

Brief Profile of The University

Official Name: The University of Alabama

History/Location: In 1819 the Congress of the United States donated 46,000 acres of land within the State of Alabama for the endowment of a seminary of learning. The General Assembly of Alabama created the Board of Trustees in 1821, and on April 18, 1831, the University was opened for admission of students. On April 4, 1865, most of the University buildings were burned to the ground by a body of federal cavalry. The new buildings were begun in April 1869. On February 25, 1884, the federal government donated 22 sections of public land within the state to the University in restitution of its loss in buildings and equipment when the campus was destroyed in 1865. The institution is located in Tuscaloosa, a west central Alabama city of approximately 78,000 residents. University grounds comprise approximately 1,000 acres.

Type of Control: The State of Alabama chartered The University of Alabama (UA) with authority vested in a Board of Trustees that is self-perpetuating. The current Board elects new trustees from congressional districts, subject to confirmation by the State Senate.

Instructional Schools, Programs and Degrees: The instructional schools are Arts and Sciences, Commerce and Business Administration, Communication and Information Sciences, Community Health Sciences, Continuing Studies, Education, Engineering, Honors College, Human Environmental Sciences, Nursing, Law, and Social Work. UA offers 83 undergraduate degree programs, 75 master programs, 6 educational specialist programs, 56 doctoral programs, and 1 law program. In 2003-04, UA awarded 3,024 bachelor degrees, 1,072 master degrees, 103 educational specialist degrees, 158 doctoral degrees, and 172 first-professional degrees.

Faculty: In 2003-04, there were 922 full-time instructional faculty; the student/faculty ratio was 19:1; 66% of full-time, regular faculty were tenured, and 97% held a terminal degree. Average salaries in 2003-04 were: \$81,150 for full professors; \$61,222 for associate professors; and \$49,050 for assistant professors.

Enrollment: Fall 2003 enrollment totaled 20,333, which included 15,892 undergraduates, 3,763 graduate students, and 678 first-professional students; 89.8% of the undergraduates and 58.1% of the graduate students were enrolled on a full-time basis; 46.4% of the undergraduate students were male; 21.5% of the undergraduate and 41.3% of the graduate students were from out-of-state; 13.7% of the undergraduate and 9.6% of the graduate students were black, non-hispanic.

Admissions/Retention: 3,076 first-time freshmen were enrolled in the fall 2003; 43.0% of all admitted freshmen enrolled. Average composite ACT score for enrolled freshmen was 23.8. In general, 83.5% of the full-time, first-time freshmen return for their sophomore year, and 55.7% graduate within five years. The most current 6-year graduation rate is 62.2%.

Costs: 2003-04 annual full-time undergraduate tuition was \$4,134 for residents and \$11,294 for non-residents. Room and board costs were approximately \$4,906.

Finance: For 2002-03, total operating revenues were \$233.8 million. Net non-operating revenues were \$224.7 million, including \$124.4 million from state appropriations. Total operating expenses were \$385.2 million.

Institutional Affiliations: UA is a member of the National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In athletics, UA began football competition in 1892, and started NCAA Division I competition for men in 1906 and for women in 1974. UA is a member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) for all sports.

Libraries: In addition to the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, which serves the humanities and social sciences, there are five separate discipline-related libraries (Business, Education, Science and Engineering, Health Sciences, and Law) and a special collections library. The total library system holds approximately 2,400,000 catalogued items (books, journals, etc.) and over 3,900,000 microform units.