About the University

Our Mission
To advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the state, the nation, and the world through the creation, translation and dissemination of knowledge with an emphasis on quality programs of teaching, research and service.

Our Vision
The University of Alabama will be the university of choice for the best and brightest students in Alabama and a university of choice for all students who seek exceptional educational opportunities. The University of Alabama will be a student-centered research university and an academic community united in its commitment to enhancing the quality of life, not only for all Alabamians, but for citizens of the nation and world.

Our Strategic Goals
- Advance the University’s academic, research, scholarship and service priorities, consistent with a top tier university, and continue to promote growth and national prominence in these areas.
- Enhance the teaching, research and service mission of the University by retaining and recruiting outstanding faculty and staff.
- Enhance the University’s learning environment to attract and retain excellent students.
- Develop a university-wide emphasis on leadership as a primary role of the flagship university of the state of Alabama.

Location
The University of Alabama (UA) is located in Tuscaloosa, Ala., a city with a metropolitan population of approximately 90,000 in the west-central part of the state. The post office address of The University of Alabama is Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. University grounds comprise some 1,000 acres. The University maintains a center in Gadsden and a governmental relations office in Montgomery.

Separate campuses of the University have been established in Birmingham and Huntsville. These campuses are known as The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

Divisions of the University
Vice Presidents’ Offices
- Academic Affairs
- Community Affairs
- Financial Affairs
- Research
- Student Affairs
- University Advancement

Academic Units
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration
- College of Communication and Information Sciences
- College of Community Health Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- Graduate School
- Honors College
- College of Human Environmental Sciences
- School of Law
- Capstone College of Nursing
- School of Social Work

Support Units
- Capstone International
- Center for Communication and Educational Technology
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- College of Continuing Studies
- Libraries at The University of Alabama
- Oak Ridge Associated Universities
- Office of Disability Services
- Office of Information Technology
- Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Office of the University Registrar
- Paul W. Bryant Museum
- Technology and Testing
- University of Alabama Museums
- University of Alabama Press
- University Writing Center

Accreditation
The University of Alabama is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, certificate, masters, educational specialist and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The University of Alabama.

In addition, selected programs have been accredited by the AACSBI-International-The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; ABET, Inc.-Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology; Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication; American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; American Bar Association; American Library Association; Alabama State Department of Education; Alabama State Board of Health; Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education; American Psychological Association; American Speech Language-Hearing Association; Association of University Programs in Health Administration; Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education Programs; Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education; Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; Commission on English Language Program Accreditation; Council on Social Work Education; Council for Interior Design Accreditation; Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs; Council on Rehabilitation Education; Liaison Committee for Medical Education; National Association of School Psychologists; National Association of Schools of Art and Design; National Association of Schools of Music; National Association of Schools of Dance; National Association of Schools of Theatre; and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

History of the University
1818-1820
- In 1818, the federal government authorized Alabama Territory to set aside a township for the establishment of a "seminary of learning." Alabama was admitted to the Union on March 2, 1819, and a second township was added to the grant. On December 18, 1820, the seminary was officially established and named "The University of the State of Alabama."

1827
- Tuscaloosa, then the state’s capital, was chosen as the University’s home.

1831
- On April 18, inaugural ceremonies were held, and the University opened. By May 28, 52 students had enrolled. The campus consisted of seven buildings: two faculty houses, two dormitories, the laboratory, the hotel (now Gorgas House) and the Rotunda.

1837
- The University of Alabama became the first in the state to offer engineering classes. It was one of the first five in the nation to do so and one of the few to have continuously maintained accreditation since national accreditation began in 1936.

1841
- President’s Mansion was completed. Its first occupant, Basil Manly, was the University president from 1837 to 1855.
- Total University enrollment: 63

1850
- Alabama Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa established.

1851
- Total University enrollment: 126

1859
- Medical College branch of the University opened in Mobile.

1860
- The University of Alabama became a military school — martial departmental and disciplinary systems established.