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# AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

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## 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 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,

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

ordering. God as Father reigns with providential care over all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not to destroy them. He alone is the author of life, and the source of grace. He is the author of 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 for their sins. Sanctification is the process of the Holy 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.

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. With respect to faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Trustees is the final arbiter on the Bible's meaning and application for the purposes of the University.

American Chemical Society  
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business  
International  
Association of Baccalaureate Social Work  
Program Directors  
Associations for Christians in Student Development  
Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for  
Teacher Education  
Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools  
Certificate in Education for Public Relations, Public  
Relations Society of America  
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
Concurrent Admissions Program  
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  
National Council for State Authorization  
Reciprocity Agreements  
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

## **State Board Approvals**

*Educator Preparation Program, Tennessee State  
Department of Education  
Tennessee Health Related Boards*

## **The Campus**

The uniqueness of the Union University campus, located on U.S. Highway 45 Bypass 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.

## Providence Hall

Providence Hall houses the administrative and faculty offices and state-of-the-art classrooms for the College of Pharmacy, as well as the simulation labs for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Center for Excellence in Health Care Practice.

curriculum and graduate program policies. The faculty considers recommendations from the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), which is responsible for examining graduate programs, course offerings, and policies relative to graduate studies at Union. Task teams may be created by the Deans of the Schools/Colleges to consider and make recommendations to the UCC. Thus, significant curriculum and policy changes and additions proceed from the Directors (and/or task teams) to the UCC to the faculty. The graduate governance structure at Union University is completed by the Provost, the President, and the Board of Trustees.

The Program Directors are empowered to make admissions decisions based on the approved and published admission criteria. Admission decisions of the nursing graduate program are made by the Graduate Nursing Admissions Committee. The Graduate Nursing Admissions Committee is comprised of the Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, and track chairs. The Graduate Business Admissions Committee, the Graduate Education Admissions Committee, the Graduate Social Work Admissions Committee, and the Graduate Theology and Missions Admissions Committee, comprised of business, education, social work, or Christian studies faculty and directors respectively, receive recommendations regarding candidates for admission who do not meet regular admission requirements. The respective Admissions Committees may recommend Conditional Admission for students who do not meet published criteria for admission.

## **Student Life**

Graduate students are welcomed and are encouraged to participate in the many curricular and co-curricular activities that take place on the University campus. For more information on student life, graduate students may consult the latest edition of *The Campus Life Handbook* at [www.uu.edu/studentlife/handbook](http://www.uu.edu/studentlife/handbook).

## **Student Conduct**

At Union University all members of the University community have a responsibility to the values of the University and to one another. The commitment to these values is expected at any time a student is enrolled, whether or not school is in session. When students are accepted for admission to Union University or not school is in session.





hours in a degree program. The Registrar will award transfer graduate credit upon recommendation of Program Directors for Masters, Education Specialist, and Doctor of Education (School Administration) programs. Application for the coursework to the student's degree program is determined by the Dean or Program Director in the respective program after review of an official



complete the In Absentia Letter found on the Graduation website (

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 Affairs or the Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs.

## 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 Direct Loan, the Federal GradPLUS Loan, and the Federal TEACH Grant as well as Alternative Educational Loans. Some restrictions may apply. Information on how to apply for aid can be found at [www.uu.edu/financialaid](http://www.uu.edu/financialaid). Financial Aid Policies and Practices, Consumer Information, and other important information can be found at [www.uu.edu/financialaid](http://www.uu.edu/financialaid).

## Veterans

Union University is approved by the state approving agency for Veterans training. Veterans and/or their dependents who may be eligible for VA education benefits should go to [www.uu.edu/financialaid/veterans](http://www.uu.edu/financialaid/veterans) to apply. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will send a Certificate of Eligibility to the applicant, after the application is processed. After being enrolled in courses leading to a degree, students who qualify should review our Veteran Services page at [www.uu.edu/financialaid/veterans](http://www.uu.edu/financialaid/veterans). This site details what is needed in order to get your enrollment certified to the VA. The Director of Student Financial Planning serves as the Veteran Certifying Official for all Union University students.

## Treatment of Financial Assistance when a Student Withdraws

### Federal Aid – Return of Title IV Aid Regulations

If a student in a semester based program withdraws from a semester on or before the 60% point in time (calculated using calendar days) without having completed any course in the semester for which federal aid has been disbursed or could have been disbursed (credited to the student's account), a percentage of that aid must be returned to the source. The percentage to be returned is equal to the percentage of the semester which has passed on the day student withdraws.

Return of Title IV Aid regulations also apply to a student in a cohort program who withdraws from a single course without having completed any previous course in the enrollment period (semester), unless the student documents the intention to return to the program during that same enrollment period. Should the student not return to the program during that

period as intended, Return of Title IV Aid regulations will then be applied.

## Other Financial Assistance

Financial assistance credited to the student's account from sources outside the university will remain on the student's account unless otherwise indicated by the donor or source.

## Effect on the Student's Account

If funds which must be returned due to withdrawal have already been credited to a student's account, it may result in the student owing additional funds to Union University.

## Employer Tuition Reimbursement

The student is responsible for providing information to the University regarding their employer's policies for reimbursement. If the employer reimburses the student directly, the student must pay the University in full at the time of registration. If the employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the University, the student must pay their portion of the tuition at the time of registration. The University will provide any required information to an employer when requested by the student.