



Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

A photograph of a young person with brown hair, wearing a blue hoodie and dark shorts, sitting on a wooden bench. They are looking down at an open book in their lap. A maroon backpack sits on the bench next to them. The bench is surrounded by a large field of bright yellow daffodils. In the background, there are green bushes and a light-colored building.

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PURCHASE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Purchase College, a top ranked liberal arts college with nationally renowned conservatory programs in the performing and visual arts, seeks a collaborative, growth-oriented, creative, and inspirational President who is deeply committed to public higher education and to promoting inquiry and interdisciplinary experiences that transcend traditional academic and artistic disciplines.

One of 13 comprehensive colleges within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, Purchase offers a unique balance of liberal arts and sciences and conservatory programs. This melding of disciplines provides a distinctive learning context for its 3,360 students, who are able to take advantage of both liberal and artistic educational opportunities. Located just 30 minutes north of New York City and easily accessible by train, the College is proud to be a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) that serves many first-generation college students and is recognized as an exceptional vehicle for social mobility. Several programs in the arts are top ranked nationally and are strengthened by the College's Neuberger Museum of Art, one of the largest university museums in the nation, and the Performing Arts Center. The liberal arts and sciences programs are similarly strong, offering rich curricula with extraordinary opportunities for undergraduate research and pre-professional preparation. The College celebrates creativity and diversity in a climate of intellectual and artistic freedom. Its motto—Think Wide Open—defines and unifies its community of students, faculty, and staff by their devotion to promoting innovation and individuality. Dedicated to the promotion of free expression and academic freedom, the next leader will be the embodiment of this motto.

The President will work with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external constituents to envision an even more prosperous future for Purchase, building on the strengths of its unique academic and artistic offerings and identifying further opportunities for innovation. The President will oversee the continued development and implementation of a strategic plan to move the College forward and grow enrollment by: aligning and increasing the College's many diverse academic programs and cultural assets; engaging a broad array of external constituents for the benefit of the campus community; promoting the institution's reputation regionally and nationally; championing the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice; and strategically growing and deploying the College's resources to ensure continued financial stability. A strategic thinker, the President will possess the ability to bring this shared vision of growth to life, mobilizing the campus and broader community, clearly and concisely communicating a path forward, and leading institutional advancement to develop the resources necessary to usher Purchase into its next era of excellence.

As the chief ambassador of the College, the President will strengthen partnerships and relationships with educational leaders in the SUNY system; political leaders at the federal, state, and local levels; nationally and internationally recognized artists and scholars; Purchase alumni; and industry leaders in New York City and the greater region for the benefit of the institution.

Purchase College has retained Storbeck Search, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of its next President. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to Storbeck Search, as indicated at the end of this document.

PURCHASE COLLEGE

Purchase College is considered a “gem” in the SUNY system for its success combining excellent liberal arts and sciences programs with superb professional conservatory and studio programs in the performing and visual arts. Founded in 1967, the College is built on a three-school academic structure: the School of the Arts, the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Continuing Education. In addition to educating 3,283 undergraduate students across its 47 major degree programs, Purchase also educates 77 graduate students in four graduate degree programs.

Ranked as one of the Top Ten Public Liberal Arts Colleges by U.S. News & World Report, Purchase is also on its list of most ethnically diverse liberal arts colleges. The Princeton Review praised the College for its excellent academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences as well as the performing and visual arts, including Purchase on its list of the most LGBTQ-friendly colleges. Additionally, Purchase ranked number one on the list of Best College Theaters.

As a public institution, Purchase College promotes lifelong learning for students of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes, and extends the arts to the larger community through performances and exhibitions at The Performing Arts Center and the Neuberger Museum of Art. As an educational institution, cultural and artistic center, community resource, and gateway to opportunity, Purchase is committed to enriching the lives of the public it serves. The gymnasium and top-of-the-line athletic fields are available for sports and fitness activities and are used extensively by local schools and athletic leagues. The College's extensive grounds which were designed by renowned architect Edward Larabee Barnes provide an attractive mixture of sports fields, forests, and architecturally distinctive buildings that is intended to present a ‘city in the country’ experience for residential and commuter

students alike. The College also welcomes members of the community to its model daycare center, The Children's Center at Purchase.

Purchase also provides a broad range of opportunities for senior citizens, including an academic auditing program, a trained docent program at the Neuberger Museum of Art, and opportunities for volunteering in the educational outreach program of the Performing Arts Center. In 2022, the College completed the development of Broadview, a “senior learning community,” described in more detail below.

FACTS, FIGURES, AND ACCOLADES

- In Fall 2024, Purchase College had an enrollment of 3,360 students (3,283 undergraduates and 77 graduates) about evenly split between the School of Arts and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 73% of students live on campus.
- New York residents comprised 81% of the student population. The remainder of the student body includes students from 40 other states and 24 foreign countries.
- The average GPA for the Fall 2024 incoming class was 88.9%. Of those students who submitted standardized test scores, 98% had a combined SAT score of 1,000 or higher.
- The Fall 2024 incoming class included 14% first-generation college students.
- Nearly 73% of students receive financial aid.
- The College prides itself on its diversity: 12% of students are African American, 28% Hispanic, and 4% Asian. Diversity efforts are supported by the Multicultural Center as well as many programs embedded in the student success unit.
- Purchase College is recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and has received both Title V and NEH grants to support initiatives to promote the success of Hispanic students on campus.
- The average student-to-faculty ratio is 11:1. The average class size is 17.8. The College offers 47 undergraduate majors, 32 undergraduate minors, and 4 graduate degrees. BA, BFA, BS, MFA, MA, and MM degrees, as well as artist diplomas and performer certificates may be earned at Purchase College.

TOTAL FULL-TIME

STUDENT ENROLLMENT **3,360**

Living on Campus : **73%**

NY State Residents: **81%**

U.S. States: **40**

Countries: **24**

Financial Aid

Recipients: **73%**

First-Gen Students

incoming 2024: **14%**

11:1

 STUDENT
TO FACULTY
RATIO

AVERAGE GPA

incoming 2024:
88.9%



- U.S. News & World Report places Purchase College on its list of Top Ten Public Liberal Arts Colleges for 2024 and among the best 139 National Liberal Arts Colleges in the nation.
- Purchase College is included in The Princeton Review's Best 389 Colleges for 2024. It is also included in The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges.
- The College is identified among 300 others in the "best and most interesting colleges in the U.S., Canada, and U.K." in the 2024 edition of The Fiske Guide to Colleges.
- The Hollywood Reporter named the Purchase College Acting BFA program as one of the Top 25 in the world. The Hollywood Reporter also included Purchase in its round-up of top American film schools.

STRATEGIC PLAN

As an educational institution, the College's aim first and foremost is to engage intellectually, creatively, and critically, and to better society through its endeavors. Purchase's intensive inquiry-driven approach immerses students in the dynamic energy that is created when different disciplines, perspectives, and deliveries engage open-ended lines of inquiry to foster elasticity in thinking and the multi-varied pursuit of knowledge, problem solving, intellectual and civic engagement, and the cultivation of empathy needed to meaningfully contribute to society and to democracy.

In service to these values, the College is committed to creative education that:

- Expands the definition of "student" to include all who learn on our campus or as part of our community.
- Expands the parameters of learning beyond the classroom, lab, and studio to include all college experiences and life after graduation.
- Fosters within students a conception of the world that our most pressing problems—as encapsulated by the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals—are complex, intertwined, and require a multitude of approaches to solutions.

- Engages each student in the pursuit of personal practices that further social transformation.
- Promotes institutional action that continually innovates to advance social and racial equity and justice.

The College has grouped its strategies into five broad focus areas:

- Empowering the creative student
- Transforming with creative, relevant, and meaningful programs
- Embracing inclusion for a creative campus
- Sustaining a creative future
- Expanding the creative community

The Strategic Planning and Assessment Committee (SPAC) monitors and assesses progress toward these goals as well as implementation of Middle States' recommendations; maintains a comprehensive knowledge of the College's strategic and institutional assessment plans, processes, and reports; communicates regularly to internal and external constituencies; provides recommendations on strategic initiatives; and participates in the development of new strategic plans. More information about the College's strategic plan may be found at purchase.edu/about/the-strategic-plan.





COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Purchase College prides itself in creating an atmosphere of acceptance and open-mindedness. Maintaining such an environment requires guidance and leadership; advocacy and understanding; and adherence to the spirit, not just to the letter, of established laws.

The Office of Diversity and Compliance is the overarching entity that oversees four integral areas to ensure equity, inclusivity, and compliance for all members of the Purchase College community. The four reporting areas of the office are: Title IX, Diversity, Affirmative Action, and Accessibility.

The Office of Diversity and Compliance specializes in creating and implementing policies, procedures,

and practices that align with the College's values and ideals to ensure fairness and compliance. The Office provides support and resources for all to thrive academically, professionally, socially, and personally. Staff members educate and train the campus community to fully understand the compliance requirements and the College's overall expectations regarding diversity, Title IX, affirmative action, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The College embraces its commitment to: Assurance, Acceptance, Access, and Adherence. These are words by which the Purchase community lives to ensure equitable access, services, and resources to eliminate barriers to success; build community consensus and synergy; and promote an emotionally intelligent and engaging environment that considers and appreciates the unique composition, cultures, needs, talents, and abilities of the Purchase community.

ACADEMICS

Purchase offers BA, BS, BFA, MusB, MFA, MA, and MM degrees, as well as Artist Diplomas and Performer's Certificates across its three schools. The student-faculty ratio is 11:1, and the average class size is 17.8. The College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Additionally, the School of Art+Design is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and the Neuberger Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM).

The School of the Arts includes the School of Art+Design and the conservatories of dance, music, and theatre arts. The College is internationally known for its programs in the performing arts (acting, dance, music, and theatre design/technology). The visual arts programs (drawing, painting, graphic design, photography, printmaking/art of the book, and sculpture/3-D media) enjoy superb facilities and excellent technological support.

The School of Art+Design houses the departments of Graphic Design, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Visual arts and offers BA, BS, and master's degrees in these fields. Boasting more than 160,000 square feet of workspace, a curriculum that builds critical thinking skills, and a studio-based practice that encourages exploration of new concepts, materials, and technologies, the School of Art+Design prepares students for the unique demands of life as a professional artist.

The Conservatory of Dance offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance. This program is only one of a handful of conservatories in the world where students can learn what it means to be a dance professional. The dance performance major offers concentrations in ballet, choreography, and dance production.

The Conservatory of Music offers six majors (Composition; Instrumental Performance; Voice and Opera Studies; Jazz Studies; Studio Composition; and Studio Production) across genres leading to the Bachelor of Music degree. The conservatory's students learn through performing from the moment they step on campus alongside world-class musicians and educators. Students perform with faculty and each other in the city, and guest musicians readily visit campus for master classes and as guest lecturers.

The Conservatory of Theatre Arts offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting and Design/Tech as well as a Theater and Performance BA through its departments (Acting; Theater and Performance; and Theatre Design/Technology). The College's programs are widely recognized as leaders in preparing students for the rigors of professional work in theatre and the entertainment industry.

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences enrolls the largest percentage of the College's students and offers BA, BFA, and MA programs in the Schools of Natural and Social Sciences; Humanities; Liberal Studies; and Film and Media Studies. The School's faculty and courses are strongly represented in the College's interdisciplinary programs.

The School of Natural and Social Sciences is the largest on campus and offers focused majors in Anthropology; Biochemistry; Biology; Chemistry; Economics; Environmental Studies; Mathematics/Computer Science; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology.



The School of Humanities combines the individualized attention from faculty and small engaging classroom experience of private schools with the diversity and affordability of a public school and houses all undeclared students as well as the departments of Art History; Asian Studies; Chinese; Communications; Creative Writing; English and Global Literatures; French; Global Black Studies; History; Italian; Jewish Studies; Journalism; Language and Culture; Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies; Liberal Arts; Linguistics; Museum Studies; Philosophy and Critical Thought; and Spanish.

The School of Liberal Studies offers interdisciplinary, experiential, and career-oriented programs based in the liberal arts and sciences and houses the departments of Arts Management; Education Studies; Entrepreneurship in the Arts; General Studies; Global Studies; and Law and Justice Studies. Students collaborate across academic disciplines and build skills needed to succeed in a broad range of fields, whether pursuing meaningful careers or advanced study.

The School of Film and Media Studies houses the departments of Cinema and Television Studies; Media Studies; New Media; Playwriting and Screenwriting; and Film. The school's interdisciplinary programs combine research and hands-on training to encourage students to become engaged makers and critical consumers of media.

The School of Continuing Education is aligned with Purchase's commitment to lifelong learning and the expansion of the meaning of 'student.' The School welcomes youth and precollege students pursuing enrichment experiences, undergraduate students striving to stay on track or to get ahead in pursuit of their degrees, and adult learners in search of career training or pursuing a passion through its diverse offerings of precollege, noncredit, and credit courses in both in-person and online modalities.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND THE CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

To complement and enrich its academic programs, Purchase provides an equally distinctive living, cultural, and recreational environment. The **Performing Arts Center** and **Neuberger Museum of Art** (described in detail later in this profile) contribute directly to the academic programs while providing members of the College and the wider community with a rich concentration of the arts. The **Purchase Library** supports the teaching, learning, and research activities of the College's students, faculty, and staff. The **Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center** offers state-of-the-art, innovative technologies to enhance teaching and learning.

To further support Purchase's internationally engaged student body, the **Office for Global Education** is led by the Dean for Global Strategy and International Programs who also oversees study abroad and the College's exchange programs, both of which are areas of growth for the College as new internationally-based strategic partnerships are developed. The **Center for Engagement** also reports to the Dean for Global Strategy and International Programs. Of particular importance is the new Global Scholars program. The Purchase College Global Scholars Program is a four-year co-curricular program designed to bring together like-minded students from across academic areas to develop skills in intercultural communication and create a forum for globally focused, interdisciplinary collaboration.

Purchase College's Athletic Department has deep traditions at the institution as well. The College is an NCAA Division III school and 10% of its students are NCAA athletes across 17 different intercollegiate teams including field and court sports as well as swimming and diving and cheerleading. The College

boasts top-notch facilities that have served as off-season training grounds for professional teams such as the New York Knicks and the New York Football Club. In addition to more traditional offerings, some 'quintessentially Purchase' intramural experiences include Stage Combat and Club Cirque.

Health and wellness are vital to students' long-term well-being and the College has a health and wellness curricular requirement that can be fulfilled through offerings such as: Circus Arts, Fencing, and Outdoor Skills. The Boundless Adventures Aerial Challenge Course also teaches classes for students and provides enjoyment.

Purchase is committed to applied learning and offers many opportunities for students to engage with local communities, including New York City. The Office of Career Services hosts internship and employment fairs as well as graduate school fairs and the College also offers several sites for study abroad in addition to those provided through the SUNY network.

A priority of the College is expanding STEM programs for underserved and minoritized students. Since 2000, the College has offered the **Bridges to Baccalaureate Program**, designed to improve two-year to four-year transfer success for minority and underrepresented STEM students. It offers summer research, intrusive advising, STEM tutoring, and mentoring. In 2011, Purchase College received the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in recognition of its success. Building upon the excellent results of the Bridges program, the College has expanded its programming for underserved middle and high school students.





STUDENTS

The College seeks and supports students of exceptional talent and aptitude for apprentice and mentorship relationships with artists, performers, scientists, and scholars making significant contributions in their fields both academically and professionally. Purchase students acquire the intellectual skills, general knowledge, and cultural appreciation that build the foundation for a productive career and meaningful life. Personal and intellectual confidence are further developed through the celebrated college-wide hallmark of applied learning: the year-long Senior Project—a substantive creative endeavor, performance, or independent scholarly research project that culminates the Purchase student experience. The Senior Project provides all students an “honors level” opportunity to showcase their newly acquired expertise as they complete their chosen program of study.

Total enrollment at the College is approximately 3,360, of which 86% of first year students and 73% of all matriculated students live on campus. Out-of-state students represent approximately 19% of the student population, of which 4.6% are international. Approximately 14% of students are first-generation, while roughly 73% receive financial aid. The College prides itself on its diversity: 12% of students are

African American, 28% are Hispanic, and 4% are Asian. Diversity efforts are supported by the Multicultural Center as well as many programs embedded in the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (SAEM) division.

Student success is a critical institutional commitment. To this end, the College made a strategic decision to merge the areas of Student Affairs and Enrollment into one unit led by the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. This structure allows the institution to align admission and recruitment with student support and services, student life, housing, student success, retention, and graduation, so the whole unit works collaboratively and strategically on its collective goals as well as the institutional goals.

The Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (SAEM) division merges the Offices of Admissions, Student Financial Services, Registrar, and Communications and Creative Services alongside Advising, the Learning Center, Wellness, Counseling, Health Services, Community Standards, Disability Resources, Career Development, and Residential and Student Life to ensure that all students have the resources, services, and programs that they need to thrive. SAEM offices work closely with Academic Affairs to identify at-risk students, create

programming for effective engagement, and develop and expand programs aimed at improving retention. Though the work is ongoing, the College's intentional efforts in Student Success have yielded impressive results: the first-year retention rate is currently 80% and the 6-year graduation rate is 63%.

Physical Education and Athletics is also an important component of the SAEM division and Student Success. The College's extensive offerings, from Physical Education courses to intramurals to recreational activities, provide students with a wealth of leisure and recreational experiences both on campus and off. The College's expansive facilities include a fitness center, rock climbing wall, swimming pool with diving well, two turf field complexes and more. The College's NCAA Division III Panthers feature 17 intercollegiate teams that compete in the highly competitive Skyline Conference.

Purchase prides itself on its inclusive, creative, and vibrant campus culture that thinks wide open. Students are artsy, they're risk takers who are open to ideas, eager to engage in discussion, seekers of self-discovery, and explorers in self-expression. In addition to programming offered by the Student Life Office and the Multicultural Center, the Purchase Student Government Association (PSGA), a student-run body, manages funding for student activities and serves as a liaison between students and administration, ensuring that student voices are heard.

The PSGA is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization and has oversight of the Mandatory Student Activity Fee students pay each semester. The PSGA has an annual operating budget of approximately \$700,000 a year. With their funding, the PSGA manages over **50 student-led clubs and organizations** that cater to diverse interests, from arts and activism to gaming and cultural exploration. Purchase's campus is home to a variety of unique **campus traditions** – from Fall Ball to Zombie Prom to Culture Shock – that are student-run and driven. The PSGA also manages the student-run STOOD, a dedicated space that offers programs, music, bands, art exhibits, and a student space to relax with other students.

FACULTY

Purchase's 193 full-time (including Librarians) and 266 part-time faculty members are innovative scholars, artists, composers, performers, and researchers at the top of their fields. Included in these ranks are winners of prestigious prizes and awards and recipients of renowned grants and fellowships, including the Pulitzer Prize; Grammy, Emmy, Obie, Bessie, Tony, ASCAP, and Drama Desk Awards; National Science Foundation grants; and Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities grants and fellowships. Purchase's proximity to New York City allows faculty, especially in the conservatory programs, to maintain their professional careers, which directly enhances their academic and artistic work as well as students' classroom experiences.

All members of the Purchase College faculty are represented by United University Professions (UUP).

STAFF

Staff at Purchase are deeply committed to the mission of the College and in particular find meaning in supporting students as they develop academically, artistically, and personally. All members of the staff and faculty at Purchase are unionized, and their contracts are negotiated at the SUNY system level. Because of this, union leaders regularly advocate on behalf of their members to the SUNY system leadership, which creates a unique dynamic for the President, who necessarily develops and maintains relationships with both constituencies. Staff are represented by four different unions depending on their role on campus: CSEA, NYSCOPBA, PBA NYS and UUP. Additionally, union staff benefit from "permanency," which is akin to administrative tenure. All union staff members have an opportunity for a permanent appointment within the guidelines of the various unions.

NEUBERGER MUSEUM OF ART

The **Neuberger Museum of Art** is a rare cultural asset for a college campus. Celebrated internationally for its commitment to the art of our time and for its excellent exhibitions and programs, the museum is housed in a spacious, contemporary facility in the middle of campus designed by the world-renowned architect Philip Johnson.

The museum's remarkable permanent collection, which comprises more than 7,000 objects, embraces 20th century American and European art as well as ancient and African art. Its collection of Modern American art includes master works by Milton Avery, Romare Bearden, Helen Frankenthaler, Willem de Kooning, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Lee Krasner, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and George Segal, among others.

Nationally acclaimed exhibitions, educational services, public programs, lectures, family programs, art workshops, films, and concerts are presented throughout the year for the campus and community. Twelve to sixteen changing exhibitions each year present a wide variety of media, forms, ideas, concepts, and views in a balanced slate of thematic surveys, solo exhibitions, and period/time-specific shows. Recent exhibitions feature the works of renowned artists such as Cleve Gray, Yto Barrada, and Engels the Artist, as well as selections from the permanent collection. Many students use the museum's resources in conjunction with classroom study or participate in the museum's training program as interns and aides in research, public information, installation, and education.

The **Open Classroom** at the Neuberger Museum of Art brings timely academic dialogues into the curatorial space through the study of and engagement with the Museum's permanent collection. The space showcases collaborations with Purchase College students and faculty and features projects that move beyond the scope of the traditional classroom.





Photo: Marilyn Roos Photography

THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Nationally renowned, The **Performing Arts Center** houses four theatres with performance spaces ranging in seating size from 200 to almost 1,400. Each theatre is designed and equipped for performances of the highest professional quality, allowing the Center to provide models of excellence for students in the study and performance of theatre, dance, and music that are unsurpassed on any other East Coast campus.

The Performing Arts Center is an invaluable laboratory and resource for students enrolled in the College's performing arts conservatories. The Center supplements the students' educational experience by incubating new works, hosting short- and long-term

artistic residencies, and offering lectures, discussions, open rehearsals, workshops, and master classes with professional artists and companies. Purchase students not only benefit from exposure to internationally acclaimed artists—for instance, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and David Sedaris—but also from the Center's sophisticated production support facilities, featuring state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, paint, scene, costume, and prop shops.

The Center also contributes to the public service mission of the College. From September to May, the Center presents an annual series featuring world-class artists in music, dance, theatre, and family programming. The series prides itself on reaching out to diverse audiences with eclectic tastes.



BROADVIEW

In 2011, the College received legislative approval from the State of New York to house a “senior learning community”—a residential learning community for adults 62 years old and older. Embodying Purchase College’s commitment to lifelong learning, this intergenerational learning program bridges the gap between generations. The project sponsor, Purchase Senior Learning Community Inc., is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) set up by the College to develop the senior learning community. This ensured the Purchase College budget was not and continues not to be impacted by the construction of this exciting and innovative development. In December 2023,

Broadview at Purchase College officially opened and welcomed its first residents. The 288-residence university-based community includes independent living, assisted living, as well as a dedicated memory care neighborhood. Twenty percent of the housing in the community will be below-market rate housing as defined by 80% of the median income in Westchester County. In addition to opportunities for new programming for its residents and intergenerational programming for the entire campus, the purpose of this development was to create funding streams for scholarships and faculty support. The College receives between \$1-5 million annually from the partnership, with seventy-five percent of the revenue going toward scholarships for TAP eligible students and twenty-five percent toward faculty support.

FINANCES

The College's annual operating budget for FY 2023-24 was just under \$73 million, with approximately \$19 million coming from State of New York tax support and \$30 million coming from tuition and fees, and the remaining \$23 million coming from other sources such as private contracts/grants and residence hall revenue. The College also has additional support from research grants, fundraising, and endowment spending. The College is projected to have a deficit for the FY 2024-25 year of approximately \$1.3 million, most of which is due to a one-time investment in a new turf field. The remainder of the 5-year plan shows a positive variance and total reserves are approximately \$20 million.

The College does not have an individual bond rating. Bonds are issued through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). DASNY's bond rating is Aa3 (Moody's), A+ (Standard and Poor's), and A+ (Fitch). For other construction purposes, the State of New York bond ratings are Aa1 (Moody's), AA+ (Standard and Poor's), and AA+ (Fitch).

The Budget Planning and Assessment Committee (BPAC) of Purchase College functions as an advisory body to the president and chief financial officer of Purchase College for budgetary matters on behalf of the entire College community, providing an inclusive public forum for the development, discussion, and evaluation of budgetary issues and processes. The major responsibilities of the BPAC include fiscal review and prioritization of strategic planning goals, evaluation of short- and long-term financial commitments resulting from new or changing initiatives, discussion of general budgetary processes of the College, and integration and understanding of cross-departmental budgetary relationships and practices on campus. Non-voting members include the President, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Administration, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

Purchase College's Office of Institutional Advancement raises funds for the College, the Performing Arts Center, and the Neuberger Museum through three

entities: the Purchase College Foundation, the Friends of The Neuberger Museum, and the SUNY Research Foundation. Over the past four years, an average of \$3.7 million has been raised annually through these entities combined, with the high of \$5.5 million occurring in FY23, and the low of \$2.7 million occurring in FY21.

Purchase College has been the recipient of several large and prestigious grants in recent years, including support from the U.S Department of Education, the Mellon Foundation, the NEH, the NEA, Sherman Fairchild Foundation, and the E.A. Michelson Foundation. Significant annual support also comes from alumni, community philanthropists, and area corporations.

Among the ranks of esteemed Purchase alumni are actors Stanley Tucci, Adina Porter, Edie Falco, and Wesley Snipes, musician Regina Spektor, novelist Garth Greenwell, journalists Adam Nagourney and Manohla Dargis, and anthropologist David Graeber. Increased giving from alumni and friends testifies to the impact Purchase has on its students and the broader community.

PURCHASE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Purchase College Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that serves as a liaison between donors and the College, The Performing Arts Center, and the Neuberger Museum of Art. The Foundation was established in December 1969 to promote literature, history, visual and performing arts, science, and other departments of education at Purchase College, SUNY. Today, the Foundation focuses its priorities on student success, including scholarships and the unique student experiences that can be found only at Purchase; the institution's faculty; student activities, research and programs supported by The Purchase Fund; and the world-renowned Neuberger Museum of Art and The Performing Arts Center.

A volunteer Board of Trustees oversees its activities. The Foundation manages \$99 million in total assets, of which more than \$76 million is permanently endowed, and provides about \$2.5 million annually in scholarship support to the College.

LOCATION

The College's 500-acre campus is located in suburban Westchester County, less than 25 miles north of New York City. It is located in the hamlet of Purchase in the Town of Harrison, seven miles from White Plains, the Westchester County seat and the home of corporations such as PepsiCo and Mastercard. With a population of 1 million people, Westchester County is nestled between the Hudson River and Long Island Sound and is comprised of diverse cities, thriving downtowns, bucolic parks and green spaces, and a magnificent waterfront. The campus is well served by interstate highways, the nearby Westchester County airport, and public transportation, including the Westchester County Bee Line Bus System and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad. The College also operates its own shuttle system (The Loop) to the towns of White Plains and Port Chester during the fall and spring semesters. Proximity to New York City is an important draw for faculty, staff, and prospective students, especially those pursuing the performing and visual arts.



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The **State University of New York** is a system of public institutions of higher education in New York. With 64 college and university campuses located within 30 miles of every home, school, and business in the state, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of public higher education. It serves more than 1.3 million students annually, employs more than 90,000 faculty and staff, and connects more than 3 million alumni around the world. It spends \$1.16 billion annually on research, and grants about 96,000 degrees each year. Its annual budget is just about \$1.4 billion.

SUNY's leadership structure consists of a Board of Trustees, Chancellor, System Administration Senior Staff, and Campus Presidents, each official working together to advance the mission of the state university system: "...to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs including such additional activities in pursuit of these objectives as are necessary or customary." The Chancellor increasingly looks to the campus Presidents to work collaboratively with other SUNY colleges, administrators, faculty and staff, and surrounding communities to lower cost, enhance productivity, and elevate the importance of degree completion at each institution.

SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the State University of New York. It consists of **18 members**, 15 of whom are appointed by the Governor, by and with consent of the New York State Senate. In addition, the President of the Student Assembly serves as student trustee and the Presidents of the College Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges serve as ex-officio trustees. The SUNY System is committed to the principles of shared governance.

SUNY CHANCELLOR JOHN B. KING JR.

Dr. **John B. King Jr.** joined The State University of New York (SUNY) as its 15th Chancellor in January 2023. Before

being appointed SUNY Chancellor, King served as the president of the Education Trust, a national civil rights nonprofit, and Professor of the Practice at the University of Maryland College Park.

Prior to this, Chancellor King served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as the 10th U.S. Secretary of Education. His service in Washington, D.C. followed Chancellor King's tenure as New York State's first African American and first Puerto Rican Education Commissioner, a role in which he oversaw all elementary and secondary schools, as well as public independent, and proprietary colleges and universities, professional licensure, libraries, museums, and numerous other educational institutions.

Since his appointment in 2023, Chancellor King has established four main priorities: Student Success; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Research and Scholarship; and Economic Development and Upward Mobility.

PURCHASE COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

All 64 SUNY campuses function under the overall authority and responsibility of the University Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees delegates administration of the University to the Chancellor, who implements University-wide academic, fiscal, personnel, and facilities policies. The Chancellor serves as the official liaison between the campuses and the State.

Each campus President has overall responsibility, authority, and accountability for the campus. Each campus devises its own structures, programs, and procedures in alignment with the general goals and policies of the SUNY system and its specific campus mission.

Each State-operated campus in the SUNY system has its own College Council, which consists of ten members, nine appointed by the Governor and one elected by and from the students on the campus. The Governor designates one member as Chair. Councils also invite a representative of the faculty and a representative of the alumni to attend regular meetings. **The Purchase College Council** functions as a governing board for the College as well as an advisory board for the President.

For more information on governance at Purchase College and across the SUNY system, please visit: purchase.edu/offices/president/college-leadership/

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

The President sets a vision to lead the institution forward, supervises and manages all institutional affairs, develops and maintains relationships with diverse constituents in the broader community, represents the institution externally, and advocates on behalf of Purchase to political and SUNY leadership, all in support of the mission and vision of the College. A top priority of the next President will be to harness these many resources toward the goal of increasing student enrollment across the College.

Reporting to the Chancellor of the SUNY system and working closely with the ten-person College Council and the Foundation Board, the incoming President will inherit a talented and experienced senior leadership team. The President's Cabinet is presently comprised of eight senior leaders: the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Chief Human Resources Officer, Sr. Director of Intergenerational Learning and Program Planning, Government Relations Liaison, Vice President for Administration, Chief Diversity Officer/ Title IX and Affirmative Action Officer, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Chief of New York State University Police at Purchase College.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The successful President will address the following opportunities and challenges at Purchase College:

+ INCREASING ENROLLMENT

In a national landscape of increased competition for students, Purchase College has experienced recent enrollment declines and the next President will be committed to reversing this trend. The College is currently engaged in an academic program cost analysis and the new President will be tasked with working with the College community to use this

information to identify and spur strategic growth in existing programs as well as identifying new program development in areas that meet both local and prospective student demand. While strategically aligning resources internally toward this shared institutional priority, the President will also serve as an energetic and compelling advocate externally to prospective students and industry and community partners - raising the visibility of the College and of a Purchase degree.

+ PROVIDING STRONG AND PRAGMATIC FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP

As with most public institutions, Purchase College has experienced a decline in the tax-supported share of its operating budget and has limited control over tuition rates and limited ability to set student fees. In addition, as a largely undergraduate degree granting institution, this reduction in state and federal support increases the College's reliance on enrollment-driven revenues.

Combined with the broader challenges related to demographic changes in the traditional student aged population in the region, the next President will need to be a financial advocate for the College, finding ways to maintain and improve support for programs through strong legislative advocacy, energetic fundraising with alumni and other donors, the development of other resources through community and economic development, greater internal efficiencies and creative marshaling of campus finances. In partnership with the Purchase College Foundation, the new President has the opportunity to build upon the successful recent track record of fundraising and advancement.

+ CONTINUE TO PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCE

The College has gained a reputation for program, learning, teaching, performing, and scholarship excellence. Every effort must be made to ensure that excellence remains the focal point in all aspects of the College as increased enrollment is pursued. Increased enrollment, retention and more visible national recognition can only be accomplished if the



academic culture and student focus remain at the center of Purchase's commitment. The President must articulate a vision that can unite the campus, communicate the College's values, and effectively advocate for the resources and staffing necessary to sustain the energetic momentum and to maintain excellence.

+ ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AND EMBODY TRANSPARENCY

The College's relative size and diversity of programs have always been strengths, both internally and externally. In addressing new issues as well as old, it is important for the President to continue to play an active, engaged, and transparent role with the faculty, staff and students within the College and to engage the campus community – empowering all levels of the College in order to understand and address institutional goals. The President will need to successfully represent the entire College community effectively within the Westchester community and beyond, while working cooperatively with faculty, staff, students and administrators.

+ LEVERAGE THE UNIQUE ARTISTIC ASSETS ON CAMPUS IN INNOVATIVE WAYS

The Performing Arts Center and the Neuberger Museum of Art are incredible resources on campus for fostering artistic inquiry, achievement, and engagement among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. An innovative and entrepreneurial President will identify new opportunities to connect these resources to the broader Westchester County community and bring patrons and donors onto a welcoming campus that energizes and empowers students, staff, and faculty. The President will also empower faculty and staff to leverage the unique museum collection and state-of-the-art performing arts facilities in fostering interdisciplinary academic and artistic experiences that contribute to the overall mission of the College. Additionally, the President will identify opportunities for donors to support the success and development of these important institutions.





+ ENGAGE EXTERNAL CONSTITUENTS TO PROMOTE PURCHASE REGIONALLY, NATIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY

As a public institution and, more specifically, as part of the SUNY system, Purchase College has a particular responsibility for educating the residents of the state. Additionally, as an institution that brings together the liberal arts and sciences with the performing and visual arts, Purchase has the unique opportunity to bring educational and artistic opportunities to the public. In an era where the value of higher education is being questioned as never before, the President must successfully develop, maintain, and leverage relationships with a broad array of external constituents, including educational leaders in the SUNY system; political leaders at the federal, state, and local levels; nationally and internationally recognized artists and scholars; Purchase alumni; and industry leaders in New York City and the greater region for the benefit of the College. Ultimately, these relationships should serve to support the development of the College community and translate into new opportunities for learning and growth for students.

+ BUILD UPON EXISTING STRENGTHS AND DEVELOPING NEW PROGRAMS

Seeking increased enrollments, the new President will help guide the discussion regarding supporting systematic growth in existing programs and new program development. In addition, the President will have the opportunity to strengthen an academic model of education that integrates the arts, liberal arts and professional programs, including an expansion of graduate and online offerings.

+ ENHANCE BOTH THE COLLEGE'S VALUE PROPOSITION AND REPUTATION

While being in the New York metropolitan area provides ample educational and career opportunities for Purchase College and its students, it is also one of the most highly competitive educational markets in the country. In light of competing entities and external pressures, including demographic changes, Purchase will look to its next President to be innovative in

devising strategies for communicating the College's value proposition and attracting new undergraduate and graduate students. Purchase College expects its next President to lead this new phase of smart growth in enrollment and programming. This includes the ability to evaluate market demand, strategically expand and diversify academic programs, and enlarge enrollment pipelines.

+ PROMOTE APPROPRIATE ALIGNMENT ACROSS INSTITUTIONAL DIVISIONS

Given the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of our society and economy, students' growing interests in receiving an education that spans the full breadth of Purchase's offerings, and the need to use limited resources effectively, the next President will identify opportunities for greater alignment and collaboration across the different institutional divisions. At the same time, the President will also improve communication channels across the institution, both to keep all constituents appropriately apprised of institutional initiatives that are taking place and to increase opportunities for collaboration on these initiatives.

+ CHAMPION THE VALUES OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Purchase is deeply committed to diversity and is experiencing tremendous growth in the diversity of its student body. To support the current and future diversity on campus and to ensure all members of the Purchase community feel a sense of belonging, the President will serve as an institutional leader in both word and action by promoting the values of equity and inclusion in all institutional areas. The President will also work to recruit faculty and staff who mirror the diversity of Purchase's student body to ensure that all constituents are adequately and appropriately represented across all levels of the institution. Additionally, the President will serve as an active advocate for social justice on campus, across the SUNY system, in the greater regional community, and beyond.

+ INTENTIONALLY ENGAGE CAMPUS CONSTITUENTS TO DEVELOP FACULTY AND STAFF MORALE

Purchase faculty and staff are deeply committed to teaching and supporting students and are actively engaged in creating the necessary conditions on campus for them to flourish. In order to succeed as an effective leader, it is essential that the next President engage and communicate with the Purchase community as a whole, with various constituent groups, and at the individual level, to ensure that all members of the faculty and staff remain deeply engaged in the important work of educating scholars, artists, and global citizens. Faculty and staff are challenged by a high cost of living that can affect morale and their ability to participate in some campus activities due to long commutes. The next President must be a visible and active presence both on and off campus and serve as a responsive, proactive, and transparent communicator to ensure the faculty and staff feel supported and valued and continue to actively promote the College's mission.

+ SUPPORT A NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY ENGAGED CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Purchase College, like many other colleges and universities around the country, has in recent years experienced a significant increase in student awareness and activism around national and international events (most recently events concerning conflicts in the Middle East and the growing divide in national politics). An incoming President will need the sensitivity and communication skills to interact with all Purchase community members to strike the right balance between the cherished rights of free speech and protest and the equally important need for the College to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, faculty and staff, all while advancing the core educational mission of the College.





DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The next President of Purchase College must be an effective and visionary leader who will embrace the character, values, and traditions of the Purchase College community and carry them forward in new and exciting ways.

The ideal candidate for the Presidency of Purchase College should have the following qualifications and demonstrated experience and qualities:

- A deep personal and professional commitment to the arts, to the liberal arts and sciences, and to the mission of Purchase College;
- Successful experience as a strategic, inclusive, transparent, and forward-thinking leader;
- An understanding and appreciation of shared governance and the ethos of the academy;
- An appreciation for the centrality of student success when measuring the success of the College;
- The ability to shape and communicate a collaborative institutional vision in ways that are compelling to prospective donors, public officials, media, community members, and other friends of the institution;
- Substantial executive leadership experience;
- The ability to build and support a strong leadership team that actively engages and solicits participation from the campus community;
- Strong budgeting and financial acumen, an understanding of a tuition-dependent institution and the constraints of seasonal cash flow, and the ability to use data to drive decisions;
- An open, clear, transparent, and positive communication and leadership style;
- Capacity to lead and mentor an effective team, to delegate effectively, to foster collaboration and shared purpose, and to make fair, sometimes difficult and timely decisions;
- Experience in managing and leading change in complex organizations;
- A record of leading growth and change in today's



challenging higher education environment;

- Leadership in empowering teams to achieve measurable goals (including increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates);
- Substantial experience and demonstrable success in fundraising;
- A record of collaboratively identifying and successfully fostering innovation that generates new revenue sources;
- Respect for the teaching and learning environment and the ability to advance excellence in teaching, scholarship, research, and curriculum development;
- Experience to help with strengthening the College's commitment to international relationships and the globalization of the curriculum;
- A strong awareness of and engagement in national trends in higher education, including seeking opportunities to partner with other organizations and institutions to ensure the success of the College's mission;
- A demonstrated commitment to strengthening diversity within the workforce, programs, and culture of an institution or organization; and,
- An advanced degree from an accredited institution (terminal degree preferred).

There is an openness to nontraditional candidates who, through previous experience and leadership in transformational undertakings and commitment to excellence in higher education, would garner the respect of the campus and broader communities

Concerning personal qualities, the ideal candidate will possess the following:

- Integrity;
- Visionary, optimistic, and imaginative leadership;
- Enthusiasm, persistence, and high energy;
- Entrepreneurial drive;
- Flexibility and openness to new ideas;
- Commitment to academic freedom and the full exchange of ideas;
- Passion for learning, and caring for students, staff, and faculty;
- Personal warmth, charisma, energy, a natural preference for collaboration, and comfort with people of different backgrounds;
- Compassionate and empathic;
- A dedication to Purchase College's mission and values;
- Enjoyment of interactions with diverse members of the College community, including students, staff, faculty, alums, families, and friends; and,
- A sense of humor while carrying out the demanding leadership role of a college president.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Purchase College provides a robust set of benefits to employees.

- Health, dental, and vision benefits are available after a 28-day waiting period.
- Purchase College is a qualifying government employer allowing eligible employees to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
- Employees have access to the NAEYC-accredited, on-campus childcare at The Children's Center.
- Employees also have discounted access to the world-class Performing Arts Center, free admission to the Neuberger Museum of Art, and free access to the athletic facilities.
- More information regarding other benefits, such as generous paid time off, tuition assistance, and retirement systems can be found on SUNY's Benefit Summaries website (suny.edu/benefits/benefit-summaries).
- Other benefits include business-casual dress and an opportunity to telecommute. For detailed information on some of the College's employee benefits, visit the College's Human Resources/ Benefits website.

This is a full-time position that will be performed on site in New York. Salary is commensurate with experience with a generous benefits package.





REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Expressions of interest and nominations are being accepted and will continue until the position is filled. All nominations and applications shall be confidential.

Application materials should include a letter of interest, a resume/CV, and the names and contact information for five professional references. Interested candidates can apply using the following Talent Profile link: <https://talent-profile.dsgco.com/search/v2/21789>.

Confidential nominations or referrals should be directed to: PurchasePresident@storbecksearch.com.



Steve Leo, Managing Director
Christopher Lee, Ph.D., SPHR,
Managing Director
Alyssa Perez, Senior Associate

Purchase College is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to service, programs, and activities, without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.

Employees, students, applicants, or other members of the Purchase community (including vendors, visitors, and guests) may not be subjected to harassment that is prohibited by law or treated adversely or retaliated against based upon a protected characteristic.

Purchase College complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and harassment. These laws include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as Amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the New York State Human Rights Law. These laws prohibit discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Purchase College SUNY is an AA/EEO employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.





Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Purchase, NY 10577, USA

purchase.edu

An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in various shades of purple and pink, creating a layered, paper-like effect.