
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, ambitious future. WKU is located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, a city with a population of more than 60,000 approximately 110 miles south of Louisville and 65 miles north of Nashville. As a distinctive landmark on a hill overlooking the city, the WKU campus commands an impressive view of the Barren River Valley and is acclaimed as one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation. Visit wku.edu/tour for a virtual campus tour. In addition to main campus, WKU has locations at South Campus, the Center for Research and Development, and the University Farm. Outside of Bowling Green, there are Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Owensboro, and Elizabethtown-Fort Knox.

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. One hundred (100) academic majors that lead to the baccalaureate degree and one hundred nine (109) academic minors are available. A number of professional and pre-professional advising tracks provide additional options.

Eight (8) associate degree programs are offered leading to the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Science degree, Associate of Science in Nursing and Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies degree. Thirty-Eight (38) undergraduate certificate programs are also offered.

WKU offers the Master of Accountancy, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Business Administration, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Health Administration, Master of Music, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Science, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Social Work, and Specialist in Education. Doctoral degree programs are offered in Educational Leadership, Nursing Practice, Physical Therapy, and Applied Psychology. WKU also offers Rank I and II programs, various endorsements, and Thirty-Eight (38) graduate certificate programs. Consult The Graduate Catalog for further information, catalog.wku.edu/graduate.

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 College of Health and Human Services was established in 2002, and the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach launched in 2003. In 2008, the WKU Board of Regents approved creation and development of a fully-independent Honors College at WKU. In 2011, the first doctoral degrees were awarded through the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. In 2011 and 2013 two new professional practice doctoral degrees, the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Doctor of Physical Therapy, were established, and in 2015 the Doctor of Psychology was added.

WKU's five 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 & Letters

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

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

Mission

Western Kentucky University (WKU) prepares students of all backgrounds to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society. The University provides research, service, and lifelong learning opportunities for its students, faculty, and other constituents. WKU enriches the quality of life for those within its reach.

Statement of Purpose

WKU is engaged in internationally acclaimed, student-and-learning-centered academic programs. The WKU experience occurs on several unique campus environments and through an overarching spirit which attracts an intellectually exciting and diverse family of the nation's best students. WKU provides students of all backgrounds with rigorous academic programs in education, the liberal arts and sciences, the health sciences, and business, with emphasis at the baccalaureate and masters levels, complemented by relevant associate and doctoral level programs. The University places a premium on student learning; it is committed to ensuring 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-the-classroom and study abroad experiences enhance learning, promote diversity, and contribute to the success of students.

The University encourages engaged research and public service in support of economic development, quality of life, and improvement of education at all levels. WKU faculty contribute to the identification and solution of key social, economic, scientific, health, and environmental problems. An inspiring and talented faculty promotes a high level of creative activity and diverse scholarship and an entrepreneurial attitude designed to expand knowledge, improve instruction, increase learning, and provide applied solutions toward high-quality 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.

Maintaining a campus of distinctive history and character, WKU sustains a student population of increasing quality. It fulfills its responsibility for access through its main and regional campuses, and through extensive distance learning opportunities. 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 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...

The core values are 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

Western Kentucky University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Western Kentucky University.

Undergraduate Programs' Accreditation:

Accounting: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) (BS Program)

Architectural Science: The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) (BS Program)

Art: National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) Commission on Accreditation AB in Art History, AB in Visual Studies: (Art Education and Studio concentrations), BFA in Visual Arts (Graphic Design and Studio Concentrations)

Business: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) (Undergraduate Programs)

Civil Engineering: Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org> (BS Program)

Construction Management: The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) (BS Program)

Dance: National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) Commission on Accreditation (AB Program)

Dental Hygiene: Commission on Dental Accreditation of American Dental Association (CODA-ADA) (BS and AS Programs)

Dietetics: Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) (BS Program)

Early Child Education: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) (AA program)

Education: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) (Initial and Advanced Educator Preparation Levels), and Kentucky's Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB)

Electrical Engineering: Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org> (BS Program)

Healthcare Administration: Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) (BS Program)

Health Information Management: Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) (BS Program)

Interior Design: National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) Commission on Accreditation (BS Interior Design and Fashion Merchandising (Interior Design Concentration))

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

Long Term Care Administration: National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB) (BS in Healthcare Administration with a Long-term Administration Certificate)

- Manufacturing Engineering Technology:** The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) (BS Program)
- Mechanical Engineering:** Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org> (BS Program)
- Music:** National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) Commission on Accreditation (BM and AB Programs)
- Nursing:** Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (BSN) and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (ASN Program)
- Public Health:** Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) (BS Program)
- Recreation Administration:** Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT) (BS Program)
- Social Work:** Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) (BSW Program)
- Theatre:** National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) Commission on Accreditation (AB in Theatre and BFA in Performing Arts)

University Notices and the Non-Discrimination Statement.

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 University 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 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.
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
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Release of student record information is generally not done at WKU without the expressed, written consent of the student; however, FERPA allows several exceptions described below:

1. 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.
2. Upon request, WKU may disclose education records without the student’s consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.
3. Effective January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education’s FERPA regulations expanded the circumstances under which the student’s education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records—including Social Security Number, grades, or other private information—may be accessed without the student’s consent.
 - a) First, the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities (“Federal and State Authorities”) may allow access to the student’s records and PII without the student’s consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is “principally engaged in the provision of education,” such as early childhood education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution.
 - b) Second, Federal and State Authorities may allow access to the student’s education records and PII without the student’s consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when the university objects to or does not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive the student’s PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities.
 - c) In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without the student’s consent PII from the student’s education records, and they may track the student’s participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about the student that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

Questions pertaining to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be directed to the University Registrar, 238 Potter Hall, (270) 745-3351.

Student Right-to-Know Act Annual 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 2011 fall semester and who completed an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree within six years (through August, 2017). For this cohort of beginning students, the graduation rate is 44.15%.

Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics: Post-Secondary Feedback Report

The Postsecondary Feedback Reports take a deep look into what happens to Kentucky graduates after they leave college. Each report provides in-depth data by institution about which degrees are pursued, the employment of graduates as well as information about students who go on to pursue advanced degrees, average wages for various degree categories, and some insights into what happens to students who leave without a credential and do not continue their education elsewhere. Reports are created for each of the commonwealth’s public 4-year, public 2-year and independent institutions.

For more information and to view the report please go to: <https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Reports>

Statement of Compliance

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to equal opportunity in its educational programs and employment. The University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, age, uniform service, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. On request, WKU 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, policies and procedures are included on the following website: <http://www.wku.edu/policies/> (WKU Policies), in addition to the WKU Student Handbook, and Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. These publications, including information about University procedures, are available on the University's website (www.wku.edu), at:

WKU Policies: <http://www.wku.edu/policies/>

WKU Student Handbook: <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>

WKU Undergraduate Catalog: <https://www.wku.edu/undergraduatecatalog/>

WKU Graduate Catalog: <http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate>

The following person has been designated to serve as the University's **Title IX Coordinator**:

Ms. Andrea Anderson
Assistant General Counsel
Craig Administrative Center
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11001
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1001
andrea.anderson@wku.edu
270-745-5398

Information regarding WKU's Title IX compliance, policies, and procedures may be found on the following websites: <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/titleix/index.php> or <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/titlenine.php>.

In addition, information or assistance may be requested from the following:

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative
Action/University ADA Services
Wetherby Administration Building, Room G33
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11009
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1009
(270) 745-5121

Department of Human Resources
Wetherby Administration Building, Room G25
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11003
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1003
(270) 745-5360

Academic Affairs & Provost's Office
Wetherby Administration Building, Room 239
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11008
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1008
Phone: (270) 745-2297

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 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky, 60601, (800) 292-5566; (TDD) (502) 595-4084; or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place, Suite 268, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, (800) 669-4000; TTY (800) 669-6820.