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...
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:
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Enrollment Indicators</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Enrollment</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>3311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-duplicating headcount</td>
<td>2183</td>
<td>4300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of states/ countries</td>
<td>31/14</td>
<td>42/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of male/ female</td>
<td>35/65%</td>
<td>40/60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of minority students</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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**Our Statement of Faith**

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **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.

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**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
- Accrediting Commission for Engineering Education
- American Chemical Society
- Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education
- 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

**Accreditation in Process**

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

**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
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- Concurrent Admissions Program
- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
- 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
- Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers
- Tennessee College Association
- Tennessee Independent College and Universities Association
- United Theological Seminary
- University of the South

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**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.

In addition to the main campus in Jackson, Union University opened a second campus in the Memphis suburb of Germantown, Tennessee in 1997. Because of the rapid growth of the campus, the faculty and staff offices, classrooms and computer lab facilities moved to a new location in June 2001. Continued demands for growth and expansion of programs warranted a renovation in 2003 to include additional nursing labs, classrooms, conference rooms and offices. Union also has an off-campus site in San Francisco, California.
The Stephen Olford Center is an 18-acre facility in southeast Memphis which includes more than 40 hotel-style rooms for conference attendees; dining facilities; a patio and swimming pool; a newly donated library with about 32,000 volumes; classrooms and offices; and a chapel.

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 and at www.uu.edu/studentservices.

**Penick Academic Complex**

The Penick Academic Complex houses the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel, Fred DeLay Gymnasium, E.T. “Rocky” Palmer Activities Center, the Office of Career Services, the W. D. Powell Theatre, Waldropp Administrative Center, Union Station, Computing Services, Emma Waters Summar Library, and Hundley Center for Academic Enrichment. The Complex includes the Arts & Sciences departments of Art, Computer Science, Engineering, English, History, Language, Mathematics, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology & Family Studies; the Education & Human Studies department of Physical Education, Wellness & Sport; and the School of Pharmacy.

The Waldrop Administrative Center contains the offices of the Registrar, Business Services, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the President, and University Communications, and the Institute for International and Intercultural Studies.

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 and R. G. Lee Library are 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.

The Center for Excellence in Health Care Practice and the Edward P. Hammons Center for Scientific Studies are located in White Hall.

**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/studentservices/handbook.

Single student housing is arranged in three complexes and are apartment-like units which include four private bedrooms and a kitchen in each apartment. Each apartment is on one level in a 2-story construction. The Heritage Complex leads to a commons building which house the resident directory and provide facilities for lounge areas, laundry and recreation. The newest apartments are designed in quads and also house a male and female resident director. The commons building for the newest complexes will be ready by Fall 2009 and provide additional lounge and recreation space.

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, Barefoot’s Joe Coffee Shop, 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.