

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:

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 atm1v(EhurS(s6(a02

- 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 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:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- Association 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

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

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education
- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- Association 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
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- National Art Education Association
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Member Of

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education
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fees, family housing, reservation and procedures please refer to the [Union University website](#) located on Union University's website at **www.uu.edu**.

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, includ-