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 25,000 students. The majority are Alabama residents.

Auburn University 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 exceeds 5,800.

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 is 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 draw heavily upon 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 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 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 - 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-pronged mission of instruction, research and outreach. Successes among the varied research activities within each of its 12 schools and colleges continue to bolster Auburn’s reputation among the nation’s top universities.

Auburn’s role as a land-grant university emphasizes strong research programs in agriculture, natural resources, the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences. Strong and expanding research programs exist in agriculture; architecture, design and construction; business; education; engineering; forestry and wildlife sciences; human sciences;
the liberal arts; nursing; pharmacy; science and mathematics; and veterinary medicine.

Whether in the laboratory, the field, or in the classroom, Auburn University’s research endeavors are diverse, comprehensive, and collaborative focusing on developing solutions to major problems that confront humankind and on 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, professional and outreach programs.

In support of these efforts, the Auburn University Huntsville Research Center interfaces with agencies and industries in order to increase research funding, raise our national profile, as well as bring new ideas and products to government, industries and consumers. A high-tech economic engine for Alabama; Huntsville executes billions in federal contracts yearly. Increasingly, these contracts require the collaboration of a broad array of disciplines. The Auburn University Huntsville Research Center enables North Alabama business, industry, and government to access the capabilities of one of the Southeast’s major research institutions.

Lastly, the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation (ARTF) and the Auburn Research Park were developed to further integrate research and the business community to complement the economic development and research initiatives of the university. In addition to facilitating the commercialization of university technologies and industry-university partnerships, the research park offers employment opportunities for Auburn’s students and graduates.

Outreach

As a land-grant institution, Auburn University has a mission of Outreach – engaging its expertise beyond campus to improve quality of life across Alabama, nationally, and even internationally. More importantly, outreach provides opportunities to establish mutually beneficial partnerships between Auburn University and the community that it serves. Through outreach, citizens benefit from greater access to Auburn’s high quality educational resources. Community interaction benefits the university as well, providing valuable insights and information for teaching and research, and enhancing the institution’s relevance to the broader society.

Outreach focuses on three major areas of activity – lifelong learning, expert assistance, and civic engagement. Auburn University’s lifelong learning programs offer individuals of all ages opportunities for professional continuing education as well as skills development and personal enrichment. The university provides an array of expert assistance and consultation services to improve operations in government, education and business institutions. Finally, civic engagement projects help bond Auburn University and communities in a variety of public service activities. University faculty members are involved significantly in the institution’s outreach initiatives.

Auburn students have a role in the outreach mission too, and there are many innovative ways for students and their faculty mentors to engage in service activities locally, regionally, and even internationally. 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 Professional and Continuing Education, and the Office of Public Service. University Outreach is also home to the AUBURNSERVES initiative (www.auburnserves.com), a collaboration of Auburn’s faculty, academic units, campus organizations, and community partners in the development of new service learning, experiential education and engagement opportunities for students.

There are more than 75 outreach units and program initiatives within the university’s schools and colleges. Some of these include the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in Liberal Arts, the Auburn Technical Assistance Center in Business, the Truman Pierce Institute in Education, Engineering Continuing Education, and the Rural Studio in Architecture. Auburn University also serves as the headquarters for Alabama’s Cooperative Extension System, which serves all 67 Alabama counties with educational programs and services provided by faculty specialists and local agents.

From this base of organizational and faculty resources, Auburn hosts a diverse range of outreach activities. Annually, the university produces some 1,000 conferences, non-credit courses and training programs, with registrations averaging 50,000. More than half of these programs are approved to offer continuing education units. The university’s distance education offerings include more than 20 degree programs and approximately 250 course options in business, engineering, education, liberal arts, human sciences, and agriculture. Auburn conducts hundreds of technical assistance projects annually for industrial and governmental clients across the state, representing millions of dollars in direct impact from improved processes, cost savings, and investments. Auburn supports roughly 100 outreach facilities and research sites throughout Alabama, giving the university a statewide community presence greater than any other educational institution. This makes Auburn’s outreach resources highly accessible to citizens.

A comprehensive directory of Auburn’s outreach resources and contacts is available at www.auburn.edu/outreach.

Libraries and Archives

The largest library on campus is the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, a 377,000 square-foot structure with seating for 2,800 and shelving space for approximately 3 million volumes. Branch libraries are located in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Auburn University is one of the 125 universities that are members of the Association of Research Libraries.

Collections include more than 3 million volumes, more than 2.7 million items in microform, and 152,000 maps. The libraries license access to over 200 electronic databases, including online full-text access to over 3,000 scholarly journals and receive more than 37,000 current serials, including publications issued by the U.S. government. Electronic access is also provided to the Government Printing Office’s GPO Access database of federal publications.

The libraries offer an online catalog to library holdings at www.lib.auburn.edu, expedited electronic document delivery to faculty and students via the AubieExpress service, delivery of books or documents held at other libraries via Interlibrary Loan, and expedited purchasing of titles requested by faculty or students via Purchase Request.

The Draughon Library contains the Learning Commons with over 600 power outlets to allow students to use personal laptops while in the library; carrels for faculty and graduate student use; a Media Digital Resource Laboratory to provide access to the latest multimedia hardware and software along with on-site expertise to assist users, and over 200 university and public computer workstations – including laptop computers that can be checked out to faculty and students.

Reference service and library use instruction is provided by subject specialists. Draughon Library also features an expanded assistive technology workstation area on the second floor that hold three workstations with specialized software for helping vision-impaired patrons use library and Internet resources.

Special Collections and Archives collects rare and unique material related to the history, literature and natural history of Alabama; the American Civil War; the history of aviation; and family history in the southeastern United States.

Library borrowing privileges are extended to enrolled students; members of the administrative, research, instructional and extension staffs of the university; student, faculty and staff spouses; and active alumni association members.

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, via email to helpdesk@auburn.edu, online at www.auburn.edu/oit and follow us on Twitter (AuburnOIT) and Facebook (Auburn University OIT).

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 Research and Education Network (AREN) and to the Internet through high-speed fiber optic connections. Auburn
University is a participant in the Internet2 initiative. A secure wireless network is available to AU students, faculty, and staff in a number of public and classroom spaces around the campus and in the campus residence halls as well.

Servers. Solaris, NetWare, P-Series AIX, Red Hat Linux, and Windows servers provide campus-wide network services including email, web resources, user authentication, web and application hosting, and workgroup computing for departmental users. A Helix server is available for distribution of streamed audio and video and live broadcasts as well.

Computing Access. Each currently enrolled student has a username and password which provides access to AU Access (campus portal), TigerMail Live (AU email), 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, Tiger i, where they can register for courses, view grades, and access additional student services. E-Bill provides online payment of University fees as well as account summaries. Students log in to AU Access for registration, billing, and academic records.

Computers for Students. Computing labs across campus are available for use by students and employees. OIT maintains 16 computing labs with more than 300 networked multimedia Windows machines, most of which are available 24 hours a day. An AU username and password are required to use the OIT labs. OIT computing labs have general purpose software for database, spreadsheet, word processing, Internet (Web browsing), email, and some course-specific software. Network laser printing is available in all OIT Labs, and color printing is available in the 3rd floor library lab for a nominal fee.

World Wide Web. Auburn University is committed to providing convenient and secure Web applications to our University community. Student admissions, registration and records, campus directory services, administrative systems, email, and instructional and research tools are available to the Auburn University students, faculty and staff via the World Wide Web. The official AU Web site resides at www.auburn.edu.

AU colleges, schools, and departments maintain websites specific to their areas. The AU website includes online directory services, news, calendars, campus map, and a search engine. AU Access, the campus portal, SharePoint and restricted webspace are provided for sensitive information (such as copyrighted material). The Office of Information Technology website is located at www.auburn.edu/oit. It serves as a central dissemination point for information about and assistance with computing, information technology, multimedia, and telecommunications at Auburn University. AU OIT also has a presence on Twitter (AuburnOIT) and Facebook (Auburn University OIT).

Instructional Technology. Auburn University is dedicated to providing all faculty and students with effective technology to enhance teaching and improve learning. Blackboard Learning System provides ways for faculty to manage course activities and content and for students to interface with the material, the teachers, and each other. Streaming media and web-based technologies are available for distance education programs and to enhance the online learning experience for all students. Several technology-enhanced classrooms are available on-campus, as are several special course-specific computer classrooms and general computer labs. The Instructional Media Group (IMG) of OIT consults with and conducts workshops for faculty members in a range of instructional technologies. Several technology-enhanced classrooms are available on campus as well as special course development labs. For information on instructional technologies, contact the Instructional Multimedia Group at img@auburn.edu or (334) 844-5181.

Telecommunications. OIT Telecommunications operates the telephone service, data communications system (wired and wireless), and Cable TV for all campus buildings including dormitories. Additional information on Telecommunications services available to AU students including cellular service discounts is provided at www.auburn.edu/oit/telecom.

Infrastructure Planning. OIT participates on all building committees for new buildings and major renovation projects. Through this process, OIT ensures that telecommunications, audio/visual, and networking needs are addressed and that these systems are properly designed. OIT meets regularly with the Facilities Division to coordinate necessary infrastructure improvements. In support of Auburn University's mission, OIT is continually planning and upgrading its backbone copper and fiber optic cabling infrastructure and systems.

Hardware. OIT manages AU Lease (aulease@auburn.edu), a PC leasing program for campus departments and the Student PC Shop for computer setup and repair. Additional information on this program is available at: http://www.auburn.edu/oit/help_support/spcs). Additional information on AU Lease services is available at www.auburn.edu/aulease.

Support. Training, documentation, and consulting are provided for Auburn University students, faculty and staff via orientations, seminars, workshops, publications, and the OIT HelpDesk. The HelpDesk is available on University business days and Sundays to answer questions regarding AU computing, telecommunications, and information technology. Contact the HelpDesk at (334) 844-4944, via email to helpdesk@auburn.edu, or drop by the third floor, RDB Library. Hours of operation can be found at www.auburn.edu/helpdesk.

Online technology support is always available at www.auburn.edu/oit. The Survival Guide site at www.auburn.edu/oit/survival is designed to help new students and their parents become familiar with computing services and resources available at Auburn University.

The Office of Information Technology does not conduct an academic program. Inquiries concerning computer curricula should be directed to the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering or the College of Business.

Policies. Auburn University's Information Technology policies are on the Web at www.auburn.edu/oit/policies. Email (username@auburn.edu) is an official means of communication at Auburn University. As such, students are responsible for checking their Auburn University issued email account in a timely fashion and on a regular basis.