



# *FOUNDING DIRECTOR*

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## *Physician Assistant/Associate Program*

WINFIELD, KANSAS





**SOUTHWESTERN**  
COLLEGE

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Southwestern College invites applications from, and nomination of, accomplished, dynamic, and inspiring leaders for the position of Founding Director, Physician Assistant Program.

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## *The Opportunity*

Guided by the three goals of a bold strategic plan, SC 2028: Building Our Future, Southwestern College is excited to announce a search for the Program Director of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant program. The three goals are:

- By 2028, SC will be a dynamic and bold campus community that leads the industry in graduating students prepared to better their communities and the world through their work and service;
- Expand and strengthen SC's contributions and impact on Winfield, the local communities, the greater Wichita area and the region's social, economic and educational development; and
- Strengthen SC's resources, making investments to secure the future. The creativity of the campus community will be brought together as we strive to realize our vision for 2028.



Most importantly, the [SC 2028: Building Our Future](#) strategic plan puts student success and institutional vitality in the center of our work, keeping us true to SC's heritage, values, and mission. 🏛️





# About Southwestern College

Founded in 1885 and for the first century of its existence, Southwestern was a liberal arts college whose students were largely Kansan and often United Methodist. It was regionally known for its success in producing ministers, teachers, and students ready to enter medical school. The institution changed dramatically in 1993, though, when college classes for working adults were first offered in off-campus locations.

Today Southwestern College comprises two thriving facets – the main campus in Winfield, Kansas, which continues to appeal mostly to traditional-aged students, and a Professional Studies

program headquartered in Wichita, which is targeted at working adults completing their bachelor's or graduate degrees in online classes. Even as the college has extended its reach, its fundamental commitments have not changed. Southwestern provides all of its students with educational programs and co-curricular experiences that prepare them to excel in the workplace and in service in the community.

Southwestern's 83-acre campus in Winfield provides a beautiful and updated academic setting for students and faculty. Located on a hill overlooking the Walnut River Valley, the campus is notable for an abundance of trees (characteristic of the Winfield area) and its native limestone buildings. The Christy Administration Building, with its iconic stone pillars, is the symbolic heart of the campus. Other major buildings include historic Stewart Field House, which has undergone a major facelift, but remains the oldest field house west of the Mississippi still used for its original purpose.

In the past 30 years, four capital campaigns have allowed dramatic improvements in the college's facilities. They have



funded construction or renovation of the Beech Science Center, Richard L. Jantz Stadium, Richardson Performing Arts Center, the Cole Hall residence for freshmen women, Mossman Hall, and the Deets Library. These projects, combined with the Heart of the Hill Project which rebuilt the 77 Steps and The Mound (part of a unique Southwestern tradition), have transformed the core of the Winfield campus.

Staff of the college's global component, Professional Studies, have a regular presence at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita as well as Fort Riley Military Base in Manhattan, Kansas.

## The Ethos

Southwestern College's United Methodist heritage and its vision commitment to "leadership through service in a world without boundaries" have led to a culture of service that pervades campus programs. Leadership development is stressed throughout the curriculum, as the college's intentionality is formalized in its institutional outcomes –

"The ability to create and communicate a vision that inspires others to act or achieve a desired goal" is highlighted along with critical thinking, ethical reasoning, communication, and

career preparation. Integral to the Southwestern experience are its faculty and administration – people who don't just come to work, but have made a genuine commitment to the college and its students. That commitment has cemented ties between generations of students and professors who continue to transform the lives of today's family of learners.



The college also stresses educational opportunity for all. This is reflected in its Professional Studies offerings where degree options are important to its military students. The care of these military learners (who can continue to take classes



through deployments, reassignments, and other life changes) has led to annual recognition as a top military-friendly institution.

The college's emphasis on racial and cultural diversity results in a main campus student population who self-reports as 43% white and 39% as an underrepresented race/ethnicity or as mixed race in the spring of 2024. Four percent of the main campus student population are international students.

Southwestern has a proud history of progressive acceptance. Of the college's first three graduates in 1889, two were women. In 1899, Southwestern graduated its first African American student, Elijah Pilgrim Geiger, a former slave. In the early 1940s, during Japanese internment the college educated and cared for 19 students of Japanese heritage, a number far exceeding regional universities. There are numerous examples such as these from the college's establishment in 1885 to today which demonstrate a consistent culture of love, value, and acceptance for every student, staff, faculty; indeed, this is a point of pride for Moundbuilders.

Today Southwestern makes a concerted effort to recruit and support first-generation college students. Partnerships with two Wichita inner city middle schools have led to SC students serving as mentors for the youth, and to summer camps that give the public schools' youngsters a taste of life on campus and the realization that higher education is a possibility for them.



The college reinforces its values through its awarding of financial aid – the biggest scholarships are given for academic achievement, family financial need is considered and remedied next, and talent in an activity (activity grant) determines the third-highest amount of institutionally-awarded financial aid. 🏛️

## Bold Leadership



### Dr. Elizabeth Frombgen, President

Dr. Elizabeth Frombgen (or as she has become known on campus, 'President Liz') is a political scientist, professor, and administrator with more than 20 years of experience in higher education.

Formerly she served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College at Thiel College in Pennsylvania, and as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor, and Department Chair at Hastings College in Nebraska. As a professor, she taught a wide range of courses in Comparative Politics and International Relations, with special attention to understanding how societies create communities and govern themselves as expressions of their value

President Liz earned her Ph.D. and Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Purdue University and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Washington University.

She has and continues to grow a deep love for the unique spirit and potential exhibited by smaller liberal arts colleges like Southwestern.

President Liz is known for her highly collaborative and caring spirit. She partners closely with faculty and staff on strategic planning, curriculum revision, and program development. She is focused on building robust cooperative relationships with alumni and communities that strengthen the student experience.

## Vision

Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, is a learning community dedicated to:

- Intellectual growth and career preparation
- Individual development and Christian values
- Lifetime learning and responsible citizenship
- Leadership through service in a world without boundaries

## Mission

Southwestern College provides a values-based learning experience that emphasizes intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth. Founded in 1885 by Kansas Methodists and now related to the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church, the college offers bachelor's and graduate degrees on-ground and online.

### Southwestern College:

- Prepares students for careers and for graduate studies with courses that foster critical thinking and effective communication and are characterized by meaningful professor-student interaction.
- Employs emerging technologies that promote learning.
- Strives to live by and teach a sustainable way of life.
- Provides preparation for a wide range of church-related vocations and involvement.
- Offers programs that embrace prior learning and facilitate career progression for working adults, members of the armed services, and persons in transition.
- Affords a residential learning experience abundant with co-curricular activities that build social awareness and interpersonal skills and cultivate an ethos of service and leadership.

## Valuing Faith and Spiritual Connection



Southwestern values its heritage and ongoing relationship with the United Methodist Church. The value centeredness of campus life provides a foundation for

inclusiveness, acceptance, and respect for all persons, while practicing a broadly-based commitment to service. The new president's understanding of Southwestern as a community where spiritual principles are valued, discussed, and practiced will be important.

## The Classroom

Classroom settings are distinctively different at Southwestern, depending on where one chooses to explore the academic program.

## Main Campus

Academic programs at Southwestern are marked by a high degree of collaboration and intentionality. Undergraduate and graduate students choose from 36 degrees (several with multiple emphasis areas and pre-professional tracks). Current graduate programs include the master of business administration, master of arts in teaching, master of education (four emphasis areas), and doctor of education in educational leadership.

Southwestern expects its students to have jobs as well as degrees when they graduate. To this end, the college has a Center for Career and Vocation as well as a PREP program that focus on career preparation with on-campus students



when they are freshmen. The program continues during the next four years as these students choose classes, complete internships, and plan the next steps of their lives in consultation with academic and career advisors. PREP 499, the senior capstone course, synthesizes this exploration and gives a jump start to students' careers.

In 1999, the college expanded its commitment to technology by becoming the first in the region (and one of the first in the nation) to issue laptop computers to all incoming freshmen. This initiative continues today, putting students and their faculty on the same platform and offering maintenance of both hardware and software.

## Professional Studies/Global

Southwestern College Professional Studies (soon to transition to a new identity, Southwestern College Global) offers practical online degree programs focused

on an enhanced learner experience, provided by a regionally accredited, 139-year-old non-profit institution.



Southwestern was one of the first private colleges in the nation to embrace adult students interested in earning a bachelor's or

master's degree in a non-traditional format. Established in 1993, Professional Studies began offering on-ground courses in Wichita in 1995 and shortly thereafter added distance /online courses to further provide flexibility and accessibility to busy working adults. PS continues to offer courses that focus on a highly engaging and interactive experience for learners where courses are developed and taught by the college's own faculty and delivered in small class sizes.

Each learner can expect: hands-on counselors to help navigate the program requirements; generous transfer credits to reduce overall cost and time to completion; progressive, nationally recognized programs; accessible student resources to minimize the stress of degree completion; and small class sizes with experienced, practicing faculty to facilitate interaction and ensure academic success.

Market demands inform major offerings, with ongoing analysis of enrollments and interest allowing nimble start-up of such programs as security management, healthcare administration, and Information Systems Management in addition to majors in business, education, human resources and other more traditional fields. Currently, 14 bachelor's degree programs are offered. Master's degrees are offered in four business fields. The Division of Education in Winfield also offers several education programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level through Professional Studies. A number of certificates are also available that can be applied to undergraduate and graduate programs.

In partnership with corporate, military, community and technical college partners, PS provides a smooth transition for students to utilize prior college credit for military experience, corporate training programs, and work experience to complete a bachelor's degree. PS is military friendly and offers discounted military rates for active duty members of the U.S. armed forces utilizing tuition

assistance. With eight convenient six-week sessions offered every year, PS learners find the flexible schedule conducive to balancing professional and family demands. Faculty facilitate the sharing of knowledge as an integral part of the educational process. 🏛️

## *Outside of the Classroom*

Nearly all of the main campus students are involved in extracurricular activities. In 2023-24, 97% of the full-time campus undergraduate population received activity grants (scholarships), with about 88% of all activity grants being in athletics. The college offers activity grants in athletics, performing arts, communications, honors, science, and service-learning.

Two official service learning programs – Leadership Southwestern and Discipleship Southwestern – are co-curricular offerings that have been nationally recognized for their groundbreaking work in helping students learn to take their places in an increasingly-complicated world.

Southwestern is a member of the NAIA Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) and participates in over 20 sports, including football (men), volleyball (women), baseball (men), basketball, track and field, cross-country, soccer, softball (women), flag football (women), tennis, golf, cheer and dance.



Performing arts groups are exemplary in their ability to draw participants from a variety of majors across campus. Music groups and theatre productions are open to all students. Students enjoy participating in performing arts as activities and receive scholarships and stipends for their participation.

Reflecting its affiliation with the United Methodist Church, Southwestern affords broad opportunity for faith exploration and personal growth. The institution encourages enrollment and employment of all, regardless of religion, national origin, or sexual orientation, and provides a safe place for young adults to mature in their



## Unique Traditions

The Hill topped by Christy Administration Building is at the southern edge of Kansas's famed Flint Hills, and large rocks throughout the campus are inscribed with the names of championship teams, veterans, activity groups, even the words of the Alma Mater.



For nearly 100 years, each fall semester has opened with a ceremony in which students, faculty, alumni, and others place symbolic rocks on The Mound to signify their loyalty to the college. The college's official mascot is "The Moundbuilder," which actually had been established prior to the construction of the

physical mound and the Moundbuilding Ceremony, because the college was built on a hill.



Southwestern's unofficial mascot is the Jinx, dating back to 1912, when a winning streak began against Fairmont (now Wichita State). "The Jinx" is embodied by a black cat, which was named one of the quirkiest mascots in the nation by Newsweek magazine. The college has a living Jinx cat, which resides in historic Stewart Field House.



Even Southwestern's name is quirky – the college was founded by the Southwest Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, so although its location is not in the southwestern part of either the state or the nation, the name has survived. 🏛️

## Affiliations

Two self-supporting institutions are affiliated with and headquartered on the main campus:

### Institute for Discipleship

The Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship is based at the college in Wroten Hall. The institute manages or supports a variety of educational programs, both online and on the ground at Southwestern, that increase discipleship and Christian leadership skills.

The institute is dedicated to providing educational opportunities that nurture and enrich Christian leaders, lay and clergy, for effective living and ministry.

### SC Learning Center

Now in its tenth year of operation SCLC is a full day, multi-age preschool and high-quality after school program for elementary grade students, housed in downtown Winfield.



The learning center is a collaborative laboratory field site with the education division and is host to student observers and aides. 🏛️

# At home in Winfield

Nestled along the Walnut River, Winfield is a city to see and explore. If you are a nature lover, you can find beautiful parks scattered all around the city. Offering recreation and a robust cultural arts scene, Winfield is a small town that lives big.

The county seat of Cowley County, with a population of roughly 12,000, Winfield is consistently rated one of “The 100 Best Small Towns in America.”

If you want to enjoy lovingly made meals, Winfield boasts a variety of restaurants to satisfy your appetite. Other points of interest include trails, lakes, theaters, the farmers’ market, and many small businesses and boutiques for shopping. Additionally, Winfield is the home to one of the longest running and most respected bluegrass and folk



music competition and festival in the country. Walnut Valley Festival, annually attracts nearly 10,000 attendees. Now in its 52nd year, the festival is embedded

in the cultural identity of Winfield – the festival began on campus at Southwestern in the 1970s as a Student Government funded activity.

The school district offers progressive learning opportunities with excellent educators (including many SC alumni).



Engagement for school age children extends to a strong recreation commission, arts and humanities council, and robust public library programing. Additionally, Winfield has two dance studios and a popular summer swim club.

The community has also invested heavily in healthcare with a quality hospital that offers a surprising amount of specialized services. The medical community is



formed by a strong team of family care physicians, internists, a pediatrician, and visiting specialists.



Winfield is in a beautiful pocket of Kansas, where groves of stately trees give way to breathtaking open spaces. Perched on the banks of the Walnut River, Winfield is the gate to the Flint Hills. Mature trees, decorating the streets lined with Victorian era homes, show dazzling pink and white blossoms in spring, lush greenery through the summer, and bold crimson and orange leaves in the fall.

Winfield is a rural community with strong and diverse industry, in part because of its central location and easy access to more urban communities. Winfield is within an easy drive of amenities offered by the Wichita metropolitan area and is situated just off of I-35 between Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

Its central location and accepting culture makes Winfield attractive to a large market of prospective students as well as faculty and staff.

Winfield is large enough to meet your needs, but small enough to value meaningful relationships and connection. It is a community where people care for and about each other and are focused on improving quality of life together through continued investment and volunteerism. 🏛️





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## THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR PA PROGRAM

The Program Director will be a visionary leader in the field of Physician Assistant and bring a commitment to serving the community and region. Open rank, this leadership position will work closely with the faculty and academic affairs to offer a widely respected M.S. program in Physician Assistant. The Program Director will be responsible for the recruitment of academically prepared students who can thrive in a rigorous graduate program, effective day-to-day communication, interprofessional collaboration, curriculum development including clinical rotations, program assessment and planning, fiscal management, and evaluation of faculty.

The candidate will serve to develop and implement the strategic plan and will provide guidance and oversight through the ongoing accreditation process.

This position reports to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and works closely with all departments and offices on campus to ensure student and program success. Collaboration with Marketing and Admissions will be key to strengthen the College's market position, attract prospective students through innovative programs, and increase the enrollment of talented and motivated students.

### Qualifications

- Licensed as a physician assistant.
- At least three years of full-time higher education experience at the time of appointment.
- Master's degree in physician assistant with current NCCPA certification.
- Proven leadership ability in the field of physician assistant studies.
- Knowledge of the physician assistant program accreditation process and familiarity with the details of experiential education and site establishment within the healthcare community.
- Demonstrated record of excellence in teaching, scholarship, service, and fostering empirical research.
- Visionary and interpersonal skills to build partnerships inside and outside the program in physician assistant, the College and the wider communi



# Nomination and Application Process

EFL Associates (<https://eflassociates.cbiz.com>), an executive search firm, is assisting Southwestern College with its search for this important leadership position. All calls and inquiries should be made through the search firm. Nominations and applications will be held in strict confidence and candidates will remain confidential until the final stage of the search, at which time the express permission of finalists will be obtained before making their candidacy public.

## Application Process

- **STEP 1:** Interested candidates should email their letter of interest and résumé or curriculum vitae to [ApplyHigherEd@eflassociates.com](mailto:ApplyHigherEd@eflassociates.com).
- **STEP 2:** [Complete a brief online application](#) (two - three minutes)

## Key Dates

- Application deadline is July 29, 2024
- Semi-Finalist Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the first week of August 1, 2024.
- Campus Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the week of September 2, 2024.
- The desired start date is November, 2024, or upon mutual agreement.



## Confidential Inquiries



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VP & Managing Director,  
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816-945-5423 (direct)  
Email: [swaldron@eflassociates.com](mailto:swaldron@eflassociates.com)

## Nominations

If you would like to provide a nomination, please email all pertinent information (including an email address and phone number of the nominee) to:

Edith Ketay  
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