



# ACADEMIC INNOVATION

AT UNA

2022 - 2023 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT



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## Dr. Katie C. Kinney

*Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

The annual Academic Affairs report for UNA showcases the vibrant and innovative community that defines our institution. Our unwavering commitment to expanding access to higher education positions us as the preferred choice for lifelong learners, offering a wide range of programs from credentials and certificates to associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. UNA proudly stands as Alabama's premier institution for workforce development, and this year has witnessed the introduction of numerous groundbreaking programs. These initiatives directly translate into exceptional career prospects and advancement opportunities for our graduates, contributing to economic growth within our state and region.

UNA's strategic approach to sustainable growth resulted in a historic milestone in Fall 2022, with our enrollment surpassing 10,000 students for the first time. Our distinctive scholarship programs, coupled with our dedication to serving learners of diverse backgrounds, have cultivated a university community that is more dynamic than ever. Our educational offerings extend far beyond traditional classroom boundaries, emphasizing experiential and work-based learning programs that equip our graduates for success in the post-graduation world. Furthermore, our collaborative partnerships enable us to deliver excellence not only at the national but also at the international level.

UNA's reputation for delivering high-quality, flexible educational experiences at an affordable cost positions us for continued growth and achievement. We take great pride in our past accomplishments and look forward with excitement to the bright future that lies ahead.






**ROAR LIONS!**










# NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Over the last year, the University has further cemented its status as Alabama's Workforce Development University through its innovative offerings at every level of higher education, directly translating into workplace success for students and Alabama. Students can choose from offerings that are face-to-face, online, and hybrid in every college at UNA. These programs are directly aligned with UNA's focus on developing career-ready graduates to meet the economic needs of Alabama and are the result of direct conversations with business and industry leaders focused on meeting the current and future needs of the region.




## Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) 
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track (MS) (PMHNP) 
- Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) 
- Respiratory Care (BS) 
- Florence Helen Nethery Duncan Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (Program naming) 





## College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

- Associate of Science Degrees in Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Events Management, and Mechatronics (AS) 
- Master of Science and Graduate Certificate in Applied Manufacturing Engineering (MS) 
- Graduate Certificate in Mathematics 
- Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainable Trails and Waterways Development  
- New Power Generation Engineering option in the BS in Engineering Technology degree program (pending ACHE approval) 
- Minor in Cellular and Molecular Biology 

## College of Education and Human Sciences

- Sport and Recreation Management (BS) 
- Early Childhood Education international collaborative (BS) 
- E-sports concentration with an option for a credential within Sport and Recreation Management (BS) 

## Sanders College of Business and Technology

- Master of Health Administration (MHA) 
- Joel R. Anderson BBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship 
- MBA Concentration in Data Analytics 
- New Executive MBA cohorts launched in Asia 



ONLINE



IN-PERSON



HYBRID



# Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions (ACONHP) has served as a leader in the education of nurses since 1973. The ACONHP is fully approved by the Alabama State Board of Nursing and fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The ACONHP is ranked in the top 10 most up-and-coming nursing programs in the South and boasts superior state and national certification pass rates across all programs. The ACONHP strongly supports UNA's role as Alabama's Workforce Development University and is committed to producing the highest quality nursing and health professionals in the state.

- Due to a generous gift by Ms. Jenny McKinney, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was renamed to the "Florence Helen Nethery Duncan Bachelor of Science in Nursing program."
- For undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students, the 2022 NCLEX first attempt pass rate is 95 percent. The Alabama Board of Nursing requires at least 80 percent or higher.
- For Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner students, the 2022 graduates achieved a pass rate of 98 percent for all test takers.
- The Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) launched in Spring 2023 as UNA's third doctoral degree program. The first DNP cohort contains 13 students from across the state of Alabama.
- The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) track launched in Spring 2023.
- In Fall 2023, the new Post-Master's Certificate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMC-PMHNP) track will be offered entirely online with two on-campus intensives.
- In Summer 2023, the Florence Helen Nethery Duncan Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program will admit approximately 24 students to the newly structured Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) track. This Summer, for the first time, the delivery modality will change from a fully face-to-face to a hybrid format. Students will complete all coursework online and come to the Shoals area to complete clinical rotations two to three weekends a month.
- 100 percent of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and RN to BSN graduates completed an experiential learning opportunity with a registered nurse in a practice setting.
- 100 percent of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) graduate students completed experiential learning opportunities in an appropriate practice setting.
- Traditional BSN students completed an interprofessional collaborative simulation with North Alabama Medical Center medical residents and ACONHP respiratory care faculty.
- 100 percent of MSN Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students graduating in Fall 2022 completed a high-fidelity simulation in which traditional BSN students served as standardized patients.

- 100 percent of MSN Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students completed a poverty simulation.
- Apple 1-to-1 initiative: Students entering the Florence Helen Nethery Duncan Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pre-licensure track in the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters received an iPad preloaded with apps to assist them in their coursework on the first day of classes. Students use the preloaded apps in the classroom for quizzing and polling, whiteboard features, and real-time documentation of patient information in the simulation center.



An undergraduate ACONHP student uses the simulation lab.



**Brad Hardemon, MSN, RN, CIC, NEA-BC**  
Doctor of Nursing Practice '24  
Tuscaloosa, AL

I've spent the last twenty years working in healthcare. I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a concentration in Population Health. I have been fortunate to share a long history with the UNA. As a 2017 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and 2019 Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) graduate, I easily recognized UNA as the ideal university to obtain my next degree. The instructors at UNA have a great understanding of the barriers that exist for working professionals. They provide clear expectations, offer great flexibility, and provide student-specific guidance throughout their programs. When I think about my time at UNA, there are so many aspects to reflect on fondly. I am currently employed as the Associate Chief Nurse for Operations at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center. One of my responsibilities is oversight of our Infection Prevention Program. I started my role just a few weeks before COVID-19 cases started showing up around the globe. Although I had extensive experience with infection prevention, I recognized I needed to continue to grow in my profession to effectively navigate the challenges associated with COVID-19. After just two months into my first semester, I have already learned so much that I can directly implement into my nursing practice.



# College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

The largest of UNA's colleges, the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering (CASE), plays a critical role in preparing UNA's students for life beyond campus. Made up of 18 departments offering nearly 100 majors and 11 graduate degrees, CASE is committed to offering outstanding educational opportunities alongside innovation and workforce development from the associate to the graduate level. Looking ahead, CASE remains critical to advancing UNA's role as Alabama's Workforce Development University and ensuring student success, both before and after graduation.

- CASE is home to UNA's new Associate of Science degrees (Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Events Management, and Mechatronics), which will launch in Fall 2023.
- The engineering program at UNA has undergone transformative change and now offers programs of study ranging from a micro-credential to a master's degree in Applied Manufacturing Engineering. Power Generation has been added as a new option in the BS in Engineering Technology degree program and will begin in Fall 2023.
- CASE's commitment to workforce development and smart enrollment strategies has led to significant growth in the online graduate programs in Social Work, Criminal Justice, Mathematics, and Writing.
- CASE will host eight faculty-led education abroad programs planned for Summer 2023.
- Nine CASE faculty members developed courses as part of UNA's Open Education Resources (OER) initiative to replace traditional high-cost textbooks and course materials. These proposals alone are projected to save students almost \$200,000 per year.
- The North Alabama Public Service Training Center opened with the aim of serving and collaborating with local, regional, and statewide public service agencies. The Center supports training, education, and research for public service leaders and employees, including law enforcement departments, fire departments, and other emergency services.
- Faculty in the Criminal Justice program received a grant from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to support a Summer bridge program (Operation Fast Start/UNA Justice Academy) designed to foster retention and completion while building a sense of community.
- Several CASE faculty members completed a six-week Inclusive STEM Teaching Project offered by Boston University and sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The program was designed to advance awareness, self-efficacy, and the ability of STEM faculty to cultivate inclusive learning environments for all their students.



**John Lazo**  
MS in Applied Manufacturing  
Engineering '24  
The Philippines

I'm originally from the Philippines; I moved here to the US about 10 years ago. I currently reside in San Antonio, TX, due to being in the military. I'm currently pursuing an MS in Applied Manufacturing Engineering program. I have heard a lot of good things about UNA from my colleagues, and when I was searching online, the online engineering program that

UNA offers fit the most with what I want to do in the future, and since military members move often, an online program suits my current lifestyle.

My favorite thing about the program is learning different engineering theories in real-world applications. I also quite enjoy Quality Management and Six Sigma, which prior to the program was not something I would like to do but now is something I'm interested in, and I look forward to getting a certification. I am planning to be a commissioned officer in the US Air Force. I would like to use the knowledge I gain from this program to better myself and give back to the organization that took care of me.



# College of Education and Human Sciences

The College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS) has a long history of distinction, dating back to UNA's founding in 1830. It remains dedicated to the outstanding preparation of its graduates in education, health, and wellness, who go on to lead the state and beyond, improving the lives of all impacted. COEHS is uniquely positioned to advance UNA's Workforce Development initiative through its relationships with Alabama's schools.

As Alabama faces a historic teacher shortage, COEHS is a state leader in teacher production. Its innovative programs, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, leave COEHS well-positioned for future growth and to support the development of the state and region. COEHS alumni return to their communities, benefiting from the exceptional training they receive at UNA, moving Alabama forward through the transformative power of education.

- COEHS is the 5th largest producer of teachers in Alabama (out of 25), adding approximately 150 teachers annually to Alabama schools.
- 95 percent of COEHS teacher alumni remain in the state of Alabama as teachers benefiting the children of Alabama.
- COEHS's teacher education program continues to grow, and 100 percent of its graduates find jobs in their field.
- Kilby Laboratory School continues its tradition of excellence and was ranked at No. 1 in the Best Public Elementary School Teachers in Alabama category for 2022-2023, according to a national education research group. As the only laboratory school in the state, Kilby allows UNA students preparing to be teachers an unparalleled opportunity for direct, hands-on engagement and observation of current practicing teachers through clinical experiences.
- COEHS hosted the first annual Alabama Higher Education Science of Reading Symposium, bringing teachers from across the state to share research, best practices, and ideas for supporting pre-service and in-service teachers.
- The Department of Kinesiology master's and doctoral programs remain highly enrolled, and the first doctoral student in Exercise Science and Health Promotion graduated Spring 2023. This department also launched the Sport and Recreation Management 'flex' option, offering a 100 percent online BS degree catering to current adult workers/practitioners.
- The MS in Instructional Technology and Design launched in Fall 2021 and has seen tremendous growth of 170 percent. Its first graduates have joined the UNA alumni family.
- COEHS and fifty-three LEAD (Leading Educators to Advanced Degrees) partnerships with schools and districts across Alabama assist current teachers in obtaining advanced degrees and credentials.
- Growth in LEAD student enrollment directly translates into classroom success for Alabama students. UNA continues to add new districts to this program.

- The College of Education and Human Sciences conducted over 50 student-led research projects, resulting in student-authored publications and presentations, some of which received external funding.
- Beyond Alabama, international collaboration continued, and the first group of STEM education students from South Korea will graduate in the coming year.
- Accreditation remains a crucial component of excellence in COEHS. All education programs are approved by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Initial and advanced preparation programs have full accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
- The Counselor Education program earned accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, as did the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and the School Counseling program.



Kyle Reason completes the first PhD dissertation defense at UNA (Spring 23).



A new pin was created and used in the pinning ceremony for teacher graduates (Fall 22).



**J'Lyrick Woods**  
TSEC (Temporary Special Education Certificate) '23  
Florence, AL

I am pursuing a certification add-on through the new TSEC program UNA offers. I chose UNA because I have my undergraduate degree from here and I know the education program at UNA is wonderful. I enjoy that the program strongly correlates with my current position. It is constantly teaching me things that I am experiencing throughout my job. I also enjoy having this solely online considering I live an hour away from UNA. I am currently teaching as a Special Education teacher, which I plan to continue doing once I complete my certification here at UNA.



# Sanders College of Business and Technology

The Sanders College of Business and Technology (SCOBT) includes a variety of online and on-campus business degree programs. Top-ranked in the nation for multiple MBA concentrations, SCOBT is dedicated to helping undergraduates and working professionals succeed in meeting their business education goals.

- Received a generous gift from the Sanders family to name the college.
- Largest MBA program in Alabama for the 7th straight year, as reported by the Birmingham Business Journal.
- U.S. News & World Report ranking for 2023 – Best Online Bachelor's in Business Programs.
- Executive Doctor of Business Administration (EDBA) program's third cohort had its launch weekend in November, and the 14 students started classes in January.
- Joel R. Anderson BBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship launched in Spring 2023.
- MBA Concentration in Data Analytics launched in Spring 2023.
- Master's in Health Administration launched in Spring 2023.
- Launched Executive MBA programs as part of an international collaboration with partner universities in Asia.
- Launched the Joel R. Anderson Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Studies and opened the new maker space at the UNA College Street Building.
- The Computing and Mathematics Building construction is on schedule.
- Added Accounting and Data Analytics to the Scholarships of Distinction, which are tied to workforce development.
- A grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was awarded to Shoals Economic Development Authority (SEDA) in partnership with the Center for Learning and Professional Development to fund the first cohort of Code Alabama. Code Alabama is an eight-week workforce development initiative certificate program that trains programming competency. Code Alabama was implemented in Spring 2023.



**Kalandria Thompson**  
BBA Flex (Bachelor's of  
Business Administration)  
Tuscaloosa, AL

I love the flexibility of the BBA Flex Program and the fact that it fits into my lifestyle. I have managed to find a schedule with classes that allows me to work full-time and still be part of my children's sports activities. I can log in to my classes when it's convenient for me, as opposed to having to be in classes at a certain time. The combination of those things makes the program great to go through. I'm getting the same quality of education that I would get if I were sitting in a classroom.



Fall 2022 job placement data demonstrates the percentage of students with full-time jobs in their field of study:

Accounting and Business Law	97%
Finance, Economics, and Data Analytics	100%
Management and Marketing	84%
Computer Science and Information Systems	84%



A large photograph showing four students walking along a paved path on a university campus. The path is lined with lush green trees and bushes. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building is visible under a clear sky. The students are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts and shorts/skirts. One student is wearing a purple t-shirt with 'UNA' and 'University of North Alabama' printed on it.

## Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College

The Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College is committed to ensuring its students have an outstanding undergraduate experience that prepares them for postgraduate success. It does so through careful attention to all aspects of a student's undergraduate career. First-year Honors College students participate in experiential learning, civic engagement, and leadership development. As they advance in their academic career, the College emphasizes career counseling and success after graduation. The College's efforts are already paying dividends. Over 95 percent of Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College graduates are at work in their fields or attending graduate school in their discipline within one year after graduation. The Cole Honors College is well-positioned to add to UNA's legacy of success.

- The Cole Honors College is experiencing significant growth, from 630 students in Fall 2021 to 753 students in Fall 2022.
- Enrollment is projected to reach 850 in 2023 – approximately 15 percent of the undergraduate UNA population.
- Honors College students participated in research and internship opportunities at Duke University, University of California-Berkeley, Hudson Alpha, NASA, Southern Power, U.S. Senate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TVA, Redstone Arsenal, and many other entities and organizations.
- The Honors Mentor Program pairs an incoming first-year student with a current Honors student to guide the important transition to college life. All Cole Honors College student mentors received education and training from the Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion.
- The partnership between the College and the Office of International Affairs has resulted in greater student engagement with education abroad and study-away opportunities.
- The College partnered with SCOBT for the first-ever Honors education abroad trip to Ireland (Summer 2023).
- The College developed and launched the new Honors College Global Learning Badge (a LinkedIn verified certification).



**Yaslin Perez**  
Political Science, minor in  
Legal Studies '23  
Russellville, AL

I was born in Sheffield, Alabama, and raised in Russellville, Alabama. My family originates from Oaxaca, Mexico. I am majoring in Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies. I chose UNA because I value my family and a close-knit community. UNA allowed me to stay close to my family and join a convivial university where I felt comfortable reaching out to my classmates and staff for help. One of my favorite aspects of political science and legal studies is it allows me to understand the making of public policies and what circumstances made them come to be. Constitutional History taught by Dr. Collins was my favorite class because I got to dive deep into the Supreme Court's decisions on important cases. After I graduate, I will be attending law school at Cumberland School of Law with a \$40,000/year scholarship. I am currently working as a legal assistant at an immigration firm and aspire to become an immigration attorney after I graduate law school.



# GRADUATE AND ONLINE EDUCATION

The Office of Graduate and Online Education (GOE) works closely with academic colleges to recruit outstanding students and promote excellence through policy initiatives and flexible offerings in furtherance of UNA's commitment to workplace development. GOE works collaboratively with the Provost and the Deans of the academic colleges to create a campus culture that promotes students' academic and career success, provides a safe, healthy, nurturing and welcoming environment for a diverse student body, and creates a sense of community and connection for our students both on-campus and online.



**121%**

growth in online student population over the last 5 years.



Record Fall enrollment of

**10,191**

for Fall 2022. A

**15.4%**

increase over Fall 2021.



**3.5%**

increase in graduate students taking only online courses from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022.

## MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Micro-credentials are small programs that allow students to gain relevant skills that are needed in today's workforce. In collaboration with industry partners, UNA has developed over two dozen innovative, 100 percent online micro-credentials that are aligned with 21st-century workforce demands, including critical thinking, intercultural fluency, digital technology, and more. UNA worked extensively with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and it became the first university in the state to be approved to offer micro-credentials.



To defray costs associated with earning a micro-credential, UNA offers tuition scholarships to the employees of its industry partners. Employees who enroll in an online micro-credential are eligible for UNA's New Start Scholarship, which provides those employees with their first course for free. UNA also revised its Program Participation Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, and it became the first university in the state to award federal financial aid for micro-credentials that lead to gainful employment opportunities.



# OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNA's Office of International Affairs has continued its tradition of excellence in promoting internationalization on UNA's global campus. In 2022-2023, International Affairs recruited and served the highest number of international students at UNA in the last 10 years.

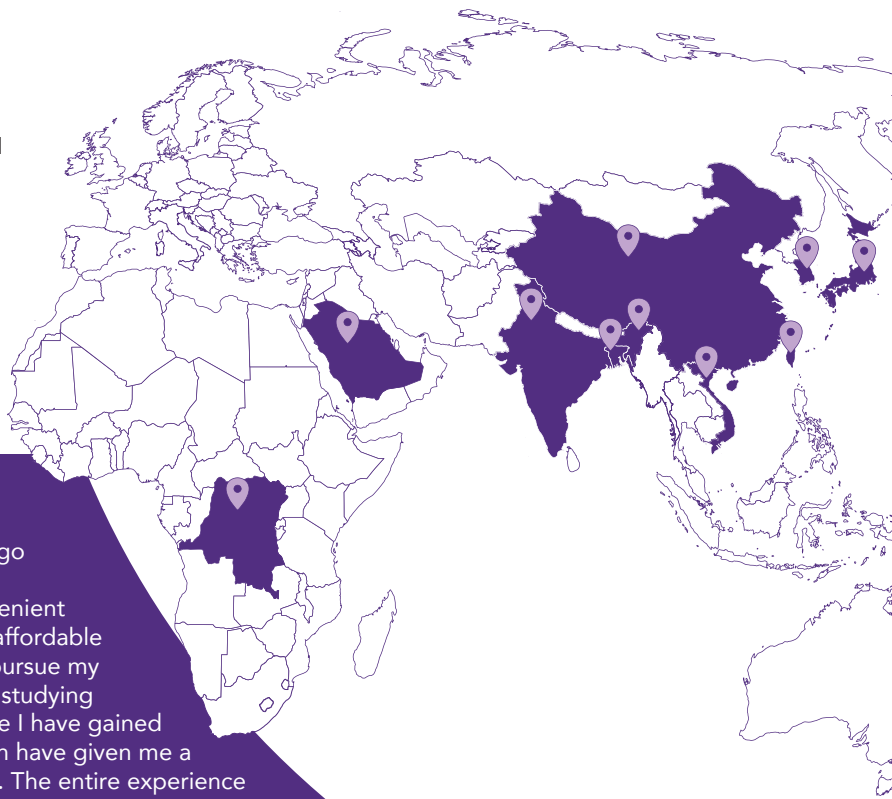
Graduate international enrollment more than tripled pre-pandemic numbers and international undergraduate enrollment more than doubled in that same period. These students bring value-added diversity of global cultures, thoughts, perspectives, and experiences. Additionally, International Affairs has implemented numerous opportunities to allow international students to celebrate their own culture and teach other students about it—preparing all students for the global marketplace of today and tomorrow.

- The Office of International Affairs recruited and served 932 international students from 69 countries—the largest group in the past ten years.
- International online enrollment more than doubled from pre-pandemic Fall 2019 to Fall 2022.
- In collaboration with CASE and other campus constituency groups, UNA launched the Guizhou-UNA International College of Engineering and Technology in China, offering three bachelor degrees in Engineering Technology, Occupational Health Science, and Sustainability with over 200 students currently enrolled.
- International Affairs established ten new global partnerships with universities in Costa Rica, France, Hungary, China, India, Korea, Spain, and Mexico, and established three international feeder school partners in Guatemala and Costa Rica.
- UNA's Education Abroad program has been rebranded as UNA Global Learning and incorporates various aspects of global learning, including Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Education Abroad. COIL allows UNA faculty to partner with faculty at institutions abroad, allowing students to participate in a global learning community without leaving home. Additionally, over a dozen Education Abroad programs are scheduled for Summer 2023, in which UNA students learn about a new culture while simultaneously experiencing it.



## GLOBAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

China	372
India	113
Japan	45
Democratic Republic of the Congo	41
The Bahamas	38
Taiwan	38
South Korea	34
Bangladesh	28
Vietnam	25
Saudi Arabia	22



**Daniela Kahimba**  
Computer Science  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

I chose UNA because of its convenient location, pleasant weather, and affordable tuition fees that allowed me to pursue my degree. My favorite thing about studying computer science is the exposure I have gained to various topics and tools, which have given me a broader perspective on the field. The entire experience has provided me with knowledge both in and out of the classroom. Pursuing a minor in cybersecurity allowed me to learn security best practices that are useful for organizations as an employee and real-life situations. With my degree, I plan to obtain an internship to gain more practical experience and pursue a MBA with a concentration in project management. This will allow me to develop my skills further and become an effective leader in project management.





# EARLY COLLEGE

UNA Early College provides students with the opportunity to earn college course credit as early as their sophomore year of high school.

Early College Enrollment increased  
**273%** between Spring and Fall 2022.



UNA Early College students represent  
**30** high schools across the state of Alabama.

Early College Enrollment increased  
**245%** year-over-year between Spring 2022 and Spring 2023.



**50%** of all high school seniors enrolled in UNA's Early College program enroll as first-time, full-time freshmen at UNA following high school graduation.



# UNIVERSITY SUCCESS CENTER

The University Success Center's mission is to assist students in developing the personal and academic knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for student success. The University Success Center includes University Advising Services, the UNA Career Center, the Center for Writing Excellence, and Academic Testing Services.

- The Success Center implemented **Tutor.com** in Fall 2021. Tutor.com provides on-demand online tutoring services in a multitude of disciplines for all students. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide access to tutoring services without regard to time zone or location.
- From implementation in Fall 2021 to Fall 2022, over 5,000 total sessions have been completed by 993 individual students.
- 98 percent of UNA students recommend this service.
- Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 retention: Higher retention rate for users (88 percent) than non-users (83 percent).
- Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 retention for students on Academic Standing: Higher retention rate for users (85 percent) than non-users (70 percent).
- Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 retention: 71 percent retention rate for users vs. 69 percent for non-users.
- Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 retention: 68 percent retention rate for users vs. 56 percent for non-users.
- Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 retention of online students: 73 percent retention rate for users vs. 67 percent for non-users.
- Average student rating, **4.69/5**, for Tutor.com services.
- The UNA Career Center is entering its third year of partnership with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) in its Retain Alabama initiatives, with year three focusing primarily on experiential learning opportunities throughout the state.
- The Career Center completed a campus-wide implementation of resume review software V Mock, to provide resume writing feedback and assistance to students in real-time.





# CENTER FOR PREMIER AWARDS AND SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

The Center for Premier Awards and Scholarly Engagement offers support for students engaging in research as well as application advising for prestigious national and international awards as part of UNA's commitment to creating transformational experiences that serve students long after graduation. The center collaborates with the private sector to support students and faculty with research grants and opportunities to showcase their research to the University community and beyond.

## 2022-2023 AWARD WINNERS

### US Student Fulbright Program

Ellie Talbot  
Ellie Thompson

### Foreign Affairs Information Technology Fellowship (FAIT)

Brandon Sanders

### Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

John Hall

### Benjamin A Gilman Scholarship

Sidney Heinrich  
Katoria McKinney  
MaKayla Scott

### Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)

Kristina Williams

### Premier Scholarships

- Two Fulbright awardees and one alternate.
- Three Gilman Scholarship awardees.
- One Japan Exchange and Teaching awardee.

### Support for Research

- First Anderson College of Nursing Research Symposium – in collaboration with Collier Library.
- First CASE STEM Faculty Research Showcase – in collaboration with CASE.
- Second Annual STEM Student Research Showcase – in collaboration with HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and CASE.
- Awarded **74 UNA Student Research Grants** (60 percent increase over 2021-2022).



**9<sup>th</sup>**

in Top Public Schools in  
the South.



**8<sup>th</sup>**

in Most Innovative  
Schools, Regional  
Universities; South.



**8<sup>th</sup>**

in Best Colleges for  
Veterans, Regional  
Universities; South.



**25<sup>th</sup>**

in Top Regional  
Universities; South.



# COLLIER LIBRARY + OER Integration



DIGITAL PRESS at  
COLLIER LIBRARY

University of NORTH ALABAMA

- The Digital Press at Collier Library continues to expand. Six books have been completed (with six more awaiting publication by Fall). Currently, each book is used as a free textbook to save money for students. Additionally, graduate classes have begun using the platform to collaborate as authors and editors for an original book as their final project. The Digital Press was introduced in late Spring 2022 and has seen tremendous growth throughout its existence.
- Educational Technology Services (ETS) has worked with Collier Library to offer development for Open Educational Resources (OER). Since June, ten OER developments have begun. These new OER projects for 2022 bring total student textbook savings to approximately \$800,000.
- Collier Library and Information Services continues expanding its app offerings for laptops, tablets, and mobile device users. Collier Library now offers an array of applications that enhance discoverability, research, and the use of information outlets on the Internet. App usage among library users (faculty, staff, and students) has risen monthly. Apps are integrated into library instruction and communication.
- Collier Library has joined a library cooperative for 24/7 chat access. This service allows on-demand assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is crucial for our distance learning and international collaboration students. When Collier Library isn't open, library staff from across the world aid in assisting its users. The conversations are relayed to Collier Library faculty and staff so they may follow up and further assist our learners and users with their information inquiries.



**Abigail Peterson**  
MBA in Project Management '24  
Huntsville, AL

A lot went into my decision to select UNA. For one, the pandemic played a part. UNA offers an all-online program but is close enough that I could physically visit professors or my advisor if needed. Second, is the value. The program is affordable to someone not in an executive position. UNA offering a payment plan option has been very helpful in my quest to afford

the program without student loans. And third were the options for an MBA concentration. After looking at several options, UNA had the best option (the exact program) I wanted! I love the connections I've been able to make with classmates that are local to me. After being in the hospitality and tourism industry for almost a decade, this is where I'm comfortable, excel, and I know I enjoy the industry. But living in Rocket City is exciting and does pique interest in a change of industry! I've also always wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps in the missile defense industry. All I know is there are options and that there is time to choose!



# UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

The University of North Alabama is a proud partner of the private sector, school districts, professional organizations, local, state, and federal governments, providing them with unique opportunities to both enhance employee education and allow for employee career advancement.

University partnerships publicize UNA's outstanding academic offerings and directly translate into student enrollment. Looking to the future, UNA is well-positioned to serve our partners and maximize growth opportunities through strategic partnerships.

- Significantly, UNA signed an agreement with the U.S. **Office of Personnel Management** to become part of the **Federal Academic Alliance**, placing UNA among fewer than 30 higher education institutions in the country to offer a tuition scholarship to more than two million employees of the federal government. Doing so allows UNA to provide federal employees worldwide with access to high-quality educational options that are both affordable and flexible.
- From 2022-2023, UNA has added multiple new partners, including Nucor Steel and Southern Company.
- Enrollment resulting from **university partnerships** increased **61 percent** from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 and **60 percent** from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023.



**Anna Kate Campbell**  
Masters in Ed.S., Teacher Leader  
Double Springs, AL

The partnership between UNA and Muscle Shoals City Schools (MSCS) made obtaining higher degrees attainable and affordable. It definitely made an impact on why I chose UNA. As I paid my tuition each semester, I was so grateful when I looked at the cost breakdown. This partnership was a huge financial blessing. My favorite part of the program is how simple it has been.

Both MSCS and UNA have been helpful and quick to respond to any questions I may have had. I have also enjoyed both the master's and Ed.S programs because I feel like I have been supported and encouraged all along the way. I was not sure if I was going to pursue my Ed.S degree, but after speaking with my current advisor, he encouraged me and was able to help me quickly get through the application process without any problems. Currently, I am very happy in the classroom. I teach 7th grade Social Studies and enjoy every minute! I do believe, however, that these degrees could help me pursue other positions in the future should the opportunity arise, and I see opportunity for new challenges.

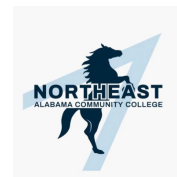
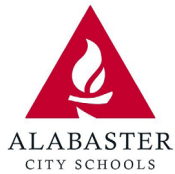
## LIFETIME LEARNING AT UNA

**UNA's tradition of innovation continues.** Looking forward, UNA's commitment to offering high quality educational opportunities will bring new possibilities to our students of all ages. Flex options will allow adults to complete their baccalaureate degrees online no matter when or where their education began.





# NEW PARTNERSHIPS





# ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

As an enrollment crisis has roiled higher education in the United States, UNA's smart growth strategy of offering students the option of face-to-face, online, and hybrid instruction combined with its commitment to academic programs that support career-ready graduates and workforce development means that student enrollment is vibrant and growing.

Fall 2022 saw UNA enrollment top **10,000** for the first time ever. Spring 2023 marked UNA's 15th term of record enrollment. The innovative, dedicated Enrollment Management team positions UNA to build on its success.

- Student catalogs have been updated to better reflect UNA's workforce development programs, micro-credential offerings, and latest programs.
- Software updates allow for improved advising and registration of students.
- The Office of Admissions hosted **7,206** visitors to campus in 2022 as part of its commitment to engage prospective students and their families—a **26 percent increase** over 2021.
- Admissions staff visited almost **700** high schools, programs, and college fairs in 2022.
- The Office of Admissions hosted **118** group tours/presentations on campus.





# UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

UNA's unique scholarship offerings allow the University to recruit outstanding students at all levels while maintaining its commitment to workforce development and graduating career-ready individuals to lead the state and region into the future.


- **Scholarships of Distinction** provide funding and excellent learning experiences for students majoring in Accounting, Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, Data Analytics, Engineering Technology, Occupational Health Science, and Information Technology.
- **Corporate Partner Employee scholarships** support our UNA partners in private sector businesses, health systems, school districts, government, professional associations, and other organizations by offering their employees a tuition scholarship.
- **The LEAD Partnership** allows school system employees in UNA's LEAD partner districts to obtain an advanced degree, certification, and/or micro-credential from UNA in an online format at a reduced cost.
- **New Start scholarships** offer students enrolled in any online bachelor's degree, graduate program (online or on-campus), certificate, or micro-credential a waived application fee and a complimentary first course when enrolled in two or more courses — allowing many individuals the opportunity to return to higher education.
- **The LEAD Partnership High School Senior scholarship** is awarded to one graduating senior from each of UNA's LEAD partner districts, and priority is given to a student pursuing education as their field of study.
- **The Military Heroes scholarship** is offered to any active duty service member or veteran of the U.S. Military, current National Guard or Reserves members, and/or their spouses. Students must enroll in an online bachelor's degree, graduate program (online or on campus), certificate, or micro-credential to qualify, and this scholarship is need-based.
- **The Presidential Mentors Academy** program offers annual scholarships to underrepresented and underserved students throughout their time at UNA. Recipients receive financial assistance, leadership development training, peer mentoring, and academic advising.

## WHAT'S NEXT?






New programs move Alabama forward through workforce development and provide our graduates with outstanding career opportunities. UNA's reputation for excellence is spreading. At UNA, the future looks bright!

## ROAR LIONS!

 ONLINE

 IN-PERSON

### FUTURE OFFERINGS:

- Doctor of Social Work (DSW) 
- Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), with certificates in Biological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Power Generation Engineering, and Engineering Management 
- Occupational Safety and Health Management, with concentrations in General, Accelerated, Professional Certification, and Safety (MS) 
- Human Resource Management (BBA)  





# *Study online, on campus, or both!*

## CONTACT US:

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Under Title IX and UNA Policy, UNA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in university education programs or activities, including admissions decisions. For internal inquiries about the application of Title IX or the University's nondiscrimination statement on the basis of sex, please contact: UNA Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Administrator at UNA Box 5023, 207 Guillot University Center, Florence, AL 35632, (256) 765-4223, titleix@una.edu. For external inquiries, please contact: Office for Civil Rights (OCR) U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-1100 Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481 Fax: (202) 453-6012 TDD#: (877) 521-2172 Email: OCR@ed.gov Web: ed.gov/ocr. All information contained herein is correct as of May 2023.