

AN OVERVIEW

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

environment conducive to the development of character, servant leadership, and cultural engagement.

Our Core Values

- † **Excellence**: 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.
- † **Coherence**: 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

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.

- † **Forward**: 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, during the administration of President Warren F. Jones (1945-62), 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),

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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 1000 students graduated from Union, a 149% increase over the 96-97 school year:



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.

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.

Union also has an off-campus site in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The Hendersonville campus is located at the strategic intersection of Indian Lake Blvd. and Maple Drive. The attractive 26,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose facility effectively serves the expanding program offerings in the middle Tennessee area.

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 Directory](#), available at [www.union.edu/campusdirectory](#).

Penick Academic Complex

The Penick Academic Complex houses the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel, Fred DeLay Gymnasium, E.T. "Rocky" Palmer Activities Center, Office of Career Services, W. D. Powell Theatre, Waldrop Administrative Center, Union Station, Information Technology, Emma Waters Summar Library, Hundley Center for Academic Enrichment, and the Warren Jones Academic Suite. 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.

The Waldrop Administrative Center contains the offices of the Registrar, Business Services, Office of the Provost, Office of the President, 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 membership in regional and national cooperatives it has access to the collections of over 41,000 libraries worldwide. 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.

Smith Memorial Soccer Complex

The Smith Memorial Soccer Complex provides two competition fields, bleachers to accommodate 1,000 spectators, a press box, concession stand and rest room facilities.

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 Offices of University Relations, Alumni Relations, Church Relations, University Communications, and University Press, as well as the LifeWay Bookstore.

Jennings Hall

Jennings contains the departments of Communication

Residence Halls

Single student housing is arranged in two residence complexes. Student apartments include four private bedrooms and a kitchen. The Heritage Residence Complex and the Ayers Quad primarily house new students/ freshmen. The McAfee Commons building in the Heritage Complex houses the Residence Director and Assistant Residence Director and provides facilities for lounge areas, laundry and recreation. The Grace, Hope, Hurt and Watters Quads house upperclassmen and a limited number of freshmen. The Bowld Student Commons Building houses male and female residence directors for The Quads. The Commons provides additional lounge, recreation, and classroom space.

Graduate and family housing is located in the Warmath Apartments. The complex consists of 20 two-bedroom apartments.

Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building

The Barefoot Student Union Building houses the Student Dining Hall, Executive Dining Room, Lexington Inn, Eldon Byrd Faculty Lounge, Barefoots Joe coffeehouse, Harvey Auditorium, University Services and Mail Services, offices for Student Services (Dean of Students, Assistant 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 Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Planning, Enrollment Services, Campus Ministries (Missionary-In-Residence), and Prayer Chapel.

Carl Grant Events Center

The Carl Grant Events Center is named in honor of Carl J. Grant to recognize his generosity to and support for Union University. The beautiful state-of-the-art events center was designed to host significant conferences, dinners,