

CHANCELLOR OF TRENT UNIVERSITY
Position Profile
Approved by Senate October 14, 2025

Position Overview

The Chancellor is an ex officio member of the Board of Governors and the Senate, presides over convocation ceremonies, and represents the University in an official capacity at external functions from time to time. The role of the Chancellor is to confer all degrees and diplomas at Trent University. The Chancellor advances the University's mission through their role as an ambassador and in introducing the university to others of influence and interest. Each Chancellor brings their special talents and interests to the position, and enters into and enhances the life of the University. The term of office is normally for three years, and is renewable upon the recommendation of Senate Executive and the agreement of Senate and the incumbent.

Candidate Qualifications and Responsibilities

In making a recommendation to Senate for the appointment of Trent's next Chancellor, the Senate Executive Committee, through its Nominating and Governance Subcommittee, is seeking a distinguished individual with a record of demonstrated excellence in their chosen field and in service to the community. The Chancellor will possess the competence and stature that will confer prestige upon the University within the local, provincial, national and international arenas.

As the titular head of the University, the qualifications of the Chancellor will include:

- Championing university education.
- Personal integrity, and a commitment to the values of Trent University;
- Strong and highly positive public presence and profile;
- Highly articulate and well-developed relationship-building skills;
- Evidence of ability to fulfill the requirements of the position – desire and energy; a student-friendly presence or demeanour; and a high level of ease and comfort with ceremony;
- Experience in and eagerness to be active in ceremonial and philanthropic activities related to the university community.

The Chancellor must be a citizen of Canada. It is desirable that they reside within easy commuting distance of the University to allow for participation and presence on campus from time to time.

Relationship to the University

Ideally, the Chancellor will have an established relationship with the University. It is desirable that the Chancellor is a graduate of the University, or has served or been recognized by the university for previous Trent University engagement. The Chancellor will demonstrate a passion for education, and will exemplify and symbolize the University by their conduct and the standards they set.

Ceremonial Activities

The Chancellor will be comfortable with and adept at ceremony and generally familiar with protocol in university and government settings. The Chancellor presides at convocation ceremonies and other special events of the University. In addition, the Chancellor is called upon to attend, to host, or to speak at a number of university and community events throughout the year.

Community Outreach

The Chancellor will be an articulate and effective communicator, comfortable in a wide variety of public and private settings and across a diverse range of audiences.

The Chancellor will have an interest in and support student achievement, and care about academe and research while demonstrating sensitivity for academic issues. The Chancellor will be able to articulate the position of post-secondary education in Ontario and the special role of Trent University in the PSE system. The Chancellor will be knowledgeable about issues that affect Trent in particular, and will share Trent's aspirations.

It is desirable that the Chancellor be in a position to make connections for the University with potential ambassadors, partners and donors.