

MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

SEARCH PROSPECTUS

Vice President/Director of Athletics



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Vision, Mission, and Values



More than just an institution of higher learning, Marian University shines like a beacon of hope and opportunity.

As Indianapolis's only Catholic university, Marian's vision is to provide an education distinguished in its ability to develop transformative leaders who will serve the world with compassion, integrity, and purpose.

Marian's commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition shapes every facet of our educational experience, providing a moral compass for our students, faculty, and staff. Our mission remains to be a great Catholic university dedicated to achieving excellence in learning achieved through teaching, research, and scholarly activity in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition.

While proudly Catholic in both tradition and practice, Marian University welcomes students of all faiths who seek an educational experience framed within the context of our Franciscan values of dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship. Our understanding of these values is informed by the reflection of the life of Jesus Christ and prayer.

History of Marian University



Marian University is sponsored by a Franciscan religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. In 1851, Sister Theresa Hackelmeier and her fellow Sisters of St. Francis established St. Francis Normal School in Oldenburg, Indiana to educate the area's German immigrant population.

By 1936, St. Francis Normal School had transformed into Marian College, with programs primarily for teacher training. Marian College moved to Indianapolis in 1937 and further expanded its academic offerings, becoming a comprehensive regional institution.

On July 1, 2009, Marian College became Marian University. In early 2023, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classified Marian University as a national doctoral/professional university, indicating a wide range of program offerings, both research-focused and professional; Marian University's highest level of offering is doctorate degree—professional practice.

Campus and Community

Marian University's location in Indianapolis provides a distinctive advantage. Indiana's capital and largest city is a nationally recognized center for sports, healthcare, life sciences, business, and innovation. The city also has a significant healthcare and life sciences presence, including the global headquarters of Eli Lilly and Company and the North American headquarters of Roche Diagnostics.

Indianapolis is home to the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever, Indianapolis Indians, Indy Eleven, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and has a long history of hosting major collegiate and professional sporting events. Widely considered as the amateur sports capital of the world, Indianapolis serves as the headquarters of the NCAA and the Indiana Sports Corp.

Marian's location creates significant opportunity for Athletics to deepen relationships with alumni, donors, corporate and community partners, prospective students, fans, and the broader Indianapolis sports community. The city's combination of major employers, nationally prominent sports organizations, healthcare and life sciences institutions, and extensive civic and philanthropic networks provides a strong environment for partnerships, internships, fundraising, sponsorships, and student-athlete career development.

Indy Fast Facts

- #1 best airport in North America
- 5th fastest growing U.S. city
- Cost of living is 11% lower than the national average
- 85° average temperature in July and 34° in January

Institutional Overview



5,000+ students enrolled across all locations, certificates to doctoral degrees offered.



40+ majors and programs
7 academic areas



91% of graduates achieve a career-success outcome within six months.

11:1

student-to-faculty ratio

\$46,000,000

institutional grants and scholarships awarded annually



99% of undergraduates receive scholarships or grants

University Milestones

Marian University became the nation's first Franciscan research university. In 2025, Marian received the Carnegie Classification of Research College and University (RCU).

The university set four consecutive university enrollment records. 1,450 students enrolled in 2026.

The Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine, which opened in 2013, has graduated more than 1,300 physicians.

The 2025 and 2026 classes achieved 100% residency placement, with 44% remaining in Indiana.

The Witchger School of Engineering graduated its inaugural class in 2026. Chemical and civil engineering programs earned ABET accreditation in 2026.

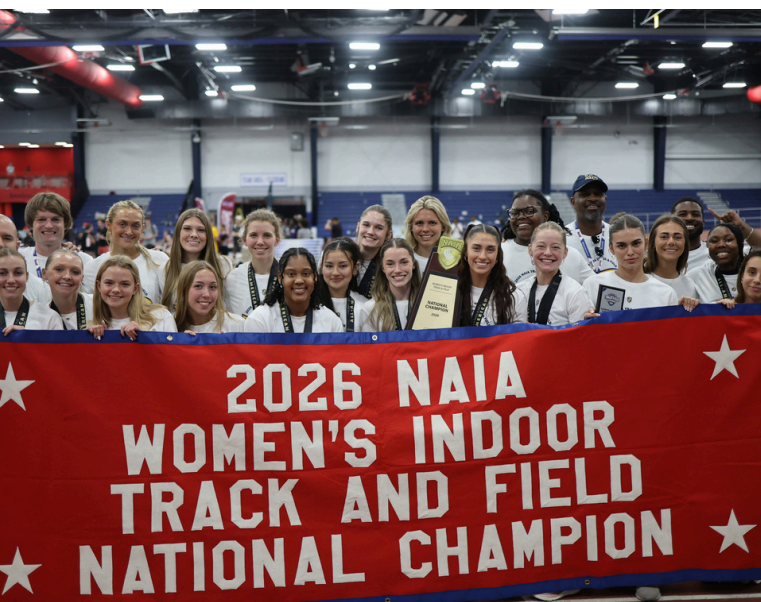
In 2026, the university broke ground on the Center for Human Flourishing, which will bring together educator preparation, occupational and physical therapy, and medical research and innovation. It will serve as the administrative headquarters of the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute.

Marian committed \$102 million to the Near Northwest side of Indianapolis, including an investment into The Grove at Cold Spring, a community education district.

Knights Athletics

The Mission

The mission of the Marian University Department of Athletics is to expand opportunities for student development beyond the academic program, while embodying Franciscan values and NAIA character core values. Athletic participation at Marian University promotes self-discipline, self-confidence, leadership, sportsmanship, fellowship, teamwork, and competition: qualities that transfer to lifelong success.



A Tradition of Excellence

The Knights have won 10 NAIA national championships in five sports:

Football: 2012, 2015

Women's Basketball: 2016, 2017, 2026

Women's Volleyball: 2019

Men's Track and Field: 2025 (Indoor), 2026 (Indoor)

Women's Track and Field: 2026 (Indoor)

Men's Bowling: 2025

Marian cycling has been crowned champions 41 times by USA Cycling, making it one of the most decorated programs in the nation.

Since the 2011-12 academic year, Marian student-athletes have earned 1,439 NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Marian Momentum

In 2025-26, the Knights earned:

- Three NAIA national championships
- 14 conference championships
- 19 of 24 varsity sports qualified for postseason competition
- #4 finish in the NAIA Learfield Directors' Cup (third consecutive year)

The Leadership Opportunity

Marian University seeks an accomplished, strategic, and mission-centered leader to serve as its next Vice President/Director of Athletics at an important moment for the university and intercollegiate athletics. As part of a diverse community of faculty and staff who represent many faith traditions and worldviews, this leader will advance Marian's Catholic Franciscan mission and identity through a nationally competitive athletics program centered on student success, formation, and leadership.

In its 175th year, and amid a historic presidential transition, Marian is building on the transformation often described as the Marian Miracle. Now a national doctoral research university serving more than 5,000 students (including over 740 student athletes), Marian has achieved four consecutive years of record enrollment. Athletics is an important part of this momentum and of Marian's continued growth, visibility, student experience, and mission to form transformative leaders.

The Vice President/Director of Athletics will lead a large, nationally competitive NAIA intercollegiate athletics program and foster a culture where student-athletes are students first. Grounded in Marian's Franciscan Sponsorship Values, this leader will help student-athletes achieve excellence in learning, integrate faith and life, grow in character and leadership, and prepare to lead and serve with purpose.

As a senior institutional leader, the Vice President/Director of Athletics will work collaboratively across the university, contribute to university-wide strategy and decision-making, and provide the vision and leadership needed to position Marian Athletics for continued strength and success.

Key Leadership Responsibilities

The Vice President/Director of Athletics will:

- Actively engage the Catholic Franciscan mission and identity of Marian University by modeling the Franciscan Sponsorship Values and honoring the legacy of the founding congregation through transformative education, unity in diversity, leadership through service, integrating faith and life, and institutional policies.
- Serve as a senior university leader, contributing to institutional strategy, priorities, and decision-making.
- Develop and execute a compelling long-term vision and strategy for Marian Athletics that aligns competitive, academic, financial, enrollment, facilities, and institutional priorities.
- Put student success first, with high expectations for academic achievement, retention, graduation, well-being, leadership development, and preparation for life beyond Marian.
- Advance competitive excellence while fostering integrity, sportsmanship, accountability, and responsible stewardship.
- Recruit, develop, retain, and hold accountable outstanding coaches and staff who embrace Marian's mission, advance student success, and sustain a culture of competitive excellence, collaboration, and continuous improvement.
- Partner across the university to advance student success, enrollment, mission, advancement, and other institutional priorities.
- Partner with Enrollment Management and university leadership to support sustainable student-athlete recruitment and retention aligned with Marian's academic standards, enrollment strategy, and student-success expectations.
- Provide strong financial and operational leadership across budgeting, scholarships, facilities, compliance, risk management, resource allocation, and long-range planning.
- Grow philanthropic and earned revenue through donor and alumni engagement, sponsorships, strategic partnerships, events, and other opportunities that strengthen the long-term financial position of Marian Athletics.
- Serve as a visible and effective ambassador for Marian Athletics, building strong relationships with students, faculty and staff, alumni, donors, sponsors, community leaders, conference partners, and the broader community.
- Anticipate changes in intercollegiate athletics, governance, student-athlete expectations, technology, revenue models, and competitive dynamics and position Marian to respond strategically and successfully.

Qualifications and Experience

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Strong commitment to advancing Marian University's Catholic Franciscan mission, identity, and Sponsorship Values.
- Demonstrated ability to serve as a senior institutional leader and contribute to university-wide strategy, priorities, and decision-making.
- A record of advancing academic achievement, student development, and competitive excellence.
- Progressive leadership experience in intercollegiate athletics, higher education, sports administration, or a related field, with demonstrated readiness to lead a complex and nationally competitive intercollegiate athletics program; senior-level collegiate athletics experience is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated success leading complex organizations and developing high-performing coaches, administrators, and teams.
- Strong strategic, financial, and operational experience, including budgeting, resource allocation, facilities, compliance, and long-range planning.
- Demonstrated success building relationships and generating support among donors, alumni, corporate and community partners, and other external stakeholders.
- Experience with fundraising, donor engagement, sponsorships, partnerships, or other forms of resource and revenue development.
- Strong communication, collaboration, judgment, integrity, accountability, and responsible stewardship.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution; an advanced degree is preferred.

Application Procedure

Marian University invites applications and expressions of interest for the Vice President/Director of Athletics position. Applications should include a cover letter, resume or curriculum vitae, a list of three professional references, and responses to the supplementary mission and identity questions.

Marian University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community. We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.

For full consideration, [submit application and materials here](#).

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

For questions or additional information, please email Marian University Human Resources:
hr@marian.edu

Thank you for considering this important leadership position at Marian University.

We look forward to welcoming a new Vice President/Director of Athletics who will contribute mightily toward advancing our mission of excellence in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

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Marian University was founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, and continues its Catholic Franciscan mission through sponsorship by the Third Order Franciscan University Alliance.