

# The University

**A**UBURN UNIVERSITY, chartered in 1856, is located in Auburn, Alabama, and traces its beginning to the East Alabama Male College, a private liberal arts institution whose doors opened in 1859. From 1861 to 1866 the college was closed because of the Civil War. The college had begun an affiliation with the Methodist Church before the war. Due to financial straits, the church transferred legal control of the institution to the state in 1872, making it the first land-grant college in the South to be established separate from the state university. It thus became the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama.

Women were admitted in 1892, and in 1899 the name again was changed, to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. In 1960, the school acquired a more appropriate name, Auburn University, a title more in keeping with its location, size and complexity. The institution has experienced its greatest growth since World War II, and today enrolls 21,860 students, the largest on-campus enrollment in the state. The majority are Alabama residents.

Auburn University at Montgomery was established as a separately administered branch campus in 1967. The institution has developed rapidly, especially since moving to a 500-acre campus east of Montgomery in 1971. Current enrollment at AUM is about 5,500.

## Statement of Vision And Mission

The following statement of vision and mission was developed by the Task Force on Mission established in 1995 and was approved by the Board of Trustees on March 20, 1997.

### Vision

Auburn University will emerge as one of the nation's preeminent land-grant Universities in the 21st Century. Central to all its functions will be the University's historic commitment of service to all Alabamians as the State becomes a part of a global society with all of its challenges and opportunities. The University will be widely recognized for the quality of its undergraduate educational programs, the effectiveness of its research and outreach programs, and the broad access to the University provided through the innovative use of information technology. The University will insure the quality of its programs through the careful focusing of its resources in areas of institutional strengths. One constant that will remain unchanged at the University--that intangible quality Auburn men and women call the "Auburn Spirit."

### Mission

Auburn University's mission is defined by its land-grant traditions of service and access. The University will serve the citizens of the State through its instructional, research, and outreach programs and prepare Alabamians to respond successfully to the challenges of a global economy. The University will provide both traditional and non-traditional students broad access to the institution's educational resources. In the delivery of educational programs on campus and beyond, the University will draw heavily upon the new instructional and outreach technologies available in the emerging information age.

The University will give highest priority for resource allocation to undergraduate education and for future development of those areas that represent the traditional strengths, quality, reputation, and uniqueness of the institution and that continue to effectively respond to the needs of students and other constituents. Consistent with this commitment, the University will emphasize high quality undergraduate education including a comprehensive general education that imparts the broad knowledge, skills, and values so essential to educated and responsible citizens as well as specialized career preparation for students. In establishing the primacy of undergraduate education to the institutional mission, the University will assure the continued strength of its faculty with the realization that the quality of instruction is directly related to the quality of the University's faculty and the commitment of the faculty to excellence in undergraduate education. The University will provide graduate programs in areas of need and importance to the State and beyond. Graduate programs offer students opportunities for specialized advanced education in their chosen field and are important components of the services

the University provides.

Because research is essential to the mission of a land-grant university, Auburn University will continue development of its research programs. The primary focus of this research will be directed to the solution of problems and the development of knowledge and technology important to the State and Nation and to the quality of life of Alabama citizens. The University's research programs will make important contributions to instructional programs through the involvement of graduate and undergraduate students and the renewal of the faculty. Research will also provide the knowledge base for outreach programs. In carrying out its research mission, the University will emphasize established areas of strength and will focus available resources in those areas of research and doctoral study that are, or have the potential to develop into nationally and internationally recognized centers of excellence.

Extension and outreach programs are fundamental to the land-grant mission because these programs directly affect the lives of all citizens in the State. The University will maintain the strengths of its traditional outreach programs and will increasingly involve the broader University in outreach programs that respond to the changing needs of the society in which we live. The University will continue to seek new and innovative ways to reach out to the people it serves.

### Instruction

Auburn offers the baccalaureate in more than 130 areas that span the spectrum of disciplines and provides the state's only publicly supported programs in many fields, including several in agriculture, forestry, architecture, building science, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. Particularly strong academic programs can be found in the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Sciences and Mathematics, Business, Education and Engineering. Through the years, ROTC programs at Auburn have been nationally prominent in providing leadership for the military. Auburn supports a comprehensive graduate school, providing master's level programs in more than 64 areas and the doctorate in more than 40 fields, many unique in Alabama. Strong graduate programs are found in agriculture, the biological and physical sciences, forestry, mathematics, engineering, education, the human sciences, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. More recently, excellent graduate offerings have emerged in the liberal arts, social sciences and business. As a comprehensive center for graduate education and research, Auburn develops its academic programs to adapt to the changing of modern society.

While Auburn has long been widely recognized for its quality and diversity in undergraduate and first-professional offerings, more recently and in relation to expanding research efforts the scope of graduate degree programs has risen to prominence. Notable growth is anticipated in programs with expanded research activity, especially in agriculture and the biological sciences, the physical sciences, engineering, education, business and the veterinary and pharmaceutical sciences. At the master's level, larger enrollments will be seen in the social sciences, liberal arts, education, business, human sciences and the professional programs.

The liberal arts and sciences, at the heart of Auburn's undergraduate instruction, not only form the foundation for professional and career programs but also provide the structure for Auburn's traditional commitment to the enhancement of students' personal and intellectual growth and the development of a more responsible citizenry. The core curriculum, by providing students with a common set of experiences, developing analytical and communication skills, and encouraging the understanding of culture and the natural world, has brought national attention to Auburn as an institution recognized for high academic quality.

The traditional commitment to excellence in teaching at both the undergraduate and the graduate level is reflected in the diversity of course offerings and in the variety of instructional approaches. Increasingly, electronic technology provides instructors the means for innovative and creative strategies, and the high academic aptitude of AU's incoming students make accelerated learning opportunities an important consideration in the continuing review and development of instruction.

## Research

Research is the means through which new knowledge is created and new information is developed. As such, research at Auburn University is an essential link in its three-prong mission of instruction, research and outreach. Successes among the varied research activities within each of its 12 schools and colleges continue to bolster Auburn among the nation's top universities.

Auburn's role as a land-grant university emphasizes strong research programs in agricultural sciences, natural resources, the biological sciences, engineering and the physical sciences. Strong and expanding research programs exist in education; veterinary medicine; pharmacy; the liberal arts; human sciences; business; architecture, design and construction; and nursing.

Results from Auburn research flow directly into the classroom through instruction and to the public through outreach. Auburn's research thrusts, the essential element in fulfilling its land-grant mission, are many, and all cannot be listed separately in this limited space. Yet, programs underway through the various research institutes at Auburn, such as the Space Power Institute and Center for the Commercial Development of Space; the National Center for Asphalt Technology; the Institute for Biological Detection Systems; the Scott-Ritchey Research Center; the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station; and Engineering Experiment Station continue to bring Auburn University to the forefront in research developments and in forming links with the state's business and industry.

Whether in the laboratory, the field or in the classroom, Auburn's research endeavors are diverse and comprehensive, at once focusing upon developing solutions to major problems that confront humankind and expanding the base of knowledge and technologies available to improve our quality of life. Additionally, major efforts to increase the protection and commercialization of intellectual properties is central to Auburn's continual drive for improvements in its research mission.

These efforts mesh to create a research environment that enhances the state's economic, cultural, social and intellectual development and, at the same time, undergirds the university's undergraduate, graduate and outreach programs.

## Outreach

University Outreach is Auburn's land-grant responsibility to provide access across the state to its knowledge-based programs and service. Through outreach, individuals routinely make effective use of the University's resources to serve their educational needs, solve problems and improve the quality of their lives. Drawing on its university-wide faculty expertise, Auburn's Outreach programming addresses Alabama's economic development, youth at risk, excellence in government, continuing education for professionals, cultural preservation, and agricultural and natural resources.

On campus, University Outreach staff and faculty from each of Auburn's schools and colleges provide expertise and resources through a diverse program base. An average of 43,000 persons participate in more than 800 outreach conferences, courses and activities provided each year by Auburn academic departments and outreach centers. Enrollments in courses and graduate programs delivered through distance learning technologies have increased more than 60 percent in the past five years, extending Auburn's reach beyond campus. Interdisciplinary initiatives for education and industry are benefitting citizens across the state, but particularly in west Alabama where Auburn operates several programs targeting the economically depressed region.

Outreach centers include Distance Learning & Outreach Technology, Economic Development Institute, Center for Governmental Services, Outreach Information and the Outreach Program Office. Other outreach program resources, such as the Auburn Industrial Extension Service, Truman Pierce Institute, Small Business Development Center and the Center for Arts and Humanities, are located in the AU schools, colleges and libraries. AU's traditional land-grant outreach programs are affiliated with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, a unified program linking Auburn University and Alabama A&M University with a network of extension offices in each of Alabama's 67 counties. A telecommunications system connects Auburn, Extension System offices and Auburn University at Montgomery. A comprehensive directory of Auburn outreach resources and contacts is available at [www.auburn.edu/outreach](http://www.auburn.edu/outreach).

Auburn University Outreach works in concert with the land-grant missions of instruction and research to form a comprehensive educational engine. Through its combined faculty resources, research applications and outreach initiatives, Auburn University has an almost \$4 billion impact on the state's economy.

## Libraries and Archives

The main library on campus is the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, a 377,000 square-foot structure with seating for 2,500 and shelving space for about 2.5 million volumes. Branch libraries are located in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

Collections include more than 2.6 million volumes, more than 2.4 million items in microformat and 139,000 maps. The Libraries receive more than 23,000, current serials as well as publications issued by U.S. government agencies. It also provides a World Wide Web gateway to the Government Printing Office's GPO Access - a database of federal publications.

Auburn University Libraries' World Wide Web home page provides users with access to the Internet and a number of remote databases. The various periodical databases contain references to selected journal and newspaper articles and research reports covering a spectrum of subject areas, and also include a growing number of full-text documents. AUBIECat lists all books, journals, newspapers and most government publications AU Libraries hold. AUBIECat is available anywhere using the World Wide Web.

The Draughon Library contains carrels for faculty and graduate student use, a room equipped for listening to sound recordings or viewing videos assigned for classroom purposes and two network classrooms. Photocopiers are located on each of the floors and in both branch libraries. Other services available to library users include two Geographic Information System (GIS) workstations, course reserve, electronic document delivery and interlibrary loans, as well as reference service and library use instruction by subject specialist librarians.

Circulation of library materials is automated through use of the on-line catalog and a barcoded user identification card. Borrowing privileges are extended to enrolled students; members of the administrative, research, instructional and extension staffs of the University; student and staff spouses; and active alumni association members.

## Information Technology

Information Technology provides a broad spectrum of computing and communications services for the University community.

**Internet Connectivity.** AU Net, Auburn University's campus network, is the fiber-optic Ethernet backbone linking computers and networks in all buildings on campus to the Internet. The campus is connected to the Alabama Supercomputer Network (ASN) and the Internet through three high-speed fiber optic connections. Auburn University is a participant in the Internet2 initiative. AU Resnet connects computers in campus residence halls directly to AU Net.

**Servers.** An IBM enterprise server is connected to AU Net. Its academic uses include research, information storage and retrieval, selected instructional uses and special applications. Administrative functions include storage and retrieval of information necessary for daily operations of the University. Solaris, Netware and NT servers provide campus-wide network services including electronic mail, mailing lists, Web resources, Usenet news, user authentication and printing in computing labs, anonymous FTP and workgroup computing for departmental users.

**Computers for Students.** About 1,000 computers in labs across campus are available for use by individuals in specific departments. IT maintains 10 computing labs equipped with IBM-compatible microcomputers. The IT labs are connected to AU Net and provide access to network laser printing. IT computing lab software includes database, graphics, word processing and Web browsing. In addition to the general-purpose software, the IT labs provide access to special-purpose software purchased by departments for specific classes.

AU Lease is a centrally administered IT program, allowing students to lease a laptop computer. Leased machines are regularly upgraded.

**World-Wide Web.** As the Web becomes the world's primary medium of information exchange, Auburn University is in the forefront of the transition to Web-based applications of all kinds. Student registration and records, course scheduling, and a wide range of instructional and administrative applications employing Web interfaces are currently in use and will continue to be developed.

The official AU Web site resides at [www.auburn.edu](http://www.auburn.edu). AU colleges, schools and departments maintain Web sites specific to their areas. The material on the primary AU Web site is freely accessible by anyone on the Internet and includes online directory services and a search engine. A dedicated restricted-access Web server, called AU Study, is provided for such items as copyrighted material which must be limited to persons affiliated with the University. A Real Media Server is available for distributing audio and video files and encoding live broadcasts. A Meeting Point Server enables video conferencing.

**Instructional Technology.** AU Study provides access to course materials and Web-based syllabus publishing. IT works with faculty members to enhance the use of the computer as a teaching tool. AU is equipped with a faculty lab for development of instructional technology, as well as several multimedia classrooms located around campus. The Campus Cable TV service provides intra-campus instructional programming. A classroom facility connected to the Interactive Inter-campus Telecommunications System allows access to state

conferencing networks and other worldwide group video conferencing systems. IT assists departments with the production and distribution of multimedia presentations across campus and around the globe through the use of C and Ku band satellite uplink facilities. Test scoring and analysis services are also available to instructors.

**Support.** Training, documentation and consulting are provided for students, faculty and staff via orientations, courses, videotapes, workshops, publications and the IT Help Desk (334/844-4944). The Help Desk is available during University business hours to answer questions regarding AU computing, telecommunications and information technology. The accompanying Web site at [www.auburn.edu/helpdesk](http://www.auburn.edu/helpdesk) is always available and serves as a central dissemination point for information regarding all aspects of computing, information technology and telecommunications at the University. In addition to the online information, IT publishes a number of guides, brochures and tip sheets. The quarterly publication, *Survival Guide: A Student's Guide to Computing at Auburn University*, is designed to help students learn about and use computing resources available to them at the University. Information Technology does not conduct an academic program. Inquiries concerning computer curricula should be directed to the College of Engineering or the College of Business.

Policies. Auburn University's Information Technology policies are on the Web at [www.auburn.edu/it\\_policies](http://www.auburn.edu/it_policies).

## Academic Policies

### Undergraduate Admissions Policies and Procedures

Auburn University, an equal-opportunity educational institution, does not discriminate in its admissions policy on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, handicap, age or national origin. Preference is given to the admission of Alabama residents at the undergraduate level; in considering applications to professional schools or programs with restrictive admissions policies, the length of residency in the state will be a factor.

Applications for resident and non-resident students are accepted for all curricula; however, the number of students admitted is determined by the availability of facilities and faculty.

**Application Forms.** Application forms for admission to any undergraduate school or curriculum of the University can be obtained from the Admissions Office, Attention: Admissions Office, 202 Mary Martin Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5145. Application to the Graduate School or the School of Veterinary Medicine must be made to those schools.

**Process for Application.** Individuals may apply for entrance to any term of a calendar year as early as June 1 of the preceding year. Applicants to Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy will be admitted in the Fall Semester only. Because of the large number of applications, credentials should be submitted as early as possible. In all cases, complete credentials along with the medical examination report must be filed at least three weeks before the term's opening. **The University reserves the right to establish earlier deadlines should circumstances warrant.** Preference will be given to students who have completed the application process by Dec. 1.

**Application Fee.** A \$25 processing fee (international application processing fee is \$50), payable by check, money order or credit card information, must accompany all admission applications and is neither refundable nor applicable to other fees. Responses on the application forms and on related materials must be complete and accurate; entrance may be denied or registration canceled as a result of false or misleading statements.

Applicants may receive provisional acceptance after they submit the application form and current academic documents. However, they must complete and return a medical examination report form provided by the University at least three weeks before the term opens. The University may require additional medical examinations, and it may refuse admission to individuals whose health records indicate that their health or the University community might be adversely affected by their attendance. All applicants must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service Board or that they are not required by law to register.

Applicants may be asked to supply evidence of good character. The University may deny admission to those whose presence is

deemed detrimental to the institution or its students.

**Admission of Freshmen:** Academic Criteria. Favorable consideration for admission will be given to accredited secondary school graduates whose college ability test scores and high school grades give promise of **the greatest level** of success in college courses.

Secondary school students planning to apply for admission to AU should emphasize the following high school courses: English, mathematics, social studies, sciences and foreign languages.

#### High school curriculum requirements

English.....	4 years
Mathematics .....	3 year
Algebra I and Algebra II .....	2 year
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or Analysis .....	1 year
Science.....	2 years
Biology .....	1 year
Physical Science .....	1 year
Social Studies.....	3 years
Recommended: one additional Science, one additional Social Studies and one Foreign Language	

Applicants are required to present scores from either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Entrance Examination Board. High school students may secure application forms from their principals or counselors. Scores on these tests are used as a partial basis for admission, for placement in English, chemistry, mathematics and for awarding University scholarships and loans.

Applicants whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate proficiency in English.

Applicants of mature age who are not high school graduates may be considered for admission if their educational attainments are shown through testing to be equivalent to those of a high school graduate. The tests used include the USAFI General Educational Development Test, the American College Test and/or other tests recommended by the Admissions Committee. Applicants from non-accredited high schools will be considered on an individual basis by the Committee.

**Early Admission.** Students of high academic promise may be admitted directly from the eleventh grade without a diploma. Basic requirements for early admission include:

1. Proper personal qualifications.
2. Superior competence and preparation, evidenced by the high school record and college aptitude test scores (ACT, SAT or other tests prescribed by the University Admissions Committee).
3. A letter from the high school principal assessing the applicant's emotional and social maturity and readiness for college work.

Additional information on this procedure is available at the Admissions Office.