

AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

Statements 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.

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 professional areas. 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 education 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 thoughtfulness and 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.

(Adopted by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees, 1994)

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 the 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 Develop-
ment

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



the M.Ed., and the Ed.S. degrees administered by the School of Education and Human Studies; the M.S.N., administered by the School of Nursing; and the M.A.I.S., administered by the Institute of International and Intercultural Studies.

The Master of Business Administration degree program is administered by the M.B.A. Director and by the Dean, McAfee School of Business Administration. The Master of Arts in Education, the Master of Education and the Education Specialist degree programs are administered by Directors of Graduate Studies in Education and by the Dean, School of Education and Human Studies. The Master of Science in Nursing is administered by the M.S.N. Director and the Dean of the School of Nursing. The Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies is administered by the Director of the Institute of International and Intercultural Studies in collaboration with the MAIS Advisory Council and the Academic Council comprised of all University deans. The Graduate Faculty is responsible for approval of curriculum and graduate program policies. It is comprised of all doctorally qualified faculty at Union. The Graduate Faculty considers recommendations from the Graduate Curriculum Committee, which is responsible for examining graduate programs, course offerings, and policies relative to graduate studies at Union. The committee is composed of five faculty members who choose a chair from one of their number each year. Each program is represented by one graduate student on the committee. Ex-officio members include the President, Provost, directors of the graduate programs, Registrar, and Acquisitions Librarian. Curriculum changes are discussed and approved by graduate faculty in the departments and on task teams. Task teams may be created by the Deans of the Schools/Colleges to consider and make recommendations to the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Thus, significant curriculum and policy

Chapel attendance is not compulsory for graduate students. However, graduate students are invited to participate fully in chapel as well as in other spiritual activities including activities sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

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 objective of the Act is to provide students and parents greater access to and control over information contained in educational records. The law stipulates that each institution is responsible for making students aware of the law and its various ramifications. 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 advisers
- Records of discipline proceeding— maintained by the Student Services Office
- Financial records—maintained by the Business Office
- Medical records—maintained by the Student Health Services Office
- Admissions records—maintained by the Admissions Office
- Financial aid records—maintained by the Financial Aid Office
- Placement records—maintained by the Career Services Office

Directory information (student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, academic major, 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 such information be released only upon his/her consent.

Motor Vehicle Registration and Parking

Every individual who maintains or operates a motor vehicle on the Union University campuses

must register each vehicle with the Office of Safety and Security at the beginning of the semester or within 24 hours when brought to the campus. For graduate students, there is no fee for obtaining parking permits. The vehicle's license plate number and proof of current auto liability insurance are required for registration of the vehicle.

The permit must be affixed directly to the glass on the outside of the rear window on the driver's side in the bottom corner. Use the adhesive on the permit to attach it to the window. No other method of attaching the permit is acceptable.

Sexual Harassment

Union University is committed to providing its faculty, staff, and students with an environment free from explicit and implicit coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence, or affect the well-being of any member of the university community.

Sexual Harassment Defined: The definition of sexual harassment varies greatly. Therefore we will use the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's guidelines. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's guidelines prohibiting sexual harassment, there are two types of sexual harassment: (1) *Quid pro quo*— "submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual that is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual" and (2) Hostile environment— "unwelcome sexual conduct that unreasonably interferes with an individual's job performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment." Sexual harassment in the college community[(Plamotor vehicl)]TJTfensive work-xuaideaintabhno

ity carries with it responsibility to be mindful of situations in which they are dealing with students in private, one-on-one associations both on and off campus.

Complaint Procedure: A student with a complaint against a faculty member, a member of the administration, or another student may contact the Dean of Students. Alternate contacts include the Director of Human Resources, the Executive Vice President and the President. The contact person will initiate an Incident Report form and forward to the Director of Human Resources.

The University will handle the matter with as much confidentiality as possible. There will be no retaliation against any staff, faculty, or student who reports a claim of sexual harassment or against any staff, faculty, or student who is a witness to the harassment. The University will conduct an immediate investigation in an attempt to determine all of the facts concerning the alleged harassment. The investigation will be directed by the Director of Human Resources unless the Director of Human Resources or someone in the director's office is the subject of the investigation. In that event, the office of the Provost (faculty) or Executive Vice President (staff or student) will direct the investigation. As a part of the investigation of the claim of sexual harassment, the contact person, the complainant, and the respondent will be asked to provide statements regarding the incident. Once the report is reviewed and investigation is concluded, a finding may be found that sexual harassment did not occur, or a finding may be found that sexual harassment did occur and corrective action (reprimand, demotion, discharge, or other appropriate action) will be communicated in writing to the complainant and the

Grading System

Grades for graduate courses at Union University shall be interpreted as follows:

- A Superior academic performance.
- B Strong academic performance.
- C Below average, but passing academic performance.
- P Pass.
- F, FF Failure. (P or FF apply to pass-fail courses.)
- I Incomplete. An Incomplete must be removed within the first five weeks of the term following issuance of the Incomplete; otherwise, the incomplete becomes an F
- IP In Progress, issued for a course which by design extends into the following term or semester.
- W Withdrawal beyond the period officially allowed. See "Withdrawal from Classes."
- N Audit.

Requirements for Grade Point Average

In order to graduate with an M.B.A., an M.A.Ed., an M.Ed., M.S.N., M.A.I.S., or Ed.S. degree, students are required to have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all courses taken for graduate credit at Union University. Quality points shall be awarded as follows:

- A - 4 quality points for each semester hour of credit
- B - 3 quality points for each semester hour of credit
- C - 2 quality points for each semester hour of credit
- P - 0 quality points (course hours are not applied in computation of the grade point average)
- F - 0 quality points
- FF - 0 quality points (course hours are not applied in computation of the grade point average)
- W - 0 quality points
- N - 0 quality points

Repetition of Courses

A student may repeat a graduate course one time. Although the credit for the course will be given only once, only the final attempt will be used in the computation of the grade point average.

A 500-level course taken for undergraduate credit may not be repeated for graduate credit.

Academic Probation and Suspension

After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses taken at Union University for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. A graduate student whose GPA from courses taken at Union is below 2.5 will be sus-

pended from the graduate degree program. While suspended from the degree program, the student may, in an effort to improve the GPA, repeat courses in which a grade of C or F has been received. When the student's GPA has been raised to 2.5 or higher, the student may apply for readmission to the degree program.

A graduate student suspended from the graduate program is not eligible to file for Veterans Administration Benefits.

Academic Grievance Procedures

Orderly procedures are provided by which a student may be heard concerning a just grievance. Procedures are outlined in the *Campus Life Handbook* for the student who wishes to register dissatisfaction with the quality of instruction or performance of a professor.

Both the *Campus Life Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook* detail the procedure for a formal grade appeal. The student should first ask the instructor how the grade was determined. It is hoped that most problems can be resolved at this level. If additional discussions are necessary, the student should contact his faculty advisor to begin the formal process of appeal.

Admission Information

General Admission Requirements

1. Completed application for the specific program, including payment of a \$25 application fee.
2. Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted.

Other program specific admission requirements are included in the program sections of this *Catalogue*.

Additional Admission Requirements for International Students

All international students will meet the same requirements for regular admission to the University

Late Registration and Class Changes

Late registration and changes of classes are allowed until a week into the Fall and Spring Semesters and 3 days into the 4-, 6-, and 8-week terms. Due to the concentrated nature of the 3-week terms, entrance is not allowed after the first day of class. A late registration fee or a class change fee will be charged for these changes. Those considering late registration for a cohort program should contact the appropriate graduate program office.

A student making a change in his/her class schedule after completing registration will follow this procedure:

1. Obtain proper forms from the appropriate graduate office,
2. Secure the signature of his/her advisor,
3. Present the forms to the appropriate graduate office for the schedule change.

Withdrawal from Classes

Students will be allowed to withdraw through 11 weeks **or its equivalent** and will receive the notation on their permanent records "Withdrew from all Classes" as of the date the withdrawal was processed. Students discontinuing class attendance without permission will receive an "F" in those courses. In exceptional cases, such as extreme illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control, the Registrar may assign a grade of W for a withdrawal after the allowable period.

A student withdrawing from all classes must complete a withdrawal form and submit it to the appropriate graduate program office.

Readmission

Students who have not been enrolled for at least one semester will be required to readmit by completing a new application to the appropriate graduate program. Official transcripts from other schools attended during the interval will be required. No additional application fee will be required.

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will be final. Copies of all correspondence related to all formal petitions and appeals will be kept for future reference in the student's file in the office of the respective Graduate school.

A graduate student who feels that the grade received in a course is in error or was not fairly determined should contact the instructor of the course to discuss how the grade was determined.

If, after discussion of the grade in question with the instructor of the course, the student remains unsatisfied, the student may request that the grade be reviewed by the Director of the Program and/or the Dean of the College or School which offered the course. If either the Dean or the Director was the instructor who issued the grade, they will not participate in the review. The remaining person on the review committee will appoint another member of the program to serve on the review committee. The review committee will gather any additional information that is needed and will review the grade. The review committee will inform the student and the instructor, in writing, of their decision.

If either the student or the instructor is not satisfied with the decision of the review committee, that decision may be appealed to the Graduate Appeals Committee. The Graduate Appeals Committee will inform both the student and the instructor, in writing, of their decision. Either the student or the instructor may appeal the decision of the Graduate Appeals Committee first to the Provost and then, if necessary, to the President. The decision of the President will be final. The appeal procedure in cases of alleged student cheating is stated under 302.47 - 2030 found earlier in this Catalog.

Graduation Policies and Requirements

Commencement is held on the Jackson campus following spring semester (May), following fall semester (December), and following summer sessions (August) for all programs other than the M.A.I.S. Students should choose to participate in the appropriate ceremony according to the following schedule:

If academic requirements are completed or expected to be completed by:

- December after the December ceremony, January, February, March, April or May prior to the May ceremony, attend Commencement ceremony in May;

- May beyond the May ceremony, June, July, August prior to the August ceremony, attend Commencement ceremony in August;

- August beyond the August ceremony, September, October, November, December prior to the December ceremony, attend Commencement ceremony in December.

An Application for Graduation must be filed in the Graduate office of the appropriate program by the deadlines shown below. Applications for Graduation are available in each Graduate Studies office.

Commencement for M.A.I.S. graduates will be held at the off-campus site following program completion.

Attendance at the activities related to graduation is expected. Activities included in this expectation are Baccalaureate (May only) and Commencement. Petitions for graduating in *absentia* should be directed to the Office of the Provost.

Students who successfully complete a graduate degree program are granted a diploma.

A candidate for the graduate degree must:

- Accumulate required semester hours for the degree:
 - 37 for the M.B.A.,
 - 30 credit hours for the M.Ed.,
 - 33 credit hours for the M.A.Ed. (thesis route),
 - 39 credit hours for the M.A.Ed. (non-thesis route)
 - 39 credit hours for the M.A.I.S.
 - 38 credit hours for the M.S.N.
 - 39 credit hours for Ed.S.
- Accumulate a grade point average of 3.0 (minimum) for M.B.A., M.Ed., and M.A.Ed, M.A.I.S., M.S.N., or Ed.S.
- Successfully complete all degree requirements which are in effect for each program.
- File an Application for Graduation with the respective Graduate School office. Application deadlines are:
 - March 1 for candidates who plan to complete requirements by the May Commencement.
 - June 1 for completion by August Commencement.
 - October 1 for completion by December Commencement.
- Pay in full the student's account in the Business Office.
- Discharge all other obligations (fines, credentials, etc.) at the University.