



Presidential Search

Middle Tennessee State University

Position Description – September 2026

Position	President
Institution	Middle Tennessee State University
Location	Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Reporting Relationship	Board of Trustees
Institutional Website	Middle Tennessee State University

THE OPPORTUNITY

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) has launched a national search for its next President and welcomes nominations and applications.

The successful candidate will combine strategic, visionary leadership with operational discipline to ensure that the University continues to adapt to evolving educational, economic, and workforce needs, guiding MTSU confidently into its next era of growth and distinction. The successful candidate will also bring a record of distinguished executive leadership and a demonstrated capacity to lead a complex institution as its chief executive officer.

Reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, the President will exhibit the vision, judgment, and collaborative leadership necessary to advance the University's mission, strengthen its academic reputation, and enhance its institutional impact. The President will demonstrate exceptional interpersonal, communication, and leadership skills, with a proven ability to build trust and collaborate across a broad range of constituencies, including students, faculty, and staff. They will be a visible, ethical leader committed to public higher education who fosters a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability across the institution. They will champion initiatives that improve student success; support outstanding teaching, research, scholarship, and athletics; and ensure that academic programs align with workforce and societal needs.

The successful candidate will also be an effective University ambassador, with a proven ability to build and sustain strong relationships with state, local, and federal leaders, alumni, donors, industry partners, and community stakeholders. The ability to navigate complex political and regulatory environments is critical, as is the capacity to advance the University's interests with credibility and effectiveness. Additionally, the successful candidate will bring demonstrated experience in leading comprehensive advancement efforts, possessing the ability to cultivate relationships to support strategic priorities. The ideal candidate will also possess experience working with governing boards, leading large and complex organizations, and managing significant financial resources.

The President will demonstrate a strong ability to operate effectively within shared governance structures while ensuring organizational clarity, accountability, and alignment with institutional priorities. They will demonstrate the ability to implement Board directives, provide consistent and transparent reporting on institutional performance, and communicate the University's mission and value proposition clearly and persuasively to varied audiences.

The successful candidate will also possess significant executive-level management experience, including a demonstrated capacity to make strategic decisions affecting complex organizations.



This includes providing clear direction and oversight to ensure effective, efficient operations, appropriately delegating authority while maintaining accountability, and demonstrating strong business acumen. A thorough understanding of financial management, including budgeting and financial reporting, is required to ensure sound fiscal stewardship and long-term sustainability.

While the successful candidate is expected to demonstrate proficiency across all desired qualifications, the search committee recognizes that professional strengths often vary across competencies. MTSU welcomes candidates whose experience and expertise may be particularly strong in some qualification areas and developing in others, provided they demonstrate the aptitude, commitment, and willingness to continue growing and expanding their capabilities.



ABOUT MTSU

Middle Tennessee State University, founded in 1911 and situated at the geographic center of the state in Murfreesboro, is a comprehensive university that embraces its role as a preferred destination for Tennessee undergraduates while expanding its reach nationally and internationally through signature programs and select master's and doctoral programs.

With an enrollment of more than 20,000 students and 300+ majors and concentrations, MTSU is the largest locally governed university in Tennessee. It is the No. 1 producer of graduates for the Greater Nashville economy; a top choice for first-generation and transfer students, a leader in adult degree completion programs; and home to the Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center, one of the largest and most comprehensive facilities of its kind on a college campus. Academic programs and support units are organized within the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Jennings A. Jones College of Business, College of Education, College of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts, Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment, University College, University Honors College, and the James E. Walker Library.



MTSU Online features 80 fully online majors, concentrations, and certificates, offering accessible and engaging educational experiences you can access from anywhere in the world. It is delivered by our renowned faculty and backed by comprehensive student support.

MTSU has been named to *The Princeton Review's* list of the Best Colleges in the U.S. eight years in a row. It is also featured on the best colleges lists of *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. MTSU has graduated more than 165,000 students. The University has grown from a campus of 100 acres, 125 students, and a faculty of 19, to an academic community of over 500 acres, more than 20,000 students, and a faculty of about 1,200. Despite experiencing significant growth over its history, MTSU maintains a clear focus on its students and the other constituencies it serves.

More information about MTSU is available online through the following links:

- [Academic Affairs and Office of the Provost](#)
- [Academic Programs](#)
- [Administration](#)
- [Alumni](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [Awards and Recognition](#)
- [Board of Trustees](#)
- [Budget and Financial Planning](#)
- [Campus Life and Student Affairs](#)
- [Colleges, Schools, and Departments](#)
- [Foundation](#)
- [History](#)
- [MTSU Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center](#)
- [MTSU Magazine](#)
- [Office of the President](#)
- [Research and Scholarship](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2035](#)
- [True Blue](#)



HOW TO APPLY

MTSU has retained the services of Dr. Josh Ward at the executive search firm Korn Ferry. To apply for the position, candidates should submit the following via e-mail:

1. An up-to-date and detailed curriculum vitae
2. A brief letter of interest (2-4 pages) describing why you are interested in becoming the next President of MTSU, why you would be successful based on your professional and/or lived experience, and why now is a good time for you to consider this opportunity.

For priority consideration by the search committee, please e-mail all application materials as separate PDFs by **October 15, 2026** to Josh.Ward@KornFerry.com.

KORN FERRY CONTACT

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MTSU is an equal opportunity employer. Proof of U.S. citizenship or eligibility for U.S. employment is required before employment (Immigration Control Act of 1986). MTSU is a Tobacco & Drug-Free campus. This position requires a criminal background check. For individuals requiring reasonable accommodation to apply: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and



would like to request an accommodation to apply for a position with MTSU, please call 615-898-2929 or email hrs@mtsu.edu. This document has been prepared based on the information provided by MTSU. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by MTSU would supersede any conflicting information in this document.