The Facts 2014-2015
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2014-2015

Name: Western Kentucky University
Vision: WKU, A Leading American University with International Reach
Established: 1906
President: Dr. Gary A. Ransdell
Enrollment: 20,178
Full-Time Faculty & Staff: 14,228, 2,332
Operating Budget: $392,297,000 ($72,649,400 from state appropriations)
Endowment: $135.1 million (FY 2013)
Sponsored Research & Public Service: $20.9 million
Mascot: Big Red
Athletic Conference: Conference USA

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The W.L."Gander" Terry Colonnade
The 1997 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act challenged each Kentucky university to identify at least one program capable of achieving national prominence. WKU’s School of Journalism & Broadcasting has achieved such recognition. WKU has ranked among the top eight nationally for 20 consecutive years in the Hearst Journalism Awards overall intercollegiate competition. Additionally, the school has won the Hearst Intercolligate Photojournalism Competition 20 times including second place in the 2014 awards. 

www.wku.edu/journalism

The WKU Forensics team boasts state, national, and international distinction. The team has won the world championship every year in attendance, the American Forensics Association national tournament title seven times, the National Forensics Association national tournament title eight times, and has been the Kentucky state champion consecutively for over two decades. WKU is the only team ever to win the world title, AFA national title, NFA national title, and the NFA national debate title in the same year, a feat the team has accomplished six times. www.wku.edu/forensics

The 2013-2014 athletic year proved to be one of the finest in the history of WKU Athletics. In their last season as members of the Sun Belt Conference, the Hilltoppers won the league’s all-sports trophy, the Vic Bubas Cup, awarded to the program with excellence through all of their sport programs. Six WKU teams won conference championships, and the Hilltopper football team won a school-record eight games at the FBS level. In Fall 2014, the Hilltoppers moved to Conference USA and gained the benefit of even more national exposure and bowl tie-ins for the football team. The Hilltopper football team won eight games, including five straight to close the year, and the program’s first FBS bowl victory at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. The Lady Topper basketball team won the Sun Belt Conference tournament and advanced to the NCAA tournament. The volleyball team also remained among the league’s best, sharing the conference regular season title and winning the league tournament to advance to the NCAA tournament. WKU has 18 varsity sports with 367 student-athletes. Our student-athletes are held to high academic standards; the average cumulative grade point average for all student-athletes is 3.01 and 101 student-athletes graduated with an average cumulative GPA of 3.12 in May 2014. Through the Hilltoppers with Heart program, coaches, staff and student-athletes combined to devote over 1,000 hours of community service in Bowling Green and throughout the region, doubling their time spent from the previous year. Many initiatives included spending time with children in schools, Boys and Girls Clubs and youth camps. www.wkusports.com
WKU established the Educational Leadership Doctoral program in 2008 to meet the increasing demand for leadership in P-20 education. The program offers four options for study: Teacher Leadership, Organizational Leadership, P-12 Administrative Leadership, and Postsecondary Leadership. WKU’s first class of doctoral students graduated in May 2011.

www.wku.edu/cebs/doctorate

WKU established the Doctor of Nursing Practice program in Fall 2011. The DNP is a terminal professional degree that focuses on the clinical aspect of nursing rather than academic research and prepares registered nurses to become nurse practitioners. In November 2013 the DNP Program was accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education. The first class of DNP students graduated in May 2014.

www.wku.edu/nursing/dnp.php

A Doctor of Physical Therapy program was established at WKU in Summer 2013. The purpose of the DPT Program, an entry level professional program, is to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to become skilled physical therapists. The mission of the DPT Program is to serve the healthcare and preventative needs of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, focusing on the rural and under-served areas. WKU has enrolled 30 students in the first cohort of the program. The first class of DPT students will graduate in May 2016.

www.wku.edu/physicaltherapy
WKU’s **Center for Research and Development** provides state-of-the-art research facilities and access to world class applied research centers and scientists. The Center houses WKU’s Applied Research Centers; Small Business Development Center; Central Region Innovation and Commercialization Center; Innoplexx, the WKU student business accelerator; and Small Business Accelerator with 17 technology based businesses. The Center brings together scientists, engineers, WKU faculty and students for research collaborations.

www.wku.edu/crd

**Innoplexx**, the WKU student business accelerator, opened in December 2012. Innoplexx gives students a place to work and network with others who are in the first phase of starting a business. Student entrepreneurs who are clients of Innoplexx are provided free space, high speed internet, and shared use of conference and meeting rooms. Also, students are mentored in all aspects of their business and introduced to appropriate contacts.

www.wku.edu/accelerator/student.php

With a goal of increasing Kentucky’s limited number of engineers, WKU has built three strong undergraduate programs in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. These programs help drive the state’s economy by putting more engineers into design centers, job sites and high-tech factories. In 2004 and again in 2010, all three engineering programs were accredited by ABET, Inc., the professional organization responsible for accreditation of engineering programs.

www.wku.edu/engineering

The **Department of Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences** has a successful history of preparing students for leadership positions in business, industry, and education.
Programs of study are designed to prepare professionals in architecture, construction management, advanced manufacturing, technology management, and industrial education. Students graduate with a strong technical background in their discipline after having been engaged in practical work experience. The Department maintains computing laboratories with more than 150 workstations with state-of-the-art software, eight laboratories with related support space, and additional equipment for instruction and applied research.

WKU’s Business and Accounting programs in the Gordon Ford College of Business have maintained accreditation by AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) International. With a reported 12,000 collegiate schools of business worldwide, and only 178 accredited in business and accounting programs, this ranks the Gordon Ford College of Business in the top one percent of business schools in the world.

WKU launched SKyTeach in Fall 2008. SKyTeach, modeled after the highly successful and nationally recognized UTeach program at the University of Texas at Austin, is designed to increase the quantity and quality of math and science teachers through a specialized curriculum, teaching opportunities, and financial assistance. The program also partners with 10 area school districts. SKyTeach is funded by a grant from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). WKU is one of only 12 universities nationwide selected for the grant, receiving $2.4 million.

www.wku.edu/ams

www.wku.edu/business

www.wku.edu/skyteach
A Place for Kentucky’s Best and Brightest

In Fall 2014, The Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science in Kentucky welcomed 63 gifted juniors from Kentucky high schools. The goal of The Gatton Academy is to enable Kentucky’s exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an advanced educational environment, which will prepare them for leadership roles in Kentucky. The Gatton Academy serves 120 high school juniors and seniors each year. Now in its eighth year, The Gatton Academy has admitted students from 114 of the 120 counties in Kentucky. In 2012 and 2013, The Gatton Academy was named the number one high school in the U.S. by Newsweek magazine and The Daily Beast. In 2014, The Gatton Academy was named the number one public high school in the U.S. by The Daily Beast. The Gatton Academy has also been honored for the sixth consecutive year as a “Public Elite” high school by The Washington Post’s Jay Matthews. To date, Gatton graduates have been offered more than $11 million in college scholarships. In 2014, the Gatton Academy received a $10 million private gift to expand Florence Schneider Hall and will provide an opportunity for 80 additional Kentucky high school students to attend the Academy. www.wku.edu/academy


“The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky is a beacon for excellence in the Commonwealth. It can be the catalyst for raising interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”

Dr. Julia Roberts, Director of the Center for Gifted Studies at WKU

WKU is home to the only Honors College in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, providing students the individualized experience of a highly-selective private college with all the resources and benefits of a larger university at a public school price. Honors College students are involved in study abroad, undergraduate research, service-learning and nationally competitive scholarships. The Honors College gives students a chance to put a personal stamp on their education. www.wku.edu/honors

Producing Kentucky Scholars 2013-2014 National Scholarships Awarded to WKU Students

• 15 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships
• 6 U.S. Student Fulbright Grants
• 6 Critical Language Scholarships
• 3 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships
• 3 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
• 2 National Security Language Initiative for Youth Participant
• 1 NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Fellowship
• 1 National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship
• 1 DAAD Study Scholarship
• 1 Gaeltacht Summer Award
• 1 Finalist for the Marshall Scholarship
• 1 Finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship
• 1 Finalist for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship
• 1 Finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship
• 1 Finalist for the Princeton in Africa Fellowship
• 1 Semifinalist for the George Mitchell Scholarship

www.wku.edu/honors

www.wku.edu/academy
International Reach

The **WKU Chinese Flagship** brings students with little or no knowledge of the Chinese language to superior levels of proficiency by the time they graduate from WKU. Students study the Chinese language and culture and participate in study abroad programs and internships that prepare them for jobs in the global economy. The WKU Chinese Flagship in one of nine Chinese programs throughout the United States funded by the federal Language Flagship Program with the U.S. Department of Defense. [www.wku.edu/chineseflagship](http://www.wku.edu/chineseflagship)

The **Confucius Institute** at WKU is a partnership with Hanban, the Chinese headquarters for the more than 300 Confucius Institutes worldwide. This partnership has enabled WKU to establish a Chinese language program in multiple school districts in South Central Kentucky and build a Chinese Learning Center in the Helm Library where the public can explore Chinese Culture first hand. [www.wku.edu/ci](http://www.wku.edu/ci)

WKU Honors College students have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester at **Harlaxton College** in Grantham, England. The University of Evansville owns the 19th century manor where WKU students live and take classes. Many students travel throughout Europe during the semester. Course offerings vary and most students earn an average of 12 credit hours while at Harlaxton. [www.wku.edu/honors/study-abroad/harlaxton.php](http://www.wku.edu/honors/study-abroad/harlaxton.php)

The Honors College at WKU has partnered with the University of Virginia to provide students with the opportunity to study abroad on a cruise ship through the **Semester at Sea program**. Each semester, including summer and winter terms, the program offers different voyages around the globe. On average, students visit 12 to 15 different countries throughout their trip. Courses are tailored specifically to each voyage and each country visited. Students study about important global issues impacting each country while en route to their location, enhancing their learning experience. [www.wku.edu/honors/study-abroad/semester-at-sea.php](http://www.wku.edu/honors/study-abroad/semester-at-sea.php)

The **Study Away program** at WKU offers students the chance to spend a semester or an entire academic year at one of nearly 200 campuses throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [www.wku.edu/studyaway](http://www.wku.edu/studyaway)

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Serving Kentucky Communities

The **Institute for Rural Health** provides dental services, medical services, health screenings, and health education to area communities. With its two mobile Wellness Units, which recently celebrated ten years of service to area communities, the Institute provides preventative services and health education to the medically under-served and uninsured in rural Kentucky. The program’s hands-on approach achieves two goals – it provides a valuable service to the medically under-served citizens in the region while offering practical field training to students.

www.wku.edu/irh

The **Kentucky Mesonet** is a network of 65 automated weather and climate monitoring stations developed by the Kentucky Climate Center at WKU. Mesonet data is easily accessible and can be used to improve local forecasts and severe weather warnings, aid emergency response efforts, enhance agricultural productivity, assist local utility providers, and support business and industry. The Mesonet is part of a larger effort at WKU to build a cyberinfrastructure for environmental monitoring and decision support, thereby strengthening Kentucky’s economic competitiveness through advanced science and technology.

www.wku.edu/kymesonet

The **Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC)** at WKU is a community-university partnership that helps individuals and families realize dignity, independence, and productivity by providing services in these areas: autism, early childhood education, family counseling, acquired brain injuries, family resource program, and communication disorders. The Suzanne Vitale CEC prepares pre-professionals across disciplines while conducting research to enhance education and service.

www.wku.edu/wkucec

**Programs of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex**

- Linda and John M. Kelly Autism Program
- Vickie and Dan Renshaw Early Childhood Center
- Betty and Dr. Page Talley Family Counseling Center
- Preston Family Foundation Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program
- Family Resource Program
- Communication Disorders Clinic (CDC)

**CanDoo** is a service dog shared between the Kelly Autism Program and Military Student Services.
Western Kentucky University offers unique programs and services to help military and veteran students succeed. WKU is host to the only Veterans Upward Bound program in Kentucky, a federal TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to help U.S. military veterans enter into and succeed in postsecondary education. WKU is a member of the Service members Opportunity College (SOC) network, which provides flexible transferability of college credit. WKU offers course credit for military experience and training and has a textbook program for students without a book stipend. Through the office of Military Student Services and the Student Veterans Alliance, WKU is addressing the needs of veteran students and helping them to engage and network with their peers. WKU is the only university in Kentucky, and one of two in the nation, with a therapy dog on staff. WKU has been designated a Military Friendly School every year since 2009 by G.I. Jobs Magazine, and is highly ranked nationally among four-year schools in the Military Times “BEST for Vets” College rankings.

www.wku.edu/veterans

“Education is key to economic well-being, both for the individual and for the Commonwealth.”

Dr. Gary Ransdell, WKU President
Joint Admissions

WKU has entered into joint admissions agreements with seven colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System:

- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
- Henderson Community College
- Hopkinsville Community College
- Madisonville Community College
- Owensboro Community and Technical College
- Somerset Community College
- Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College

Additionally WKU has joint admissions agreements with Ivy Tech Community College-Southwest in Indiana and Volunteer State Community College in Tennessee to offer students a seamless pathway to a four-year degree. Students are admitted to the community or technical school and WKU at the same time, giving them access to services from both institutions. Through these partnerships, WKU, KCTCS, Ivy Tech Community College, and Volunteer State Community College are improving student success and degree attainment, reducing the cost and time to a degree, and planning, developing and aligning instructional programs at the undergraduate level.

As of Fall 2014, 987 students were enrolled in these joint admissions programs.

www.wku.edu/jointadmissions

WKU’s Division of Extended Learning and Outreach (DELO) offers flexible learning opportunities for students through online and independent learning, and also offers dual credit courses for high school students. DELO works with business, industry, and community groups to provide employee training, customized courses, certificates, and degree programs to meet their needs. Through the Knicely Conference Center and Augenstein Alumni Center, DELO offers conferencing services and venues for events such as seminars, workshops, receptions, weddings and parties. U.S. News and World Report ranked WKU’s online bachelor’s degree programs second in the nation for 2015.

www.wku.edu/delo
University Leadership

Academic Colleges & Deans

Potter College of Arts & Letters
Dr. David Lee

Gordon Ford College of Business
Dr. Jeffrey Katz

College of Education & Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Sam Evans

College of Health & Human Services
Dr. Neale Chumbler

Ogden College of Science & Engineering
Dr. Cheryl Stevens

Graduate School
Dr. Carl Fox

University College
Dr. Dennis George
Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox
Dr. Evelyn Ellis, Chancellor
Glasgow
Dr. Sally Ray, Chancellor
Owensboro
Dr. Gene Tice, Chancellor

University Libraries
Connie Foster

Administrative Council

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell
President

Mr. Howard Bailey
VP for Student Affairs

Ms. Kathryn Costello
VP for Development & Alumni Relations

Dr. Gordon Emslie
Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

Mr. Gordon Johnson
Chief Information Technology Officer

Ms. Ann Mead
Senior VP for Finance & Administration

Dr. Brian Meredith
Chief Enrollment & Graduation Officer

Dr. Richard Miller
Vice Provost & Chief Diversity Officer

Mr. Bryan Russell
Chief Facilities Officer

Mr. Todd Stewart
Athletic Director

Ms. Robbin Taylor
VP for Public Affairs

Ms. Deborah T. Wilkins
General Counsel

Board of Regents

Mr. J. David Porter
Chair – Lebanon, Ky

Mr. Frederick A. Higdon
Vice-Chair - Lexington, Ky

Dr. Melissa B. Dennison
Secretary – Glasgow, Ky

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Glasgow, Ky

Dr. Barbara Burch
Faculty Regent, Bowling Green, Ky

Ms. Cynthia Harris
Louisville, Ky

Mr. Gillard B. Johnson, III
Lexington, Ky

Mr. James Kennedy
Staff Regent, Sweeden, Ky

Mr. John W. Ridley
Bowling Green, Ky

Ms. Janet “Nicki”Taylor
Student Regent, Crofton, Ky

Mr. Laurence J. Zielske
Louisville, Ky
**Student Satisfaction**

In a recent Baccalaureate Alumni survey, 98.6% of alumni indicated they were satisfied with the overall quality of education at WKU.

**Ten Year Trend (Total Enrollment)**

WKU enrollment reached an all time high in Fall 2012, 21,124 students.

**Enrollment Fall 2014**

- Full Time: 20,178 (100%)
- Part Time: 14,228 (70.5%)
- Graduate: 5,950 (29.5%)
- Undergraduate: 2,719 (13.5%)

**Classification**

- Freshman: 4,381 (21.7%)
- Sophomore: 3,114 (15.4%)
- Junior: 3,172 (15.7%)
- Senior: 4,459 (22.1%)
- High School Dual Credit: 1,657 (8.2%)
- Academy Students: 128 (0.6%)
- Other Undergraduates: 548 (2.7%)
- Masters: 2,088 (10.3%)
- Specialist: 27 (0.1%)
- Doctoral: 242 (1.2%)
- Graduate Non-degree: 362 (1.8%)

**Demographics**

- White: 15,320 (75.9%)
- African American: 1,938 (9.6%)
- Other: 2,920 (14.4%)
- Female: 11,714 (58.1%)
- Male: 8,464 (41.9%)

**Residency**

- In-State: 15,571 (77.2%)
- International: 1,402 (6.9%)
- Out-of-State: 3,205 (15.9%)

**KY Counties Represented**: 118
**States Represented**: 48
**Nations Represented**: 79

**Top 10 Counties Represented**

- Warren: 3595
- Logan: 501
- Jefferson: 1514
- Fayette: 392
- Barren: 1044
- Allen: 343
- Hardin: 893
- Hart: 330
- Daviess: 825
- Ohio: 264
First-time First-year Students Profile

FTFY Students Fall 2014 3,136

Demographics
White 2,325 74.1%
African American 409 13.0%
Other 402 12.9%
Female 1,810 57.7%
Male 1,326 42.3%

Residency
In-state 2,381 75.9%
Out-of-state 622 19.8%
International 133 4.2%
Off-Campus 712 22.7%
On-Campus 2,424 77.3%

Tuition & Fees 2014-2015

Kentucky Residents
Undergraduate $4,570 $381
Graduate $515

Non-Kentucky Residents
Undergraduate $11,676 $973
Tuition Incentive Program $6,072 $506
Graduate (Domestic) $691
Graduate (International) $962

First-time First-Year Students Profile

Almost half of First-Time-First-Year students enrolled at WKU indicated that they are first generation college students.

High School Academic Performance
• The average ACT of incoming FTFY students is 23.
• The average High School GPA is 3.27.
• There are 215 Kentucky high schools represented.
• 612 students entered with Advanced Placement (AP) credit.

Did You Know?
WKU welcomed four National Merit Scholars and 140 Governor’s Scholars into its incoming freshman class.
Faculty & Staff

Faculty Profile

- WKU faculty have earned advanced degrees from 339 colleges and universities worldwide, including 33 international institutions.
- More than 70% of all full-time faculty have earned a terminal degree in their field.

Fall 2014 Student Faculty Ratio: 18 to 1

Fall 2014 Student Faculty Ratio: 18 to 1
Serving Students Through Distance Education

Students served by WKU’s Regional Campuses represent 72 Kentucky counties, 14 states and 4 foreign countries.

**Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox Regional Campus** 2,166

**Glasgow Regional Campus** 4,292

**Owensboro Regional Campus** 1,632

*Total course enrollments reflect the count of each course in which a student is enrolled and includes web enrollments of students residing in that campus’ service area.*
we surveyed WKU’s May 2014 graduates and this is what they told us:

87% of recent WKU graduates are employed. 

Unemployment rate for WKU alumni, 1 year after graduating is 6%, which is less than the national average of 6.1% in August 2014.

It took them on average 99 days to secure their current position.

Did their salary meet their expectations?

- A lot less than expected: 16%
- Less than expected: 4%
- Meets expectations: 18%
- More than expected: 35%
- A lot more than expected: 26%

How much are they making?

Average: $35,344.13

- $24,999 and under: 31.2%
- $25,000-$49,999: 48.6%
- $50,000 and over: 16.5%

How graduates heard about their current position:

- Traditional and social media: 4%
- Personal network: 41%
- Job and career service centers: 29%
- Professional network: 6%
- Other: 21%

Where they are now:

Most of our grads work in these industries:

- Business & Management
- Education and Training
- Health Sciences
- Human Services
- Technology & Communications

Skills needed:

- Written and oral communication skills: 7.55
- Interpersonal skills: 6.45
- Decision-making skills: 6.39
- Analytical skills: 6.02
- Analytical skills: 6.39
- Basic office software skills: 6.18
- Advanced computer skills: 4.25
- Social media skills: 3.36
- Strategic thinking skills: 4.86

Visit www.wku.edu/career for more information.

The Center for Career and Professional Development
Frequently Called Numbers

Admissions.................................................................(270)745-2551
Development & Alumni Relations.................................(270)745-4395
Athletics...........................................................................(270)745-3542
Campus & Community Events........................................(270)745-2497
Campus Operator............................................................(270)745-0111
Knicely Conference Center..............................................(270)745-1908
Health Services..............................................................(270)745-2273
Housing & Residence Life...................................................(270)745-4359
Human Resources...........................................................(270)745-5360
Kentucky Museum.........................................................(270)745-2592
Libraries.........................................................................(270)745-3951
President’s Office...........................................................(270)745-4346
Public Affairs.................................................................(270)745-4586
Registrar’s Office............................................................(270)745-3351
Ticket Office...................................................................(270)745-5222
WKU Store....................................................................(270)745-2466
WKU Welcome Center....................................................(270)745-5470

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