

AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

Our Identity

Union University is an academic community, affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, equipping

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.

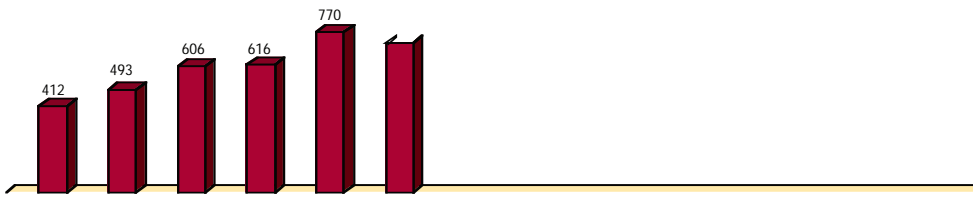
After a major fire in 1912, several new buildings were constructed, including the centerpiece of the campus for the next 60 years, Barton Hall. In 1948, during the administration of President Warren F. Jones (1945-62), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted Union University its original 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), enrollment increased from less than 1,000 students to over 2,000; the multi-purpose Penick Academic Complex was enlarged several times; many additional housing units were erected;

and the Blasingame Academic Complex (1986) and the Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building (1994) were constructed. From the early 1950's to the early 1970's, Union operated an Extension Center in the Memphis area. From 1987-95, Union offered the degree completion program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN track) in Memphis. There were over 300 graduates of this program.

When David S. Dockery was elected as the fifteenth president of Union University in December 1995, he brought with him a compelling vision to build on a great tradition while taking Union to the next level of regional and national prominence in Christian higher education. The progress that has been made during this time has been remarkable: annual non-duplicating headcount increased from 2200 (in 1996) to more than 5190 (in 2011); significantly increased giving to Union, including seventeen of the largest commitments in Union history; instituted four five-year strategic plans; completed construction of nineteen residence halls, the Miller Tower, Jennings Hall, Hammons Hall, the Fesmire athletic facilities, White Hall, the Carl Grant Events Center, new residence life facilities, the Bowld Student Commons, and Providence Hall; launched the \$110 million comprehensive "Building a Future" campaign; renewed commitment to scholarship and research among Union faculty as a part of the establishment of the Center for Faculty Development; added new undergraduate majors in political science, physics, theology, digital media studies, church history, ethics, sports management, sports medicine, engineering; and graduate programs in education (M.Ed., M.U.Ed., Ed.S., and Ed.D.), nursing (MSN with tracks in education, administration, nurse practitioner, and nurse anesthesia), intercultural studies (MAIS), Social Work (MSW), and Pharmacy (Pharm.D.); SACS Level VI accreditation was achieved; programs were added in undergraduate research; began LIFE group programs, student retention programs, student mission involvement, giftedness assessment program for freshman students; established extension campuses in Germantown and Hendersonville, TN, which now has almost 850 students; established the Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership; established the Charles Colson Chair for Faith and Culture, Stephen Olford Chair of Expository Preaching, Hammons Chair of Pre-Medical Study, and the Baptist Memorial Health Care Chair of Pharmacy Practice; established highly successful annual Scholarship Banquet; and achieved top tier recognition in U.S. News and World Report and other important listings. For the past three years, Union has been named one of the top 70 "Universities to Watch" in the entire country.

In many respects, Union University is in the strongest position in its history. For example, the University has enjoyed steady enrollment growth for a number of years, as can be seen in the following charts:



and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe.

5. **Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine, who exalts Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts men and women of sin, of righteousness, and judgment, enabling them to understand the truth. He calls men and women to the Savior, and brings about regeneration, which is a renewal of heart and nature.
 6. **Salvation.** Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; accepting and trusting in
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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



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, School of Nursing, the MSN Director of Nurse Anesthesia Track, Chair of MSN, and three graduate nursing faculty appointed by the Dean on a

yearly basis. The Graduate Business Admissions Committee, the Graduate Education Admissions Committee and the Graduate Theology and Missions Admissions Committee, comprised of business, education or Christian Studies, faculty and directors, respectively, receive recommendations from the appropriate Dean regarding candidates for admission who do not meet regular admission requirements. The MAIS Advisory Council, comprised of the director and the faculty across the disciplines, receive recommendations from the MAIS Program Director 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 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 *Christianity Today* at www.christianitytoday.com.

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 *Christianity Today* at www.christianitytoday.com.

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 to and control over information contained in educational records. The law stipulates that each institution is responsible for making students aware of the law and its various ramifications. More information about FERPA can be obtained from the Registrar. Official student academic records, supporting documents, and other student files shall be maintained, only by members of the University staff employed for that purpose, in separate files:

- † 2 TRU^W Z CVT dHf aa` cZ XU Tf ^ V edR UXV VRJ education records—maintained by the Academic Center, academic departments and advisers
- † CVT dH` WZIZaJZ Vac` TWUZ Xc ^ RZ eRZ USJ the Student Services Office
- † 7Z R TZJ cVT dHc ^ RZ eRZ USJ 3f dZ VdR U Financial Services
- † > VZIRJ cVT dHc ^ RZ eRZ USJ eYVDefUV_e Health Services Office (governed also by HIPAA)
- † 2U` ZHZ` dcVT dHc ^ RZ eRZ USJ eYV Admissions Office
- † 7Z R TZJ RZ cVT dHc ^ RZ eRZ USJ eYVDefUV_e Financial Planning Office

Directory information (student's name, address—including email address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photograph, academic major, class schedule, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational institution attended) may be made public by the University unless a student requests to the Academic Center in writing that such information be released only upon his/her consent.

Motor Vehicle Registration and Parking

Every individual who maintains or operates a motor vehicle on Union University campuses must register each vehicle with the Safety & Security Office at the beginning

of the semester or within 24 hours of bringing a vehicle to campus. The registration fee for one permit is included in your total tuition package. There is a \$5 charge for each additional permit received within the academic year. The vehicle's license plate number is required for registration of the vehicle.

The Safety & Security Office will issue a free Temporary Permit when an individual has the use of a vehicle for two weeks or less. Handicap permits are available for students or staff who require special consideration for either a temporary or permanent condition. A physician's statement may be required.

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, yC0.001

Credit From the American Council on Education Regarding National Board Certification

Graduate programs in education at Union University award credit as recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE) regarding National Board Certification up to 6 semester 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 copy of the Registry of Credit Recommendations (transcript) from ACE.

Academic Probation and Suspension

After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses taken at Union University for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. A graduate student whose GPA from courses taken at Union is below 2.5 will be suspended from the graduate degree program. While suspended from the degree program, the student may, in an effort to improve the GPA, repeat courses in which a grade of C or F has been received. When the student's GPA has been raised to 2.5 or higher, the student may apply for readmission to the degree program. See also each program for program specific progression policies. (For pharmacy students, this component is monitored by the Academic and Progression Review Committee of the School of Pharmacy.)

A graduate student suspended from the graduate program is not eligible to file for Veterans Administration Benefits.

Appeal Procedures

A student who wishes to appeal for a variance from graduate policies or procedures should direct a written petition to the academic dean or the Associate Provost for International and Intercultural Studies requesting the variance and carefully outlining the reasons for the request. The request must be received no later than 90 days after the issuance of the grade. After consideration of the petition, the Dean/Associate Provost will determine whether the petition can be granted and will inform the student, in writing, of the decision.

If the student is dissatisfied with the Dean's/Associate Provost's response to the petition, the student may then appeal the Dean's/Associate Provost's decision to the Graduate Appeals Committee. The Graduate Appeals Committee will review the petition, gather information as it is needed, and render a decision. The Committee will inform the student, in writing, of their decision.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Graduate Appeals Committee, that decision can be appealed to the EVPAA. The decision of the EVPAA in consultation with the EVP–Provost will be final. Copies of all correspondence related to all formal petitions and appeals will be kept for future reference in the student's file in the office of the respective Graduate school.

Academic Grievance

Orderly procedures are provided by which a student may be heard concerning a just academic grievance. Procedures are outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct* for the student who wishes to register dissatisfaction with the quality of instruction or performance of a professor.

Both the *Code of Student Conduct* and the *Faculty Handbook* detail the procedure for a formal grade appeal. The student should first ask the instructor how the grade was determined. It is hoped that most problems can be resolved at this level.

Admission Information

General Admission Requirements

1. Completed application for the specific program, including payment of a \$25 application fee.
2. Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted.

Other program specific admission requirements are included in the program sections of this Catalogue.

Additional Admission Requirements for International Students

All international students will meet the same requirements for regular admission to the University and for admission to the specific graduate program intended. International students will be required to complete the International Student Application for Admission as well as the application for admission to the specific graduate program intended and a \$50.00 application fee. All

documents must be in English, and the official transcripts must be certified English translations. The following additional requirements must be met:

- A. A physical examination.
- B. Student insurance approved by Union University.
- C. A financial affidavit.
- D. A TOEFL score of at least 560 (Computer based 220). Specific programs may require a higher score.

From a country where the native language is English, students will be admitted on academic credentials without regard to language requirements. Academic requirements will be the same as for regular admission.

From a country where the native language is not English, students will submit official TOEFL score reports of not less than 560 for admission to Union University.

From another accredited institution of higher learning in the United States, international students will be required to meet the same requirements for admission as all other transfer students as well as meeting the required TOEFL score.

Each international student shall prepay or show responsible evidence (such as a government scholarship) of having an adequate sum of money for one academic year. This money shall be enough to cover tuition and other expenses for the student while enrolled at Union University. Declaration of Finances forms are available in the Admissions Office.

An I-20 form may be issued only after admission requirements and the above monetary requirements have been satisfied.

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

Commencement for M.A.I.S. graduates may be held at the off-campus site following program completion.

Attendance at the activities related to graduation is expected. Petitions for graduating in absentia should be directed to the Office of the Provost.

Students who successfully complete a graduate degree or post masters certificate program are granted a diploma.

A candidate for the graduate degree must:

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1. On or before the first day following the official day of registration as indicated on the University calendar (if withdrawing—100% less \$40 per course matriculation fee)
2. Day 1 100% less \$40/course
3. Day 2 75%
4. Day 3 50%
5. Day 4 25%
6. After the fourth day, there is no refund.

Note: Days noted in C, D, and E excludes Saturdays and Sundays.

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