



POSITION DESCRIPTION

FOR THE POSITION OF

INAUGURAL DEAN, ROBERT J GRAPPONE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE
Manchester, New Hampshire

October 2026

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION	Inaugural Dean, Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation
ORGANIZATION	Saint Anselm College
REPORTS TO	Vice President for Academic Affairs
LOCATION	Manchester, New Hampshire
WEBSITE	www.anselm.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITY	03
THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION	03
ROLE SUMMARY	05
CANDIDATE PROFILE	08
NEXT STEPS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	09
APPENDIX: SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW	10

OVERVIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITY

Saint Anselm College, a Catholic, Benedictine liberal arts college, seeks a visionary, entrepreneurial, and mission-driven leader to serve as the inaugural Dean of its newly established School of Business and Innovation.

Founded in 1889 by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey in Newark, New Jersey, Saint Anselm is ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the United States and is noted for its academically rigorous undergraduate programs and the professional preparation of its students as leaders in a changing world. The College has seen undergraduate enrollment growth over the past four cycles, with its most recent first-year class the largest in its history. On July 1, 2026, Michael Lewis, Ph.D. became Saint Anselm's 12th President. Upon his appointment, he said, "The mission of Saint Anselm College is not simply a heritage to preserve — it is a responsibility to carry forward. In a world searching for truth, stability, community, and hope, this College has an indispensable role to play,"

Under its strategic plan, *Ascent to the Hilltop – Vision 2030*, Saint Anselm is building toward a future of 2,500 enrolled students, three purpose-driven schools, and nationally recognized academic centers. The College has already established the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the new School of Arts & Sciences will be established in the near future. The Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation (the School), approved for development following the work of a faculty-led Commission, is the third school.

The School will bring together three departments with a strong record of interdisciplinary collaboration — Economics and Business, Computer Science, and Mathematics — to foster innovative, socially responsible, and ethical leaders for the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Grounded in the liberal arts and the College's Catholic, Benedictine identity, the School will strengthen pedagogical resources, build new partnerships, pursue specialized accreditation, develop distinctive graduate programs, and expand outcomes and opportunities for students.

As the School's first dean, the successful candidate will have the rare opportunity to shape a new academic enterprise from the ground up: leading the development of its mission and strategic plan in partnership with faculty, guiding the School toward accreditation, championing dedicated space, and positioning the School — and the College — for sustained success. The next dean should combine **academic credibility and strategic leadership ability**; outstanding interpersonal and communication skills; collaborative and entrepreneurial energy; a talent for building external partnerships and philanthropic support; and a deep appreciation for the integration of professional preparation with the liberal arts.

THE ROBERT J. GRAPPONE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

The implementation of the Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation (the School) will allow Saint Anselm College to strengthen its competitive position while responding proactively to the demographic and market pressures facing higher education, particularly in the Northeast. The School

was conceived by the School of Business and Innovation Commission, whose April 2025 report outlined its purpose, structure, and key elements of its mission.

The School is designed to build on the existing strengths of its founding departments by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, improving pedagogical resources, introducing new partnerships, and improving student outcomes and opportunities. Importantly, its creation must benefit not only the students within its departments but the College as a whole.

Key Elements of the Mission

Consistent with the approach taken by the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences, the School's formal mission will be developed by the inaugural dean and the School's departments as part of its strategic plan. The Commission identified the following key elements to inform that work. The School should support the broader liberal arts status and Catholic, Benedictine identity of Saint Anselm College, with goals that include:

- Fostering the development of innovative, socially responsible, and ethical leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Adopting a holistic approach to leadership, informed by the liberal arts.
- Creating partnerships with the community that enrich students' experiences both inside and outside the classroom.
- Preparing students to enter their chosen careers as ethical leaders who contribute to society in a meaningful way.

Purpose of the School

- To address and prepare for potential future changes in the landscape of higher education.
- To give students the best opportunity to learn the fundamentals of business, economics, computer science, and mathematics and achieve their desired outcomes.
- To prepare students to be ethical leaders.
- To build and foster partnerships that sustain the School and expand students' opportunities to pursue research, internships, and jobs.
- To serve the College and the local community.

Academic Departments, Students, Operating Budget, and Programs

The School of Business and Innovation will comprise three departments, and there is a total of 20 tenure-track faculty. There are currently over 570 FTE students in the School, and the operating budget is currently \$3.5 million. The organizational structure is intended to preserve the curricular autonomy of each department while enabling innovation and growth across the School.

Economics and Business

- Majors: Accounting Business Administration (with concentrations in Management, Sports Management, and International Business), Business Analytics (co-managed with Computer Science), Economics, Finance, and Marketing.
- Minors: Accounting, Collaborative Innovation, Economics, and Marketing.
- Business Administration majors complete a required internship, and all department majors are encouraged to pursue internships.

Computer Science

- Majors: Computer Science (including tracks combined with business and mathematics as well as a Teacher Certification track), Computer Information Systems, , and Business Analytics.
- Minors: Computer Science, Cyber Criminology, Data Analytics, and Web Design.
- Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence.

Mathematics

- Majors: Mathematics, Data Science and Analytics, and Sports Analytics.
- Minor: Mathematics.
- Certificate in AI for Business Leaders

Many of these programs — including Business Analytics, Computer Science with Business, Computer Information Systems, Mathematics with Economics, Data Science and Analytics, and Sports Analytics — are already interdisciplinary, reflecting the collaborative foundation on which the School is being built.

Accreditation

Seventeen of Saint Anselm's nineteen peer and aspirant institutions hold separate specialized business accreditation. The Commission concluded that accreditation is necessary to support fundraising and student recruitment and recommended Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The inaugural dean will lead the School through this process.

Graduate Programs

Saint Anselm currently offers four graduate programs: Nursing Leadership and Innovation (MSN), Criminal Justice (M.A.), Special Education (M.Ed.), and Public Policy (MPP). Master's degree and certificate programs within the School of Business and Innovation are envisioned as new revenue streams and as opportunities to engage both Saint Anselm alumni and new students. Drawing on the strengths of the College and its academic departments, these programs will be designed to be distinctive and to stand out in a crowded graduate marketplace. The inaugural dean will work with faculty to identify and launch graduate programs in the School.

A New Home for the School

The Commission identified a dedicated new space as essential to the School's success — not only to meet pedagogical needs, but also to support marketing, partnership development, and the School's visibility. The inaugural dean will play a central role in shaping and advocating for this facility.

ROLE SUMMARY

Reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation and serves as a member of the College's academic leadership team. The Dean will oversee the three department chairs and will build an administrative structure as the School takes shape.

Key Responsibilities

The inaugural Dean will be responsible for:

- Setting the tone and vision for the School and leading, in collaboration with faculty, the development of its mission and first strategic plan, aligned with the College's mission and Ascent to the Hilltop.
- Building the School's administrative structure in a manner that preserves departmental curricular autonomy while enabling innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and growth.
- Managing the faculty and staff, fiscal resources, and physical facilities of the School.
- Leading the School's pursuit of ACBSP accreditation, including assessment of learning outcomes and continuous improvement.
- Developing distinctive, revenue-generating graduate degree and certificate programs.
- Establishing partnerships with employers, community organizations, and other institutions to create internship, research, and career opportunities for students.
- Promoting and advocating for the School within the College and to regional and national constituents, alumni, partners, and donors.
- Partnering with the College's advancement and marketing teams on fundraising, branding, and recruitment.

Leadership Responsibilities

- Supervising and supporting the chairs of the School's three departments: Economics and Business, Computer Science, and Mathematics.
- Working with advancement officers to cultivate alumni, corporate, and foundation support for the School and establishing the School's first Advisory Board.
- Within the College, serving alongside the dean of the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences and other academic leaders as a member of the academic leadership team, including the Deans Council.

Opportunities Ahead

The inaugural dean will assume leadership of a school with a strong foundation on which to build:

- Committed, teaching-focused faculty in three departments with an established history of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- A portfolio of programs that already bridges business, economics, computing, data science, and mathematics.
- A College with growing undergraduate enrollment, including the largest first-year class in its history, and a 90% retention rate.
- Strong student outcomes: 99% of the Class of 2024 are employed, pursuing further education, serving in the military, or volunteering.
- Institutional commitment through Ascent to the Hilltop to three purpose-driven schools, and the successful model of the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences.
- A distinctive Catholic, Benedictine mission and liberal arts tradition that give meaning to the School's focus on ethical leadership.
- Nationally known College assets — including the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, the Meelia Center for Community Engagement, the Office of Partnerships, the Center of Ethics in Society, and the Gregory Grappone Humanities Institute — that create natural avenues for collaboration.
- A location in Manchester, New Hampshire's largest city, one hour from Boston, within one of the fastest-growing states in the Northeast.

Within this context, the inaugural Dean will have the opportunity to:

Build the School and define its identity

As the founding leader, the dean will set the School's direction from its inception.

- Lead faculty and departments in articulating the School's mission, vision, and strategic plan, in alignment with the mission of the College.
- Design an administrative and governance structure that respects departmental autonomy while creating a coherent, collaborative whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.
- Establish a distinctive brand and tagline that communicates the School's commitment to forming ethical and innovative leaders.

Promote academic excellence and pursue accreditation

- Guide the School through specialized accreditation, building the assessment infrastructure, faculty qualifications, and continuous-improvement practices it requires.
- Strengthen existing programs and foster new interdisciplinary offerings that integrate business, economics, computer science, data science, mathematics, and the liberal arts — including emerging areas such as applied artificial intelligence.
- Support faculty excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professional development.

Grow graduate education and diversify revenue

- Develop distinctive master's and certificate programs that draw on the College's strengths and attract both Anselmians and new students.
- Be financially astute, comfortable with budgets and data-driven decision-making, and able to build sustainable, entrepreneurial revenue models.

Build partnerships and secure resources

- Cultivate partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, government, and community organizations that expand internships, research, and employment opportunities for students.
- Lead fundraising efforts with alumni, corporations, and foundations, including support for a new dedicated building.
- Serve as a compelling advocate and spokesperson for the School, building its visibility regionally and nationally.

Advance student success

The School exists to serve students. The dean will expand experiential learning — internships, client-based projects, research, and career preparation — and partner across the College to strengthen recruitment, retention, and outcomes, contributing to Saint Anselm's Vision 2030 enrollment goals.

Foster a collaborative, mission-centered culture

The dean must be a collaborative leader who partners with fellow deans, faculty, staff, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs to build a culture of innovation and shared purpose — one that embodies Benedictine values of hospitality, community, and service, and ensures that the School strengthens the overall identity of the College.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Qualifications and Experience

- Excitement about the possibilities and a strategic vision for the School with the opportunity to serve as its founding Dean.
- An earned doctorate from an accredited institution is highly preferred, or equivalent terminal degree, and academic qualifications meriting appointment as a tenured faculty member in a discipline represented within the School.
- A record of successful academic leadership at the level of dean, associate dean, chair, director, or equivalent, including hiring and supporting faculty and staff, building programs, and managing people and budgets.
- Enthusiasm and ability to contribute actively to fundraising and to elevate the School's profile; a track record of successful fundraising is needed. Engagement with alumni/ae is essential.
- Experience with, or a strong understanding of, ACBSP accreditation and outcomes assessment.

- Demonstrated success in creating new academic programs, particularly graduate and certificate programs.
- The successful candidate will most likely come from a background in higher education leadership, although outstanding candidates with significant academic credentials and leadership experience in the private, public, or nonprofit sectors will be considered.

Additionally, the inaugural dean should bring the following to the role:

- Enthusiasm for, and demonstrated commitment to, the Catholic, Benedictine mission of Saint Anselm College and the values that underpin it.
- A demonstrated commitment to fostering a welcoming, supportive community for all students, faculty, and staff, consistent with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality.
- A deep appreciation of the liberal arts with a strong student orientation and a vision for how professional education in business, computing, and quantitative fields can be integrated.
- A collaborative approach to leadership with the ability to build bridges with multiple academic disciplines.
- An entrepreneurial, builder's mindset and the ability to translate vision into an executable plan.
- Demonstrated ability to build external partnerships with employers, community organizations, and other institutions.
- Demonstrated expertise in strategic planning, fiscal management, resource allocation, and program evaluation.
- A commitment to shared governance, consultation, and participatory decision-making, and respect for departmental curricular autonomy.
- The ability to create and nurture an environment that values faculty and staff contributions, recognizes excellence, supports professional development, and encourages innovation.
- Personal and professional integrity, strength of character, a strong sense of stewardship, and ethical qualities of the highest order.
- The ability to set priorities, make and explain difficult decisions, and convene and collaborate with multiple stakeholders.
- Exceptional communication skills, including active listening, transparency, and the ability to articulate the vision and mission of the School compellingly.

Successful candidates will be able to assist the college in advancing its Catholic identity and strategic priorities, which include institution-wide diversity and inclusiveness.

Compensation: A competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package commensurate experience will be offered

NEXT STEPS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Screening will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration in the initial review of candidates, applications should be submitted no later than November 15, 2026. Applications (including a CV, a cover letter addressing interest in the position, leadership philosophy, and connection to the mission of Saint Anselm College) should be submitted.

APPENDIX: SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

About the College

Saint Anselm is ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the United States and is noted for its academically rigorous undergraduate programs and professional preparation of students as leaders in a changing world. Students can choose from a vast array of [majors and minors](#); several pre-professional programs; graduate programs that lean into the academic strengths of the College; more than 80 clubs and organizations; and many community service and study abroad opportunities that promote professional, social, and civic engagement.

Founded in 1889 by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey in Newark, New Jersey, the College has cultivated generations of students through a transformative education that integrates intellectual rigor, moral inquiry, and spiritual reflection. It remains committed to its founding vision: to be a small, private, nonprofit institution delivering a first-rate liberal arts education with innovative educational programs and an exceptional student experience.

Mission

Saint Anselm is a Catholic, Benedictine college providing all its students a distinctive liberal arts education that incorporates opportunities for professional and career preparation. It does so in a learning community that encourages the lifelong pursuit of the truth and fosters intellectual, moral and spiritual growth to sustain and enrich its graduates' personal lives, work, and engagement within local, national, and global communities.

Saint Anselm is committed to providing all students with a high-touch liberal arts education, enriched by opportunities for professional and career preparation and delivered within a learning community that fosters:

- Lifelong pursuit of truth
- Intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth
- Service to others
- Engagement in local, national, and global communities
- Care, compassion, and hospitality

The College is well known for its nationally ranked nursing program; its commitment to the humanities through the Gregory Grappone Humanities Institute; the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, the hub of

national political activity in the first-in-the-nation Granite State; and the Meelia Center for Community Engagement, a widely recognized leader in community-engaged learning .

In the past five years, Saint Anselm has launched new programs in health sciences, public health, dance, and data science, among others; established the Office of Partnerships, the Initiative for Housing Policy and Practice, and the Aaron Tolson Institute of Dance; added track & field, women’s golf, and bowling; reached the NCAA semifinals in men’s lacrosse; and won its first-ever NCAA national championship in women’s field hockey. The College also established the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences, with the Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation approved for development and a School of Arts and Sciences also approved for a launch in 2027.

Saint Anselm at a Glance

- Established: 1889
- Affiliation: Catholic, Benedictine
- Academic focus: Liberal arts with professional preparation
- Student body goal (Ascent to the Hilltop): 2,500 students across three purpose-driven schools
- Graduate programs: Nursing Leadership and Innovation (MSN), Criminal Justice (M.A.), Special Education (M.Ed.), and Public Policy (MPP)
- #72 National Liberal Arts Colleges, U.S. News & World Report
- #24 Most Engaged in Community Service, The Princeton Review
- 99% of the Class of 2025 re employed, pursuing further education, serving in the military, or volunteering
- 86% retention rate and 76% four-year graduation rate/81% six-year graduation rate

Strategic Vision: Ascent to the Hilltop – Vision 2030

Saint Anselm’s strategic plan, *Ascent to the Hilltop*, charts a bold course toward 2030. Its purpose is to guide students in realizing their intellectual, moral, and spiritual potential through the College’s Catholic and Benedictine mission, a transformative liberal arts education, keen critical-thinking skills, professional and career readiness, and a vibrant, inclusive community on a New England hilltop. The student-centric five-year strategy emerges from two guiding markers:

- To provide an exceptional student experience
- To grow institutional capacity to serve students long into the future

The plan responds directly to the pressing challenges facing higher education nationally: infrastructure and campus capacity; revenue diversification beyond undergraduate tuition; evolving educational models and technological disruption; demographic shifts, particularly in the Northeast; and public skepticism about the value of a liberal arts education. The School of Business and Innovation is central to the College’s response to each of these challenges.

By 2030, Saint Anselm aims to be a leading Catholic institution with 2,500 enrolled students, three purpose-driven schools, and nationally recognized academic centers.

College Leadership

Michael Lewis, Ph.D., President

In March 2026, following a nine-month national search, Saint Anselm College announced the appointment of Michael Lewis, Ph.D., as its 12th President, effective July 1, 2026. Dr. Lewis was the unanimous choice of the Presidential Search Committee and was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. He succeeds Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., who retired after seven years of leadership. Dr. Lewis comes to Saint Anselm from Saint Louis University, where he served as provost and chief academic officer, overseeing 11 schools and colleges — including the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business — as well as SLU’s campus in Madrid, Spain. He joined SLU’s Department of Chemistry in 2004, earning multiple teaching awards and authoring numerous scholarly publications, and went on to serve as associate provost for faculty affairs and development and as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences before becoming provost. A native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, he holds a B.Sc. in chemistry from Saint Mary’s University and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and completed postdoctoral research at Harvard University. Dr. Lewis has described Saint Anselm’s mission as “not simply a heritage to preserve — it is a responsibility to carry forward,” and has pointed to the College’s enrollment growth, the expansion of graduate programs, and the thoughtful development of its schools as sources of momentum. His experience leading a multi-school academic enterprise, including a nationally ranked business school, makes him a strong partner for the inaugural dean as the School takes shape.

Sheila Liotta, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Sheila Liotta has been the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saint Anselm College since June of 2022. Previously, she served as the founding dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at Providence College from January of 2009 through June of 2022. Prior to her time as dean, she served as chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for eight years. She joined the Providence College faculty in 1993.

As VPAA at Saint Anselm College, Dr. Liotta has engaged faculty to make recommendations on strategies for the College to maintain and promote its liberal arts component of its identity to inform academic planning. She has also overseen the launch of the Jean School of Nursing and Health Sciences, the College’s first school, and will oversee the launch of two additional schools, the Robert J. Grappone School of Business and Innovation and the School of Arts and Sciences, in 2027, completing a reorganization of the Academic Affairs division. Other major initiatives include the implementation of a revised core curriculum beginning in Fall 2026 and the expansion of graduate program offerings across the College through the creation of new programs in strategic areas. At Providence College, through the development and support of both new academic programs and the College’s robust core curriculum, a renewed appreciation for the centrality of the liberal arts across the campus was realized during Dr. Liotta’s time as Dean. This helped to facilitate Providence College’s successful application, led by Dr. Liotta, for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the premier arts and sciences honors society, which was installed in April of 2022.

Dr. Liotta obtained her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rutgers University and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. An organic chemist and a strong proponent of undergraduate research, Dr. Liotta supervised thirty-five student researchers in her Providence College laboratory. More recently, she primarily taught a course for non-science majors on contemporary issues in chemistry.

About Manchester, New Hampshire

Just one hour north of Boston and less than an hour from the coastal beaches, Saint Anselm overlooks Manchester, New Hampshire's thriving largest city. With a population of more than 110,000, Manchester is the largest city north of Boston and combines exciting urban opportunities with nearby natural splendor. Money magazine ranked Manchester the “#1 Small City in the East” in its review of the Best Places to Live in America.

New Hampshire is among the fastest-growing states in the Northeast and boasts 1,786 mountains to explore, 54 covered bridges, 18 miles of coastline, and no sales tax and no personal income tax.

For best consideration, applicants should submit a CV and a cover letter by November 15, 2026, to: <https://driwaterstonehc.com/position/inaugural-dean-s...t-anselm-college/>