

# The University



## The University

---

Welcome to Western Kentucky University (WKU), home of the Hilltoppers. Our hilltop campus is a place of beauty and friendliness. It embraces a proud heritage and a bold, ambition future. WKU is located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, a city with a population of more than 50,000 approximately 110 miles south of Louisville and 65 miles north of Nashville, TN. Located on a hill overlooking the city of Bowling Green, the WKU campus is acclaimed as one of the most beautiful in the nation. The portion of the campus known as College Heights commands an impressive view of the Barren River Valley and is a distinctive landmark of the city. Visit [www.wku.edu/tour.html](http://www.wku.edu/tour.html) for a virtual campus tour. In addition to the main campus, WKU also has facilities south of the main campus on 31-W that include; The South Campus, The Center for Research and Development, and The University Farm. Outside of Bowling Green, WKU has regional campuses in Glasgow KY, Owensboro KY and facilities that serve the Elizabethtown/Radcliff and Ft Knox KY area.

WKU's undergraduate division provides four-year programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Music, and the Bachelor of Social Work degrees. Ninety-five (95) academic majors that lead to the baccalaureate degree and ninety-six (96) academic minors are available. A number of professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options.

Sixteen (16) associate degree programs are offered leading to the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Science degree, Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies degree. Twenty (23) undergraduate certificate programs are also offered.

Graduate Studies offers the Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Business Administration, Master of Health Administration, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Science, Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Social Work. WKU also offers the specialist degree and Rank I and II programs and several certificate programs. Doctoral degree programs are offered in Educational Leadership, and Nursing Practice. Consult the Graduate Studies Catalog for further information.

## History

---

On March 21, 1906 the Kentucky General Assembly approved legislation to establish two teacher training institutions, or "normal schools," in the state. A locating commission chose Bowling Green to be the site of one, and the Western Kentucky State Normal School was created. The new state-supported school took over the building and student body of the privately owned Southern Normal School. The owner of the Southern Normal School, Henry Hardin Cherry, had been actively involved in the campaign to establish teacher training schools and became the institution's first president. Classes began on January 22, 1907.

On February 4, 1911 the school moved to its present site on "the Hill," approximately 125 feet above downtown Bowling Green and formerly the site of the Pleasant J. Potter College. Over the next decade, the curriculum focused on teacher training and certification. In 1922, the state renamed the institution Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College and authorized it to grant four-year degrees. The first such degrees were awarded in 1924.

The campus expanded in 1927, when it merged with Ogden College, a private school for young men located on the east side of the Hill. The name was shortened to Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1930, and the following year the first graduate degree was offered.

In the 1950s and 1960s, both the curriculum and campus underwent major reorganization and expansion. In 1963, the institution merged with the Bowling Green College of Commerce. Along with the graduate school, the Bowling Green College of Commerce became a separate college within the academic structure. In 1965, the Board of Regents approved the formation of three more colleges: the Potter College of Liberal Arts, the College of Education, and the Ogden College of Science and Technology. On June 16, 1966, Western Kentucky State College became Western Kentucky University.

More colleges and reorganization followed throughout the years as WKU continued to expand. The Bowling Green Community College was established in 1986. The College of Health and Human Services was established in 2002, and the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach launched in 2003. An administrative unit since 1994, University College was reorganized in 2009 as an academic unit; it now houses those units and programs formerly part of the Bowling Green Community College, and serves as the administrative home of WKU's regional campus programs (see below). In 2008, the WKU Board of Regents approved creation and development of a fully-independent Honors

## The University

---

College at WKU. In 2011 the first doctoral degrees were awarded through the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

WKU's current six academic colleges are:

- College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
- College of Health and Human Services
- Gordon Ford College of Business
- Ogden College of Science and Engineering
- Potter College of Arts and Letters
- University College

In addition, the Honors College offers high-achieving students the environment of a small, highly selective college within the framework of the larger university.

### The Vision, Mission, Statement of Purpose, and Core Values of Western Kentucky University

#### Vision

---

WKU – A leading American university with international reach.

#### Mission

---

Western Kentucky University prepares students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society. It provides research, service, and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents. WKU is responsible for stewarding a high quality of life for those within its reach.

#### Statement of Purpose

---

As a nationally prominent university, WKU is engaged internationally in acclaimed, technologically driven academic programs. An inspiring and talented faculty promotes a high level of scholarship and an entrepreneurial attitude leading to success for all within WKU's reach. The WKU experience occurs on a unique campus and through a spirit that attracts an intellectually exciting and diverse family of the nation's best students.

WKU provides students with rigorous academic programs in education, the liberal arts and sciences, business, and traditional and emerging professional programs, with emphasis at the baccalaureate level, complemented by relevant associate and graduate-level programs.

The University places a premium on teaching and student learning. Its faculty engage in creative activity and diverse scholarship, including basic and applied research, designed to expand knowledge, improve instruction, increase learning, and provide optimum service to the state and nation. The University directly supports its constituents in its designated service areas of Kentucky with professional and technical expertise, cultural enrichment, and educational assistance. The University encourages applied research and public service in support of economic development, quality of life, and improvement of education at all levels, especially elementary and secondary schools. In particular, WKU faculty and staff contribute to the identification and solution of key social, economic, scientific, health, and environmental problems within its reach, but particularly throughout its primary service area.

Maintaining a campus of distinctive history and character, WKU sustains a student population of increasing quality. It fulfills its responsibility for access through its extended campus programs and distance learning.

WKU's commitment is to ensure value in a holistic learning experience through high standards for student achievement and conduct, a strong faculty, technological innovation, personalized attention, broad access, and public accountability for actions and outcomes. Out-of-classroom experiences are intentionally created to enhance learning, to promote diversity, and to contribute to the success of students.

WKU recognizes that its mission continues to evolve in response to regional, national, and global changes, and the need for lifelong learning.

#### Core Values

---

Shared purposes and beliefs drive the decisions and actions of any organization or institution. The core values that undergird the foundations of WKU are reflected in the University's vision, mission, and purpose statements, and in the goals of the strategic plan. The rich heritage that is WKU's has been built upon a foundation of shared values that have withstood the test of time and the challenges of many changes. These values are deeply embedded in the words of WKU's first President, Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry, as he set forth a vision for this University—

- to be a live school and to impart to its students a burning zeal to do and be something...
- to be progressive, to use modern methods and equipment, but reject all worthless educational fads...

- to let the reputation of the school be sustained by real merit...
- to “ring the rising bell in the human soul” by inspiring all students who come in touch with the work of the institution...

This vision is further reflected in Dr. Cherry’s oft-quoted reminder that “It’s what’s above the rim that counts” and in the two University ideals expressed in the University seal: “Life More Life” and the University motto: “The Spirit Makes the Master.”

Building upon these long-lasting values, the following core values represent a reaffirmation of the shared purposes and beliefs upon which this strategic plan is built:

- Emphasis on cooperation, teamwork, and mutual respect for individual differences in scholarship, diversity, and culture.
- Expectation for all conduct to be characterized by integrity, honesty, and commitment to high moral and ethical values and principles.
- Commitment to assuring quality of programs, competence of graduates, and opportunities for lifelong learning.
- A view of scholarly endeavors that includes teaching, research, and creative activities as mutually supportive.
- Encouragement of meaningful and active partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and constituents to strengthen the learning environment.
- Nurturing of innovative and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students that advance University mission and goals.
- Dedication to the importance of achieving excellence in all programs and for adding value to the degrees and credentials of our students.
- Commitment to providing a collegiate experience that prepares students to be informed, engaged, and dedicated citizens.
- Commitment to contributing to improved quality of life and economic well-being of Kentuckians, especially those in our primary service area, as well as other constituents and stakeholders.
- Commitment to developing empowered, informed, and responsible learners who recognize both the personal and shared responsibility to actively participate in university life by upholding the principles of the University Creed.

### Accreditations and Memberships

Western Kentucky University is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS, COC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master, specialist, and doctoral degrees. For questions regarding accreditation individuals may contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, or call (404) 679-4500.

WKU is a member of:

- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE)
- Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International (ACCED-I)
- Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP)
- Association of Schools of Journalism & Mass Communication (ASJMC)
- College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR)
- Council on College and Military Educators (CCME)
- Institute of International Education (IIE)
- Kentucky Association for Continuing Higher Education (KY, ACHE)
- National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)
- National Association for School Psychologists (NASP)
- National Association of Schools, Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)
- National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)
- North American Association of Summer Sessions (NAASS)
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- The Renaissance Group (TRG)

### **Programs' Accreditation:**

**Business:** The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACB International)

**Chemistry:** American Chemical Society (ACS)

**Counseling and Student Affairs:** Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)

**Dental Hygiene:** Commission on Dental Accreditation for American Dental Association (CODA-ADA)

**Dietetics:** American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE-ADA)

**Early Childhood:** National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

**Education:** National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and Kentucky's Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB)

**Engineering:** Engineering Accreditation Commission/Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET)

**Health Informatics:** Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIM)

**Journalism:** Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC)

**Library:** American Association for School Librarians (AASL)

**Music:** National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) Commission on Accreditation

**Nursing:** Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC)

**Paralegal:** American Bar Association (ABA)

**Public Health:** Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

**Recreation and Parks:** Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT)

**Social Work:** Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

**Speech Pathology:** Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)

**Technology, Management and Applied Engineering:** The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE)

**Theatre:** National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) Commission on Accreditation

## University Notices

### Notification of Rights: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records, including:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for an amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent, including:
  - a) Disclosure without the student's consent is permissible to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Regents; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
  - b) FERPA allows the institution to routinely release information defined as "directory information." The following student information is included in the definition: the student's name, address, e-mail address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, enrollment status (including full-time, part-time, not enrolled, withdrawn and date of withdrawal), degree and awards received and the most recent previous education agency or institution attended by the student. When a student wants any part of the directory information to remain confidential, an official request form must be completed in the Office of the Registrar within the first five days of class of each school term.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Western Kentucky University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 600 Independence Avenue, SW  
 Washington, DC 20202-4605

Questions pertaining to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be directed to Freida K. Eggleton, Registrar, 238 Potter Hall, 745-5432.

### **Student Right-to-Know Act (DISCLOSURE STATEMENT)**

---

In compliance with the federal Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, the University's graduation rate is to be made available, upon request, to potential and currently enrolled students. The Act requires public disclosure beginning July 1, 1993, of this information by institutions of higher education receiving federal financial assistance.

Western Kentucky University's graduation rate was calculated using definitions established by the U. S. Department of Education. This rate is based upon the number of beginning freshmen who entered Western Kentucky University as full-time degree-seeking students during the 2004 fall semester and who completed an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree within six years (through August, 2010). For this cohort of beginning students, the graduation rate is 42.43%.

### **Statement of Compliance**

---

Western Kentucky University is committed to equal opportunity in its educational programs and employment. It is an equal opportunity - affirmative action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. On request, the University will provide reasonable accommodations, including auxiliary aids and services, necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, activities and employment.

The University has published policies and procedures for investigating and/or addressing discrimination or harassment in its educational programs and/or employment. If you believe you have experienced discrimination or harassment in such programs, activities or employment, the University policies and procedures are published in *Hilltopics: A Handbook for University Life*; the *Western Kentucky University Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual*; and the *Catalog*. These publications, including information about University procedures, are available in the following locations:

Office of Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action/ University ADA Services  
Room 13, Wetherby Administration Bldg.  
1906 College Heights Blvd #11009  
Western Kentucky University  
(270) 745-5121

Office of Human Resources  
Room 42, Wetherby Administration Bldg.  
1906 College Heights Blvd #11993  
Western Kentucky University  
(270) 745-5360

Office of the President  
Room 135, Wetherby Administration Bldg.  
1906 College Heights Blvd #11001  
Western Kentucky University  
(270) 745-4346

Inquiries about alleged discrimination may also be made directly to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, The Wanamaker Building, Suite 515, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 656-8548; the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, 832 Capital Plaza, 500 Metro Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, 60601, (502) 564-3550; or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place, Suite 269, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, (502) 582-5851.