



MISS UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

JANUARY 25, 2025



Hi There!

I AM BECCA, AND I AM SO EXCITED THAT YOU ARE COMPETING IN MISS UNA 2024!

The Miss University of North Alabama competition has a rich history here at UNA that spans 50-years and serves as an official preliminary competition for Miss Alabama and the Miss America Organization. It is very important that the lady that serves as Miss UNA recognizes that her role is one of class, honor, and a full time job. Miss UNA does receive a full academic year of scholarship in exchange for her service to the University and the community. The Miss America Organization's mission statement is to, "Prepare great women for the world, and to prepare the world for great women." We share this mission, and are honored to be a part of your journey to discovering the greatness within you. Please know the board and I are here to support you throughout this process, and are so proud to have you as a part of this organization and a contestant in this long standing campus tradition.

Roar Lions!

BECCA BUSH

CONTESTANT PACKET

Thank you for your interest in the Miss University of North Alabama Competition! As an official preliminary competition for the Miss Alabama/Miss America system, we are honored that you have chosen this competition to participate in. The Miss UNA Competition is a long-standing tradition at UNA, and we are excited about adding another great year to our history! The previous women who have competed and worn the crown of Miss UNA have always demonstrated grace, sophistication, poise, intelligence, and a commitment to excellence in all they do; and we expect nothing less from our 2025 class!

Please read through this packet of vital competition information. It includes all the necessary information you will need to become an official competitor in the 2025 Miss UNA Competition.

For questions not answered in this packet, please contact the Miss UNA Director, Miss Becca Bush via email at rbush@una.edu or via her work phone at 256-765-4792.



INSTRUCTIONS

REGISTRATION TO DO LIST:

- ___ Miss UNA Applications are due by October 18th at 11:59pm.
The number of candidates will be limited to the first 21 women who complete their Miss UNA Application on CampusGroups. Once you turn this in, you will be added to the Miss UNA CampusGroups page and can begin working on the other paperwork.
- ___ Attend Orientation – Monday, October 21st at 6:30pm in the SGA Chambers
- ___ The Stages of Competition Form is due by November 1st at 11:59pm.
This form will require you to finalize your talent and service initiative along with your introductions to the stages of competition, as well as, a copy of your birth certificate and unofficial UNA transcript.
- ___ Headshots
Contestants must get headshots at no charge in November at Butler Studio. Time slots are 15 minutes. Once dates are selected, you can schedule your appointment at <https://una.campusgroups.com/meetings/599692/missunaphotos>
- ___ Creative Jewelers Ring Design - November
Contestants get the opportunity to meet with Creative Jewelers on Court Street and design their dream “UNA” ring. The next Miss UNA, will receive this ring free of charge next spring compliments of Brandi & Billy Hammock at Creative Jewelers. Sign up for your appointment here: <https://una.campusgroups.com/meetings/599692/missunarings>
- ___ Upload Required Miss Alabama Paperwork into Campus Groups - Due 11/15
(Official examples are available on the campus group under files in the Miss UNA Group)
 - ___Service Initiative Essay
 - ___Resume|Fact Sheet
- ___ Attend Contestant Workshop on November 18th at 6:30pm
We will discuss interviews and work through the contestant contracts together.



Miss University of North Alabama Local Contract

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

The Miss UNA Competition is organized as a nonprofit University event whose express purposes include:

1. The provision of scholarship funds.
2. The representation, with integrity and character, of the University of North Alabama, throughout the course of public appearances by Miss UNA.
3. The promotion of UNA for recruiting students and representing the University and other Miss UNA sponsors as directed by the Competition Director or University President.

DEFINITION OF RELATIONSHIPS

1. Miss UNA must realize and recognize the fact that for the year (a year is equivalent to the period extending from the 2024 to the 2025 Miss UNA Competition) of her reign she will and must be Miss UNA, rather than herself. She must maintain proper personal grooming whether on campus, going shopping, or on any personal errands. She is Miss UNA wherever she goes and must look the part. Miss UNA is, in a way, a celebrity, a name, and a public servant, all of which must supersede her personal life, desires and former commitments.
2. The Miss UNA Competition, through the Competition Director who serves as General Chairman of the Competition, has management control of Miss UNA for the entire year of her reign. This statement includes all appearances, on and off campus activities as Miss UNA, parties and/or anything concerning her whereabouts, which may include an introduction as Miss UNA.
3. Management coordination is most important to insure efficient management. To insure efficient management of Miss UNA in a harmonious manner, Miss UNA will:
 - a. Refer ALL appearance requests to the Competition Director.
 - b. Refer ALL press, radio, or TV requests to the Competition Director.
 - c. Refer ALL endorsement requests to the Competition Director.
 - d. Honor and fulfill all approved appearances scheduled by the Competition Director.
 - e. Properly prepare herself to meet the requirements of approved appearances adequately and successfully.
 - f. Meet biweekly with Competition Director during fall and spring semesters.
4. Alternates and vacancies: The Miss UNA Competition selects a first, second, and third alternate. In the event Miss UNA becomes Miss Alabama or is no longer eligible to serve, the first alternate will take her place but be unable to compete in the next Miss UNA Competition. Within 2 days of the vacancy, the first alternate must decide if she will serve or cede the crown to the second alternate (second has the option to cede to third) if any would rather compete than hold the title. If the Miss UNA selected at competition is replaced by the first, second or third alternate, and the alternate can no longer serve, the title will remain unfilled until the next competition. (In other words, no more than 2 individuals can have the Miss UNA title during one competition cycle.)

THE MISS UNA PROGRAM WILL

1. Confirm all appearances and requirements pertaining thereto.
2. Ascertain that all prizes, scholarships, and gifts are presented to Miss UNA.
3. Screen all appearance requests and protect Miss UNA from undesirable appearances.
4. Maintain Miss UNA's calendar and notify her with adequate notice of each appearance.
5. Provide for adequate training, coaching, rehearsal etc., for the role of Miss UNA.

6. Arrange for and execute press coverage for appearances when appropriate.
7. Assist in the provision and approval of an evening gown up to \$1500 for the Miss Alabama Competition.

MISS UNA MUST:

CHARACTER/IMAGE

1. Present a warm, friendly attitude and welcoming presence during her appearances and in public, as she can always be identified or introduced as Miss UNA.
2. Be a current full-time student at the University of North Alabama and shall never have held the title of Miss UNA.
3. Present herself in all public matters and forums with respect, decorum, and class. Miss UNA must present herself (appearances, media interviews, social networking sites, etc.) in a manner that does not draw negative attention to her words or image. She will refrain from using slang and curse words, public gossiping, and will refrain from posting or allowing controversial pictures of herself to be taken/posted by others.
4. Provide her own wardrobe requirements over and above those provided by the University and sponsor wardrobe allowance.
5. Maintain her wardrobe in a cleaned and pressed condition.
6. Agree that her services are extraordinary and unique. Therefore, in the event of such a breach or attempted or threatened breach, the Miss UNA Competition will be entitled to equitable relief by terminating her right to the title of Miss UNA.

REQUIRED DUTIES

1. Represent, with integrity and character, the University of North Alabama throughout the course of public appearances.
2. Promote UNA through recruiting students and representing the University and other Miss UNA sponsors as directed by the Competition Director or University President.
3. Emcee for University Program Council’s events including Step Sing, Homecoming Pep Rally, & other events as assigned.
4. Attend Freshman and Transfer Orientation (SOAR) and Preview Day
5. Attend all contestant interest meetings for the Miss UNA Competition.
6. Responsible for the selection of the Theme for the following Miss UNA Competition.
7. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 and full-time status throughout the Miss UNA reign.
8. Maintain 2 weekly office hours in the Student Engagement Center during operating hours (8:00 AM – 4:30 PM) during the Fall and Spring Semester
10. Manage the awards table on-stage at the University Awards Gala
11. Maintain an active social media presence by posting on Facebook and Instagram at least once a week.

**First Runner Up Note: The university and Miss UNA supporters are not required to provide the exact original scholarships and prizes to the First Runner-up if they are asked to fulfill the duties of Miss UNA.*

I, _____, a Miss UNA contestant, have read the contents of this agreement and understand all conditions, rules and regulations set forth by the Miss UNA Competition, and further commit to abide by these rules both as a contestant and in the event I should win the title of Miss UNA.

Signature of Contestant

Signature of Parents for Contestants
under age 19

DATES TO NOTE

Applications Open - September 1st

Interest Meeting - September 30th @ 6:30 PM

Applications Close - October 18 @ 11:59 PM

Orientation - October 21 @ 6:30pm

Final Paperwork Call - November 15th

Interview Workshop - November 18th @ 6:30 PM

Mock Interviews - January 7th @ 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Opening Number Rehearsal - January 17th @ 5:00 PM

Miss UNA Week Rehearsals - Begin @ 5:00 PM

Wed. Jan 22nd - Opening #, On Stage Convo & Red Carpet

Thur. Jan 23rd - Fitness, Talent, & SI Finalist Interview

Fri. Jan 24th - Dress Rehearsal (Eat at 5, Start @ 6)

Sat. Jan 25th - Miss UNA 2025 (Doors @ 4:00 | Show @ 5:00)

THE ADVISORY BOARD

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IMPORTANT INFO

REHEARSAL & BACKSTAGE

Please be on time, prepared, and bring a good attitude to rehearsals. Attendance is required at every rehearsal. Exceptions may be made with notice of a direct academic conflict, performance in a University Sponsored production/event, documented illness, or death in the immediate family.

All rehearsals are closed to everyone except the contestants, on-the-clock Norton Tech Crew, and advisory board members. The Director of Miss UNA is the only person who can grant temporary access to any other support personnel and reserves the right to revoke access at any time.

Unauthorized individuals will be asked to voluntarily vacate the premises by the Director. UNA PD will be called to remove anyone who fails to immediately comply.

On competition day, candidates and their families will have access to bring items in to Norton's backstage area from 1 PM to 3:30 PM. Norton WILL BE CLEARED at 3:30 PM. No individuals without proper identification will be allowed in to the backstage area after this time. Any items left in the seats in the auditorium will be taken to the ticket box office.

FLOWERS

Kaleidoscope Florists is the official florist of the Miss UNA Competition. They are able to deliver flowers to the back-stage area before the show. Contact them at 256-767-2056.

They are located at 1633 Darby Dr. in the English Village Shopping Center in Florence.

ATTIRE

The 2024 competition theme is "Miss UNA: A Golden Legacy" and is the 50th Anniversary of the Miss UNA Competition.

OPENING NUMBER/ON STAGE CONVO: White Cocktail Dress & nude heels

INTERVIEW: Business Professional - Suit or Dress

TALENT: Costume or Evening Wear

FITNESS: Rebel Athletics

RED CARPET: Evening Gown

IMPORTANT INFO

COMPETITION PHOTOS

Competition Candid Photos will be available from Butler Studio Photography. Look at the www.una.edu/missuna website for a link to view the photographs 2 weeks after the pageant.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Candidates should consult the Miss UNA program book for a list of awards and prizes. These change each year as the sponsors change. Any candidate that wins a prize/award must sign the award acceptance and statement of understanding form within 30 days of the Miss UNA Competition to receive their award(s).

MISS UNA CONTRACT

Please know the details of the Miss UNA and Miss Alabama contract. You will not be able to compete in the Miss Alabama Competition if you fail to uphold the contract before the competition. Violating the contract after state competition may result in sanctions by the University including loss of Miss UNA Title and Scholarship Awards.

COMPETITION

Miss UNA is an Official Local Preliminary of the Miss Alabama Competition. The operations are governed according to the guidelines set forth by the Miss America Organization.

- Private Interview - 30sec opening/SI Overview, 9.5min Q&A
- On-Stage Conversation- 30 sec response
- Fitness - 30sec pre-blocked stage pattern
- Talent/HERstory - 90sec
- Evening Gown - Timing is according to Music

Below are the latest weights from Miss Alabama/Miss America. Miss UNA will follow the most updated judging guidelines and weights from Miss America.

- Private Interview..... 30%
- Onstage Conversation..... 10%
- Health & Fitness..... 20%
- Talent..... 20%
- Evening Gown..... 20%
- Total.....100%

COMMUNITY SERVICE

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The Miss UNA Outstanding Service Award was created in 2013 to encourage thoughtful community service efforts from our candidates. The Miss UNA committee will review each candidate's platform statement and score these based on a standardized rubric found below. The candidates with the top 5 scores will get an opportunity to interview with the panel during rehearsal week and "sell" their Community Service Initiative (CSI). You may bring any pictures, media, scrapbooks, etc. with you to your interview to showcase your service. (This is not required, but may help you explain your hard work.)

ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC

All items scored on a scale of 1 to 5

- Contestant clearly defines her CSI and the specific issues she wishes to address
- Contestant demonstrates a plan on how she will create awareness of the CSI
- Contestant defines the way in which she has or will change attitudes regarding the issue
- Contestant defines the way in which she has or will change behaviors related to this issue
- Contestant defines the way in which her CSI will move the Miss America Org. or the University of North Alabama forward
- Contestant has discussed media plans or a marketing strategy
- Contestant has proposed ways to fund her ideas/plans
- Contestant included any significant accomplishments she has made in regard to her issue

INTERVIEW GRADING RUBRIC

All items scored on a scale of 1 to 5

- The contestant has provided adequate documentation of volunteer hours
- Contestant clearly communicates goals she wants to accomplish with her CSI/service hours
- The contestant demonstrates how her CSI is relevant to a current issue.
- The contestant has clear understanding of the issue she is addressing.
- After the interview, do I feel more motivated to get involved with the contestant's CSI?
- The contestant articulated significant past involvement with community service.
- The contestant's service project involvement suggests a sense of ownership over the project.
- The contestant has created new resources or made new contacts through her service work.

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