

# Student Life

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The following is a brief description of campus life at Union University and the various organizations that contribute to its unique community. A more complete list of campus organizations and fuller explanation of their purpose and function is presented in the *Campus Life Handbook*.

## Student Government Association (SGA)

The SGA, composed of all students enrolled in Union University, functions through its executive, legislative and judicial branches. Its elected officers and representatives serve as the official voice of the students in institutional affairs. The SGA seeks to foster University unity, promote student welfare and provide student programs, activities and services designed to meet the needs and interest of students.

## University Clubs

**Alpha Chi** is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. Membership is open to the top ranking 10% of the junior and senior classes. **Alpha Sigma Lambda**, to honor scholarship and leadership in adult students, recognizes the top 10% of adult students who have completed at least 24 hours at Union.

Academic departments sponsor campus organizations and honor societies relating to and for the promotion of their disciplines of study. These are described within the respective academic departments. The University sponsors special interest organizations relating to varied activities, service, political and social activism, and personal growth. These are detailed in full on the university website.

## Social Fraternities And Sororities

Union has six national social fraternities and sororities: Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Lambda Chi Alpha for men, Chi Omega, Zeta Tau Alpha, and Kappa Delta for women. Under the supervision of the University administration, these organizations host their own special activities and functions.

## University Awards

**The Academic Excellence Medal** is awarded to the outstanding graduating senior in each major as selected by the faculty of the major. Inclusion in the selection process requires the student to have completed a minimum of 15 residence hours, excluding pass/fail courses, in the discipline and have a discipline GPA of 3.5 or higher.

**The Elizabeth Tigrett Medal**, established by the late Mr. I. B. Tigrett in memory of his mother, is presented to the outstanding senior in the graduating class. The award is based on citizenship, character, leadership, scholarship, and school service. To be eligible, a student must have attended Union his/her entire college career.

**The University Academic Achievement Award** is presented to the student with the highest academic achievement in the graduation class with not less than a 3.75 provided a minimum of 56 semester hours at Union University are completed.

**The Class of 1962 Award** recognizes the senior who has attended Union University for four years with the highest grade point average.

## Student Publications

### The Cardinal and Cream

The *Cardinal and Cream*, official student newspaper of Union University, is written and edited by students of Union University, under the guidance of a journalism faculty advisor. The newspaper serves as a learning laboratory primarily for journalism students, but participation is open to all.

### The Torch

The *Torch* is a literary and art annual published under the direction of student editors and an English Department advisor. Student writings and art works are selected by the student editors from presentations in the normal course of classwork and from those submitted directly to the editors.

## Christian Life and Activities

Union University is committed to the spiritual growth and development of each person on campus. Understanding that faith development and academic achievement go hand in hand, Union provides an excellent atmosphere as well as ongoing activities that stimulate a Christ-centered world view and life-style.

Christian activities are coordinated through the Office of the Minister to the University. Each student is encouraged to grow in personal relationship with Jesus Christ and in service for Him. Ministry to students is an utmost priority. Activities include chapel services; LIFE Groups (a small group ministry for new students involving Bible study, discussion, and accountability); Klemata women's Bible study, Rounders (Bible study groups), weekend revival and DiscipleNow teams; off-campus ministries working with children, youth, adults, and senior adults; short-term mission projects (GO "Global Outreach" trips); and auditioned creative communication ministry teams.

The Missionary-In-Residence Program brings a missionary family on furlough from the international field to occupy

the residence. To expose students to world missions, the missionaries speak in chapel, counsel students interested in missions, and promote the Lottie Moon offering in West Tennessee Southern Baptist churches.

Christian organizations providing fellowship and activities for students are available. The Ministerial Association is composed of students preparing for full-time Christian vocations and provides opportunities for fellowship and ministry in area churches. Mu Kappa is an organization for students whose parents are international missionaries. Through these organizations, a strong emphasis is given to local ministries and missions as well as national and international missions.

### Chapel and Lecture Series

The University holds chapel services twice weekly. Through these times, students, faculty and staff worship collectively and receive spiritual encouragement, moral guidance, and intellectual challenge. The worship of God and the integration of faith and learning and living are encouraged through events such as Faith and Practice Week, Jones Lectures, Carls-Schwerdfeger Lectures, Convocation, Founders' Day, Last Lecture Series by Faculty, Global Opportunities Week, Mars Hill Series, Programs of the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership, and concerts.

### Supervised Ministry—Church and Convention Ministry (CCMS)

Union University accepts seriously the challenge of providing practical guidance and training to students preparing for church-related vocations. Supervised Ministry attempts to integrate classroom teaching with the practice of ministry and to assist students to test personal and professional identity in their growth in ministry. The program is administered through the Office of Church Services by the Director of Supervised Ministry. Each CCMS student is offered personal and vocational counseling, instruction, and opportunities for Christian service through various supervised ministries.

All students preparing for church-related vocation within the Southern Baptist Convention and receiving the CCMS scholarship must adhere to program requirements as explained at an orientation session at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

### Intramural Athletics

At Union University, intramural athletics constitute an essential part of the total college program. A program of competitive intramural sports is sponsored allowing wide participation for men and women. Awards are given each year based on a point system.

## 14 Intercollegiate Athletics

Intercollegiate athletics are an integral part of American college life. Union participates in the TranSouth conference and is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Union University offers varsity competition for men in basketball, baseball, cross-country, golf and soccer and for women in basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer and cross-country. Union's athletic programs adhere strictly to all university, conference, and national regulations involving sports and academics for student athletes.

### Regulations

Union University students are expected at all times to represent the University and the Christian community appropriately. Regulations regarding these expectations, student life as a whole and more particularly resident student life are found in detail in the *Campus Life Handbook*.

The President, the Provost, and the Dean of Students of the University are charged with the administration of discipline through the judicial system. They are empowered to rule in any irregularity pertaining to student life and impose redemptive discipline for community values violations as expressed in the *Campus Life Handbook*. The judicial system and the grievance and appeal system are described in detail in that same publication.

### Confidentiality of Student Records

The privacy and confidentiality of all student records shall be preserved in accordance to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. The Act provides adult students greater access to and control over information in educational records. More information about FERPA can be obtained from the Registrar. Official student academic records, supporting documents, and other student files shall be maintained, only by members of the University staff employed for that purpose, in separate files:

- Academic records, supporting documents and general education records—maintained by the Academic Center, academic departments and advisors
- Records of discipline proceeding—maintained by the Student Services Office
- Financial records—maintained by the Business Office
- Medical records—maintained by the Health Services Office (governed also by HIPPA)
- Admissions records—maintained by the Admissions Office
- Financial aid records—maintained by the Financial Aid Office

Directory information (student's name, address including email address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photograph, academic major, class schedule, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most

recent previous educational institution attended) may be made public by the University unless a student requests to the Academic Center in writing that it be released only upon his/her consent.

### **Records Not Available for Student Inspection**

- Records of instructional, supervisory and administrative personnel which are in the sole possession of the maker thereof, and which are not accessible to others
- Records created or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional which are used only in connection with the provisions of treatment of a student and are not available to persons other than those providing such treatment (governed also by HIPPA)
- Financial records of students' parents
- Evaluations for which a student has waived his/her right of inspection

### **Health Services**

The mission of Health Services is to promote healthy lifestyles and to demonstrate care in a Christ-like manner to students, faculty and staff and to provide medical services for minor injuries and illnesses. Health Services is staffed by a full-time registered nurse as director, part-time nurse practitioners, and a part-time physician. There is no office visit charge for clinic care; all off-campus referrals and care may render a cost and are the responsibility of the patient. Whereas International students are required to have insurance, all students are strongly encouraged to do so. Information can be obtained through [www.uu.edu/studentlife/healthservices](http://www.uu.edu/studentlife/healthservices).

### **Career Services**

The Career Services staff assists students needing guidance in defining their academic major/career goals and encourages all students to begin career planning in the freshman year. The Career Services Resource Center includes a variety of resources to assist students in relating academic pursuits, personal interests, skills and values to their career plans. The department also maintains a web site for full-time and part-time off campus employment and internships as well as events sponsored by Career Services. The department provides an online résumé database whereby students can upload their résumés for review by employers seeking to fill professional positions. Personality testing, career development workshops, interview skills training, and career counseling/coaching are offered as a holistic approach to career development to assist students with preparation for their life calling and career success. For more information, visit the Career Services web site located at [www.uu.edu/student-services/career-services](http://www.uu.edu/student-services/career-services).

### **Counseling**

The services of a full-time licensed psychologist are available at no charge to students with personal or emotional concerns. Walk-ins are accepted based on the availability of the counselor, or students may make an appointment. Upon referral by the Director of Counseling Services or the Dean of Students, students may also receive limited services from the psychological services provider under contract in the community. Consultation is provided in making referrals to special agencies upon request. The Director also serves as the primary contact for students with disabilities.

Academic counseling is administered through several avenues. Each student is assigned a Faculty Advisor in accordance with their intended major/vocational goal. Students undecided about their major are assigned temporarily to the Office of Academic Services. GPA counseling can be sought from the Office of Academic Services and through the Academic Center. The junior/senior student is required to have at least one counseling appointment with a degree auditor to focus on the completion of graduation requirements.

### **Testing**

Union University serves as a National Testing Center for the American College Test (ACT), PRAXIS (NTE and PPST), College Board (SAT I and SAT II), Miller Analogies Test (MAT), the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES SST. Schedules are available at [www.uu.edu/academics/testing](http://www.uu.edu/academics/testing).

### **Wellness Center**

The Wellness Center, a recently redesigned 3,600 square foot facility, offers programs to promote healthy life-styles such as health assessments, motivational incentives, exercise prescription and health education including group fitness classes. Currently enrolled students, faculty, staff, and spouses are eligible to use the Center and participate in classes. One on one fitness training with a Certified Personal Trainer is available.