

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTIAL
LEADERSHIP STATEMENT





INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

Auburn University is one of the nation's preeminent comprehensive land-, sea- and space-grant universities. Tracing its roots to 1856, Auburn is home to 14 schools and colleges, more than 30,000 students and award-winning faculty nationally and internationally recognized in their fields of research and creative scholarship. Auburn's reputation for an exceptional undergraduate education generated nearly 30,000 applications for fall 2021 admission to a freshmen class of a little more than 5,000 students. Our outstanding faculty attract hundreds of millions of dollars in annual research funding. Auburn rose to the No. 105 position in the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey with \$232 million reported in research expenditures for fiscal year 2019. The university's 2020 research expenditures were up another \$24 million to \$256 million, a remarkable accomplishment by the Auburn faculty in the middle of a global pandemic. Higher education is on the precipice of change. We intend to lead and shape that change. One feature that will remain constant at the university is that intangible quality Auburn men and women call the "Auburn Spirit."

OUR MISSION

Auburn University's mission is defined by its land-grant traditions of service and access. The university will aid Alabamians through forward-thinking education, life-enhancing research and scholarship, and selfless service. Auburn is dedicated to preparing the state's citizens to respond successfully to the challenges of a global economy. The university provides practical solutions to pressing societal problems as well as extensive access to the institution's educational resources. Subsequent to its founding as a land-grant, Auburn was also designated, through federal legislation, as a sea- and space-grant university.

Auburn is committed to educating our students and preparing them for life.

We endeavor to expand their minds, broaden their experiences, and hone their capabilities by imparting both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. A key element of our public charter and of the Auburn Creed is to ensure our students are instilled with a strong work ethic, sound character traits, and core values of honesty and respect. We encourage students to make valuable contributions and to lead their fellow citizens in creating meaningful change. This responsibility to build moral character and instill active social responsibility distinguishes the Auburn student experience.

The institution's internationally diverse faculty is committed to superior teaching and high research and creative scholarship standards. Research is essential to the mission of a land-grant university. Auburn's researchers work every day to find solutions to real-world problems through discovery and innovation, with a focus on how the university can help improve the world around us. Faculty-led teams are often assisted by graduate and undergraduate students. Some of those research initiatives include: examining ways to improve the health and well-being of citizens in the state, region and nation; investigating what moves the world forward in areas such as automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, next-generation manufacturing, quantum computing and data science; researching how to foresee and counter the latest cybersecurity and homeland security threats; and exploring what will advance society in areas such as energy independence and resilience, environmental sustainability, including coastal ocean science, and preserving a sustainable food and water supply.

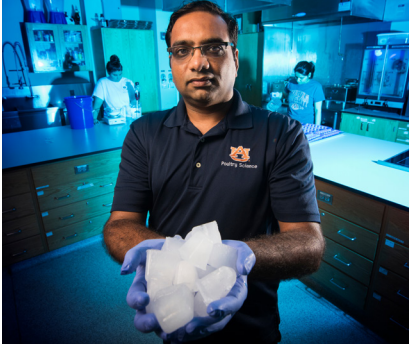
Research also provides the knowledge base for outreach programs that enable lifelong learning for Alabamians through Auburn's extension services programs. It is our duty as a land-grant institution to enable our students, graduates, faculty and partners to transform the fruits of our research and scholarship into products, methods and services that meet our communities' most pressing needs.

The university will continuously seek new and innovative ways to improve the lives of the citizens it serves.



SHAPING THE FUTURE

For 165 years, Auburn University has provided instruction, research and outreach to benefit the State of Alabama and the nation. Auburn makes a \$5.6 billion economic contribution to the state each year, has more than 300,000 graduates and provides 150+ degree programs to more than 30,000 graduate and undergraduate students.



- Auburn is a Carnegie R1 institution, which indicates “very high research activity.”
- Auburn holds the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification, which is the premier institutional recognition for a university’s total outreach and extension work.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Auburn among the top 50 public universities in the U.S., and *Kiplinger’s* named Auburn one of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges.
- *Forbes* and *Money* rank Auburn as the top university in the state of Alabama.
- *The Princeton Review* includes Auburn University on its 2021 list of “Best 386 Colleges,” including No. 1 for Best Recreational Facilities, No. 3 for Students Pack the Stadium, No. 8 for Students Love It Here and No. 10 for Happiest Students.
- *U.S. News & World Report’s* annual Best Colleges 2022 edition ranks the undergraduate programs in the Harbert College of Business 49th nationally, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering ranks 56th and the School of Nursing came in at No. 58.
- 93% of recent graduates say they would choose Auburn again.
- Auburn was named a Military Friendly University by Victory Media, as an institution recognized for exhibiting leading practices in recruiting and supporting post-military students.
- Auburn earned a top spot on *Southern Living’s* list of “The South’s Best College Towns.”

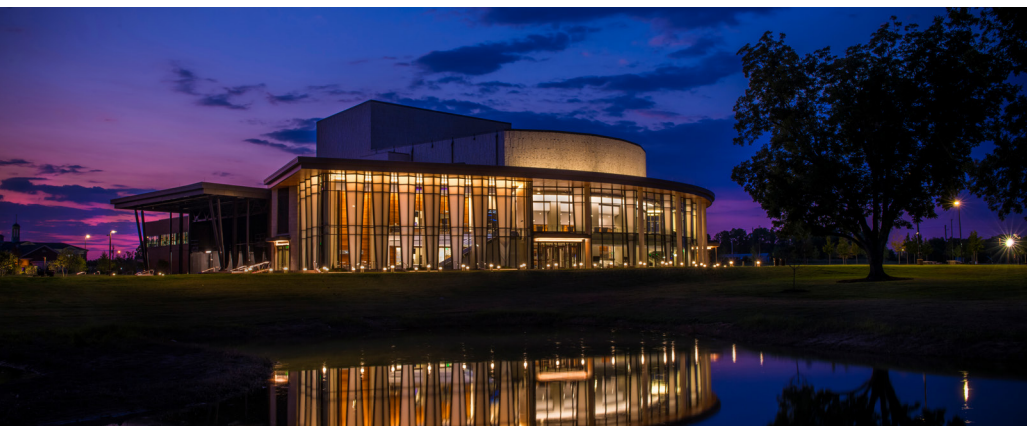


OUR CAMPUS

It is undeniable that our campus is beautiful. But it's more than beauty that captures the hearts of students, faculty and staff. It's a sense of belonging, community, and a welcoming spirit that makes this place home. We have the resources of a large research university set on a collegial, open campus.

The university has 206 academic buildings, combining historic red-brick buildings, such as the iconic Samford Hall constructed between 1888-90, with modern, active-learning classroom facilities like the 151,000-square-foot Academic Classroom and Laboratory Complex opening in spring 2022. The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2019, is East Alabama's premier performing arts venue, presenting touring Broadway productions, opera, dance, chamber arts, popular musical performances, and student and faculty music and theater performances.

Many alumni refer to Auburn Athletics as the university's front porch. Auburn has 22 National Championships, with the most recent national title won by Auburn's Equestrian program in 2019. The Equestrian team has five additional national titles. Other Athletics teams with nationals titles include Men's Swimming & Diving (8 titles); Women's Swimming & Diving (5 titles); Football (2 titles); and Women's Outdoor Track & Field (1 title). The Men's Basketball team reached the Final Four in 2019. Additionally, Auburn had 15 current and former athletes compete in the Tokyo Olympics.



Quick Facts

Location: Auburn, Alabama

Auburn Population: 76,131

Lee County Population: 174,241

Enrollment

(2021-2022 Academic Year)

Total: 31,526

Undergraduate: 24,931

Graduate: 5,510

Professional (Pharmacy & Veterinary Medicine): 1,085

Male: 50%

Female: 50%

Underrepresented minority students: 15%

International undergrad students: 2,205 representing 80 countries

2021 Freshman Profile

Average ACT score: 27.7

Alabama residents: 57%

Out-of-State: 43%

Retention rate: 93%

6-year graduation rate: 81%

Faculty and Employees

(2020-21 Academic Year)*

Full-time instructional faculty: 1,426

Faculty with terminal degree: 78%

Student/faculty ratio: 20:1

Full-time non-instructional employees: 3,900

Athletics

Charter member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC)

9 Men's Division I-A Sports and 12 Women's Division I-A Sports

Student-Athlete GSR: 91%

Mean Cumulative GPA: 3.32

Student-athletes with a 4.0 cumulative GPA: 68 (16.35%)

** Employee counts include the Auburn main campus, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.*

OUR TRADITIONS

Auburn's core traditions are passion and spirit. They are the hallmarks of the Auburn Family, while the Auburn Creed is at the heart of the Auburn Family. This creed is said to embody the spirit of Auburn and is reflected in every member of the Auburn family.



Auburn's nickname is the Tigers and has been used since the university first fielded a football team in 1892. The official mascot is Aubie the Tiger, who is Auburn's spirit leader and goodwill ambassador. Aubie, one of the most beloved mascots in the country, has won 10 UCA Mascot National Championships.

Whether you're shouting it while watching the eagle fly inside Jordan-Hare Stadium or singing the Auburn fight song, "War Eagle" is more than a statement. It's a greeting. It's a battle cry. It's a cherished tradition and strikes a chord with all those who understand its meaning.

Former AU Athletics Director and alumnus David Housel perhaps describes Auburn best: "What is Auburn? ... Auburn is much more than a football game. It is much more than winning and losing. It is a spirit. It is an attitude. It is a way of looking at life and at one another. It is, almost, a way of living. Unless you have experienced it, you will never know what it is, you will never understand it. Once you have experienced it, you will never be the same. A part of you will, forevermore, be an Auburn man or an Auburn woman."

The Auburn Creed

I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only on what I earn. Therefore, **I believe in work, hard work.**

I believe in education, which gives me the knowledge to work wisely and trains my mind and my hands to work skillfully.

I believe in honesty and truthfulness, without which I cannot win the respect and confidence of my fellow men.

I believe in a sound mind, in a sound body and a spirit that is not afraid, and in clean sports that develop these qualities.

I believe in obedience to law because it protects the rights of all.

I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.

I believe in my Country, because it is a land of freedom and because it is my own home, and that I can best serve that country by "doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with my God."

And because Auburn men and women believe in these things,

I believe in Auburn and love it.

— George Petrie (1943)



OUR COMMUNITY

The Auburn-Opelika area is filled with scenic natural beauty and a wealth of possibility. It has much to offer in education, recreation, nature, history, culture and more.



Auburn is a friendly university town in the rolling hills of east central Alabama. Known as “The Loveliest Village on the Plains,” Auburn partners with the City of Auburn on several endeavors, such as art education programs for Auburn City Schools students, the Yarbrough Tennis Center and the Auburn Research Park. The Research Park leverages the university’s intellectual property assets to technology-based economic development by facilitating technology transfer, developing industry partnerships, and attracting knowledge-based companies to the park. The New Venture Accelerator guides startups on how to create business models, identify pricing strategies, and pitch to investors. The Auburn Medical Pavilion opened in The Park in June 2021. It houses East Alabama Medical Center’s freestanding emergency department, Ambulatory Surgery Center and a pharmacy.



The famed Toomer’s Corner marks the spot where the city and university intersect and is a widely popular place for the community gather in celebration. Auburn has made a name for itself in the food scene with *Southern Living* recently calling it a “culinary powerhouse.” The number of restaurants has tripled in the past few years and several local chefs have been James Beard Award nominees and semifinalists.

Auburn residents overwhelmingly rate the city as a great place to live, work and raise children. *Forbes* consistently ranks Auburn on its lists for Best Places to Retire and Best Small Places for Business and Careers. Auburn’s public schools consistently rank among the best in the state and nation. Residents have access to a number of city parks and recreational programs, as well as 696 scenic acres at Chewacla State Park.



Opelika, Auburn’s sister city and the county seat, is full of quaint charm and rich heritage. It is a vibrant small town with a high quality of life for its nearly 31,000 residents. Opelika is home to the Opelika SportsPlex and Aquatics Center; East Alabama Medical Center; Southern Union State Community College; and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National. *Golf Digest* included all three of Grand National’s courses on its “Places to Play” list.



PRESIDENT



AUBURN

The Board of Trustees of Auburn University seeks its 21st president, a person of integrity and vision who will lead our multifaceted institution to even greater prominence. The next president of the state's R1 land-, sea-, and space-grant institution will oversee the Auburn University main campus located in Auburn, Alabama; Auburn University at Montgomery, a separately accredited campus located in the state's capital (Montgomery, Alabama); the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station; and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, a joint enterprise with Alabama A&M University. The leader will marshal the institution's \$1.54 billion budget and vast resources, spearheading the university's strategic vision and economic development. Auburn finds itself at an exciting crossroads, celebrating achievements and planning for continued growth. The next president will have the ability to foster excellence in our 31,000 students, our exceptional faculty and staff, and our dynamic alumni base. The university seeks a bold visionary who appreciates and respects Auburn traditions while energetically leading the university toward an accomplished future. As a Southeastern Conference charter member, Auburn has a strong reputation of athletic prestige, including numerous national championships in men's and women's sports.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

The 21st president of Auburn University has a historic opportunity to shape the direction of one of the nation's leading public research universities. The preferred candidate will work with faculty, students, staff, alumni and community partners to promote a shared vision of higher education dedicated to research excellence and an exceptional student experience. This president will take office with a charge to lead Auburn into a vibrant future that draws upon its mission:

As a land-grant institution, Auburn University is dedicated to improving the lives of the people of Alabama, the nation, and the world through forward-thinking education, life-enhancing research and scholarship, and selfless service.

The next president will be an experienced and visionary leader, as well as an accomplished scholar who understands that research and teaching excellence, together with service and public engagement, are at the very heart of the land-grant university. The president will employ wise stewardship of resources, talent, and innovation. Passionate about the promise of economic opportunity and social mobility afforded by an outstanding education, the president will possess a clear and articulate understanding of the indispensability of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and the classroom.

A proven, capable, and experienced administrator, the president will encourage and support research, teaching, and public service as instruments of growth and economic development. The president will advocate for Auburn University with community partners in the business and civic sectors. In preparation for the next comprehensive university fundraising campaign, the president will serve as the "face of fundraising" for the university. The president will be expected to engage and encourage donors and alumni to maintain a lifelong supportive relationship with Auburn University, fostered by outstanding academic and athletics programs of the university.

The president will have excellent communication skills, a capacity for collaboration, and an appreciation for the multitude of interests that animate a world-class university and its constituencies. The next president will be a university-wide leader who grasps both the big picture and the foundations that comprise it. The president's role is to sustain and promote the university as a leader in the marketplace of ideas, discoveries, and technologies, both locally and globally. Capitalizing on more than a century and a half of excellence in research, teaching, and service in the public interest, the next president will develop sustainable models for generating knowledge in the arts, business, engineering, the humanities, and the sciences in a dynamic fiscal environment.

A visionary leader, the president will be committed to nurturing within Auburn's students the best critical- and creative-thinking skills and equipping them with the expertise they need to succeed in the changing landscape of work and citizenship. The next president must be a thoughtful thinker, a cooperative problem-solver, and will have an opportunity to articulate a renewed sense of purpose for all stakeholders committed to sustaining Auburn University as the exemplar of a public land-grant university. The next president will have the commitment, vision, entrepreneurial skills, and ability to foster growth of the research enterprise and the infrastructure to support it, ensuring its quality and competitiveness, and its contribution to economic development.

The president's daily job will ensure that the university anticipates the future with energy, enthusiasm, and a vision. Working with a variety of partners, the president will shape short- and long-term strategies to guarantee that Auburn University not only embraces the challenges of the next 150 years but defines the role of public higher education in addressing them, as well.

PRIORITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Strong preference will be given to candidates with the following qualifications and attributes:

- An academic background and credentials, including an earned Ph.D. or the highest degree in their chosen academic field.
- A successful record of academic leadership based on a robust combination of scholarly accomplishment and executive experience.
- Evidence of commitment and demonstrated experience in developing a sustained culture of inclusive excellence at the institutional level that models and puts into practice principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Experience with budgetary decision-making, framed by the financial issues currently facing public research universities.
- A demonstrated comprehension of and appreciation for high scholarly productivity and creative excellence, including the distinctive contributions of all the university's schools and colleges to a diverse, R1 comprehensive university.
- A commitment to maintaining the positive role and impact of nationally prominent athletics in support of the university, its students, alumni, local communities, and the state.
- A commitment to the teaching mission of the public land-grant university in a rapidly changing world, including support for technology-enhanced learning.
- The demonstrated ability to attract and retain a diverse and accomplished faculty, student body, and staff and articulate the ethical and educational reasons for doing so.

- The ability to represent the mission, challenges, and opportunities of Auburn University and the willingness to provide national leadership in higher education.
- A commitment to effective communication and collaborative work with various partners, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and community leaders.
- A proven record in fundraising, advancement activities, and alumni relations, and a capacity for cultivating a broad range of stakeholders.
- The ability to identify and recruit high-quality talent committed to excellence at all levels and in all areas of the institution, with a record of building, empowering, and mentoring a strong, skilled, and collaborative leadership team.
- An understanding of the culture and importance of student leadership, student involvement, and student opinion at Auburn University. The candidate shall have a passion for supporting and enhancing that culture.
- The ability to establish and facilitate sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, including alumni; donors and sponsors; parents; the public; local, state, and federal public officials; the business community; students; faculty; and staff.
- The ability to appreciate, recognize, and commit to leveraging the passion of the Auburn alumni base. The candidate will appreciate and be enthusiastic about being or becoming a part of the Auburn community and culture.
- Exhibit collegiality, empathy, strong communication skills, and emotional intelligence
- A commitment to continuing environmentally sustainable and educational programs related to the responsible stewardship of natural resources and the environment.
- A work ethic that prioritizes shared governance, integrity, and transparency as core values that shape all university processes and decision-making.
- A demonstrated leadership style characterized by respect and the characteristics embodied in the Auburn Creed.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

- Provide exemplary leadership, management, and resource development as CEO for Auburn University.
- Provide exemplary leadership for Auburn University and all related entities.
- Manage an operating budget of \$1.54 billion.
- Provide oversight of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (in cooperation with the president of Alabama A&M University), and Auburn University at Montgomery.
- Partner with a diverse group of institutions, community colleges, and other educational institutions to advance the university's mission throughout the state of Alabama and the U.S.
- Work collaboratively with the Auburn University Board of Trustees to develop the university's priorities and strategic vision, leading the institution to successfully accomplish them, and carrying out the Board's strategic vision within the context of the university's tradition of shared governance.

- Provide oversight for the development, delivery, and assessment of academic programs, policies, and research activities.
- Provide oversight for a nationally competitive intercollegiate athletics program for the university, including university accountability for NCAA compliance.
- Ensure that the total student experience, including safety, mental and physical health, nutrition, and academics is the best in the country.
- Support and strengthen public safety and foster university compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Build strong partnerships and cultivate existing relationships with Auburn community leaders.
- Set and lead the philanthropic agenda for the university.
- Participate in the university's overall strategic planning, allocation, and evaluation operations.

HOW TO APPLY

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. is assisting Auburn University in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process.

Confidential inquiries, nominations and application materials should be directed to Greenwood/Asher. Submission of application materials (cover letter, CV, and list of five references) as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

INQUIRIES, NOMINATIONS, AND APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Jan Greenwood

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For more information about Auburn University, please visit auburn.edu.

Auburn University is committed to an inclusive and diverse campus environment.
Women, underrepresented groups, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION / EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. It is our policy to provide equal employment opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by applicable law.



AUBURN

auburn.edu

UPWARD.