

UAB The University of Alabama at Birmingham

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY
DEAN, COLLAT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **University of Alabama at Birmingham** (UAB, or the University) seeks an innovative and visionary dean to continue the ongoing momentum of the **Collat School of Business** (CSOB, or the School) and to meet the dynamic demands of preparing students for success as leaders and business professionals through a balanced approach to teaching, research, and service.

Founded shortly after the university's creation in 1969, the School is home to more than 3,000 students, 60+ faculty members, and 30+ staff members. It enjoys a high student retention rate, and faculty engage in high-impact research worldwide. Degree and certificate programs are rigorous and varied. Year-round internships and other applied learning experiences allow students to distinguish themselves in innovative ways. The School proudly boasts approximately 24,000 global alumni. CSOB enjoys a unique place in UAB history. It was the **first named school at UAB**, recognizing the generosity and philanthropy of Charles and Patsy Collat and their family.

CSOB occupies a state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2018. The \$37.5 million capital project included \$15 million raised through community support. CSOB sits not only in the heart of UAB, but also in the heart of Alabama's business center, Birmingham. The prime location allows faculty to integrate the practical experiences of the state's leading companies – from Fortune 500 corporations to entrepreneurial startups – into programs offered.

The dean of the UAB Collat School of Business is its chief academic and executive officer, reporting to the University's **Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost**. The dean's role is to lead the School's core academic functions and further the mission and goals of the University. This includes engaging with the diverse greater Birmingham community through the education of entrepreneurs and other forms of business innovation support.

UAB has retained **WittKieffer**, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the search firm as indicated in the "Procedure for Candidacy" section on page 6.



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The next dean will be expected to advance the following priorities, among others:

Advance a culture of innovation and shared vision for the School

With business, technology, and industry evolving rapidly, UAB seeks a dean who can articulate and advance a bold, forward-thinking vision for the Collat School of Business that strengthens the School's reputation and prepares students for success in a changing global economy. The successful candidate will demonstrate collaborative leadership and the ability to work with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external stakeholders to refine and expand academic programs, curricula, and experiential learning opportunities while building strong partnerships with industry and community stakeholders to anticipate workforce and market needs. The School's **diverse portfolio of programs** includes traditional undergraduate and graduate offerings, fully online degrees, and **professional education programs**, requiring a dean who can strategically position programs for relevance, market responsiveness, sustainability, and growth. This includes a clear vision for how to prepare students and faculty to thrive in a future that is significantly impacted by artificial intelligence. The dean must also ensure alignment of the University's **Strategic Plan** while leveraging the opportunities associated with UAB's urban location and Birmingham's continued economic development.

Support the success of all students

The Collat School of Business serves a diverse student population that includes first-generation, Pell-eligible, **community college transfers**, traditional undergraduate students, and graduate and professional learners representing a broad range of industries, career stages, and professional aspirations. The dean must demonstrate a clear understanding of how to support students with varied backgrounds, experiences, and professional goals while fostering an environment in which all students can thrive academically and professionally. A deep commitment to student success already exists among faculty and staff and through programs such as the **Collat Career Center**, the **J. Frank Barefield, Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship Program**, the **Center for Sales Leadership**, and the **UAB SUCCESS Initiative**. The dean must build upon this foundation by ensuring the School maintains a student-centered culture and continues to develop responsive, innovative, and agile programs that evolve with the needs of students and employers.

Empower and support faculty and staff

The dean must bring a strong record of collaborative leadership and demonstrate the ability to support the professional success, growth, and accountability of faculty and staff while ensuring alignment with the School's mission and strategic priorities. The Collat School of Business has a deep commitment to excellence in teaching and student support, alongside a growing research profile that is striving for even greater impact and national recognition. The dean should be prepared to support faculty success in a balanced teacher-scholar model by identifying and

securing the resources, partnerships, and infrastructure needed for faculty and staff to thrive. This individual must also be an effective advocate for the School within a large and complex research university, building strong relationships and collaborative partnerships across the institution, including with UAB's nationally recognized academic health enterprise.

Engage the School in Birmingham and the region

The Collat School of Business maintains strong relationships with the Birmingham business community through engaged **advisory boards**, community outreach initiatives, and programs such as the **Center for Economic Education, Collat CampBIZ**, and the **Regions Institute for Financial Education**. The School has also demonstrated its ability to convene thought leaders and industry partners through initiatives such as the **AI in Action** summit, which positioned the School as a regional leader on emerging issues shaping business and industry. The next dean must be an active and visible presence in Birmingham and across the region, strengthening partnerships that connect the School's teaching, research, and outreach to the needs of the community and economy. This individual should demonstrate a commitment to collaboration, community engagement, and relationship building with the ability to cultivate lasting partnerships with donors, alumni, industry leaders, and external stakeholders. The dean will play a leading role in the School's fundraising efforts, requiring the ability to connect donor interests with the School's vision and mission and demonstrate the impact of donor gifts.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong record of effective leadership in business education and the ability to articulate a compelling, forward-looking vision. Candidates must hold a Ph.D. or other terminal degree in a discipline appropriate to the Collat School of Business and possess the academic accomplishments and professional credibility necessary for appointment as a tenured full professor in the School.

Additionally, this individual should demonstrate the following qualifications and qualities:

- A leadership style that builds trust, encourages innovation and adaptability, and fosters a culture of accountability.
- Experience in building strong teams and empowering others to implement strategies that advance institutional and School priorities.
- Experience overseeing a broad portfolio of academic programs including undergraduate, graduate, certificate, and professional education programs across in-person, hybrid, and online modalities.
- A commitment to student success, including experience enhancing student outcomes through effective curricula, experiential learning opportunities, and student-centered support strategies.

- Demonstrated experience in recruiting, retaining, and supporting the professional development of faculty and staff.
- A demonstrated ability to foster a research culture that advances impactful scholarship for the benefit of business and society.
- Strong financial, operational, and personnel management skills, including experience aligning resources with strategic priorities and communicating decisions with transparency.
- Experience building partnerships with industry, community organizations, and external stakeholders to support workforce development, innovation, fundraising, and regional engagement.
- The ability to advocate for the School's priorities while collaborating across the broader UAB enterprise, engaging actively with university leadership, and partnering within the University of Alabama System and with other higher education institutions across the state.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to build and sustain relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
- A demonstrated commitment to the highest standards of personal and professional integrity, ethics, and accountability.

Procedure for Candidacy

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Alabama at Birmingham in this search. Applications can be submitted through the **WittKieffer Candidate Portal**. Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile. For full consideration, candidate materials should be received by July 29, 2026.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to the WittKieffer consultants supporting this search:

Ryan Crawford | rcrawford@wittkieffer.com

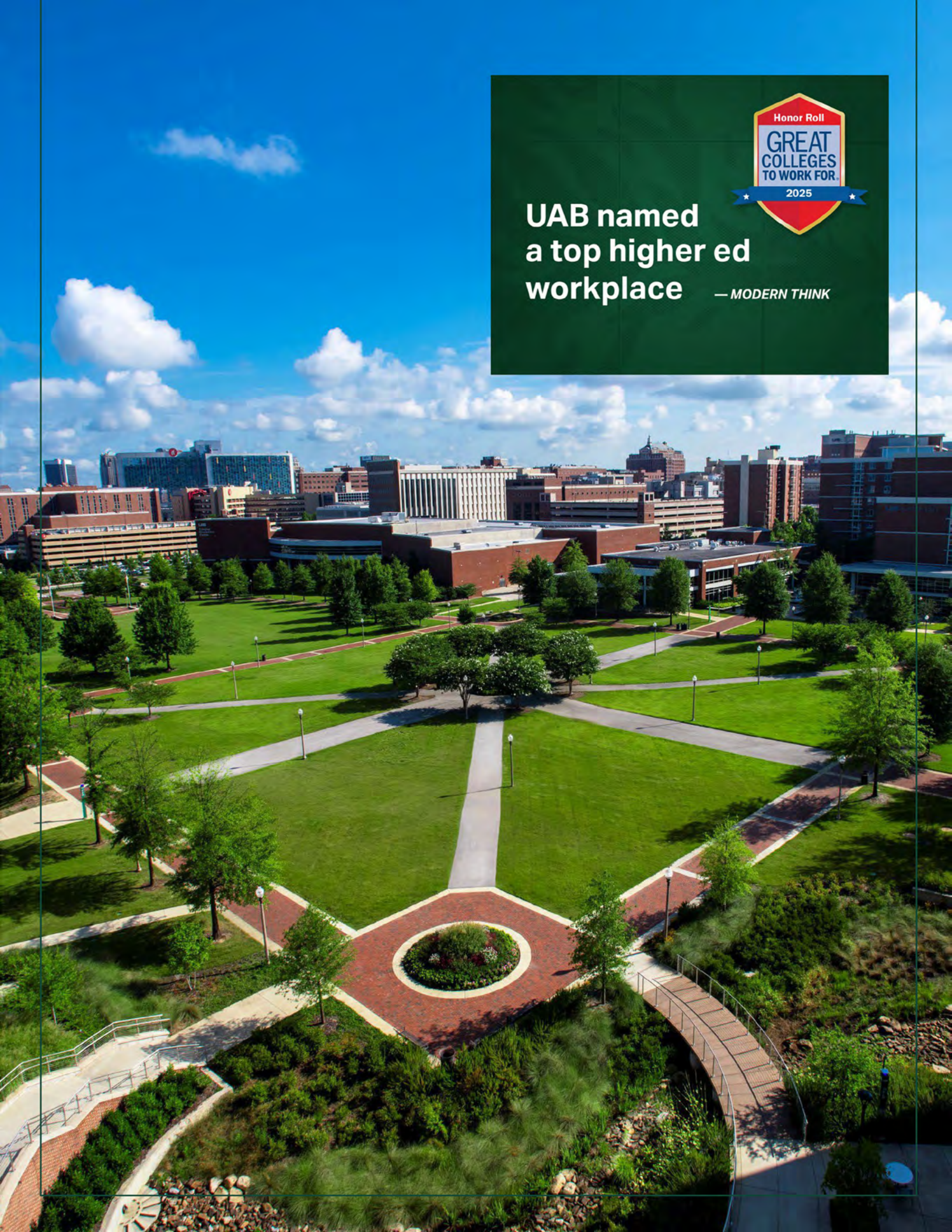
Julia Bradley | jbradley@wittkieffer.com

UAB is an Equal Employment/Equal Educational Opportunity Institution dedicated to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, sex (including pregnancy), genetic information, age, disability, and veteran's status. As required by Title IX, UAB prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to UAB's Assistant Vice President and Senior Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX notice of nondiscrimination is located at uab.edu/titleix.



UAB named a top higher ed workplace

— MODERN THINK



About

Ranked among the top 8% of the world's universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, UAB continues pushing the envelope in all pillars of its mission: education, research, and innovation, patient care, economic development, and community engagement. In Fall 2025, UAB welcomed its largest freshman class in history with more than 2,500 new Blazers coming to campus. This marks a 25% increase in freshman enrollment over the previous fall. The class is academically engaged, with an average GPA of 3.8 and an average ACT score of 27. The surge in enrollment reflects growing interest in UAB's expanding academic offerings, innovative learning spaces, and vibrant campus life — all part of the university's **SUCCESS Initiative**. A record number of students received national and international fellowships and scholarships in recent years, including Goldwater Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, and Rhodes Scholars. New state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge degree and certificate programs (240+), and a revitalized athletic student organization are also helping drive this momentum. In the Spring of 2026, *U.S. News & World Report* released its latest **graduate school rankings** for America. UAB's academic excellence was once again affirmed as the rankings placed 17 UAB graduate programs in the nation's Top 20. UAB continues to develop innovative and novel academic programs and research opportunities for students at all levels. The university's Blazer Core Curriculum, launched in 2023, equips undergraduates with competencies vital for success in a global, knowledge economy. In the 2026 Best Colleges rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*, UAB climbed four spots to No. 132 out of 434 institutions in the Best National Universities category — placing it, once again, in the top third of ranked schools across the country. UAB continues its upward trajectory in faculty research performance, climbing to No. 24 in the national Bibliometric ranking for 2026 — up from No. 28 last year and marking a 12-spot rise over the past two years. UAB is carrying on the most successful era of research funding in the university's history, with research expenditures growing by 82% over the past decade and currently at \$866 million. UAB's world-class academic medical center and health system has roughly two million patient visits annually and is home to the **fifth-largest hospital in the U.S.** (1,400 beds), the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Alabama and a four-state region, and the state's only Level 1 Adult Trauma Center. The latter is currently undergoing a \$73 million expansion (with \$50 million of that funding coming from the State of Alabama) to meet a 20% volume increase in the past five years. With some 35,000 employees, UAB is Alabama's largest single employer and has an annual economic impact of more than \$12.1 billion statewide.

UAB ACADEMICS

In addition to the Collat School of Business, **the University has 12 other academic units** (the Heersink School of Medicine, School of Health Professions, School of Education & Human Sciences, School of Engineering, School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, School of Optometry, School of Public Health, College of Arts and Sciences, Honors College, Graduate School and Libraries). Other units include Education Abroad, Athletics, The Institute for Human Rights, National Alumni Society, Sparkman Center for Global Health, Visual and Performing Arts, Vulcan Materials Academic Success Center, and WBHM.

UAB has created a **Find Your Degree** website that includes graduate, professional, and online programs to make it easier for traditional and non-traditional students to find the degree that is best suited for their career goals and life needs. UAB was the first academic partner to support the Birmingham Promise scholarship in providing Birmingham City Schools' graduates an opportunity to attend the University with a tuition scholarship match.





GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The **University of Alabama System** consists of three doctoral research universities: The **University of Alabama**, The **University of Alabama at Birmingham**, and The **University of Alabama in Huntsville**. Total student enrollment among the three campuses exceeds 70,000 students with more than 67,000 full- and part-time faculty and staff. The annual economic impact of the UA System surpasses \$18 billion annually, and more than two million patients are served annually in the System's hospitals and clinics. The System is governed by **The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees**. Each of the component institutions has a unique mission that is consistent with the broader mission of the System. The System's chief executive officer is Sid J. Trant, who served for six years as general counsel and senior vice chancellor before becoming **Chancellor** in 2025.

UAB LEADERSHIP

President Ray Watts, MD, became UAB's seventh **president** in 2013. Before being named president, Dr. Watts had been Senior Vice President and Dean of the School of Medicine since 2010. From 2007 to 2010, he was the John N. Whitaker Professor and Chair of the UAB School of Medicine Department of Neurology.

Dr. Watts is a Birmingham native and earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from the UAB School of Engineering in 1976. The collaborations he had with biomedical engineering students as an undergraduate sparked an interest in medicine, and four years later, he graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis as valedictorian of his class. He later joined the faculty at Emory University in Atlanta, where he was part of a team that created an internationally renowned research and clinical center for Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

Dr. Watts is a passionate advocate for the value of strategic planning to inspire others toward growing the university and achieving excellence.

UAB's latest strategic plan ***Forging Ahead*** is its blueprint for growth between 2024 and 2028. The more than 35,000 employees of UAB have taken this blueprint and have set measurable goals, allocating resources and establishing metrics to assess progress, all to build an even brighter future.



Provost Janet Woodruff-Borden, Ph.D., is the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at UAB. She joined UAB from the University of Oregon, where she served as interim provost and executive vice president and dean of the Graduate School.

As chief academic officer of UAB, Dr. Woodruff-Borden has general oversight of all academic affairs. The deans of the university's schools and colleges report to her, and she also leads the professionals in the **Office of the Provost** responsible for functions such as enrollment management, faculty relations, institutional effectiveness analysis, academic planning, and international student and scholar services. She works closely with President Watts on strategic planning and implementation initiatives.

Dr. Woodruff-Borden is a clinical psychologist whose research focuses on the etiology, developmental psychopathology, and treatment of anxiety disorders. Her work examines risk and protective factors in the development of anxiety, including biological, cognitive, and psychosocial markers, as well as the complex interactions among these factors across development. She is widely published, and her work has been supported with grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI).



Established shortly after the founding of UAB, the Collat School of Business prepares students as principled leaders and accomplished professionals through a balanced commitment to teaching, research, and service.



UAB COLLAT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The UAB Collat School of Business was established in 1971 after operating as a department since 1966. The School gained AACSB accreditation of its undergraduate programs in 1973 and its graduate programs in 1977. It was one of the first 17 schools in the U.S. to receive accreditation of its undergraduate accounting program in 1982. Accounting accreditation for the graduate program was received in 1987. Collat received approval for the maintenance of its accreditation for both accounting and business from AACSB in 2022. As of Fall 2025, the Collat School of Business enrolled 2,085 undergraduates and 755 graduate learners.

At Collat, there are undergraduate degree programs consisting of nine majors (Accounting, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Human Resource Management, Information Systems, Distribution, Management, and Marketing). There are three graduate degrees (MBA, Master of Accounting, and MS in Management Information Systems). Most of these programs are delivered both on campus and fully online. The largest undergraduate program is Accounting and the largest graduate program is the MBA. The School has also developed professional education and certificate programs.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The next dean will look to build upon the tremendous momentum of the School and foster a vision that will lead it to continued success. Recent accomplishments include the following:

- In 2026, the School landed in the 1% of business schools to maintain both accounting and business accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).
- The School has successfully partnered with several UAB schools to provide learners with training and education to better understand the business of healthcare. Here, the MBA has been effectively leveraged to facilitate dual degrees with medicine, optometry, dentistry, public health, and healthcare administration.
- The Regions Institute for Financial Education is engaged in numerous community projects each year to include personal financial management skills development, income tax preparation services, retirement planning, mortgage application guidance, and student loan management.
- The School continues to meet the continuing education needs of the business community by offering non-credit courses in leadership, business, and professional development.



- The School has successfully developed several exciting initiatives in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, including a BS in Entrepreneurship, a nationally ranked MBA concentration in Entrepreneurship, and non-credit activities to support a growing ecosystem for technology commercialization and an emerging start-up economy in Birmingham. The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) named UAB's entrepreneurship program one of the nation's best, awarding it the prestigious 2022 Model Emerging Program Award.
- The School's faculty research is frequently cited, with 83,000+ citations as of March 2026 (Google Scholar). Over the past five years, faculty have served as editors, associate editors, and/or on editorial boards of more than 100 academic journals and conferences.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

In addition to the dean, the Executive Leadership Team comprises:

- **Senior Associate Dean**
- **Associate Dean for Research, Academic, and Faculty Affairs**
- **Senior Director of Development**
- **Director of Fiscal Affairs**
- **Director of Communications**
- **Administrative and Operations Manager**
- **Dean's Executive Assistant**
- **Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance**
- **Chair of the Department of Management, Information Systems, and Quantitative Methods**
- **Chair of the Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution, and Economics**



ADVISORY BOARDS

While each department has at least one advisory board, the School also has a Dean's Advisory Board comprised of leaders from across the Birmingham region. These prominent individuals form a diverse group of leaders who contribute time, knowledge, and philanthropy to promote the excellence of the undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Collat Alumni Advisory Board advises the dean on ways to connect and engage the School's alumni in Birmingham and beyond. Their mission is to create a continuum that stretches from students to alumni, building lasting relationships that lead to lifetime involvement.



STRATEGIC PLAN

The UAB Collat School of Business Strategic Plan guides activities in the School and is built on the School's vision for innovative programs, impactful scholarship, and transformative service. The strategic plan is built on three pillars: Education; Research, Innovation, and Economic Development; and Community Engagement.

The education pillar promotes high-quality learner experiences and student success. Research, innovation, and economic development focus on impactful knowledge creation and activities that drive economic development. Community engagement develops strategies to enhance student, faculty, and staff engagement in the community. These pillars align with the university's strategic plan "Forging Ahead."

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The award-winning facility houses both the Collat School of Business and the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Spanning 110,000 square feet, the building is designed to elevate the learning experience and prepare students to succeed in modern business environments.

The facility features a three-story atrium, a large auditorium, a career center, breakout rooms, an innovation lab, team-based learning classrooms, a high-tech financial lab, sales role-playing rooms, and dedicated quiet study spaces.





The UAB Collat School of Business maintains a faculty body that exceeds Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business benchmarks for qualification, sufficiency, and sustained professional development in all academic areas.

FACULTY

The UAB Collat School of Business faculty headcount averages 60 full-time faculty members who are dedicated to learner success and producing high-quality research. The School recruits faculty who exceed AACSB standards for both faculty sufficiency and deployment of faculty across all programs and disciplines. As of Fall 2024, there were 20 Professors, 17 Associate Professors, 14 Assistant Professors, and 12 Instructors. The School has six endowed chairs and professorships. Faculty members in the School are known for their caring and personal attention to learners, exciting initiatives, and thought leadership impacting practice.

Collat is primarily a balanced research-teaching school, and faculty are evaluated on teaching, research, and service. Each department has faculty development funds and options for teaching assistants, travel support, sabbatical leaves, and reduced teaching loads when warranted. The Teaching Advisory Committee implemented a teaching award, and the Research Advisory Committee implemented a research award to recognize the top faculty in each department annually. During the past five years, the research portfolio consisted of nearly 400 intellectual contributions focused on basic discovery scholarship (85%), applied integrative/application scholarship (9%), and Teaching/Learning scholarship (6%). The strategic plan challenges the faculty to contribute impactful scholarship in interest areas. These areas include innovation and business transformation, analytics, business-to-business sales, and best practices in online pedagogy.



Faculty members are encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary approaches that demonstrate how theories of strategy and organization are relevant across the different academic disciplines. SMO faculty members collaborate to examine how technology enables a wide range of new organizational forms. Faculty in Marketing and Distribution examine how leadership traits influence performance in decision-making and sales. Management faculty examine the importance of stakeholders across a variety of organizational innovation initiatives and how leader-stakeholder relationships impact the organization's ability to innovate.

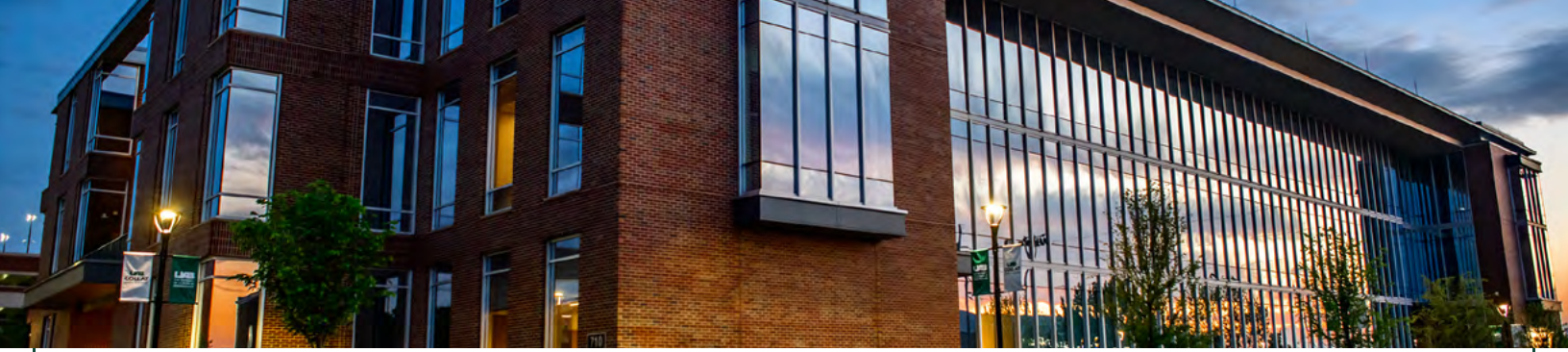


Faculty in Accounting and Finance examine how leaders behave across different organizational forms, the impact of leader/organizational performance and bonus compensation, and leadership turnover. Faculty in Economics examine a variety of societal problems that impact social and economic well-being, including gun ownership and disparities in Alabama's criminal justice system.

SELECT FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of the foundations of UAB has been its commitment to excellence in faculty. In an effort to support and retain the best faculty, the School has several endowed faculty positions.

- **Research offers practical strategies for reintroducing formerly incarcerated individuals into the workforce**
- **Collat students honor professors with business teaching award**
- **UAB's management information systems program ranks No. 5 in nation**
- **UAB's new MBA curriculum trains students to manage in an age of disruption**
- **What is a leader? Collat experts share why impact matters more than title**
- **Four honored with Provost's Awards for Faculty Excellence**
- **A new study shows planning is key to better work-life balance**
- **McClure, Sheng receive Collat's inaugural faculty research award**
- **UAB entrepreneurship scholar's paper named most influential in Journal of Management History's 30-year history**
- **Accounting professor appointed to endowed professorship**



*The UAB Collat School of Business
has three interdisciplinary academic
departments:*

- *Department of Accounting and Finance*
- *Department of Management, Information Systems,
and Quantitative Methods*
- *Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution,
and Economics*



DEPARTMENTS

There are three departments within the UAB Collat School of Business: the Department of Accounting and Finance; the Department of Management, Information Systems, and Quantitative Methods; and the Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution and Economics.

Department of Accounting and Finance

[17 faculty]

- 3 instructors
- 4 assistant professors
- 5 associate professors
- 5 professors

Three staff members support the work of the Department of Accounting and Finance.

Department of Management, Information Systems, and Quantitative Methods

[22 faculty]

- 4 instructors
- 3 assistant professors
- 8 associate professors
- 7 professors

Three staff members support the work of the Department of Management, Information Systems, and Quantitative Methods.

Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution, and Economics

[16 faculty]

- 6 instructors
- 3 assistant professors
- 2 associate professors
- 5 professors

Three staff members support the work of the Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution, and Economics.





The UAB Collat School of Business is home to approximately 3,000 learners at every stage of their undergraduate and graduate journeys—each driven by a shared commitment to excellence in education.

STUDENTS

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Collat Business Honors Program provides an honors-level academic experience and enhanced credentials to students. The program focuses on leadership and provides exposure to CEOs and senior executives. Students work on a research project with a faculty mentor and participate in the university's Undergraduate Research Expo. The School also offers scholarships for incoming freshmen and transfer students with demonstrated community involvement and clear career goals.

The **Collat Career Center** offers access to **Handshake** to apply for positions, career preparation and coaching, career fairs, chats with employers, and a boot camp for Finance and Accounting majors entering the job market.

The Collat Tutoring Lab is an academic assistance center designed to provide free services that support class instruction and enhance the overall academic experience of our students by providing a respectful, safe, educational environment for learning. Students make appointments with tutors for individual or group sessions.

Internships or other experiential learning are required for Collat students to graduate. Internship opportunities are posted on Handshake and students are encouraged to work with the internship coordinator in their major. Internships may be eligible for internship credit. Students have several options to complete the experiential learning requirement.

ON-CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS

The Collat School of Business maintains partnerships and collaborative arrangements with multiple schools, departments, and programs across the university.

- School faculty members serve on the advisory board for the Heersink School of Medicine's Innovation Institute, contributing to curriculum design, course design, and course delivery.
- UAB's sustainability department, urban garden, and food pantry work with social enterprise classes offered by the School to magnify their impact on local communities.
- The J. Frank Barefield Jr. Entrepreneurship Program has dedicated space at Innovation Depot, Birmingham's flagship business incubator and co-working hub. The space is home to events, workshops, and meetings - all related to entrepreneurship, with constituents and partners across UAB.
- Collat has collaborated with other on-campus schools to develop multiple, joint MBA degree programs, including MD/MBA, DMD/MBA, OD/MBA, MSHA/MBA, and MPH/MBA programs.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generous contributions of donors, Collat has a scholarship program that provides financial support to its learners. Currently, the School's scholarship portfolio consists of 112 endowed and sponsored scholarships. In some cases, students must establish financial need to be eligible.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

UAB is home to approximately 300 student organizations. The Collat School of Business has an active array of student organizations across the undergraduate and graduate levels that create community and help students be more successful and engaged, including the American Marketing Association, Beta Alpha Psi, Collat Real Estate Society, Financial Management Association, International Business Association, Management Society, National Association of Black Accountants, Society for Human Resource Management, Society of Distribution Leaders, Student Center for the Public Trust, and the Economics Club. UAB's Beta Alpha Psi chapter received the prestigious Gold Chapter designation in 2025. The School's award-winning Green and Gold Fund allows students to manage an investment portfolio of more than \$600,000.



SELECTED STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Student Spotlight: Kiara Ordonez**
- **High School Students Dive into Business at 2nd Annual UAB CampBIZ**
- **Collat Student Named PCAOB Scholar**
- **Student Spotlight: Roxi Rogers**
- **Student's Networking and Student Organization Involvement Pay Off with Coveted Internship**
- **Student Spotlight: Mary Lynn Bailey**
- **Student Spotlight: Coulter Bumgarner**
- **Student Spotlight: Grayson Pugh**



BEST
GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S. News & WORLD REPORT
RANKINGS

Quiet Study Only

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The School offers a B.S. degree with nine majors: Accounting, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Human Resource Management, Industrial Distribution, Information Systems, Management, and Marketing. Business minors are also available. Undergraduate certificate programs in Interprofessional Nonprofit Leadership, Organizational Communication, Organizational Leadership, Accounting, Information Systems, Professional Sales, Real Estate, and Social Media can be layered along with a major.

The **Master of Business Administration (MBA) program** offers a curriculum of business fundamentals, MBA core courses, electives, and a strategic management capstone. The curriculum was recently revised by changing to a modular design with expanded specialization options. The MBA offers seven specializations, allowing students to earn a graduate certificate in the areas of Business Analytics, Entrepreneurship, Financial Analytics, Health Services, Leadership, Cybersecurity Management, or Marketing while earning their MBA. In 2025, more than 500 students were enrolled in the School's MBA program.

The **Master of Science in Management Information Systems** is an online-only program. It offers concentrations in Cyber Security Management and Business Analytics. In 2025, nearly 100 students were enrolled in this program.

The **Master of Accounting** can be earned on campus (primarily in the evening) or online. An accelerated bachelor-to-master of accounting pathway provides a smooth transition for high-achieving UAB undergraduate accounting students. An accounting bridge certificate is available to help transition individuals with non-accounting backgrounds into the Master of Accounting program. In 2025, nearly 70 students were enrolled in this program.

The 2026 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools" gives Collat School of Business programs high marks:

- The School's MBA online program ranks among the **Top 20%**
- *U.S. News Best Online Programs Rankings 2026* places UAB's Master of Science degree in Management Information Systems at **No. 5 overall**. The program ranked **No. 3** in the student engagement category, measuring student satisfaction and instructor responsiveness, and **No. 4** in the faculty credentials and training category.
- The School's Master of Accounting degree ranked **No. 25 overall** in 2026





ONLINE LEARNING

The Collat School of Business was an early adopter of online and eLearning on UAB's campus. Online programs represent a significant and growing portion of both undergraduate and graduate enrollment within Collat. The School has partnered with external providers in the past to expand its online offerings and reach new learners. In response to an evolving landscape in online education, Collat has transitioned away from third-party program management in certain areas and is continuing to strengthen its internal infrastructure to effectively market, recruit, and support online students.

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Collat has a portfolio of **Continuing Professional Education** courses, workshops, and seminars to meet the lifelong learning needs of local companies and their employees. The Collat School of Business is strategically positioned to fulfill the needs for lifelong learning by offering programs both on campus and online. For example, the MBA program enrolled 110 working professionals from a Birmingham manufacturing company with employees located across the globe. Collat offered non-credit classes and implemented two leadership development academies for 2,500 employees of a large manufacturing and distribution company. The Center for Economic Education provides professional development workshops. And, Collat's Regions Institute for Financial Education delivers a variety of non-credit classes focused on personal finance.

Furthermore, Collat is engaged in the community through the UAB-wide initiative designed to transform communities across Alabama by fully utilizing the broad portfolio of UAB's expertise and resources. This grand challenge (**LiveHealthSmart**) is designed to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Alabama. Collat has embraced this effort by utilizing business expertise to help address some of the social and economic barriers that correlate with poor health.





The UAB Collat School of Business has distinguished alumni who support the School, including alumnus Ken Jackson, who donated this 8-foot bronze statue of “Blaze” that now stands as the centerpiece of Blazer Pride Plaza at the School’s main entrance.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with the dean of the **UAB Collat School of Business**, the **UAB Central Advancement Office**, and the **UAB National Alumni Society**, the UAB Collat School of Business Office of Alumni and Development engages external constituents, faculty, and alumni to support faculty, innovative programs, and student success.

The alumni and development office is **committed to fundraising and engaging alumni with strategic purpose**. The office coordinates and implements alumni and donor cultivation, fundraising activity, and major gift solicitation. The Office of Alumni and Development works with prospective donors to support all priority areas of the School. Funding sources counted in development numbers are from individuals, corporations and family, private or philanthropic foundations. Federal funding sources are not included.

Over the past five years, the School's fundraising was quite successful under UAB's capital campaign which was completed in 2019 at \$1B. At the beginning of 2020, Collat accomplished a major milestone by closing out the \$15M goal for the new building. A sampling of significant gifts include a **\$25M gift** from Charles Collat, a **\$2M gift** for the Goodrich Endowed Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a **\$2M gift** to support the Regions Institute for Financial Education, **more than \$1M in gifts** to support the Health Care Leadership Academy, **more than \$2M in endowed scholarships, program support, and faculty support**, and a **\$5M gift** to name the J. Frank Barefield, Jr. Entrepreneurship program.

UAB boasts more than 150,000 alumni worldwide and the Collat School of Business has more than 24,000 alumni. Through the Alumni Network Program, the Collat School of Business has an alumni chapter and there are also chapters organized by geographical location. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Collat alumni who have distinguished themselves professionally, brought honor to UAB, and made significant contributions of time and/or philanthropy to UAB and their community.

At the 50th anniversary celebration for the Collat School of Business, alumni from each decade were recognized with this award. The **UAB National Alumni Society recognizes the fastest-growing businesses led by UAB alumni with the annual Blazer Fast 40 Awards**. Collat alumni have dominated the acknowledgements and have successful careers in start-ups and established businesses. They are active in university and community service and frequently serve in leadership positions in their specialties.



SELECT ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Legacy Built to Last**
- **Gift Catalyzes Faculty Research at Collat School of Business**
- **Alums Aim to Give Americans a Taste of “West African Excellence” with New Startup**
- **Alumni Profile: Emily Pruett**
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama Executive Gives \$100,000 in Scholarships to the Collat School of Business**
- **Aged to Perfection: Collat Emeritus Professor Uses Proceeds from Fine Wine Auction to Support Students**
- **Collat Completes \$25M Gift to School of Business**
- **Entrepreneurship Program Naming Gift**

FORGING AHEAD

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028



UAB STRATEGIC PLAN

The University of Alabama at Birmingham’s strategic plan, *Forging Ahead* (2024–2028), provides a clear and ambitious roadmap for advancing the institution’s impact as a leading public research university and academic health system. Developed through a highly collaborative, campus-wide process, the plan reflects UAB’s strong culture of shared governance, alignment, and accountability, and serves as a unifying framework to guide decision-making and resource allocation across all schools and units.

Anchored in a mission to enrich society and improve health and well-being through education, research, innovation, and community engagement, *Forging Ahead* positions UAB to build on its national momentum while responding to the evolving demands of higher education and healthcare. The plan is grounded in a compelling vision of UAB as a world-class, interdisciplinary institution dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving the human experience.

A defining feature of the strategic plan is its emphasis on culture and values, articulated through the university’s “We CARE” framework—Collaborate, Act with Integrity, Respect all, and Excel. These shared values underscore UAB’s commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and purpose-driven work, and shape the environment in which faculty, staff, and students thrive. *Forging Ahead* functions as both a strategic vision and an actionable blueprint, with clear priorities and measurable goals that align institutional and school-level strategies. This integrated approach creates meaningful opportunities for academic leaders to innovate, collaborate across disciplines, and advance impact in teaching, research, and service.

For the Collat School of Business, the plan aligns closely with its strengths in innovation, entrepreneurship, and business education within a dynamic academic health environment. Collat is well-positioned to advance UAB's priorities in research, economic development, and community engagement—particularly through its countless connections to regional businesses, healthcare, technology commercialization, and more.

For the next dean, Forging Ahead provides a strong platform for leadership—reinforcing UAB's commitment to student success, research excellence, and community impact, while inviting bold, entrepreneurial vision to elevate the School's role within the university and expand its influence across Birmingham and beyond.





BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Located in the heart of the Southeast, **Birmingham** is a short drive from Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, the Smoky Mountains, and Gulf Coast beaches. Birmingham (metro population 1,200,000) has been recognized as a “Top 10 Entrepreneurial and Job Growth Hot Spots in America,” an “All American City” by the National Civic League, and a “Top 10 American Cities to Live and Work.” Conde Nast Traveler named Birmingham as one of “**The Best Places To Go**” in 2022.

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, with a surging resident population, new restaurants, and enhanced green spaces. This includes **Railroad Park**—an award-winning urban park—and its adjacent Regions Field, home to the minor league **Birmingham Barons** (Double-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox) —an award-winning stadium. The park and stadium projects kick-started major growth in surrounding districts, including craft breweries, boutique shops, restaurants, loft and apartment buildings, innovative workspaces, and new hotels.

In addition to the Barons, Birmingham is home to a dynamic lineup of professional sports teams. Soccer fans support **Birmingham Legion FC**, the city’s professional team in the USL Championship, which plays at Protective Stadium—a state-of-the-art venue that also hosts UAB Blazers football and large-scale events. In 2022, Birmingham welcomed the launch of the USFL, with the **Birmingham Stallions** emerging as the league’s flagship team and three-time champions, capturing national attention and drawing fans to Protective Stadium. Hockey fans can catch fast-paced action with the **Birmingham Bulls**, a professional team in the Southern Professional Hockey League, playing at the Pelham Civic Complex just south of the city.

Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport is Alabama’s largest commercial airport with an annual economic impact of \$1.6 billion. In 2025, BHM welcomed more than three million passengers, with both passenger traffic and freight continuing to show growth. The airport is served by major carriers including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines—and offers nonstop service to approximately 20 destinations across the United States, including New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Miami.





Because of its location, infrastructure, and sports history, Birmingham hosted the 2022 World Games, which drew thousands of visitors from across the globe. UAB played a major role in coordinating this spectacular event, providing athletic venues and hosting 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries. Birmingham is also a renowned culinary destination, with one of our signature restaurants recently winning two James Beard Foundation awards and other restaurants named as finalists. Food critics across the country have discovered Birmingham's food scene consistently ranks as one of the best food cities in America. Pepper Place, a historic, redeveloped warehouse district east of downtown, hosts an award-winning farmers market weekly. The market is one of Alabama's largest producer-only markets, featuring local farmers, artisans, live music, and chef demonstrations.

There are a host of **attractions** only a short walk from UAB's campus, including the **Birmingham Civil Rights District National Monument**, comprising sites such as **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**, **Kelly Ingram Park**, and the **Civil Rights Institute**—a major destination for visitors worldwide. Birmingham's cultural scene is thriving, with **museums**, numerous galleries, **music and arts festivals**, **theatres and live music venues**, a **professional ballet company**, a professional opera company, a **School of Fine Arts**, the **Jazz Hall of Fame**, and the recent restoration of the historic **Lyric** and **Alabama Theatres**. In September 1996, **UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center** became the home of the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra**. Birmingham has proximity to numerous state and national parks, lakes, urban green spaces, and hiking and biking trails. The city has more green space per capita than any other major city in the United States.



UAB

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