

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

## 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 excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused, 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

and want to be involved in everything we do. We

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

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

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.

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 the 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 in Murfreesboro, near the geographical center of the state. Union University came upon hard times when in 1859 its highly respected president, Joseph H. Eaton, died and when during the Civil War its campus was badly damaged. It reopened in 1868





## External Associations

### Accredited By

Union University is accredited by the  
A C C C  
to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, education  
specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission  
on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia,  
30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the  
accreditation of Union University.

Normal inquiries about the institution, such as admission  
requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc.,  
should be addressed directly to the institution and not  
to the Commission's office. The University also has the  
following discipline-specific accreditation:

A C P E

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



## Student Life

Graduate students are welcomed and are encouraged to participate in the many religious, cultural, and educational activities that take place on the University campus. For more information on student life, graduate students may consult the latest edition of [C](#) at [. . . /](#) [/](#) [.](#)

## Student Conduct

It is understood and expected that graduate students will possess a high level of maturity and responsibility. Union University is committed to providing quality education within a Christian environment. All students are expected to recognize this commitment and to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the Christian lifestyle. Furthermore, since positive relationships with faculty and other students contribute to the learning process, students are expected to make every effort to avoid behavior that is known to be offensive to others.

The President, the Dean of Students, and the judicial system of the University are charged with the administration of discipline. They are empowered to rule in any irregularity pertaining to student life.

For more information about University community values or the judicial process at Union University, please refer to the latest version of [C](#) at [. . . /](#) [/](#) [.](#)

## Chapel and Spiritual Life

Chapel is one of the distinctive features of the Christian college and is for the strengthening of faith in God, for instruction, and for the enrichment of the spiritual life of the total university family.

Chapel attendance is not compulsory for graduate students. However, graduate students are invited to attend as well as participate in other spiritual activities including activities sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life, 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

## Academic Policies

### Class Attendance

Regular and successive attendance is expected of all students enrolled in all lecture, laboratory, and seminar classes. Each faculty member will determine how this policy will be administered in his/her classes. However, students must satisfy all testing, reporting, and required functions de ned for the course.

### Academic Integrity

Union University upholds the highest standards of honesty. Students are to refrain from the use of unauthorized aids during testing (including but not limited to technology devices such as digital cameras, cellphone cameras, pen-based scanners, translation programs, and





## Special Categories of Admission

### Provisional Students

With limited exceptions, provisional students are enrolled in eligible programs for the purpose of obtaining a degree from Union University. These students do not have immediate access to official documents in order to be fully admitted. Any credit taken while in this status will not be transferred as regular matriculated credit until the status has officially been changed. Students will be required to submit all outstanding items to complete the admissions file in order for the provisional status to be changed.

The student will be bound by all general academic requirements imposed upon regular matriculated students so far as prerequisites, amount of work, and quality of work are concerned. All work completed or attempted will be fully documented in the Academic Center.

The student will sign a contract at the time of admission defining the status of a provisional student accepting the limitation of that status. The student must also sign a waiver so that Union University will have the right to request those documents needed to complete the admissions file.

A student may remain on provisional status for only one semester and the subsequent short term unless special circumstances exist and permission for an extension is given in writing by the Program Director. A personal conference with the Program Director may be required before the student is accepted for admission on a provisional basis.

### Non-Degree Seeking Students

Some students may be admitted in this category if they desire to take courses primarily for special interest or on a "visiting student" basis. Often these special students are enrolled in other institutions and are enrolled for only one or two terms at Union. Students must submit an application to the appropriate graduate school, pay the application fee (nonrefundable), and submit an official transcript as proof of at least the baccalaureate degree. Students must meet all requirements for admission to change from Non-Degree Seeking status to Degree Seeking status. A maximum of 6 hours may be taken as a Non-Degree student.

### Registration Information

Registration dates for each term are given in the calendar of this catalogue. In order to accommodate the varied personal schedules of students, early registration is also allowed. The dates and times for early registration will be published for each term. Students can also obtain this information from the appropriate graduate program of ce.

### Late Registration and Class Changes

Late registration and changes of classes are allowed in some courses and in accordance with published deadlines in the Academic Center. 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 of ce.

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

A candidate for the graduate degree must:

- Complete required semester hours for the degree as indicated within the appropriate program.  
Earn a cumulative Union University GPA of 3.0 (minimum) for M.B.A., M.Ed., and M.A.Ed, M.A.I.S., M.S.N., M.S.W., M.C.S., D.Min.; and 3.2 (minimum) for Ed.S or Ed.D.
  - Successfully complete all degree requirements which
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After eight academic days there is no refund

Regulations for refunds for all terms are as follows:

1. Students refusing to conform to the disciplinary rules of the university forfeit all claims for refunds.
2. All above rules and regulations put the responsibility on the student. He/she saves money and avoids misunderstanding by immediately seeing the Senior Vice President for Business and Financial Services or the Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Services.

### Equipment

Any University equipment such as musical instruments, athletic equipment, laboratory apparatus, etc., that may be made available for students' use is the responsibility of the student. Any damage or breakage, other than by normal use, will be charged to the student's account.

No equipment is to leave the campus, unless in care of the faculty member responsible for it.

### Financial Assistance

Financial Aid which is available to graduate students includes the Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal GradPLUS