

Position Brief for

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

For the position of Dean, The David B. O'Maley
College of Business

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About Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is where passion for flight meets the pursuit of excellence. It's no mystery why the university is globally recognized as the premier institution for aviation and aerospace education.

Embry-Riddle consistently ranks in the top five for aerospace engineering programs and has been named the nation's top provider of online bachelor's programs and the best college for veterans by U.S. News & World Report. With campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida, Prescott, Arizona, and a robust Worldwide Campus, Embry-Riddle serves approximately 31,000 students and educates more aspiring aerospace engineers than any other U.S. university.

The University's story takes off on December 17, 1925—exactly 22 years after the Wright brothers' first flight—when T. Higbee Embry and John Paul Riddle launched the Embry-Riddle Company at Lunken Airport in Cincinnati, Ohio. By the following spring, they opened the Embry-Riddle Flying School and later relocated to Miami, Florida, training the aviators of a new era.



A pivotal moment came in 1965, when President Jack R. Hunt moved the campus to Daytona Beach, Florida. Just five years later, we achieved university status and became Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University—a name now synonymous with innovation and excellence.

A leader in innovation and industry impact, Embry-Riddle received the 2025 Richard Crane Award from the Flight Safety Foundation for its decades-long leadership in aviation safety and advancement of industry standards. The university's Boeing Center for Aviation and Aerospace Safety was honored at the 2025 Aviation Week Laureate Awards for its pioneering research and global influence. Student flight teams repeatedly capture national championships, and Embry-Riddle's Air Force ROTC detachments are the largest university-based Air Force commissioning source in the nation after the Air Force Academy.

Media coverage frequently spotlights Embry-Riddle's faculty and students, from innovative research on turbulence and drone analytics to the debut of student-produced aerospace documentaries. News outlets, industry publications, and sector leaders regularly turn to the university's experts for insights, further cementing its reputation as an industry thought leader.

A legacy of notable alumni also sets Embry-Riddle apart. Graduates include Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. (Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force), Jared Isaacman (SpaceX astronaut and entrepreneur), astronauts Daniel Burbank, Benjamin Alvin Drew, Nicole Stott, and Terry Virts, as well as pioneering pilots like Capt. Patrice Washington (first Black woman captain for a major U.S. airline), adventurous aviators, innovators, federal leaders, accomplished skydiver Cheryl Stearns, and business trailblazers throughout the aerospace, defense, and technology sectors.



Embry-Riddle's tradition of awards and honors is matched by its supportive, hands-on learning culture and a vast, global alumni network. This dynamic, forward-looking community continues to set the pace for the future of flight, space, and beyond—empowering students to become leaders in a rapidly changing industry.

THE DAVID B. O'MALEY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The David B. O'Maley College of Business, situated on the Daytona Beach campus, provides a world-class business education with state-of-the-art graduate and undergraduate curricula. We pride ourselves on our deep relationships with and understanding of the aviation, aerospace, and space industries. While we offer degree programs specific to these industries, we ensure our students gain a solid business education that applies to all industries, including entrepreneurship.

The College serves approximately 400 undergraduate and graduate (master's and Ph.D.) students and has approximately 40 (full- and part-time) faculty and is organized into two departments: the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and Information Sciences and the Department of Management, Marketing and Operations. The College offers two undergraduate degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with three majors (Accounting & Finance, Management and Marketing) and Bachelor of Science in Aviation Business Administration with two majors (Air Transportation and Supply Chain Management in Aviation and Aerospace). It also offers a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration in Aviation Management, a Master of Science in Aviation Finance and a Ph.D. in Aviation Business Administration.

The College houses the Center for Entrepreneurship that provides opportunities for business students to work with start-up companies housed in the Micaplex research park, and opportunities for students to develop their own new product ideas. In addition, the Center has created an entrepreneur/executive in residence program to further mentor business students interested in entrepreneurship. The College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The B.S. in Aviation Business Administration (Daytona Beach) is also accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI), a nonprofit organization that sets standards for AABI-accredited aerospace programs taught in colleges and universities in the United States and around the world.



The Position & Opportunity

Reporting to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Dean is the school's academic and administrative leader, and will have responsibility for providing direction in instruction, research, in building successful collaborative relationships with external constituents and within the College and the University. He or she is expected to take the lead in shaping the future of the College, articulating a vision that defines its standard of excellence, and sustaining and enhancing the outstanding reputation of the O'Maley College of Business.

This is an outstanding opportunity to shape the minds of and ensure the career readiness of the next generations of business thinkers in the aviation, aerospace, and adjacent industries so that they have immediate and long-lasting impact.



Along with the University President, Dr. P. Barry Butler, the support of Mr. O'Maley for whom the College has been named, and with the support of ERAU's Board of Trustees, there is a renewed University focus, energy and commitment to ERAU's business programs, as can be seen in the current strategic plan. As a result, the new Dean will play a critical role in enhancing the importance and stature of the O'Maley College of Business within the ERAU community, and with ERAU's many stakeholders.

The new Dean is responsible for all aspects of academic life within the College, including budgets, teaching, research and personnel matters involving faculty, staff and students. The successful candidate will possess outstanding leadership skills coupled with the ability to serve as an articulate and zealous advocate for the College within the higher education community, locally, nationally and internationally. The Dean will promote excellence in the teaching, research, scholarship and service activities of the College. The Dean will also play the central role in fundraising for the College, developing external and internal relations across the ERAU community and beyond, and building partnerships with the Prescott and Worldwide business programs.



The Candidate

The successful Dean of the O'Maley College of Business will be a known quantity in exceptional business leadership. A visionary thought leader and results-driven leader with the proven ability to navigate the rapidly changing landscape of business education. They will bring a rare combination of inspirational enthusiasm, a results driven approach to building future business leaders, and a real-world understanding of what is needed to build students into enterprising and effective businesspeople.

All candidates from the academic career path should have a terminal degree relevant to their discipline, while those individuals with career achievements from outside the academy should have held a significant leadership role within their industry or organization(s), have meaningful interactions with higher education, and have a relevant master's degree.

COMPETENCIES & AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- The Dean is responsible for all aspects of academic life within the College, including budgets, teaching, research and personnel matters involving faculty, staff and students
- The successful candidate will possess outstanding leadership skills coupled with the ability to serve as an articulate and zealous advocate for the College within the higher education community, locally, nationally and internationally
- Strong partnerships with business, industry, and public sector leaders as well as integration of experiential learning, internships, and corporate advisory boards
- The Dean will promote excellence in the teaching, research, scholarship and service activities of the College
- The Dean will also play the central role in fundraising for the College, developing external and internal relations across the ERAU community and beyond, and building partnerships with the Prescott and Worldwide business programs.

Key skills, qualities, and attributes include:

- **Strategic Leadership & Vision** – Demonstrated ability to change mindsets and grow the effectiveness of an organization.
- **Business Community Credibility** – Respected business leadership expertise.
- **Career Readiness Mindset** – Experience recognizing what expertise and talent is needed in a wide variety of business settings and functions.
- **People Leadership** – Proven experience inspiring high-performing, multidisciplinary teams, promoting faculty development, and fostering an inclusive, collaborative, and achievement-oriented culture.



- **External Engagement** – Ability to cultivate partnerships with industry leaders, government agencies, alumni, and donors; skilled in serving as a compelling public spokesperson for the college.
- **Student-Centered Approach** – Deep commitment to student success, engagement, and real-world readiness.
- **Interpersonal & Communication Excellence** – Exceptional public speaking, storytelling, and persuasive communication skills that can energize and align diverse stakeholders.
- **Ethics & Integrity** – Highly principled leader who values transparency, accountability, and shared governance.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have unrestricted authorization to work in the United States



How to Express Interest

LOCATION & REMUNERATION

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is headquartered in Daytona Beach, Florida. A competitive, attractive compensation and benefits package will be offered to the selected candidate.

We appreciate all expressions of interest, referrals, or nominations for this role. A comprehensive CV along with a cover letter which sets out your motivation to take on such a role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria would be appreciated.

PLEASE SUBMIT TO: erau.dbbusinessdean@odgers.com

Or, to arrange for a conversation in confidence, please contact:

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About Odgers

Odgers was founded in 1965. We offer integrated executive search and leadership advisory services through our 59 offices in 33 countries. During our 60-year history we have developed functional and sector expertise and built a global network of relationships. We are deeply rooted in our local markets, which we combine with global perspective and reach, enabling us to serve clients across six continents.

What we do matters; our work impacts peoples' lives and drives our clients' success. It is a privilege to help build the world's best leadership teams, a trusted role we never take for granted.

This ethos underpins our commitment to our clients and candidates and motivates our colleagues to strive for excellence in all we do.



