

## Host of the 121<sup>st</sup> Meeting: Union University

Union University is a four-year institution of higher education located in Jackson, Tennessee, with additional campuses in Germantown (suburban Memphis) and Hendersonville (suburban Nashville). Affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Union traces its beginnings to the year 1823, making it one of the oldest educational institutions in the South and the oldest college or university in Southern Baptist life. Union University provides a Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to church and society.

Originally located in east Jackson, the university moved to its present location in 1975. Since David S. Dockery became president in 1996, university enrollment has more than doubled, and more than \$120 million in campus improvements have been completed.

An EF-4 tornado struck the campus on 5 February 2008, destroying most of the on-campus residence life areas and causing about \$45 million in damage. Despite this natural disaster, classes resumed within three weeks and a new residence life complex was ready for move-in the following fall semester.

Enrollment during fall 2011 included a record 4,205 students from 44 states and 33 countries. Slightly more than 20% of entering freshmen achieved an ACT composite score of 30 or more.

The members of the faculty at Union University are recognized nationally for their commitment to outstanding classroom teaching. For example, *U.S. News & World Report* recently ranked the Union faculty among the top five faculties in schools of the South for this commitment and among the top 56 faculties in the nation.

Among the newest buildings on campus is White Hall, completed in 2007, which houses the Departments of Biology and Chemistry, as well as the School of Nursing. The three-floor, 63,000-square foot building includes 20 teaching laboratories (including a nuclear magnetic resonance facility), seven lecture classrooms, three

undergraduate research suites, 42 offices, and three conference rooms.

Union offers about 100 programs of study in six schools: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education and Human Studies, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Theology and Missions. In the sciences, fourteen programs of study are offered along with thirteen science-related pre-professional programs.

Recent graduates from Union University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program have a 96.4 percent pass rate on the latest national registered nurse licensure examination—about nine points higher than the national average. Nearly 100% of Union's faculty-recommended health science students have been accepted to medical school or professional graduate study. There is a 100% job placement rate for nursing and education graduates. Union's Center for Excellence in Healthcare Practice in Providence Hall serves professionals in a variety of fields with 10 patient simulation rooms, a cadaver lab, and labs for health assessment and skills development. These same simulators serve Union nursing and pharmacy students.

Union University has been recognized regionally and nationally in many publications that rank colleges and universities in America, including *U.S. News & World Report*, *Princeton Review*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *College Access and Opportunity Guide*, and *Colleges of Distinction*. Union has also been ranked by the Templeton Foundation's guide *Colleges that Encourage Character Development* and the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

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