Opus Partners

Emerson

Emerson College
Professor and Department Chair, Journalism

The School of Communication at Emerson College welcomes applications for a full-time, open-rank position as Chair of the Department of Journalism. This is an Open-Rank position, commensurate with experience, of either Tenured (Associate or Full Professor) or Journalist-In-Residence (full-time, non-tenure-track). The Department of Journalism seeks an experienced, innovative, academically-focused administrator, teacher, scholar and/or practitioner.

Emerson College's Department of Journalism prepares students to work and lead in a profession and related fields in rapid transformation. The curriculum emphasizes a strong foundation in journalism ethics, combining innovation with integrity. Faculty embrace new tools and technologies while holding fast to the accuracy and fairness that give journalism its public value. The Department supports experiential learning co-curricular activities including student-run WEBN and The Berkeley Beacon. Faculty collaborate with various professional organizations and external partners, including NEFAC, JEA, NESPA, NAHD, NABJ, AAJA, SPJ, Boston Globe Co-op, and Hyperlocal New Orgs. Department faculty include award-winning practitioners and scholars and takes pride in an editorial crew whose international perspectives strengthen teaching and reporting. The department seeks a visionary, future-oriented leader to help it craft the journalism education of tomorrow.

The Department

The Department of Journalism, housed in Emerson College's School of Communication, was established in 1997, replacing the Division of Mass Communication, which taught broadcast journalism at Emerson for decades. The department offers an undergraduate program in Journalism, an undergraduate minor in Journalism, and an online graduate program in Journalism and Media Innovation. Programs aim to train students to produce original reporting and deliver news across broadcast, print, web, and multimedia platforms. Currently, the Department has 28 faculty members in tenure-line and non-tenure-line tracks.

Primary Responsibilities:

Although the Provost, in close consultation with the Dean, officially appoints the chair, the Dean serves as the direct supervisor to the chair, overseeing development, support, and evaluation of chairs. The Chair, as the chief administrator of the department, works with the faculty and college leadership to establish the department's vision and direction. The Chair oversees strategic planning, core operational functions, academic planning, and external compliance. Key responsibilities include building a forward-looking and innovative vision for the department; managing the departmental budget and gift funds; building and updating curriculum; working with alums and donors; and leading faculty recruitment and performance reviews. The Chair collaborates with faculty and college leadership to establish department academic policies, manages external program reviews, and represents the department at the Academic Cabinet, as well as at alumni and recruitment events.

In their managerial and leadership capacity, the Chair establishes the department's strategic plan, fosters an inclusive culture and manages human resources. The Chair mentors faculty, supports staff professional development, and maintains transparent communication regarding institutional

215-790-1188
info@opuspartners.net
opuspartners.net

developments. By aligning departmental goals with the Extraordinary Emerson 2030 Strategic Plan, the Chair uses data-driven planning to nurture faculty research and teaching, support student success, and cultivate a collaborative, mission-driven academic environment. The Chair also works with faculty to launch new programs, and collaborates with admissions, enrollment, career design, and other departments at the College to ensure the future health and growth of the programs.

Required Experience:

- An advanced or terminal degree (PhD, MA, MS, MPS, etc.) in Journalism or a related field, OR equivalent professional experience as a senior professional.
- Significant administrative and leadership experience and evidence of a collaborative management style (e.g., experience as a department chair, director of a center or program, senior editor).
- A distinguished record of creative/professional practice or academic scholarship.
- Teaching and/or mentoring at the collegiate level.

The Chair is on a 12-month appointment that begins on July 1, 2027. It is a 3-year, renewable appointment. The teaching load is 2 courses per year during the Chair period.

Emerson College

Emerson College is the nation's only four-year institution dedicated exclusively to undergraduate majors and master's in communication, arts, and media. It is located in the dynamic, multicultural city of Boston, close to major arts institutions, performing arts venues, research centers, and industry partners. Emerson also has campuses in Los Angeles and the Netherlands. Emerson College welcomes individuals who bring innovation, creativity, and impact to its curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular offerings.

Founded in 1880 and spanning three distinct global campuses, the college serves about 4,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students. Its main campus, located in the heart of Boston's Theatre District, provides the entire Emerson community with hands-on experiences intertwined with the fabric of Boston. The Kasteel Well campus in the Netherlands, housed in a 14th century castle, has served as a hub for international scholarship and research for almost 40 years. Emerson enjoys strong partnerships with institutions across the world, including the Paris College of Art, which adds to the richness of the Emerson experience. Additionally, the Emerson Prison Initiative (EPI) works to democratize access to college education.

Emerson educates future leaders in the arts and communication, inspiring generations of students to think boldly and creatively, and ensures that all students, faculty, staff, and alumni contribute powerfully to the cultural, social, political, and civic landscape. With a grounding in the liberal arts and interdisciplinarity, the curriculum enables students to pursue academic majors and programs such as Media Arts Production, Journalism, Literature, Marketing, Publishing, Theater, Communication Studies, Communication Science and Disorders, Creative Writing, Comedic Arts, and an Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) major, among many others.

Emerson College believes the best way to achieve excellence is to foster a campus climate where everyone can thrive. As a community of artists, practitioners, scholars, and storytellers, we

215-790-1188
info@opuspartners.net
opuspartners.net

continually strive to cultivate a collaborative community that draws upon the widest possible pool of talented individuals from varied beliefs, backgrounds, and perspectives. Emerson College's core values are creativity, innovation, inclusion, curiosity, equity, expression, and collaboration.

Appointment Terms and Application Process

The successful candidate will hold the Department Chair title and also will be appointed to a faculty role in the Journalism department, with title, rank, and any applicable tenure status determined in consultation with that department.

Base faculty salary for this appointment, as set by the collective bargaining agreement governing faculty compensation, will be $81,723 - $152,040 annually, commensurate with experience and rank of position. Additional compensation of $22,500 during the chair contract will be added to the base salary and additional salary, supplements, and/or stipends may be available and applicable.

Emerson College has retained Opus Partners (www.opuspartners.net) to support this recruitment. Craig Smith, Managing Partner, is leading the search with Carli Condon, Consultant. Inquiries, applications, and nominations should be sent to craig.smith@opuspartners.net and carli.condon@opuspartners.net. The search process will unfold with the utmost attention to candidate confidentiality.

Required application materials include a resume or CV and letter of interest. The cover letter should speak to the candidate's ability to lead the department and should reflect how the candidate's qualifications and experience match those described in this leadership profile, including examples of a demonstrated commitment to advancing equity and inclusion. In addition to the CV and letter, candidates should provide contact information for three references who can speak to their professional work, research, and/or teaching (to be contacted at the finalist stage).

Application review will begin on January 10, 2027, and will continue until the position is filled.

Emerson College strives to create an institutional culture that is both inspiring and exuberant. Emerson believes in co-creating a learning and working environment where people can find authentic community, engage in authentic growth, and be their authentic selves. As a community of storytellers, Emerson continually strives to cultivate a community that draws upon the widest possible pool of talent, fully embracing individuals from varied backgrounds and experiences. To that end, Emerson aims to retain talent that is prepared to operate effectively in a diverse institutional environment that upholds these values.

Emerson College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex (under Title IX), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, including transgender identity, religion, disability, age, genetics, active military or veteran status and any other characteristics protected under applicable federal, Massachusetts, or California law in the administration of its educational or employment practices, programs or activities.

215-790-1188
info@opuspartners.net
opuspartners.net