



Presidential Prospectus

Named after Alfred Adler, Adler University educates students to engage the world and create a more just society. Established in 1952, it enrolls more than 1,800 master's and doctoral students in programs for social change through its urban campuses in Chicago and Vancouver, and online.

Alfred Adler was one of the first practitioners to use public education to address community health and was among the first to write about the social determinants of health and mental health. Although his philosophy was developed more than a century ago, his teachings animate the Adler University community. His concepts rooted in social interest, social justice, equality, and health promotion guide Adler University's commitment to social change — from the curriculum, practica, internships, programming, and experiential offerings for students, faculty, and alums — to its hundreds of partnerships with local communities.

Students are prepared to work with a variety of communities in a multitude of settings. In fact, according to alums surveyed, 96% of respondents reported they work with underserved communities.



MISSION

Adler University continues the pioneering work of Alfred Adler by graduating socially responsible practitioners, engaging communities, and advancing social justice.

VISION

Be the leading academic institution advancing socially responsible practice, healthy communities, and a more just society

VALUES



SOCIAL INTEREST



EQUITY



COURAGE



EXCELLENCE



PRAGMATISM



56%

Enrollment growth
since '15

1,836

students this spring.

82%

2020-21 graduation rate.

84%

of alum survey
respondents who report
being employed within
a year of graduation.

91%

Of alum survey
respondents who report
being satisfied or highly
satisfied with their
educational experience.

HISTORY & NAMESAKE

Named for Alfred Adler, the University was founded in 1952 as the Institute of Adlerian Psychology by Rudolf Dreikurs, one of Adler's advocates and followers. In 1954, the name was changed to the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago, which later became the Adler School of Professional Psychology in 1991. Early instructors of the Institute were Bernard Shulman, Harold Mosak, Bina Rosenberg, and Robert Powers.

In 2015, the institution became Adler University – a final and enduring name.

Alfred Adler was an Austrian physician, psychotherapist, and the founder of Adlerian psychology. He founded the school of thought known as individual psychology and pioneered the concept of *gemeinschaftsgefühl*. His work focused really on systemic and structural community intervention, prevention, and population health.

Perhaps Adler's most influential concept — and the one that drives Adler University today — is that of social interest. Not to be confused as another form of extraversion, social interest should be viewed as an individual's personal interest in furthering the welfare of others. Collaborating and cooperating as individuals and communities can progress to benefit society as a whole.

Today, over 600 faculty and staff continue the pioneering work of Alfred Adler by preparing practitioners to address the world's alarming health inequities and social injustices.

gemeinschaftsgefühl

Ge·mein·schafts·ge·fühl

Sense of community.



PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Adler's curricula embodies its values and mission to produce socially responsible practitioners or contemporary Adlerian practitioners specifically prepared to be social change agents in the pursuit of justice. Adler directly engages communities in the preparation of socially responsible practitioners through structures such as the Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice, Center for Civic Learning and Community Action, and Adler Community Health Services.

Adler's Psy.D. program in Vancouver is Western Canada's first — and because it is a scholar-practitioner program, it is the first true Psy.D. in the country.

1,776

Community partners

550,000+

Hours of direct service
students provided to
nearly 23,400 people.

CHICAGO

Master's

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.A.)
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling Online (M.A.)
- Counseling: Art Therapy (M.A.)
- Couple and Family Therapy (M.A.)
- Forensic Mental Health Leadership (M.A.)
- Public Policy and Administration (Master of)
- Sport & Human Performance (M.S.)

Doctorate

- Art Therapy (Ph.D.)
- Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.)
- Counselor Education and Supervision (Ph.D.)
- Couple and Family Therapy (Ph.D.)

Certificates

- Certificate in Sex Therapy

VANCOUVER

Master's

- Applied Psychology (Master of)
- Counselling Psychology (M.A.)
- Counselling Psychology (Master of)
- Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy (Master of)
- Counselling Psychology: School and Youth Concentration (M.A.)
- Counselling Psychology: School and Youth Concentration (Master of)
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology (M.A.)
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology (Master of)
- Public Policy and Administration (Master of)

Doctorate

- Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.)

ONLINE

Master's

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling Online (M.A.)
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology (M.A.)
- M.A. in Psychology (M.A.)
- Military Psychology (M.A.)
- Organizational Leadership (M.A.)

Doctorate

- Industrial and Organizational Psychology (Ph.D.)
- Organizational Leadership (Ph.D.)

Certificates

- Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling





CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES

Adler's ground campuses have been designed with students in mind — and are located in the heart of their city — while the Online Campus enables students to learn wherever they are.

CHICAGO

Located in downtown Chicago, the campus houses the University's leadership and aspects of the Online Campus. It boasts LEED Gold certification for environmental innovation and provides students with classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art smart technology, a library with dedicated space for instructional support, collaborative workspaces, and many other features supporting wellness and a collaborative learning environment.

VANCOUVER

Adler designed a world-class urban-loft campus to match the Chicago facility, which was then occupied in 2017.

The state-of-the-art facility in downtown Vancouver is LEED Gold certified and comprised of 30,500 square feet on five contiguous floors of the building. The campus is highly functional, supports the culture of the University, and maintains the identity of the community within. It has considerable open space for collaboration and movement that creates a positive student experience and connections among students, faculty, and staff while supporting the technological requirements of future generations.

ONLINE

Bringing together Adler's fully online degree programs under one virtual campus, the Online Campus enables students to earn advanced degrees wherever they live. Online classes are limited in size to ensure students receive focused faculty attention, mentoring, and academic support.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

This year, the University launched the quiet phase of its second comprehensive capital campaign, with the goal of raising \$15 million in support of scholarships, programs, centers and institutes, and transforming the University's curriculum.

One of the first initiatives for the campaign was hosting Adler's inaugural Giving Day on May 10-11. The University raised \$119,000 to invest in the next generation of socially responsible practitioners who will serve as the changemakers of tomorrow.

The first-ever capital campaign, the Adler Campaign for Social Justice, launched in 2014 and aimed to raise \$10 million for student scholarships, faculty and community initiatives, and capital needs for the three campuses. In 2020 it closed with \$10.7 million raised.

Through fundraising and financial planning, Adler has increased scholarships several-fold — from \$938,066 in 2015 to \$6.3 million in 2021 and \$6.7 million in 2022.

\$6.7M

Scholarships that make Adler programs accessible to socio-economically diverse students.





STRATEGIC PLAN

The environment for graduate education in 2023 is different and will require new approaches, while the University stays the course for social justice – all of which is encompassed in Adler’s new strategic plan, Building Community for Social Justice.

The plan for 2023-2026 charts a clear and dynamic direction and responds to global social and economic conditions while achieving congruent responses to emerging needs within the institution and fostering a healthy place to learn and work.

An environmental scan and stakeholder input led to the identification of four strategies for 2023-2026, which serve as statements of intent to further the University’s mission in the current planning period. Each strategy serves as a category for which draft goals are developed for each year of the three-year plan. The Board will be asked, on an annual basis, to approve goals.

STRATEGY ONE

Lead advancement of SOCIAL JUSTICE through Adlerian practice

Supports the University’s vision to be “the leading academic institution advancing socially responsible practice, healthy communities, and a more just society.”

Goals include developing a community-wide shared understanding of what social justice means for our shared governance and organization, developing a response to the ongoing mental health crisis in the wake of the pandemic, and establishing a consortium of universities to promote our leadership in social justice.

STRATEGY TWO

Promote and foster EQUITY AND BELONGING at the University

Focuses on creating a culture of equity and belonging. Central to this strategy is that this work is an active and ongoing journey – mistakes are inevitable, accountability is essential, and growth and progress are required to achieve systemic equity for all people.

Goals include enlisting stakeholders in creating an Anti-Racism, Indigenization, and Inclusion Plan for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 and completing the first major curricular and pedagogy revision for the ongoing Transforming the Curriculum Initiative.

STRATEGY THREE

Inspire and achieve EXCELLENCE in the University as a place to learn and work

For 70 years, the institution has paired innovation and commitment to excellence. This strategy ensures that the University will reach its vision of being “the leading academic institution” advancing social responsibility and its concomitants.

Goals include launching a revised Social Justice Practicum, aligning employee performance and departmental/office plans and outcomes with this plan, and continuing to develop annual points of excellence plans in 10 domains.

STRATEGY FOUR

Ensure SUSTAINABILITY of the University and its mission

The University grew considerably across the course of the prior strategic plan, and enrollments and revenues doubled across the past decade. The existing and new activity of the University must be carefully evaluated for financial performance.

Goals include creating a strategic enrollment plan, launching our Adler/ Fulbright Executive Leadership Institute, expanding our baccalaureate program, and celebrating Chicago’s 75th anniversary and Vancouver’s 50th.



THE ROLE

The president of Adler University, reporting to the Board of Trustees, will build upon its legacy and simultaneously lead its talented senior leadership team and engaged international campus community into the next material phase of its higher education evolution. With both online and in-person campuses, Adler University is poised to create a global model for the future of graduate studies with a commitment to social justice. Its unique emphasis on health and mental health service professionals distinguishes it amongst its peer group. Fostering strong relationships with faculty, staff, students, and alumni, the president will also collaborate with a multitude of partners, especially in the communities surrounding the Chicago and Vancouver campuses. Serving as the University’s chief fundraiser and internal/external spokesperson, the president leads the management of all aspects of the University with the following direct reports as part of the leadership team:

Vice President,
Academic Affairs

Vice President,
Enrollment and Communications

Executive Director,
Institute of Public Safety
and Social Justice

Vice President,
Advancement

Vice President,
Finance and Operations

University Counsel

Vice President,
Diversity and Inclusion

Vice President,
People and Culture

Chief of Staff

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT

The next president will build on Adler's strengths while playing a leading role in developing consensus and finding areas of common ground and growth. In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of running of the University, Adler's president will have the opportunity to focus on the following priorities:

Provide visionary and executive leadership

- Lead the implementation of a strategic plan ensuring a focus on Adler's social justice-based mission;
- Shape enrollment and retention strategies during a time of demographic shifts;
- Explore creative avenues of revenue generation;
- Foster cohesion across Adler's three campuses – Chicago, Vancouver, and Online;
- Bolster Adler's long-term financial sustainability; and
- Foster an inclusive learning community focused on academic rigor, belonging, and holistic student support.

Build organizational capacity and longevity

- Cultivate a positive working environment to attract, develop, and retain talented faculty and staff;
- Enhance organizational sustainability by aligning financial resources, recruiting strategies, and retention planning efforts;
- Support the growing diversity and sense of belonging of the Adler community across borders and campuses;
- Enhance operational infrastructure and adjust expenditures to address the shifting higher education and socioeconomic landscapes; and
- Manifest a commitment to enhance Adler's culture of shared governance.

Increase visibility and resources

- Articulate an inspiring vision and Adler's comparative advantages to a wider audience, amplifying its recognition nationally and internationally;
- Create avenues for supporting the affordability and accessibility of an Adler education;
- Build relationships with alumni, foundations, and other grant-making entities and lead ambitious fundraising efforts to support the University's mission; and
- Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships at the local, regional, and national levels to support its two in-person campuses and online campus.

QUALIFICATIONS

Because the president must embody the values of Adler University and a commitment to its academic excellence, candidates are expected to demonstrate strong academic credentials, including either a terminal degree and faculty experience or other evidence of a deep understanding and appreciation for the professional work of higher education. Highly qualified candidates for the Adler presidency would demonstrate most of the following:

- Strategic and inspiring leadership within complex organizations;
- Persuasiveness in articulating the value of a social justice-oriented graduate degree;
- Nuanced understanding of admissions, enrollment, and retention issues;
- Experience in graduate higher education with a focus on mental health, health, and allied professionals preferred;
- Consultative, collaborative, innovative, and confident style of decision making;
- Fundraising track record or the personality traits that suggest strong potential for success in this area;
- Superb communication skills, especially with regard to public speaking and writing;
- Appreciation of Adlerian psychology and values;
- A global mindset, with an appreciation for the opportunities of operating across two countries and serving an international student community;
- A reputation for being accessible and approachable to the student body, faculty, staff, and community;
- Managerial acumen, including financial, entrepreneurial, and budgeting skills;
- A record of success and demonstrated commitment to diversity, inclusion, and belonging;
- Strong moral compass and impeccable integrity built on authenticity and transparency; and
- High emotional intelligence, including humility, empathy, and the ability to connect with different stakeholders.





CONTACT

All inquiries, expressions of interest, and nominations should be sent to:

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Adler University offers equal employment opportunities to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, parental status, housing status, genetic information, arrest or criminal record, source of income, or military status, in accordance with applicable federal, provincial, state, and law equal employment opportunity laws.