The University

AUBURN 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 more than 23,000 students.

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 5,200.

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 and amended May 7, 2004.

Vision. Auburn University will emerge as one of the nation’s preeminent comprehensive 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, graduate and professional 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 ensure the quality of its programs through the careful focusing of its resources in areas of institutional strengths. One constant 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 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 make use of the new instructional and outreach technologies available in the emerging information age.

As a comprehensive university, Auburn University is committed to offering high-quality undergraduate, graduate, and professional education to its students. The university will give highest priority for resource allocation for the 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 a broad and superior undergraduate education that imparts the knowledge, skills, and values so essential to educated and responsible citizens. At the same time, the university will provide high-quality graduate and professional programs in areas of need and importance to the state and beyond. To accomplish these educational goals, Auburn University will continue to compete nationally to attract a faculty distinguished by its commitment to teaching and by its achievements in research, both pure and applied. The university will strive to attract a faculty that will bring distinction and stature to the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs offered by the university.

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 nation ally 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 University is committed to excellence in teaching at both the undergraduate and the graduate level. This commitment has long been reflected in the diversity of course offerings and in the variety of instructional approaches that are offered. Increasingly, electronic technology is providing instructors with innovative and creative teaching strategies. The high academic aptitude of the university’s incoming students also makes accelerated learning possible.

The liberal arts and sciences B introduced in the university’s nationally recognized Core Curriculum are the heart of Auburn’s undergraduate programs. They lay the foundation not only for advanced study and career preparation but also for the development of a more responsible citizenry through students’ personal and intellectual growth. The Core Curriculum provides students with a common set of experiences, develops their powers of analysis and communication, and encourages their understanding of human culture and the natural world. Auburn has won recognition for its high academic quality.

Auburn offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 130 areas across the spectrum of disciplines and provides the state’s only publicly supported programs in many fields, including several in agriculture, architecture, building science, forestry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. Particularly strong baccalaureate programs can be found in the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Sciences and Mathematics. For many years, ROTC programs at Auburn have also been nationally prominent in providing leadership for the military.

While Auburn has long been widely recognized for the quality and diversity of its undergraduate and first-professional programs, more recently expanding research accomplishments have broadened the scope and raised the prominence of the university’s graduate programs. Today Auburn supports a comprehensive graduate school, providing master’s level programs in more than 64 areas and awarding the doctorate in more than 40 fields. In many fields it offers the state’s only doctoral program. For many years the university has enjoyed strong graduate programs in agriculture, the biological and physical sciences, education, engineering, forestry, the human sciences, mathematics, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. More recently, excellent graduate programs have also emerged in business, the liberal arts and the social sciences. The university anticipates expanded research activity and graduate instruction, especially in agriculture and the biological sciences, in engineering and the physical sciences, in veterinary and pharmaceutical sciences, as well as in business and education.

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.
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 are 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.

Auburn University broke ground in 2005 to construct a new research park. The research park will expand research opportunities for Auburn faculty and students as well as increase collaborations between university research, business and industry and will include office and laboratory space as well as a business incubator. The first building is slated to be ready for occupancy during 2007.

Outreach
As a land grant institution, Auburn University’s tripartite mission includes a responsibility to extend knowledge beyond the classroom and apply research in innovative and practical ways to benefit people. To this end, University Outreach represents a thriving partnership between Auburn University faculty, staff and students, on the one hand, and citizens and communities on the other, the purpose of which is to solve problems and improve quality of life in Alabama and beyond. Outreach enhances the university’s knowledge base, ensures the institution’s relevance to the broader society, and provides valuable insights and information for teaching and research.

Outreach includes applied research, continuing education, service learning, technical assistance, distance learning, community service, policy research and many other forms of engagement performed by faculty, staff and students through a number of offices at Auburn. The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach provides administrative leadership and support for outreach work campus wide. Units reporting to that office include the Center for Governmental Services, Distance Learning and Outreach Technology, the Economic and Community Development Institute, the Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification, and the Outreach Program Office. There are more than 75 outreach units and program initiatives within the university’s schools and colleges. Some of these include the Center for the Arts and Humanities in Liberal Arts, the Auburn Technical Assistance Center in Business, the Truman Pierce Institute in Education, the Rural Studio in Architecture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System reaches all 67 Alabama counties providing educational programs and services through faculty specialists and local agents. Auburn also participates in regional and outreach programs.

From this base of organizational and faculty resources, Auburn hosts a diverse range of outreach activities. Annually, the university produces more than 1,000 conferences, courses and training programs, with registrations averaging 50,000. More than half of these programs are approved to offer continuing education units. AU’s distance education offerings have more than doubled in the last decade; currently 23 programs and more than 260 course options are offered in business, engineering, education, liberal arts, human sciences, and agriculture. Auburn conducts hundreds of technical assistance projects annually for clients across the state, representing millions of dollars in direct impact from improved sales, cost savings, and investments. Auburn supports some 100 outreach facilities and research sites throughout the state and more than any other educational institution in Alabama making AU resources highly accessible to citizens. A comprehensive directory of Auburn’s outreach resources and contacts is available at www.auburn.edu/outreach.

Information Technology
The Office of Information Technology (OIT) offers computing and communication services to the university community. OIT provides Auburn University with a reliable, secure information technology infrastructure and technical support that enables and encourages the effective use of information technology. Contact OIT via the OIT HelpDesk at (334) 844-4944 or via e-mail to helpdesk@auburn.edu.

Internet Connectivity. AU Net, Auburn University’s campus network, is the Ethernet backbone linking computers and networks in all buildings to each other, and Auburn University to the Internet. The campus is connected to the Alabama Supercomputer Network (ASN) and to the Internet through high-speed fiber optic connections. Auburn University is a participant in the Internet2 initiative. Through AU Resnet, computers in campus residence halls connect directly to the Internet through our high-speed connection. A secure wireless network is available to AU students, faculty, and staff in a number of public and classroom spaces around the campus as well.

Servers. Solaris, NetWare, NT, and Windows servers provide campus-wide network services including e-mail, Web hosting, mailing lists, Web resources, user authentication, anonymous FTP, and workgroup computing for departmental users. A Helix server is available for distribution of streamed audio and video and live broadcasts. A Meeting Point Server enables video conferencing.

Computing Access. Each currently enrolled student has a User Name and password which provides access to TigerMail (AU e-mail), network storage, OIT computing labs, network printing, restricted online class materials, and other AU computing resources. Students have Web access to (the online student information system) where they can register for courses and review grades and transcripts online. E-Bill provides online payment of university fees as well as account summaries. Students are required to log in to access registration, billing, and academic records.

Computers for Students. Computing labs across campus are available for use by students and employees, OIT maintains 10 computing labs with more than 250 networked multimedia Windows machines, most of which are available 24 hours a day. A User Name and password are required to use the OIT labs. OIT computing labs have general
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 Office of Enrollment Services, Quad Center, Auburn, AL 36849-5145. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application electronically by using the document available on the Auburn University Web site. Going to www.auburn.edu and clicking on the section for prospective students can accomplish this. Application to the Graduate School, the College of Veterinary Medicine, or the James Harrison School of Pharmacy 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. Prospective students who are offered admission to the university must maintain a level of academic achievement comparable to that in the record used for admission evaluation. Otherwise, the university reserves the right to rescind the offer of admission.

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.