts in the metropolitan Chicago area. Named to *Money* magazine's prestigious "Best Places to Live", Naperville is one of only 2 towns in Illinois to make the top 50 and #33 overall. Naperville also ranked #14 for top earnings towns and was named safest city in the United States in 2021. Naperville has a median family income of \$154,724 and an average home value of \$424,800.

Just 25 miles to the east of the Lisle campus is Chicago, which lies along the shores of Lake Michigan and is known for its vibrant arts scene, numerous cultural attractions, excellent shopping and interesting architecture. The city is home to the Chicago Bears, Cubs, White Sox, Bulls and Blackhawks. Some of the top tourist attractions are Navy Pier, Grant Park, The Second City, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chinatown, Old Town, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Benedictine at a Glance

Endowment Fall 2021: \$43M
Budget Fall 2021: Appx. \$65M

Traditional Undergraduate Lisle Campus Tuition 2021: \$34,290
Traditional Undergraduate Mesa Campus Tuition 2021: \$22,400

Student Enrollment Fall 2021 (IPEDS snapshot 10/15/21):

- Total – 3,378
- Undergraduate – 2,185
- Graduate – 1,193
- International:
 - 211 students studying in BenU graduate programs in China and Vietnam
 - Students in United States: 55

Students receiving Financial Assistance Fall 2021:

The enrollment criteria used is driven by aid eligibility for each group. Undergraduates, in general, need to be enrolled in at least 6 credits whereas graduate students need to be enrolled in at least 3 credits to be eligible for aid. 1,608 degree seeking undergraduates enrolled in more than 5 credits for Fall 2021. Of the 1,608, 1,529 received aid = 95%. 1,407 degree seeking graduate/professional enrolled in more than 2 credits for Fall 2021. Of the 1,407, 426 received aid = 41%.

Alumni: 36,000

Number of Faculty (total) Fall 2021: 129

- Professor: 46
- Associate Professor: 34
- Assistant Professor: 37
- Instructor: 12
- Adjunct: 202

Staff Employees: 270 full time and part time

Student/Faculty Ratio Fall 2021: 13:1

Degrees: B.A., B.B.A., B.S., B.S.N., M.B.A., M.P.H., M.S., M.S.N., D.B.A., D.N.P., Ph.D.

Library Volumes:

- More than 200,000 books (print and electronic)
- Access to more than 30,000 periodicals (print and electronic)
- More than 115 different databases in a variety of subject areas, most

accessible from off campus

- Instructional Materials Collection
 - juvenile books, teacher's kits, multimedia resources, videos/ DVDs, CDs & phonograph disks
- Copies of all theses and dissertations completed at Benedictine University and George Williams College
- State of Illinois Documents Repository Archives and Special Collections



Athletics

- *Lisle campus*
 - NCAA Division III affiliation in 18 men's (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, indoor and outdoor track and field) and women's (basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, indoor and outdoor track and field, volleyball) sports.
 - In 2021, BenU's men's volleyball finished second in the NCAA Division III Championship game.
 - Number of student athletes: 450+
 - Nickname: Eagles
 - Mascot: Ernie the Eagle
- *Mesa campus*
 - NAIA affiliation in 13 men's (baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, volleyball) and women's (basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, volleyball, beach volleyball) sports.
 - In 2019, BenU Mesa's men's volleyball team won the NAIA National Championship.
 - Number of student athletes: 328
 - Nickname: Redhawks
 - Mascot: Rico the Redhawk



I. The Leadership Opportunity

Benedictine University (BenU), a Catholic and liberal arts institution, has been guided by the Benedictine Charism and Catholic intellectual tradition since its founding in 1887. The University is today a diverse and inclusive Catholic institution, dedicated to teaching and learning, scholarship and service, truth and justice, the social teaching of the Church, and the principles of wisdom in the Rule of St. Benedict. BenU is also a committed member of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities. BenU seeks a new president who is deeply committed to its Catholic identity, its mission and values, and its Benedictine charism, and who will execute the following leadership priorities:

1. Advance Mission and Identity

Guided by the University's Mission statement, the president will advance the ideals of a Catholic and Benedictine institution among the many constituencies of the Lisle and Mesa campuses and beyond. Leading by example and as a thought leader in Catholic higher education, the president will work to enrich the integrative and transformative educational experience BenU provides students. This transformation is grounded in Benedictine values and committed to helping students shape meaningful and fulfilled lives as engaged citizens who care for the earth, respect the dignity of all people and promote social justice and the common good.

2. Further a Bold and Unifying Shared Vision

The next president will build upon the University's present Strategic Plan 2021-2023 developed under President Charles Gregory's leadership. Working from the current Plan's foundation, the next president will lead the preparation of a mission-driven, forward-looking, strategic direction that includes innovation in academic programming, effective use of the full range of instructional delivery modalities and better utilization of technological resources. It is expected that the plan will allow BenU to anticipate and quickly address future changes in the higher education landscape to proactively strengthen its distinct place in the Midwest, Arizona and beyond. In leading this planning effort, the president will help shape the institution's strategic direction and provide the needed inspiration as BenU addresses the many challenges facing all of higher education.

3. Achieve Long-Term and Comprehensive Financial Sustainability

Although financially prudent, and carefully managed, the University has experienced the financial challenges common in today's tuition-dependent higher education environment. These challenges include costs associated with the pandemic, increased financial aid for students, deferred maintenance issues, staffing needs, technological upgrades, etc. To assure greater financial stability, the next president will develop a mission-aligned strategy focused on strengthening the

University's overall long-term financial outlook. This strategy will include developing new academic programs, increasing student enrollment and retention, building the endowment, expanding philanthropy and creating new revenue initiatives. This effort will also require prioritization of resources and the courage to make difficult decisions among competing priorities.

4. Strengthen Student Enrollment, Retention, Outcomes and Success

The next president will ensure the University is positioned to reach necessary enrollment and retention goals to assure financial vitality. This effort will include academic program innovation and entrepreneurial strategies to reach new student markets and address student educational needs. This may include new student exchange program opportunities, continuing to build the University's presence in Lisle and Mesa, expanding on-demand courses, and ensuring additional pathways for degree completion. It will also require University-wide engagement in intentionally attracting diverse student populations, addressing staffing needs and developing initiatives to monitor and improve student success, retention and graduation rates.

5. Commit to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The University is proud to be one of the most religiously diverse higher education institutions in the country. Living as an inclusive community that welcomes students from all faiths, cultures and social economic backgrounds is an important priority that aligns with the University's Catholic identity and Benedictine mission. Furthering social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion will be a priority of the next president. The president will lead the University in working to attract, welcome and support a diverse and inclusive student body, and an increasingly diverse faculty, administration and staff who all share the responsibility to create a strong sense of belonging and support on campus.

6. Enhance Philanthropy Among Internal and External Constituencies

The next president will have an opportunity to develop a stronger institutional advancement program and be charged with promoting a spirit and culture of philanthropy across the University and surrounding corporate and business communities. This includes everything from raising money through donations, grants, partnerships and annual fund contributions to successfully promoting future capital campaigns. This culture of giving includes both internal (i.e. trustees, parents, alumni, faculty, staff) and external Benedictine stakeholders (non-profit, corporate and business community outreach, academic institutions).

7. Strengthen Community in a Post-COVID World

Building a culture of collaboration, trust, transparency, stability and frequent communication to address the changing landscape of the post-COVID Catholic higher education

world will be an important priority of the president. This may include an openness to exploring such opportunities as offering diverse modes of teaching and learning, varied work arrangements among faculty, administration and staff, new approaches to community engagement and novel approaches to addressing the complex relational and mental health needs of contemporary students, faculty and staff.

8. Leading as a Public President and Ambassador

In addition to being present and engaged with faculty, staff and students on campus, the next president will also serve as the University's chief spokesperson and ambassador off campus in Lisle and Mesa, regionally in Illinois and Arizona, and nationally. In this role, the president will articulate BenU's Mission, share the distinguishing features of a BenU education and represent the University's contributions to the Lisle and Mesa communities, the Church, society and local businesses. By increasing institutional visibility and identity, the president will enhance both student enrollment and financial support for the University.

II. The Leadership Attributes

Benedictine University's next president will be preferably Catholic with a deep commitment to and understanding of Catholic higher education, hold a terminal degree and present a track record of success, achievement and progressive responsibility as a higher education leader. Personal characteristics of integrity, humility, agility, emotional intelligence and an uncompromising work ethic who engages others with grace, hospitality and a people-orientated problem-solving attitude are also necessities.

BenU's next President also will be:

1. A Mission-Driven and Collaborative Servant Leader

A mission-driven and collaborative servant leader who understands and will passionately embrace and be energized by the legacy and values of the University's Benedictine founders and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

2. A Contemporary Higher Education Thought Leader

A thought leader with a contemporary understanding of the trends and issues impacting twenty-first century higher education and an appreciation for the unique leadership requirements of a Catholic Benedictine institution that welcomes students of all faiths, traditions, and religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

3. An Innovative and Inspiring Visionary

An innovative and inspiring visionary capable of leading change and promoting BenU's "One University" growth opportunities by nurturing trust, understanding and support for major decisions among a diverse group of stakeholders with open communication, collaboration and transparency. This includes working with the provost and faculty to promote

new academic programs designed to attract new students and filling existing staff vacancies.

4. A Goal-Focused and Data-Informed Strategic Thinker and Planner

A goal-focused and data-informed strategic thinker and planner who will advance BenU's Strategic Plan by prioritizing competing needs, making strategically sound and difficult decisions, creating measurable goals and requiring accountability for the plan's implementation.

5. A Leader with Strong Financial Acumen

A leader who understands the fiscal complexities in Catholic higher education today. This includes operating budget management, investment oversight and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

6. A Strong Advocate for Effective Shared Governance

The president will have experience working in a shared governance environment, appreciate the important role of all stakeholders (i.e. trustees, faculty, administration, staff, etc.) and partner effectively with the Board of Trustees in supporting exemplary institutional governance.

7. An Eager and Experienced Fundraiser

An eager and proven fundraiser, the president will be energized by the public role of the presidency and partner well with BenU's advancement professionals to build a robust culture of philanthropy among the University's stakeholders on campus (i.e. trustees, faculty, administrators, etc.) and representing the University off campus in the local communities of Lisle and Mesa, and beyond. Off campus initiatives will include building strategic partnerships with businesses, non-profit and academic institutions in and around the Lisle, Illinois and Mesa, Arizona communities.

8. A Proven Advocate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Given BenU's tradition of promoting social justice and its diverse campuses, its next president will possess competency in inter-cultural and inter-faith relationships and be a proven advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion who is capable of fortifying the university communities, so all students, faculty, administrators and staff feel a genuine sense of inclusion and support.

9. An Effective Relationship and Team Building Executive

A proven relationship and team building executive with the ability, emotional intelligence and organizational skills needed to successfully lead a multi-campus University, the next president will recruit, develop and retain talent, appreciate and strengthen staff, faculty and administration, and engage in thoughtful succession planning.

10. A Student-Centered Leader

The president will be a student-centered leader who is deeply committed to student formation and success, celebrates

teaching and learning, enjoys campus life and is present for and engaged with students.

11. An Exceptional Listener and Adept Communicator:

As an effective leader, the next president will be an exceptional listener and adept communicator with outstanding interpersonal, written and oral communication skills. The next president will be capable of effectively telling the BenU story by enthusiastically communicating its history, mission, values and bright future to others.

Nominations and Applications:

The Presidential Search Committee will immediately begin the review of applications and continue work until an appointment is made. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by January 20, 2023 and include a letter of interest that addresses the leadership opportunities and attributes in this presidential profile, a curriculum vitae, and five professional references with e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant.

Applications should be sent electronically (MS Word or PDF) to:
BenUPresident@agbsearch.com

The Presidential Search is being assisted by AGB Search. Please direct nominations and inquiries to:

**Shannon McCambridge, J.D., LL.M.
Senior Executive Search Consultant**

AGB Search
Mobile: (206) 310-7560
shannon.mccambridge@agbsearch.com

**Loren Anderson, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Search Consultant**

AGB Search
Mobile: (253) 223-3566
loren.anderson@agbsearch.com

Benedictine University does not discriminate in its admissions or educational policies, programs or activities; scholarship and loan programs; athletic and other University administered programs or employment practices on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, military or veteran status, marital status, citizenship, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. The laws applicable to Benedictine include constitutional and statutory protections of the University's rights as a religiously sponsored institution.



Morton Arboretum, Lisle



Downtown Chicago

