

An Overview

Statement of Purpose

Mission

The mission of Union University, a higher education institution of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is to provide quality undergraduate and graduate education to students of qualified preparation and good character in ways consistent with the following guiding principles:

- *Union University must be excellence-driven*
- *Union University must be Christ-centered*
- *Union University must be people-focused*
- *Union University must be future directed*

Guiding Principles

Academics: Union University is committed primarily to an undergraduate liberal arts education, including a required core curriculum of general education and opportunities for specialization in selected disciplines. Union expects undergraduate students to demonstrate competency in analytical skills and communication skills, knowledge of the cultural, social, historical, and scientific aspects of life, and an understanding of their chosen area of specialization.

Union also offers graduate programs in selected professional areas. Union expects graduate students to demonstrate within their disciplines advanced knowledge and skills. Graduates are expected to demonstrate both leadership and high performance.

Christian Values: Union University endeavors to give an articulate and vigorous witness to the Christian faith as the unifying principle around which one relates learning to life. Each student is encouraged to explore in depth the basis, meaning, and implications of his or her relationship to God in Jesus Christ. A distinctive part of Union's purpose is the preparation of students for leadership positions in churches.

Development of the Whole Person: Union University defines the whole person under the sovereignty of God to be a person of intellectual, spiritual, social, psychological, and physical dimensions. By means of a holistic educational process, Union University endeavors to approach students from these perspectives and to provide the atmosphere, opportunities, and resources for students to know wholeness within the context of a community of learners.

Personal Attention: Union University seeks to practice the Christian faith by demonstrating thoughtful concern for students and by giving personal attention to their needs, both inside and outside the classroom.

The University's Goals

- To cultivate a Christian community which provides a **person-centered, service-oriented** approach to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other constituents.
- To provide strong educational programs within a highly respected **academic** environment.
- To admit only students **capable of successfully completing** the educational expectations of Union University.

- To ensure that Union University remains sensitive to students' financial needs by remaining an **affordable** institution of higher education.
- To **increase enrollment** and to provide additional personnel services, facilities, and equipment to meet the academic and personal needs of students.
- To provide the atmosphere and services associated with a predominantly **residential** campus consistent with the University's guiding principles.
- To foster **Christian values**, educate **spiritual leaders**, and provide services to the affiliated **churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention**.
- To offer **informational, artistic, and educational services** in selected fields to the West Tennessee community and beyond.

EXTERNAL ASSOCIATIONS

Accredited By

Union University is accredited by the *Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools* (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; Telephone 404-679-4501) to award baccalaureate, masters, and education specialist degrees. The University also has the following discipline-specific accreditation:

National Association of Schools of Music

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission

Teacher Education Program, Tennessee State Department of Education

Tennessee Health Related Boards

The University is a candidate for the following discipline-specific accreditation:

American Chemical Society

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

Council on Social Work Education

National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Member Of

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

Associations for Christians in Student Development

Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs

Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools

Baptist Association for Student Affairs

Concurrent Admissions Program

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing

Council on Undergraduate Research

Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

National Art Education Association

National Association of College Admissions Counselors

Service Members Opportunity Colleges

Southern Council of Collegiate Education for Nursing

Tennessee Association for Counseling and Development

THE CAMPUS

The uniqueness of the Union University campus, located on U.S. Highway 45 Bypass and Union University Drive in Northwest Jackson, is related to the academic facilities and student housing. Union's campus is designed with the student as its axis. All facilities, programs, and personnel are interrelated in an attempt to meet the needs of students.

A second campus site is located in the Memphis suburb of Germantown, Tennessee. Programs in Nursing, Business and Education are available.

An abbreviated description of campus facilities follows. A more detailed description of each building as well as the services available in each, is presented in the *Campus Life Handbook*.

Penick Academic Complex

The Penick Academic Complex houses the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel, Fred DeLay Gymnasium, E.T. "Rocky" Palmer Activities Center, Joseph H. Miller III Science Center, the W. D. Powell Theatre, Waldrop Administrative Center, Union Station, Computing Services, and Emma Waters Summar Library.

The Waldrop Administrative Center contains the offices of Admissions and Retention, Career Services, the Registrar, Business Services, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the President, University Relations and Church Services.

The Emma Waters Summar Library, through its holdings and subscriptions and through its membership in regional and international networks, has access to journals and books from over 21,000 major libraries throughout the world. The Instructional Media Center houses a growing collection of media hardware and software available for student and faculty use.

Blasingame Academic Complex

The McAfee School of Business Administration and the School of Education and Human Studies are located in the Blasingame Academic Complex.

Hammons Hall

Hammons Hall contains the Lifeway Bookstore as well as the offices for Institutional Advancement, Testing, and Adult Studies. General classrooms, conference rooms, the Alumni Suite, and a community room are also housed in Hammons Hall.

Jennings Hall

Jennings Hall opened January 2001. Jennings contains the departments of Communication Arts, Music, and Christian Studies. It also houses the R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies and the Hartley Recital Hall.

Student Housing Complex

Union University recognizes and is fully committed to the value of the educational experiences—spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally—which occur within the on-campus residential environment. Therefore, all students under 21 years of age by September 1 are required to live in the residence complexes, unless exception is granted by the Director of Residence Life. Exceptions include students living with parents/guardians, those who are married and students who have medical problems requiring off campus residency. All resident students are required to sign a residence life contract for the academic year. For information on Residence Life behavioral values, philosophy,

fees, family housing, reservation and procedures please refer to the *Campus Life Handbook* located on Union University's website at www.uu.edu.

Student housing, arranged in three complexes (Hurt, Watters and McAfee), features private bedrooms in apartment-like units. Each apartment is on one level in a 2-story construction. All lead to the three Commons Buildings which house the resident directors, provide facilities for lounge areas, laundry and recreation.

Married student housing is located in the Warmath Apartments, north of single-student housing. The complex consists of 32 two-bedroom apartments.

Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building

The Barefoot Student Union Building houses the University's cafeteria and dining hall (Gilbert-Powers Student Commons), Coburn Dining Room, President's Dining Room, Lexington Inn, Eldon Byrd Faculty Lounge, Harvey Auditorium, Campus Printing and Mail Services, offices for Student Services (Dean of Students, Student Government Association, Student Activities Council, Counseling, Health Services, Coordinator of University Activities, and Campus Security), offices of Enrollment Management (Financial Aid, the Learning Center and Enrollment Services), and Campus Ministries (Missionary-In-Residence), Prayer Chapel, and the Missionary Wall.

The University's History

Union University is an heir of three antebellum Tennessee schools: West Tennessee College and its predecessor, Jackson Male Academy, both located at Jackson, and of Union University, located at Murfreesboro. It is the inheritor of another college in 1927, Hall-Moody Junior College of Martin.

Jackson Male Academy, founded in 1823 shortly after the opening of West Tennessee for settlement, was chartered by the legislature in 1825, making it the earliest school whose roots are linked with what later became the Southern Baptist Convention.

West Tennessee College originated in the mid-1840s when supporters of the Academy secured a charter for a college and received an endowment from the state to come from the sale of public lands. Under its charter, the property rights and governance of the Jackson Male Academy were vested in the trustees of the College. The College offered three degrees—bachelor of arts, bachelor of philosophy, and master of arts—and had four departments: Moral Philosophy, Languages, Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. West Tennessee College continued until 1874, when at a time of depressed economic conditions, the trustees offered the College's buildings, grounds, and endowment to Tennessee Baptists in the hopes of attracting a southwestern regional university planned by the state's Baptist leaders.

Meanwhile, after years of discussion and the raising of an endowment, the Baptist General Assembly of Tennessee in 1848 established Union University at Murfreesboro, near the geographical center of the state. The school came upon hard times when in 1859 its highly respected president, Joseph Eaton, died and when during the Civil War its campus was badly damaged. It reopened in 1868 only to close again in 1873, largely because of its financial condition and an epidemic of cholera.

Southwestern Baptist University, the immediate predecessor of the present Union University, was established from a desire by Tennessee Baptists, who still had a separate convention for each of the state's three Grand Divisions, for greater unification. Education became the core issue around which such unification was promoted. Committees of the three conventions met jointly in Humboldt in 1873 and issued a resolution supporting the establishment of a first-class regional university. An Educational Convention met in Murfreesboro in 1874, and following that a committee was appointed to select a location for the proposed university. The committee recommended the accep-

tance of the offer made by the citizens of Jackson to assume ownership of West Tennessee College.

In September 1874, the new institution opened at Jackson as an academy, and in 1875 it was chartered as Southwestern Baptist University. In 1907, T. T. Eaton, a trustee at Southwestern from its beginning, bequeathed his 6,000 volume library to the college. He was a former professor at Union University at Murfreesboro, where his father, Joseph Eaton, had been president. Shortly thereafter the name of Southwestern Baptist University was changed to Union University to honor the Eatons and others from Union at Murfreesboro who had had a major impact on Southwestern as faculty, administrators, trustees, and contributors. In a further move to unify its educational efforts, the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1925 secured a new charter which vested all rights, authority, and property of Union University in the Convention, including the election of the University's trustees. Two years later, the Convention was able to consolidate Hall-Moody Junior College at Martin (1900-1927) with Union University. During the 1920s, Union discontinued its graduate program, its Law Department, and its high school and added a bachelor of music degree program.

After a major fire in 1912, several new buildings were constructed, including the centerpiece of the campus for the next 60 years, Barton Hall. In 1948 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted Union University its original accreditation. In 1962, at the request of local physicians, Union developed a nursing program with the assistance of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Because of the deterioration of its aging campus, Union in 1975 moved from near downtown to a new campus located along Highway 45-Bypass in north Jackson. Since then, enrollment has increased from about 1,000 students to nearly 2,500; the multi-purpose Penick Academic Complex has been enlarged several times; many additional housing units have been erected; and several buildings have been constructed, including Blasingame Academic Complex, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Hammons Hall and Jennings Hall. Part of the reason for growth derived from new academic programs and graduate studies in education and business administration.

From 1987-96, Union offered the degree completion program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN track) in Memphis. There were over 300 graduates of this program.

To broaden its connection with the wider Christian higher education movement, Union in the mid-1990s joined the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. During 1997 and 1998, under the leadership of President David S. Dockery, who was elected as Union's fifteenth president in December 1995, Union established its presence in the Memphis suburb of Germantown with programs in nursing, business administration, and education. The University also adopted a new campus master plan to accommodate the University's growth well into the twenty-first century.

In the 1990s Union has had its greatest intercollegiate athletic success as Union's Lady Bulldogs basketball team of 1998 finished first in the NAIA National Basketball Tournament.

Also during the 1990s the university reinitiated its graduate programs with the MAEd, the MBA and the MEd. An undergraduate degree completion program in business was added in 1997 which significantly impacted the area business community. In 2000, the MSN was inaugurated. Also in 2000 the University offered its first post-masters degree program by adding the EdS in Educational Leadership. A new graduate program is being initiated in 2001, the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies.