



CLARK ATLANTA
UNIVERSITY

Dean of the School of Social Work



Clark Atlanta University (CAU) **invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean** **of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work.**

The Dean of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work (Dean) is responsible for providing visionary leadership, strategic planning, and administrative oversight of the School of Social Work. Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean directs the academic programming, research enterprise, and service mission of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work (School).

The Dean is the chief academic officer of the School, and they work collaboratively with the faculty to develop and manage the curriculum, policies, and accreditation of the Social Work programs. Additionally, the Dean administers the fiscal and budgetary affairs of the School and manages human resources and facilities. They will seek opportunities to bring in additional private and public resources to support the mission of the School and will serve as the primary liaison to the School's stakeholders.

Clark Atlanta University

Clark Atlanta University is the result of the consolidation of two historically significant institutions: Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869). Through 159 years, it has evolved into an impressive comprehensive research university that is urban in location, private in funding, coeducational and residential in character, and United Methodist Church-related in affiliation. It is classified by Carnegie as an R2 Doctoral University with High Research Activity. CAU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

CAU's main campus is situated on 126 acres about 1.5 miles from the heart of metro downtown Atlanta and has 33 separate buildings to house its academic, administrative, and student support services. CAU offers 40 major areas of study through four schools: Arts and Sciences; Business Administration; Education; and Social Work. The most popular undergraduate majors are business, mass media arts, biology, psychology, and criminal justice administration.



In the fall of 2024, the CAU's enrollment was 4,252 total students, 3,618 at the undergraduate and 634 at the graduate level. With 190 full-time faculty, the student to faculty ratio is 16:1. During the 2023-2024 academic year, CAU awarded a total of 595 degrees (430 Bachelor's; 137 Master's; and 28 Doctorates). The graduates of CAU successfully secure employment in the sectors of business, research, higher education, medical and healthcare, media and film, government service, and other areas.

CAU is proud to be the largest institution in the Atlanta University Center Consortium (composed of CAU, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Morehouse School of Medicine). It is also the largest of the institutions among the 37 members which compose the United Negro College Fund institutions. As a private HBCU, it is set apart for its longstanding tradition of offering high quality undergraduate and graduate education to a predominantly Black student body. The first four-year liberal arts school in the country to serve a majority-Black student body was CAU, and it was the first institution in America to award graduate degrees to African Americans.



As a comprehensive university, CAU serves its students with a variety of curricula, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities. CAU participates in NCAA Division II athletics as a member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and fields 11 varsity sports teams, which all compete proudly as the CAU Panthers.

Mission

Building on its social justice history and heritage, through innovative teaching, research, scholarship, and service, Clark Atlanta University (CAU), a historically black university, transforms student lives and equips them for leadership in a global society.

Vision

Clark Atlanta University will have a cultural and transformative impact on future generations through thought-provoking research, innovative academic programs, and services and support.

Core Values

The University's core values are like a compass, a tool that guides the campus community in navigating uncertainty while keeping the big picture in mind. These values serve as the foundational steps the University will take towards achieving its strategic vision:

People: Create a culture of community and belonging that demonstrates/reflects a positive and equitable campus environment for all.

Respect: Honor the dignity and worth of all individuals as we foster a culture of service.

Innovation: Ignite new possibilities in research and advance knowledge that serves humanity.

Diversity: Embrace and support all forms of human differences, ideas, and global perspectives.

Excellence: Commit to high-quality standards and the quest for truth, in all we do.

Leadership

President George T. French Jr.



In 2019, George T. French Jr. became the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University. Prior to his appointment, French served for 14 years as the president of Miles College, making him one of the longest serving university presidents in the nation. A nationally recognized leader and influencer in higher education and educational policy, French has served three secretaries of education under two United States presidents as a congressional appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

President French is a three-term board member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); Chair of the Atlanta University Center (Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College and Morehouse School of Medicine,) Council of Presidents; and chair of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Council of Presidents and member of the Metro Atlanta Chamber Board of Directors. President French also has served as a member of the national diverse council of Regions Bank since 2011. He received his B.A. from the University of Louisville, his J.D. from the Miles Law School, and his Ph.D. from Jackson State University. His awards include Birmingham Spotlight Man of the Year, NAACP Man of the Year, and the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

Under President French's leadership, CAU has exponentially exceeded all fundraising records in the history of the university; maintained stable enrollment in the midst of the global pandemic and developed corporate and community relationships to position the university for unprecedented growth.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Charlene D. Gilbert

Dr. Charlene D. Gilbert serves as the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Clark Atlanta University. As the institution's chief academic officer, Dr. Gilbert is responsible for the academic enterprise across the university. Her direct responsibilities include the University's four schools: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education, and the Whitney M. Young School of Social Work. In addition, her portfolio includes the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Graduate Education, the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development, Online and Continuing Education, and the University Art Museum.



Since joining Clark Atlanta University on June 1st, 2023 Gilbert has focused on several key academic priorities including: Student Success, Faculty Success, Elevating the institution's Academic Reputation, and Operational Excellence. In Fall 2024 CAU increased its 1st year retention rate to 72% and experienced a record high 6-year graduation rate. In 2025 CAU was recognized, once again, by the Carnegie Foundation as a R2 university, making it one of only 13 HBCUs in the nation to receive this designation. The institution has seen a doubling of research grants, launched a new Phd in CyberPhysical Systems in Fall 2024, and has doubled the number of graduate online programs in its academic portfolio.

Prior to joining Clark Atlanta University, Gilbert served as the Senior Vice Provost for Student Academic Excellence at the Ohio State University where her portfolio included: Undergraduate Education, Graduate Education, Academic Programs, the Student Success Research Lab, and Strategic Enrollment Management.

Gilbert is the recipient of several awards and fellowships including the Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship, the Harvard University Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship, the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship award and the American Council on Education Fellowship. She earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University, a Master of Fine Arts degree from Temple University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

School of Social Work

Founded in 1920, the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work (School) is the nation's first accredited school of social work at a historically black college or university (HBCU), and the first to be accredited in the State of Georgia. It is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and has maintained its accreditation since 1952. The School offers the BSW, MSW, and PhD degrees with innovative, enriched curricula that reflect current and future practice needs.

In 2000, the School was named in honor of civil rights activist and social worker Whitney Moore Young, Jr. who served as dean of the School from 1954 to 1961. The School utilizes an Afrocentric, autonomous social work practice model to prepare culturally competent practitioners capable of intervening and working with systems of all sizes and resolving problems that particularly affect African-American children,

families, and males within the context of family and community. The curriculum is built on a liberal arts base and is guided by humanistic values. Graduates are prepared to recognize and impact social and economic injustice issues at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

The curriculum offers a range of social work courses and diverse field education sites, community service opportunities, and collaborative partnerships with Morehouse School of Medicine and CAU's Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development. The BSW program offers a rigorous generalist practice program that prepares Students for entry level social work practice. The MSW program offers an Advance Direct Practice concentration with foci in Child and Family and Health / Mental Health. MSW students are also engaged in rigorous research opportunities via completion of a thesis or conceptual paper. The Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Social Work prepares individuals for careers in teaching, research, social policy analysis, human service management, and organizational development. The program seeks to increase the number of African -American and other underrepresented ethnic minority social work leaders at the doctoral level.

Dean of Social Work

The Dean of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work is responsible for providing leadership and for shaping the vision of the teaching, research, scholarship, and service missions of the School. The Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer for the School. The Dean reports directly to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and is a member of the Council of Deans which works closely with the Provost to formulate University policy. Working with the faculty of the School, the Dean will help shape social work programming to provide an outstanding learning environment for undergraduate and graduate students who seek to prepare for careers in the field of social work.

Position Responsibilities

- Oversees the faculty in their creation, maintenance, and implementation of undergraduate and graduate curriculum in social work, including instruction and field placement.
- Provides strategic planning for positioning the School for continued excellence.
- Supervises the School's program directors (BSW, MSW, Ph.D., and Field Education programs).
- Develops and manages the budget and fiscal affairs of the School, including the efficient use and strategic management of all the School resources.
- Supervises the recruitment and enrollment management of undergraduate and graduate students.
- Hires, supervises, and evaluates the faculty and staff.
- Provides professional development opportunities for faculty, staff, and students.
- Encourages and supports the research and external funding success of the faculty.
- Explores and develops opportunities for faculty members to engage in interdisciplinary projects and research at Clark Atlanta University and at other institutions.
- Evaluates faculty career progress at the appropriate time points and makes promotion and tenure recommendations to the Provost.
- Carries out fund raising activities to solicit external gifts in support of teaching, research, and technology enhancements.
- Supervises and participated in the timely actions necessary to maintain the accreditations of the School.

- Serves as the liaison to the external bodies relating to professional standards and accreditation.
- Develops and oversees marketing efforts to publicize the accomplishments of the faculty, staff, and students of the School.
- Participates in and represents the School in public outreach activities.
- Establishes external partnerships and relationships that advance the teaching, research, and service missions of the School.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- An MSW required and an earned doctorate in a recognized social work or related discipline from an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Evidence of a distinguished teaching, research, and service record that would merit appointment as a tenured Professor of Social Work.
- Prior higher education teaching and administration experience with preference for experience as an associate dean or dean.
- At least five years of administrative experience at a college or university in progressively responsible positions, with at least three years at a level equivalent to department chair, associate dean or higher.
- Proven ability to plan, organize, and successfully execute the operations of an academic unit.
- Evidence of success in fundraising and a desire to secure philanthropic support from private and corporate sources.
- Commitment to student learning and to cultural and ethnic diversity.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including strengths in managing interpersonal relationships.
- Impeccable integrity and a commitment to excellence.



Nominations and Applications

AGB Search is pleased to assist Clark Atlanta University with this leadership search.

To apply for the Dean of Social Work, candidates are requested to submit i) a curriculum vitae or resume; ii) a letter of interest that addresses the qualifications and attributes in the profile; iii) contact information for five references (to be contacted at a later date with the candidate's permission). For best consideration of applications, all materials should be submitted **by April 9, 2025**, to the AGB Search Portal: <http://bit.ly/3QjeNoX>.

Nominations and expressions of interest in the position of Dean of the School of Social Work are encouraged. Please direct them to CAU_DeanSocialWork@agbsearch.com or to the AGB search consultants listed below.

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Clark Atlanta University values diversity and is an AA/EEO/ADA Employer

