

# SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN, SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	5
THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY	8
ABOUT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY	11
APPLICATION PROCESS	15





Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) seeks a dynamic, visionary, and ethical leader to serve as the next dean of the School of Dental Medicine. This exceptional leader and innovator will have the opportunity to shape the future of one of the nation's top dental schools. This individual will carry on the school's legacy of excellence in education, research, and clinical practice while fostering the next generation of transformative healthcare leaders, educators, and researchers.

Importantly, the dean will support the advancement of CWRU President Eric W. Kaler's three institutional priorities: to elevate academic excellence, expand the research enterprise, and enhance community engagement and impact.





The Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, established in 1892, stands as a leader in dental education, research, and patient care. Located within the cutting-edge Health Education Campus (HEC) in Cleveland, Ohio, the school offers a collaborative learning environment alongside students from medicine, nursing, social work and physician assistant programs. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a holistic understanding of healthcare, preparing students for team-based practice in diverse clinical settings. The school is also in an exceptionally strong position financially and will benefit from a creative and entrepreneurial leader.

The Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program at Case Western Reserve University integrates rigorous biomedical sciences with comprehensive clinical training. Students benefit from advanced simulation technologies, including the recently upgraded Simulation Clinic equipped with the latest dental simulation equipment, enhancing hands-on experiences for students in operative dentistry, prosthodontics, endodontics, digital dentistry, and implant dentistry. The curriculum emphasizes ethical practice, critical thinking, and community engagement, ensuring graduates are well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of the dental profession—now and in the future.

Research is a cornerstone of the school's mission, with faculty actively engaged in studies addressing oral health disparities, oral manifestations of systemic diseases, and innovative treatment methodologies. The school has secured significant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including high levels of recent funding. Such initiatives underscore the school's commitment to advancing dental science and improving patient outcomes through evidence-based research.

The new leader of the School of Dental Medicine will join CWRU and guide the school amid rapid advancement and acceleration in technology, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and inspiring a culture of inclusion, innovation, and excellence. Building on its history of producing transformational dental leaders, the dean will elevate the school's national profile, attract top-tier talent, and secure resources for growth through philanthropy and external funding.

This dean will advance research impact, build upon record-breaking fundraising efforts, oversee a strong clinical enterprise, expand and improve facilities, cultivate a culture of belonging, and champion the school's mission of preparing nimble, collaborative and empowered healthcare leaders. With strategic foresight, the next dean will ensure the School of Dental Medicine remains a beacon of leadership, innovation, and community impact.





## THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

The dean of the School of Dental Medicine serves as the academic, executive, and fiscal leader of the school, reporting directly to the provost and executive vice president. The dean provides leadership, vision, and strategic oversight for the school's academic programs, research enterprise, clinical impact, and service initiatives addressing significant issues in dental health and healthcare.

The dean manages the school's \$48 million budget with substantial reserves for new initiatives, and ensures excellence in faculty, staff, and student recruitment, retention, and achievement; research productivity and scholarship; and program review and accreditation. Additionally, the dean fosters productive relationships with alumni, donors, and the broader community, contributing to philanthropy efforts, which have totaled \$3–\$10 million over each of the last five years. The role also includes facilitating the growth of externally-funded research to support the university's overall goal of increasing annual research expenditures in the coming years.

Direct reports to the dean include: a vice dean, associate dean for academic affairs, associate dean for clinical affairs, associate dean for student affairs and admissions, associate dean of graduate studies, associate dean for clinical and translational research, assistant dean of finance and operations, assistant dean of research administration, and nine department chairs. The dean is also responsible for strategic budgetary planning, fiscal management, enrollment and marketing planning, and fostering university and community relations.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of leading the school, the next dean is expected to focus on the following priorities:

#### Strategic Leadership

- Champion a bold and forward-thinking vision that inspires innovation and excellence across the school.
- Cultivate a collaborative, collegial leadership style that values shared governance and inclusive decision-making.
- Engage in long-range planning for the school in collaboration with faculty and campus leadership.
- Promote professional development related to academic leadership, classroom and clinical instruction, simulation, instructional technology, and faculty and staff development.
- Foster a faculty and student culture of belonging for all.
- Strengthen cross-disciplinary engagement with other academic units in alignment with Case Western Reserve University's commitment to collaborative scholarship.
- Build a strong, innovative, and sustainable clinical enterprise based on clinical and research excellence and clinical best practices.



# THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE (CONT.)

## Academic Excellence and Growth

- Ensure the school maintains full accreditation status through adherence to Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards.
  - Explore and cultivate new opportunities to advance the school within the university and beyond, strengthening relationships with other schools and colleges.
  - Recruit creative and productive early- and mid-career scientists who can thrive in the school.
  - Advance the school's research mission through increased external funding and foundation support.
  - Guarantee that graduates are fully prepared for state licensure and specialty certification through rigorous training and assessment.
  - Support capital improvements and the modernization of facilities to meet future needs.
  - Build revenue through new programs and strategic alignment of budget priorities and build on record-breaking fundraising attainment.
  - Empower students to pursue academic and clinical interests, fostering an active learning culture.
  - Advocate for the relevance and breadth of dentistry as a profession and academic discipline.
  - Uphold university policies and advance strategic initiatives.
- Cultivate private funding sources to support impactful research and innovation.
  - Contribute thought leadership on interprofessional education, healthcare policy, and other critical issues.
  - Elevate the school's visibility and reputation and attract top-tier students.
  - Strengthen ties with the school's alumni network and broaden the base of donor support through strategic engagement.

## Organizational Capacity Building

- Champion excellence in teaching, scholarship, and clinical innovation through formal recognition and support.
- Highlight achievements and strong staff performance.
- Recruit, develop, and retain talented faculty and staff.
- Improve the quality of the graduate educational experience.
- Engage faculty meaningfully in decision-making and acknowledge their contributions to institutional success.
- Foster a culture of inclusion across the school for all.
- Sustain and scale initiatives that originate from faculty-driven ideas and innovations.
- Encourage open communication, collaboration, and a positive work environment across all levels of the school.

## Raising Visibility and Resources

- Serve as a compelling and dynamic ambassador for the school and the dental profession at large.
- Foster excellence in research, clinical innovation, and scholarly productivity by strengthening accountability and providing incentives.





# THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE (CONT.)

## QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must hold a DMD/DDS degree or other equivalent dental degree and have scholarly distinction appropriate for a tenured professor appointment in the school. The dean will possess stellar academic credentials, including a high degree of scholarship/research and a record of distinguished, recognized work in their area of expertise.

The successful candidate will demonstrate evidence of the following skills and qualities:

- Visionary leader who inspires a shared sense of purpose and fosters unity across the school community.
- Collaborative decision-maker who honors and upholds principles of shared governance.
- Success as a researcher and scholar in their respective field of study.
- Ability to tackle challenges with persistence, optimism, proactivity, and resilience.
- Visible and engaged presence, deeply invested in the day-to-day life of the school and accessible to faculty, staff, and students.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including high emotional intelligence.
- Strategic thinker who anticipates future trends and drives innovation.
- Persuasive and effective communicator, adept in both written and spoken formats, including public speaking.
- Experience in launching new programs or initiatives and garnering recognition for them at institutional or national levels.
- Impeccable moral and ethical standards.
- Ability to strengthen and build external relationships and partnerships.
- Managerial experience, including financial acumen.
- Fundraising track record or personal traits that would suggest potential for success in cultivating and soliciting donors.
- Agile leader who navigates the evolving higher education environment with responsiveness and creativity.







## THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

### TEACHING AND EDUCATION

With a 132-year history, the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine is known for excellence in dental education and patient care. Founded as the Dental Department of Western Reserve University, it evolved through multiple phases and locations into today's School of Dental Medicine. In 2019, the school moved into the state-of-the-art Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion at the Health Education Campus (HEC), where students learn alongside peers in medicine, nursing, and social work in an interprofessional, collaborative setting.

The school's four-year DMD program integrates biomedical sciences, clinical training, and community service, supported by expert faculty in a humanistic, student-centered environment. Emphasizing professionalism, ethics, and critical thinking, students gain extensive experience in preclinical and clinical settings, preparing them for licensure and careers in both general practice and advanced dental education. In 2024, the school's Simulation Clinic received a \$2.6 million upgrade, incorporating the latest A-dec dental simulation units, CAD/CAM technology, augmented reality tools, and HoloAnatomy 3D mixed-reality learning systems—making CWRU dental students the first in the U.S. to use HoloLens for anatomy training.

### PATIENT CARE

The adjacent \$63 million Dental Clinic offers 132,000-square-feet of advanced clinical space, featuring 225 operatories, a robotic implant unit, and an Ambulatory Surgery Center. The clinic supports all dental specialties, and students gain real-world experience working in eight practice groups under faculty guidance. In the past year, students and residents treated over 19,000 patients in 72,000 visits.

Students also rotate through Cleveland-area hospitals and clinics—including Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center—gaining experience in hospital dentistry. These affiliations and the school's diverse patient population provide comprehensive clinical exposure and prepare students to be independent professionals.

### RESEARCH

The School of Dental Medicine maintains a strong commitment to research, supported by funding from federal, state, foundation, and industry sources—most notably the NIH. Over the period from FY 2017 to 2023, research expenditures have averaged \$3 million annually. Reflecting its research strengths, the school ranked 31st in National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) funding in FY 2022–2023 and 38th among all U.S. dental schools in FY 2023.

## THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (CONT.)



Building on these strengths, the school's current research priorities focus on two key areas: Oral Microbiology and Immunology, and Oral Health Disparities and Health Services. Both areas have gained momentum through extramural funding and highlight the vital connection between oral and overall health. A third research priority is currently under development.

At the core of the Oral Microbiology and Immunology focus, the Department of Biological Sciences leads interdisciplinary collaborations with faculty across the School of Medicine, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Engineering. Researchers also actively contribute to NIH-supported centers such as the Skin Diseases Research Center, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Center for AIDS Research. These efforts are further strengthened by external partnerships with institutions including the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, University of Guelph (Canada), LSU Shreveport, and the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute.

The second major research emphasis lies in oral health disparities, primarily led by the Department of Community Dentistry. Researchers are conducting clinical trials integrating oral and systemic health in primary care for adults and children by working actively with area hospitals including University Hospitals and MetroHealth. This department drives research centered on prevention, treatment, health services, and service-learning, reinforcing both public health objectives and the school's dental education mission.

Faculty across the School of Dental Medicine are deeply committed to advancing dental education and oral health care through ongoing research and innovation. They continuously develop new teaching and research tools that propel progress in both education and clinical practice. This commitment is embedded in the school's strategic plan, which promotes a collegial and adaptive environment that integrates research discoveries directly into the curriculum—strengthening the bridge between scientific innovation and patient care.

Looking more broadly, Case Western Reserve University is focused on expanding its research enterprise and increasing faculty capacity. A central element of this growth is the forthcoming Interdisciplinary Research and Engineering Building (ISEB)—a 189,000-square-foot, \$300 million facility on the Case Quad designed to foster collaborative, cross-disciplinary discovery. The ISEB is scheduled to open in 2026, coinciding with the university's bicentennial celebration.



# THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community-based and service-learning experiences are a core strength of the school's predoctoral curriculum. Throughout their four years, students engage in the Healthy Smiles Sealant Program in Cleveland Metropolitan School District elementary schools, rotate through local community health centers, and provide care for geriatric patients via the school's mobile dental unit.

The school's signature program, Healthy Smiles, is a service-learning initiative aimed at improving oral health among underserved elementary school children. Administered by the Department of Community Dentistry, the program also supports faculty-led public health research, with findings presented at the National Oral Health Conference.

Running 25 weeks each year, the program serves about 6,300 children annually, placing over 5,400 sealants. From 2017–2024, students examined more than 44,000 children and placed 38,318 sealants. Each student treats an average of 29 children per year and nearly 90 over their D1–D4 experience. Since its inception, the program has reached over 275,000 children. D2 and D3 students spend three (3) and eight (8) days, respectively, on school-based rotations.

First-year students also participate in Collaborative Practice I A & B, a yearlong interprofessional course delivered in a team-based learning format. Roughly 300 students across dentistry, medicine, nursing, social work, genetic counseling, and speech-language pathology work together on real-world projects with community nonprofits.

During the D4 year, each student completes a rotation on the school's mobile dental unit and uses mobile equipment providing care for geriatric patients in the community and participating in interprofessional interactions as part of the Clinical Geriatric Dentistry (COMP 480) course.







## ABOUT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

### OVERVIEW

Case Western Reserve University is an independent private research university located in Cleveland, Ohio. CWRU holds membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU), is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and by several nationally recognized professional accrediting associations. CWRU is ranked #51 in the 2025 edition of Best Colleges and National Universities by US News and World Report. Nationally, CWRU is ranked 19th in the world for innovation and 13th for translating research into commercial success. With more than \$642 million in annual research expenditures (Higher Education Research and Development Survey, FY 2024), Case Western Reserve University is one of the fastest-growing research universities in the country.

CWRU's 267-acre campus is located in the heart of Cleveland's University Circle, a square-mile urban district of cultural, medical, educational, religious, and social service institutions, and is just minutes from Cleveland's downtown.

The campus is within walking distance of outstanding destinations such as: Severance Hall, home of the world-famous Cleveland Orchestra; Cleveland Museum of Art, housing one of the nation's finest collections; Cleveland Institute of Music; Cleveland Institute of Art; Western Reserve Historical Society; Cleveland Botanical Garden; and Cleveland Museum of Natural History, among others.

CWRU comprises the College of Arts and Sciences and seven schools – the Case School of Engineering, the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and the Weatherhead School of Management.

The university continues to receive strong support from alumni and donors. Fiscal Year 2024 was a record year for philanthropy, with gifts totaling nearly \$211 million. Impressively, the university has raised more than \$110 million since it began fundraising in July 2022 for the planned Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building, a 189,000-square-foot building dedicated solely for research and discovery. The amount far exceeded the original goal to raise \$80 million by the building's groundbreaking in October 2024. In addition, fundraising for scholarships has been a priority for the university since January 2019, following the end of its Forward Thinking campaign. Since then, the university has raised more than \$250 million toward scholarships.

In fall 2024, CWRU had an enrollment of more than 6,500 undergraduate students and about 6,000 graduate and professional students. The university boasts a substantial alumni network, with more than 125,000 members located worldwide. The total faculty at CWRU comprises nearly 1,200 full-time Board-appointed faculty members and nearly 3,400 full-time and part-time staff members.



# ABOUT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

## MISSION

CWRU improves and enriches people's lives through research that capitalizes on the power of collaboration, and education that dramatically engages students.

The university realizes this goal through:

- Scholarship and creative endeavor that draws on all forms of inquiry.
- Learning that is active, creative, and continuous.
- Promotion of an inclusive culture of global citizenship.

## VISION

CWRU aims to be recognized internationally as an institution that imagines and influences the future. Toward that end, the university will:

- Support the advancement of thriving disciplines, as well as new areas of interdisciplinary excellence.
- Provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to become leaders in a world characterized by rapid change and increasing interdependence.
- Nurture a community of exceptional scholars who are cooperative and collegial, functioning in an atmosphere distinguished by support, mentoring, and inclusion.
- Pursue distinctive opportunities to build on CWRU's special features, including relationships with world-class health care, cultural, educational, and scientific institutions in University Circle and across greater Cleveland.

## CORE VALUES

### Academic Excellence and Impact

- Eminence in teaching and research
- Scholarship that changes lives and deepens understanding
- Creativity and innovation as hallmarks of CWRU's efforts

### Inclusiveness and Diversity

- Civility and the free exchange of ideas
- Civic and international engagement
- Appreciation for the distinct perspectives and talents of each individual

### Integrity and Transparency

- Academic freedom and responsibility
- Ethical behavior
- Shared governance

### Effective Stewardship

- Strong, ongoing financial planning
- Emphasis on sustainability
- Systems that support the attainment of CWRU's mission





## ABOUT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

### ACADEMICS

At Case Western Reserve University, learning and discovery are central to the institution's mission. The university boasts over 100 undergraduate programs, as well as approximately 160 graduate and professional programs and more than 145 dual-degree programs. Additionally, students can choose to enroll in one of seven online master's degree programs or over a dozen non-credit online courses.

Case Western Reserve University's programs span a wide range of fields, including arts, sciences, engineering, law, management, medicine, nursing, dentistry, and social work. These programs are designed to prepare students to make a significant impact in their chosen fields.

### COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

- [Case School of Engineering](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing](#)
- [Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences](#)
- [School of Dental Medicine](#)
- [School of Law](#)
- [School of Medicine](#)
- [Weatherhead School of Management](#)

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Office of the President](#)
- [President Eric W. Kaler](#)
- [Board of Trustees](#)
- [Provost Joy K. Ward](#)
- [Faculty and Staff Composition and Trends](#)
- [Institutional Accreditation](#)

### LEADERSHIP

#### **Eric W. Kaler, PhD, President**

Eric W. Kaler became president of Case Western Reserve University on July 1, 2021. Previously, he served as university president at the University of Minnesota for eight years. Since joining Case Western Reserve, Kaler's focus has been on growing and improving the undergraduate program, building research productivity, and connecting to the university community.

An accomplished chemical engineer and visionary university leader, Kaler's career in higher education spans more than 40 years. President Kaler has significant expertise in elevating research, expanding fundraising, forming collaborative partnerships, encouraging entrepreneurship and advocating for access to education for all.

Kaler holds 10 patents and has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers. In addition to election to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Kaler is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, and the Neutron Scattering Society of America. He was a member of the inaugural class of the National Academy of Inventors. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, where he also co-chairs the Innovation and Growth Committee.

Born in Vermont, Kaler is a first-generation college graduate who earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the California Institute of Technology and his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota.



# ABOUT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

## THE COMMUNITY

### Cleveland, Ohio

Ranked as one of the country's most livable cities—and especially a great place for young professionals—Cleveland is a mid-sized city that gets high marks for its:

- Thriving healthcare and biotechnology industries
- Lively arts and cultural scene
- Low cost of living
- Four-seasons climate
- Wealth of natural resources

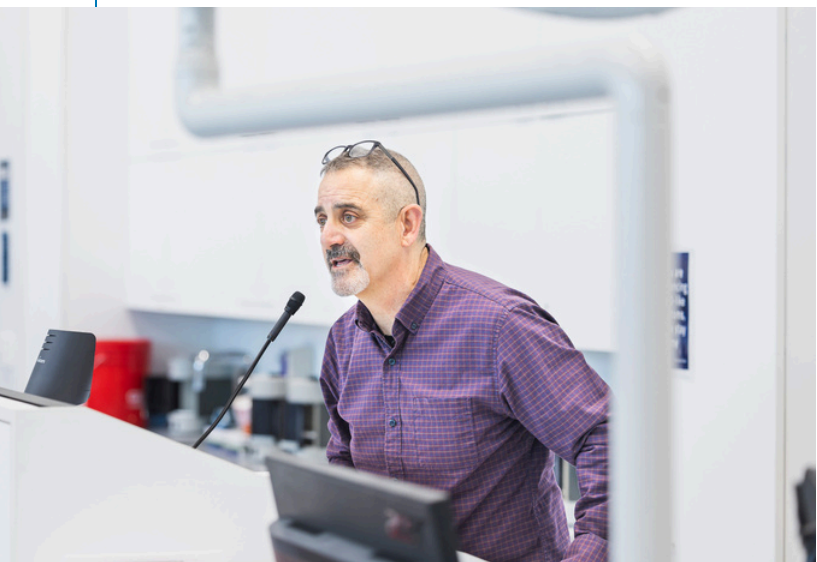
Cleveland often is hailed in the press as an exceptional dining city, and it has long been renowned for its arts scenes in neighborhoods such as Tremont, Ohio City/Hingetown, and Collinwood. From the theater at Karamu House and indie concerts at the Beachland Ballroom to The Cleveland International Film Festival, Friday-night polka-rock in Gordon Square and Saturday-morning shopping at the West Side Market, to walks and hikes in the Cleveland Metroparks, opportunities abound for a busy life. Moreover, CWRU is just a short bus ride from Playhouse Square, the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York City. Want to cheer on a team in the stands rather than catch a show? The Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team, Cleveland Browns football team, and Cleveland Guardians baseball team all play in venues downtown. In addition, each year during commencement, graduates and their families can see the Cleveland Marathon racing through the city.

### University Circle

Just minutes away from downtown, University Circle comprises 550 park-like acres in a vibrant urban environment. CWRU's campus is just a short walk to some of Cleveland and University Circle's most outstanding destinations:

- [Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall](#)
- [Cleveland Museum of Art](#)
- [Cleveland Botanical Garden](#)
- [Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland](#)
- [Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#)

For more information about Cleveland, visit <http://case.edu/about/cleveland.html>





## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a CV, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of your working relationship with each. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. The position is open until filled, but please apply by Wednesday, September 10, 2025 to be assured of full consideration. The university is being assisted by Parker Executive Search.

Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to:

Laurie Wilder, President  
Porsha Williams, Vice President  
Jacob Anderson, Principal  
Julia Butler-Mayes, Ph.D., Associate  
Parker Executive Search  
Five Concourse Parkway, Suite 2875  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
770-804-1996 ext. 102; 109; 111  
[pwilliams@parkersearch.com](mailto:pwilliams@parkersearch.com) | [janderson@parkersearch.com](mailto:janderson@parkersearch.com) | [jbutler-mayes@parkersearch.com](mailto:jbutler-mayes@parkersearch.com)

### **Submit a Nomination**

*All applicants are protected under Federal law from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, age and genetics.*

*Case Western Reserve provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office of Equity by phone at 216.368.3066 or by email at [equity@case.edu](mailto:equity@case.edu). Determinations as to granting reasonable accommodations for any applicant will be made on a case-by-case basis.*