

An Overview

Our Identity

Union University is an academic community, affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, equipping persons to think Christianly and serve faithfully in ways consistent with its core values of being Christ-centered, people-focused, excellence-driven, and future-directed. These values shape its identity as an institution which prioritizes liberal arts based undergraduate education enhanced by professional and graduate programs. The academic community is composed of quality faculty, staff, and students working together in a caring, grace-filled environment conducive to the development of character, servant leadership, and cultural engagement.

Our Core Values

- **Excellence-Driven:** We believe that excellence, not mere compliance, is the goal of our teaching, our research, and our service. We are not motivated to excellence out of pride but out of a desire to do all things for God's glory because He cares about our work and wants to be involved in everything we do. We will not be satisfied with mediocrity, but will pursue excellence in all things. This means our truth claims carry with them the challenge of living out that truth in the minutes and hours of our daily life. Thus we will pursue excellence, without arrogance.
- **Christ-Centered:** A cohering core value of our guiding vision is a call to faith, a call to be Christ centered in all that we are and in all that we do. We will seek to build a Christian liberal arts based community where men and women can be introduced to an understanding and appreciation of God, His creation and grace, and to humanity's place of privilege and responsibility in this world. We will seek to establish all aspects of life and learning on the Word of God, leading to a firm commitment to Christ and His Kingdom. To be a Christ-centered institution calls for us to establish the priority of worship and service in the Christian life while seeking to develop a generation of students who can be agents of reconciliation to a factious church in a hurting and broken world. This commitment calls for all faculty and staff to integrate Christian faith in all learning and doing, based on the supposition that all truth is God's truth and that there is no contradiction between God's truth made known to us in Holy Scripture and that which is revealed to us through creation and natural revelation.
- **People-Focused:** A third pillar on which we will build our common commitments is the core value of being people focused. At the heart of our commitment to being people focused is the visible demonstration of valuing one another. We will give honor to one another through our words and actions, and by committing to each person's success. We therefore jointly commit ourselves to the success of Union University.
- **Future-Directed:** We will seek to maximize the windows of opportunity the Lord has presented to us to the greatest degree that resources allow. All of our resources and efforts must, by God's grace, be maximized to fulfill our common mission. A commitment to being future directed means we want to have a short-term focus and a long term view. We want to involve ourselves in efforts that prepare us effectively to impact the world of the 21st Century.

Our Mission

Union University provides Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.

Our 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—and it is the inheritor of another college in 1927, Hall-Moody Junior College of Martin, Tennessee.

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 oldest school currently affiliated with Southern Baptist life.

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 Baptists of Middle Tennessee (there were three separate conventions in Tennessee at that time) in 1848 established Union University at Murfreesboro,

near the geographical center of the state. Union University came upon hard times when in 1859 its highly respected president, Dr. 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, originated because of 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 acceptance 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, Dr. 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, Dr. Joseph H. 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 made 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.

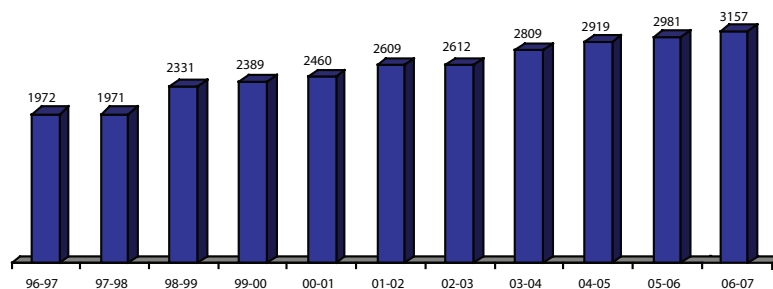
After a major fire in 1912, several new buildings were constructed, including the centerpiece of the campus for the next 60 years, Barton Hall. In 1948 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted Union University its original accreditation. In 1962, at the request of local physicians, Union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

Because of an aging and landlocked campus, Union, in 1975, moved from near downtown to a new campus located along Highway 45-Bypass in north Jackson. During the administrations of President Robert Craig (1967-85) and President Hyran Barefoot (1987-1996), enrollment increased from less than 1,000 students to over 2,000; the multi-purpose Penick Academic Complex was enlarged several times; many additional housing units were erected; and the Blasingame Academic Complex (1986) and the Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building (1994) were constructed. From the early 1950's to the early 1970's, Union operated an Extension Center in the Memphis area. From 1987-95, 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.

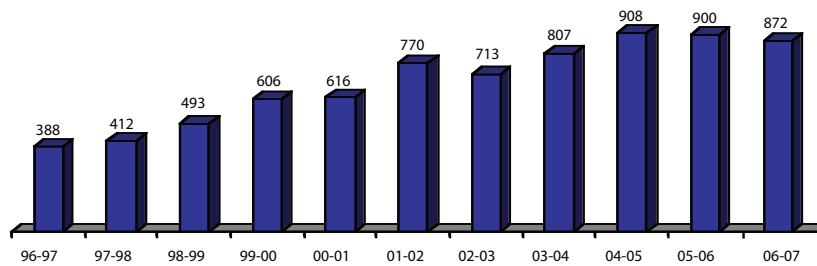
When David S. Dockery was elected as the fifteenth president of Union University in December 1995, he brought with him a compelling vision to build on a great tradition while taking Union to the next level of regional and national prominence in Christian higher education. The progress that has been made during this time has been remarkable: annual non-duplicating headcount increased from 2200 (in 1996) to more than 3600 (in 2005); significantly increased giving to Union, including twelve of the largest commitments in Union history; instituted three five-year strategic plans; completed construction of two residence halls, the Miller Tower, Jennings Hall, Hammons Hall, and new Fesmire athletic facilities; launched the \$110 million comprehensive "Building a Future" campaign (now at \$90 million); renewed commitment to scholarship and research among Union faculty as a part of the establishment of the Center for Faculty Development; added new undergraduate majors in political science, physics, theology, digital media studies, church history, ethics, sports management, sports medicine, engineering; and graduate programs in education (M.Ed., Ed.S., and Ed.D.), nursing (MSN with tracks in education, administration, and nurse anesthesia), and intercultural studies (MAIS); SACS Level V accreditation was achieved; programs were added in undergraduate research; began LIFE group programs, student retention programs, student mission involvement, giftedness assessment program for freshman students; established an extension campus in Germantown, TN, which now has almost 800 students; established the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership; established the Charles Colson Chair for Faith and Culture and Stephen Olford Chair of Expository Preaching; established highly successful annual Scholarship Banquet (1997-2006); and achieved top tier recognition in U.S. News and World Report and other important listings.

In many respects, Union University is in the strongest position in its history. For example, the University has enjoyed steady enrollment growth for a number of years, as indicated below:

Union University Annual Fall Enrollment



Another indicator of the University's health and vitality is the growth in the number of students completing programs at Union. As indicated below, this past year almost 900 students graduated from Union, a 132% increase over the 96-97 school year:



Key enrollment and financial indicators are monitored by University officials regularly to determine trends and to provide data for critical decision-making and analysis, including:

Key Enrollment Indicators	1996	2006
Fall Enrollment	1972	3157
Non-duplicating headcount	2183	3600+
# of states/ countries	31/ 14	44/ 30+
% of male/ female	35/ 65%	40/ 60%
% of minority students	5%	25%
# of graduates	388	872

At its December, 2004 Board meeting, the University trustees approved a new strategic plan, "Union 2010: A Vision for Excellence." The plan outlines goals and provides direction for the University for the next five years.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

- The Scriptures.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.
- God.** There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being. God ordains or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.
- Humankind.** God originally created humankind in His image, and free from sin; but through the temptation of Satan, they transgressed the command of God, and fell from their original righteousness, whereby all humans have inherited a sinful nature that is opposed to God, and are thus under condemnation. As soon as they are capable of moral action, they become actual transgressors.
- Jesus Christ.** The second person of the Trinity is the eternal Son of God. In his incarnation Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for our redemption from sin. He was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe.
- Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine, who exalts Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts men and women of sin, of righteousness, and judgment, enabling them to understand the truth. He calls men and women to the Savior, and brings about regeneration, which is a renewal of heart and nature.
- Salvation.** Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; accepting and trusting in Him alone for justification and eternal life. Justification is God's gracious declaration of righteousness of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made. Believers are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. Sanctification is the process of progressing toward moral and spiritual maturity, enabled by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Those who are accepted in Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit will never totally nor finally

fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

7. **The Church.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all true followers of Christ, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. Christians are to associate themselves with local churches; and to each church is given the authority to administer order, to carry out ministry, to worship, and to practice discipline.
8. **Last Things.** The bodies of humans after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. God in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. God has appointed a day, when He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when all people shall receive according to their deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

EXTERNAL ASSOCIATIONS

Accredited By

Union University is accredited by the *Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools* to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and education doctorate degrees. Questions about the status of the University's accreditation may be obtained from the Commission on Colleges by calling 404.679.4501 or by writing 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA. The University also has the following discipline-specific accreditation:

Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, Engineering Accreditation Commission

American Chemical Society

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

Council on Social Work Education

National Association of Schools of Art and Design

National Association of Schools of Music

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Teacher Education Program, Tennessee State Department of Education

Tennessee Health Related Boards

Applicant for Accreditation By

Council on Accreditation on Nursing Anesthesia

Member Of

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors

Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs

Associations for Christians in Student Development

Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education

Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools

Baptist Association for Student Affairs

Concurrent Admissions Program

Council of Independent Colleges

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

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

Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences

Council on Undergraduate Research

Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

National Art Education Association

National Association of College Admissions Counselors

North American Association of Christians in Social Work

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 By-Pass 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, Education and Continuing Studies are available.

An abbreviated description of Jackson 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, the W. D. Powell Theatre, Waldrop Administrative Center, Union Station, Computing Services, Emma Waters Summar Library, and Hundley Center for Academic Enrichment.

The Waldrop Administrative Center contains the offices of Career Services, the Registrar, Business Services, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the President, and University Communications.

The Emma Waters Summar Library has immediate access to a collection of over 150,000 books, 19,000 e-journals, and 40,000 e-books. Through its membership in regional and national library cooperatives it has easy access to the combined collections of over 41,000 libraries worldwide. The library provides knowledgeable reference service, in-depth research assistance, personalized training, and group instructional sessions to facilitate the effective use of these resources. It also maintains a safe comfortable environment for both individual and group study.

The Johnnie Tribble Shepard Archives and Genealogical Research Center is located in the library.

Fesmire Fields and Fieldhouse

The Fesmire Fields provide lighted playing fields for varsity baseball and softball. The Fesmire Field House provides indoor practice and dressing rooms for men and women's soccer, softball and baseball as well as athletic training rooms for sports injuries.

Blasingame Academic Complex

The McAfee School of Business Administration and the College 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 University Relations, Church Services, Testing, and Continuing Studies. General classrooms, conference rooms, and a community room are also housed in Hammons Hall.

Jennings Hall

Jennings contains the departments of Communication Arts and Music, and the School of Christian Studies as well as the R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies and Hartley Recital Hall.

White Hall

White Hall, the newest addition to the campus, houses the departments of Biology and Chemistry as well as the School of Nursing.

Residence Life 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 for the full academic year, 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 community 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.

Single student housing, arranged in 3 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 3 Commons Buildings which house the resident directors, provide facilities for lounge areas, laundry and recreation.

Family 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 (Gilbert-Powers Student Commons), Coburn Dining Room, President's Dining Room, Lexington Inn, Eldon Byrd Faculty Lounge, Student Lounge, Harvey Auditorium, Campus Printing and Mail Services, offices for Student Services (Dean of Students, Student Government Association, Student Activities Council, Counseling, Student Leadership Development, Residence Life, Health Services, Coordinator of University Activities, and Campus Security), offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Enrollment Services, Campus Ministries (Missionary-In-Residence), Prayer Chapel, and the Missionary Wall.