



RIVERSIDE

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and CFO

Leadership Profile



About the University of California, Riverside



Established in 1954 as a proud member of the world's most prestigious public university system, UC Riverside both embodies and empowers the California Dream. In Inland Southern California, on UCR's nearly 1,200-acre campus, tomorrow's leaders come together today, finding new ways of thinking, doing, and achieving to make a difference in an increasingly multicultural and interconnected global society.

At UCR, belonging, motivation, and sustainable progress for students, the region, and the world is real – and really important. UCR is among the top 1.3% of universities worldwide, according to the Center for World University Rankings,

and has been named the [nation's leader among public universities for social mobility](#) by U.S. News & World Report for five of the past seven years.

Off campus, UCR's more than 27,000 students and 1,200 faculty – among them two Nobel Prize winners and 15 members of the National Academies of Science and Medicine – have access to the region's diverse geography, from the desert to the coast, as well as Riverside's vibrant cultural and recreational activities. UCR maintains close connections to the local community and is one of the largest employers in the [City of Riverside](#) and the only R1 university in the area.

A proud member of the [Association of American Universities](#), UCR offers more than 150 undergraduate and graduate programs. Students can engage with more than 500 student organizations, participate in extensive research and cultural opportunities, and take part in campus traditions that showcase Highlander pride. Together, these opportunities foster leadership, personal growth, and community engagement, ensuring that every Highlander is prepared to thrive academically and contribute meaningfully to society, both locally and globally.

In fall 2025, UCR enrolled 24,034 undergraduates and 3,599 graduate students. Among students seeking undergraduate degrees, 41.5% were Hispanic or Latino, 33.8% were Asian, 11% were White, 3.3% were Black, and 5.6% identified as multi-racial. 47.7% of students are Pell Grant recipients, more than nearly every other university in the country. 49.1% of UCR undergraduates identify as first-generation college students.

The university's strategic plan, [UCR 2030](#), outlines three key strategic goals for the campus:

- Build financial stability, resilience, and sustainability
- Invest in the success of the people who teach, do research, work, live, and learn at UCR
- Expand the visibility and scope of influence of UCR locally, nationally and globally

To learn more about UC Riverside, visit <https://www.ucr.edu>

About the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and CFO Position

The [University of California, Riverside](#) (UCR) welcomes applications and nominations for the position of Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer (VC-CFO).

UCR is a distinctive member of the University of California system that delivers top-tier research and academic excellence while remaining deeply committed to access, social mobility, and student success for one of the most diverse student populations in the nation. The VC-CFO will join UCR at a pivotal moment. The campus is financially disciplined, growing and ambitious, yet operating in an increasingly constrained fiscal environment that demands clarity, agility, and thoughtful change. With a new chancellor, an evolving budget model, major capital and health initiatives underway, and enterprise systems still maturing, this is a rare opportunity for a strategic, action-oriented CFO to serve as a key institutional leader, shaping UCR's approach to resource allocation, strengthening organizational trust, and positioning the university for sustained success over the next decade.

Position Summary

The Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer (VC-CFO) for the [Finance & Administration](#) is responsible for providing leadership and direction for all aspects of UC Riverside's financial, capital planning, and administrative operations in support of the campus's strategic goals and overarching mission of research, teaching, and service. The VC-CFO has responsibility for advising the [Chancellor](#) and the [Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor](#) on all financial and resource planning matters for the campus's annual operating budget (approximately \$1.7 billion) and complex capital planning budget (which includes a range of publicly and privately-funded projects).

The VC-CFO further supports the campus's strategic goals by providing objective, accurate, and timely analysis and advice on resource allocation. The division also determines priorities, identifies opportunities for greater efficiency and innovation, and assures day-to-day management of physical and financial resources; long-term development and sustainability of campus-wide physical and natural resources; development and implementation of the physical master plan and long-range development plan (LRDP); management and operations of all campus facilities; and campus safety infrastructure.

The VC-CFO partners with the leadership of UC Riverside's health enterprise – the Vice Chancellor for Health & Dean of the School of Medicine and the CEO of the clinical organization, UC Riverside Health – to ensure the ongoing growth of medical education, patient care, and biomedical research. Over the next 5-10 years, UC Riverside Health is on course to build a 175,000-square-foot ambulatory center and to build or acquire its own hospital to advance patient care in the Inland Empire and to accelerate physician education and training.

In addition to the Chancellor and Provost, the VC-CFO represents the campus with the [Office of the President](#) (UCOP), [Board of Regents](#), and all external agencies on financial resource, and operational matters.

The VC-CFO leads a diverse workforce of approximately 1026 staff employees, including managerial, professional, administrative, service, and technical staff, and oversees a divisional operating budget of over \$570 million. The VC-CFO's direct reports are responsible for the major campus units described below:

- **Administrative Services & Strategic Executive Team (ASSET):** provides human resources, finance, administration, shared payroll services and UCPath campus support and policy compliance across multiple organizational structures, including PB&A, chancellor, provost and health, wellbeing and safety, enrollment services, international affairs, and undergraduate education
- **Auxiliary Services:** housing services, dining & hospitality, center for early childhood education, transportation services and fleet, finance and business operations, facilities, R'Card office, bookstore, and campus business support services, including printing and reprographics, mail/shipping/receiving, sale of excess property, and storehouse
- **Business and Financial Services:** financial control and accountability, payroll services, accounting services, and student business services, including the main cashier's office, as well as procurement services, accounts payable and business contracts
- **Environmental Health and Risk Management:** biosafety, business continuity, controlled substances, environmental health and programs, fire life safety, hazardous materials, occupational health, disability and workers compensation management, and risk management, training, and waste management
- **Facilities Services:** maintenance and operations of facilities and landscape, totaling over 6 million square feet across 1,350 acres of campus, and including municipal utilities such as water, electricity, chilled water, steam, solid waste, and recycling
- **Financial Planning and Analysis:** budget planning and processes, campus financial models, financial management, capital finance and financial feasibility, fund management, and strategic reporting and training
- **Planning, Design and Construction:** campus planning, physical planning, environmental planning, project management, building and safety, contracts administration, sustainability
- **Real Estate Services:** leasing and licensing administration, public-private partnership ventures, acquisition and disposition of property, leasing analytics, faculty housing program, and mortgage origination program
- **Vice Chancellor's Immediate Office:** administrative support, budget and financial management, and strategic project management

Opportunities and Priorities

This is an opportunity for an experienced, mission-driven financial leader to partner closely with the Chancellor, Provost, deans, faculty, and staff at a pivotal moment for UC Riverside. The next VC-CFO will join a campus that is financially disciplined, deeply committed to access and excellence, and ready to evolve its budget model, systems, and business processes to support continued growth and impact.

Strategic Partnership and Trust

- Serve as a trusted, informed partner to campus leadership, bringing clarity, sound judgment, and openness to complex financial discussions
- Build confidence and shared understanding by communicating financial realities clearly and engaging constructively when perspectives differ
- Work in partnership and consultation with the UCR Senate Committee on Planning and Budget and other Senate committees and faculty groups to ensure that priorities and principles of the entire campus community are considered in decision making, in the spirit of shared governance. Strengthen campus-wide understanding of how budgets work, how decisions are made, and how resources align with institutional priorities



Financial Stewardship in a Constrained Environment

- Lead UCR through a period of tightening margins while preserving its legacy of fiscal discipline and balanced budgets and maintaining and expanding its teaching, research, and service mission
- Help the campus anticipate emerging pressures and make thoughtful, forward-looking investment and reallocation decisions
- Balance prudence with strategic investment, avoiding short-term fixes that undermine long-term sustainability

Evolving the Budget Model and Financial Tools

- Guide the review and refinement of the campus budget model to better support strategic priorities, risk management, and growth
- Translate complex financial information into accessible insights that connect enrollment, revenue, academic capacity, and mission outcomes
- Expand forecasting, analytics, and scenario planning to inform decisions over the next 5–10 years



Navigating the UC System and Advocating for UCR

- Represent and advocate for UC Riverside within the broader UC system, including UCOP and peer campuses
- Bring familiarity with UC policies, shared governance, and culture, or the ability to develop it quickly, while helping the campus simplify processes where possible

Operational Excellence and Change Leadership

- Improve the efficiency, speed, and consistency of core business processes such as purchasing, facilities, and planning
- Lead ongoing optimization of enterprise financial systems, including Oracle, with a focus on usability, data quality, and adoption
- Support and advocate for staff working in resource-constrained environments, emphasizing effectiveness rather than workforce reduction

Capital, Facilities, and Compliance

- Provide strategic oversight of deferred maintenance, capital planning, and major initiatives, including UCR Health expansion and development projects
- Ensure strong compliance, audit readiness, and attention to environmental health and safety responsibilities

Partnering with [UCR Health](#)

- As UCR's health enterprise continues to grow, provide guidance and counsel to Health leadership that will inform sustainable financing of the expansion
- Support the work of the Executive Director of Finance in UCR Health,

who reports to its CEO with a dotted line to the VC-CFO, on the management of Health-related financial operations; the leaders work in concert to ensure the overall financial strength of UCR Health and effective stewardship of its resources in the context of the University's long-term fiscal strategy

- Provide high-level strategic guidance to the Chancellor on the overall integrity of UCR's finances in the context of the rapid growth expected in the Health mission

Mission-Centered Resource Allocation

- Approach enrollment, tuition discounting, and financial aid as mission-critical levers that support access, affordability, and student success
- Provide support for UCR's expanding research mission, ensuring its continued status as an R1 institution and member of the AAU
- Work with external stakeholders and partners to support UCR's mission to bring generated knowledge to the community, state, and country
- Engage thoughtfully with the evolving athletics landscape, recognizing its financial complexity and strategic importance

Leadership Presence and Engagement

- Engage thoughtfully with the evolving athletics landscape, recognizing its financial complexity and strategic importance
- Serve as an approachable ambassador for finance and administration, engaging faculty, staff, and students through dialogue and transparency

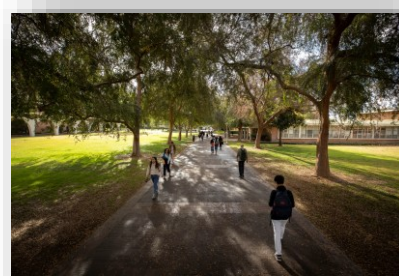
Competencies and Qualifications

Required

- At least 10 years of senior level leadership experience with responsibility for finance, resource planning, and administrative operations in complex organizations
- An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Demonstrated ability to serve as a strategic thought partner and informed advisor to executive leadership
- Proven experience translating complex financial information into clear guidance for diverse audiences.
- Experience interacting with, reporting to, and stewarding relationships with governance boards
- Strong change management skills, with a record of improving efficiency, systems and business processes
- Excellent interpersonal skills and effective written and oral communication skills; ability to communicate and enhance relationships with constituents across all levels of the organization as well as with internal and external stakeholders
- Proven ability to diagnose critical areas for attention and translate strategies into action

Preferred

- An advanced degree in business, public management, finance, or related field
- Familiarity with a large, decentralized public higher education system
- Familiarity with an academic medical center or health system
- Experience working with unionized staff
- Experience implementing or leading major financial systems or enterprise transformations
- Demonstrated results orientation and bias for action
- Experience in the planning, delivery, maintenance and operations of facilities, infrastructure and grounds; experience with complex issues surrounding public safety



Nomination and Application Process

The University of California, Riverside has retained [Opus Partners](#) to support this recruitment. [Craig Smith](#), Partner, [Kenna Boyd](#), Partner, and [Thomas Lapierre](#), Senior Associate, are leading the search. Confidential inquiries and nominations should be submitted by email to Thomas at thomas.lapierre@opuspartners.net.

To be considered by the University's search committee, candidates must provide a resume and a letter of introduction that addresses the specific responsibilities, expectations, and qualifications described above. Please consult Opus Partners for more information about the application process. The initial posting period will close on March 1, 2026, though the position is open until filled.

Salary offers are based on a variety of considerations, such as education, licensure and certifications, experience, and other business and organizational needs. The anticipated hiring salary is between \$300,000 – \$475,000 annually.

The University of California, Riverside is an equal employment opportunity employer and complies with all equal employment laws and regulations enforced by the [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) and the [California Civil Rights Department](#). Equal employment laws apply to all aspects of employment, including hiring, termination, promotions and terms and conditions of employment.

For the University of California's Affirmative Action Policy please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4010393/PPSM-20>

For the University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy, please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/1001004/Anti-Discrimination>

