University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known to students, alumni and fans as Ole Miss, is the state’s flagship university. It was founded in 1848 as a liberal arts-based institution, and that foundation continues to offer students a way to develop critical thinking, intellectual depth and creativity. Recognized for groundbreaking research in areas ranging from natural products to physical acoustics, the university is home to more than 23,000 students and has seen a steady increase in enrollment for 20 consecutive years. Graduates of the university excel at a range of professional, academic and service-oriented careers across the globe.

UM is Mississippi’s largest university, and its Oxford campus houses:

- the College of Liberal Arts,
- Patterson School of Accountancy,
- School of Applied Sciences,
- School of Business Administration,
- School of Education,
- School of Engineering,
- School of Graduate Studies,
- Meek School of Journalism and New Media,
- School of Pharmacy,
- and School of Law.

The university has the only pharmacy school in Mississippi, as well as the state’s only schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Related Professions, which are located at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. In addition, the university offers a General Studies degree through the Office of the Provost and operates four regional campuses across Mississippi.
With a student-to-faculty ratio of 19-to-1, the university provides opportunities for students to receive one-on-one mentoring from professors and form lasting bonds among classmates. Ole Miss consistently ranks as one of the nation’s best buys and maintains a breathtaking campus named the country’s “Most Beautiful” by Newsweek and others.

UM has committed itself to the core principles required of a great American university: accessibility, leadership/excellence and service. In fall 2014, the university’s enrollment hit an all-time record of 23,096 for all its campuses, up 40 percent from 16,500 students in just 10 years.

Over that same time, the university’s minority enrollment has increased by an even more impressive margin of more than 72 percent. For the 2014-15 academic year, 23.8 percent of UM students were minorities and 14.2 percent were African-American.
The *Chronicle of Higher Education* named UM as the nation’s 13th-fastest growing university in its *Almanac of Higher Education*. Ole Miss is the only public university in Mississippi to shelter a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society for liberal arts undergraduates, and the Oxford campus is consistently ranked among the safest in the country.

Competitive academic programs such as the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Croft Institute for International Studies regularly draw the top scholars from across the country.
The Position and Qualifications

The Chancellor reports to the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the constitutional governing body for all eight of the state’s public universities, through the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Chancellor serves as the university’s chief executive officer and must be a strong leader with a vision for the institution’s future and a desire to continue its commitment to service and research.

The Board of Trustees is composed of 12 members, all appointed by the governor. The board meets monthly and is responsible for policy and financial oversight of the eight public institutions of higher learning.
Current Members of the Board of Trustees

- Alan Perry, President, Jackson
- Dr. Doug Rouse, Vice President, Hattiesburg
- Karen Cummins, Oakland
- Dr. Ford Dye, Oxford
- Shane Hooper, Tupelo
- Dr. Alfred E. McNair Jr., Gautier
- Chip Morgan, Leland
- Hal Parker, Bolton
- Christy Pickering, Biloxi
- C.D. Smith Jr., Meridian
- Dr. J. Walt Starr, Columbus

Reporting Directly to the Chancellor

- Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Vice Chancellor of the UM Medical Center
- Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
- Executive Director of Alumni Affairs
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Chief Communications Officer
- Assistant to the Chancellor for Multicultural Affairs
- Director of University and Public Events
- Director of Audit
- Assistant to the Chancellor
- General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Chancellor
- Associate General Counsel and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Governmental Affairs

Academic Deans

- Dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy
- Dean of the School of Applied Sciences
- Dean of the School of Business Administration
- Dean of the School of Education
- Dean of the School of Engineering
- Dean of General Studies
- Dean of the Graduate School
- Dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media
- Dean of the School of Law
- Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
- Dean of the School of Pharmacy
- Dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College
- Dean of Libraries
- Dean of the School of Medicine
- Dean of the School of Nursing
- Dean of the School of Health-Related Professions
- Dean of the School of Dentistry
Other Qualifications Include

- Excellent academic credentials and record of scholarship or equivalent experience and accomplishments that command the respect of the university community;
- Passion for and commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education;
- Strong leadership skills that inspire and motivate others;
- Senior-level experience managing a large and complex organization with the ability to work with both internal and external constituencies including faculty, staff, students, the local community, alumni, government, the media and the general public;
- Ability to prepare and implement a comprehensive and fiscally-responsible university budget;
- Ability to generate resources for the university, including both public funding and private fundraising, and to connect these resources to the mission of the institution;
- Ability to recruit excellent administrators as well as develop, mentor and retain a strong leadership team;
- Experience working effectively with federal, state and local officials;
- Commitment to a diverse student body, faculty and staff and to promoting issues of multiculturalism;
- Ability to work successfully within a statewide system of higher education;
- Appreciation for the importance of sustainability to the future of the university and community;
- Appreciation for the value of a strong Division I intercollegiate athletics program.
Vision, Mission and Core Values

Our Vision
As a great American public university, the University of Mississippi will lead and excel by engaging minds, transforming lives and serving others.

Our Mission
The University of Mississippi’s mission is to create, evaluate, share and apply knowledge in a free, open and inclusive environment of intellectual inquiry.

Building upon a distinguished foundation in the liberal arts, the state’s oldest university serves the people of Mississippi and the world through a breadth of academic, research and professional programs. The university provides an academic experience that emphasizes critical thinking; encourages intellectual depth and creativity; challenges and inspires a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate and professional students; provides enriching opportunities outside the classroom; supports lifelong learning; and develops a sense of global responsibility.
Our Core Principles

**Accessibility:** Scholarships, mentoring and freshman success programs, and alumni involvement all come together to ensure accessibility for any student dedicated to the pursuit of education at the university level.

**Leadership:** From politics to business to technology, Ole Miss graduates are leaders in their fields, and the university excels at developing leadership skills in our students.

**Excellence:** Specialized areas of study ranging from conducting natural products research to reducing jet noise and fostering racial equality all prepare our alumni to make a meaningful impact on the world.

**Service:** From the time they are students, our alumni develop deep connections to service and nonprofit work, building a positive sense of community in the places in which they live and work.
1. Undergraduate Education and Student Success
2. Graduate and Professional Education
3. Research, Scholarship, Creativity and Innovation
4. The Collegiate Experience
5. Faculty
6. Staff
7. Transformation through Service

The University of Mississippi Creed
The University of Mississippi is a community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment. As a voluntary member of this community:
• I believe in respect for the dignity of each person.
• I believe in fairness and civility.
• I believe in personal and professional integrity.
• I believe in academic honesty.
• I believe in academic freedom.
• I believe in good stewardship of our resources.

I pledge to uphold these values and encourage others to follow my example.
Generating Support

• Over the past 30 years, philanthropic support for the University of Mississippi has grown significantly – so much so that the programs, facilities, research and other academic opportunities that were merely the dreams of those who created the University of Mississippi Foundation are now realities. Unrestricted annual giving from alumni, parents and friends, realized bequests and other planned gifts, contributions for building and renovation projects and gifts for endowments have contributed to the stunning progress of Ole Miss in the last three decades.

• The impact of generous investments extends across all UM campuses and through the lives of thousands of students, student-athletes, faculty, researchers, patients and staff. These gifts help advance this university to phenomenal heights, creating an even greater demand for UM degrees, graduates, programs and services.

Building Enrollment

• In fact, while many universities are experiencing enrollment declines, UM’s numbers continue to soar. The Chronicle of Higher Education has named UM the 13th-fastest growing public university in the nation in its Almanac of Higher Education 2014. This record growth has been achieved with more stringent academic qualification criteria in place for nonresident candidates.

• To address the needs of our growing student body, approximately $473 million of active major capital projects can be found on the Oxford campus – that is, projects in the planning, design, construction and newly completed stages – with construction for the UM Medical Center totaling $414 million.

Building Resources and Donors

• Fiscal year 2014 gifts of $118 million came from loyal donors who understand how strong private giving dramatically affects the university’s margin of excellence. Some 21,954 donors invested in UM, an increase of 675 donors over the previous year. The upward course in the number of gifts was even more significant: 42,063, an increase of more than 5,000 gifts compared to fiscal year 2013. Additionally, the Chronicle of Higher Education named UM as the state’s “top fundraiser” with the distinction of having the largest endowment among universities in Mississippi.

The University of Mississippi thrives as a higher education environment. The University Foundation operates as a business environment attracting, managing and investing private resources. And the two, with all their committed stakeholders, stand together to help build a better world.

Foundation Initiatives

• Chancellor’s Trust
• Ole Miss Opportunity
• The Rowan Oak Society
• The Barnard Initiative
• University Museum
• Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy
Community & Culture

Nestled in the rolling hills of north Mississippi, the city of Oxford has received numerous distinctions over the years. Smithsonian magazine listed it as one of the “20 Best Small Towns in America,” praising the town’s arts, culture and social life. American Express singled Oxford out as one of the “10 Best Small Towns for Business in America,” noting its literary history, thriving retail and dining businesses, and strong population growth over the past decade. Livability.com also named Oxford the nation’s second-best college town.

Oxford offers the amenities of a big city borough while still maintaining its small-town charm. Just an hour south of Memphis, this diverse college town has drawn students, alumni, visitors, tourists and residents. The Oxford Square remains the hub of activity, where many shops, galleries and restaurants are located, including the South’s oldest department store and one of the nation’s most renowned independent bookstores. Oxford boasts an affordable cost of living, low crime rate and quality health care. With two strong public school systems that rank among the best in the state and two private schools that offer unique, focused programs for their students, there is a school to meet each resident’s educational needs.
Touted as the “Cultural Mecca of the South,” Oxford encourages the creative life with writers, artists and musicians calling it home. The arts are an important part of Oxford’s sense of place, and museums, galleries and performing arts venues showcase talent from Oxford and around the globe. One of the “20 Best College Art Museums” and the world’s largest blues music archive are housed on the university campus along with the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. The town also has many events that celebrate its culture throughout the year, including the Oxford Film Festival, Double Decker Arts Festival, Conference for the Book and the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference.
Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner made his home here and found inspiration in the people and places of Oxford and Lafayette County. Many writers have followed in Faulkner’s footsteps, making Oxford their home over the years, including Willie Morris, Barry Hannah, Larry Brown and current Oxford residents Ace Atkins, Beth Ann Fennelly and Tom Franklin. Also on that list is UM law school graduate and bestselling author John Grisham. He and his wife, Renee, sponsor a writer-in-residence program through the university, where emerging writers are selected on the strength of their writing and provided housing close to campus. They teach one class each semester and are given ample writing time, continuing the legacy of the writers before them.
Home to James Beard award-winning chef John Currence, Oxford’s diverse culinary establishments are acclaimed nationwide. Currence’s City Grocery Restaurant Group has been the culinary epicenter of Oxford since 1992. From fine dining to soul food at Ajax on the Square to the famous chicken-on-a-stick at a local gas station, Oxford offers an eclectic Southern dining experience. The university and Oxford are also home to the annual Southern Foodways Symposium sponsored by the Southern Foodways Alliance. Based at UM’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture and led by John T. Edge, winner of the M.F.K. Fisher Distinguished Writing Award from the James Beard Foundation, the SFA documents, studies and celebrates the diverse food cultures of the changing American South.

Named a Bike Friendly Community, Oxford has miles of bicycle paths for the road bike enthusiast as well as a number of mountain bike trails. The Oxford Park Commission offers a variety of parks from playgrounds and walking trails to Oxford’s premier sports complex, FNC Park, and the new FNC Tennis Center. Oxford is also located close to several golf courses, state parks and recreational lakes.
The Sporting News ranked the Grove among college football’s greatest traditions and described it as “the Holy Grail of tailgating sites.”

“In Oxford lies, as promised, the most magical place on all of God’s green football playing earth, The Grove. A school of red and white and blue tents swimming in a shaded 10 acre forest of oak trees floating in an ocean of goodwill and even better manners.”
-Sports Illustrated

Watching the Rebels compete is a big part of life in Oxford, as well, and Ole Miss brings the best that the SEC has to offer. Thousands of visitors flock to Oxford each year to watch SEC football and tailgate in the Grove.

More About UM

Following two decades of strong leadership in academics, fundraising and social issues, the university is poised to continue its leadership role in areas ranging from life-changing research on malaria treatments to substantial contributions toward understanding race-related issues and educating future generations about them.

UM’s research enterprise – including programs in acoustics, physics, health care and pharmaceutical sciences – is renowned internationally. The university holds more than 40 patents for inventions including an anti-stuttering device, an algal herbicide, novel drug-delivery systems, a thermoacoustic refrigeration device, immune system stimulators and possible treatments for cancer, malaria, pain and infections. This work takes place across the university, which is home to more than 20 major research centers. In addition, the university is a center for Faulkner studies, offering one of the finest collections of the Nobel Prize-winner’s work and maintaining his Rowan Oak home as a literary shrine.

“I discovered that my own little postage stamp of native soil was worth writing about and that I would never live long enough to exhaust it...”

– William Faulkner
A Few Things We’re Proud of

Over the past 10 years, the percentage of international students enrolled at Ole Miss has grown from 3 percent of the overall student body to 4 percent. Students from 92 foreign countries enrolled in fall 2014.

The university’s William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation helps communities promote inclusiveness among races and eliminate barriers to racial reconciliation, equality and justice through healthy discussion of issues and opportunities. The Kellogg Foundation has recognized the institute’s leadership with a $3.1 million award to develop community outreach and educational programs, and the institute received the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies’ 2012 International Award.

The university ranks first in Mississippi among public colleges and universities in terms of student completion, measured by four- and six-year graduation rates. Data compiled for a report by the Chronicle of Higher Education shows that 33.9 percent of Ole Miss students graduate in four years and 58.7 percent graduate within six years. The university’s graduation rates also best the regional and national averages.
When it comes to value in higher education, UM is among the nation’s best. *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine ranked Ole Miss on both its “25 Best College Values Under $30,000 a Year” and “Top 100 Values in Public Colleges” lists for 2014. The university is one of two SEC institutions on the former honor roll, ranked No. 16. UM is ranked number 78 on the latter list.

The university has many financial aid programs to help exceptional and deserving students, and 76 percent of Ole Miss undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, including academic scholarships, need-based scholarships and grants and student loans.

The Ole Miss Opportunity program provides need-based scholarships to Mississippi students that cover tuition, room and board. In just two years, the program has provided $1.29 million in assistance to 267 students.

The university has produced 25 Rhodes Scholars, putting it among the nation’s elite institutions in terms of alumni who have won what is considered the world’s most prestigious scholarship. Since 1998, when the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College was launched, Ole Miss has produced two Rhodes Scholars, as well as seven Truman Scholars, 10 Goldwater Scholars, a Marshall Scholar, 16 Fulbright Scholars, two Udall Scholars and two Gates Cambridge Scholars.
The UM Medical Center is collaborating with Tougaloo College and Jackson State University on the Jackson Heart Study, the world’s largest long-term study of cardiovascular risk factors in African-Americans.

The University Museum, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2014-15, has been ranked as one of the 20 Best College Art Museums by Complex Art & Design.

The UM School of Pharmacy has been a leader in professional education for many years, and nearly 100 percent of Doctor of Pharmacy graduates pass the national licensure exam on their first attempt.

The School of Pharmacy is repeatedly recognized for external funding. For federal fiscal year 2013, the UM School of Pharmacy was No. 12 in the nation in terms of total external funding. The school also maintains the longest running National Institutes of Health contract in the country, the Marijuana Project.

With the world’s largest blues music archive, Living Blues magazine and “Highway 61” (a blues radio show produced weekly for Mississippi Public Broadcasting), UM is internationally renowned for its blues research and scholarship.
The University of Mississippi High School, a program for online students, has been named as one of the country’s 25 Best Online High School Diplomas by TheBestSchools.org. The accredited program enrolled more than 250 students in 43 courses in fall 2014.

The UM National Center for Natural Products Research is the nation’s only university-based research program devoted to the discovery and development of natural product-derived pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals to benefit human health and agricultural productivity. NCNPR scientists have identified hundreds of potential compounds to treat cancer, malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS and other medical conditions. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also has partnered with NCNPR for a Center of Excellence for the Botanical Dietary Supplement Research, which has a mission to develop authentication and identification tools and to help evaluate the safety of botanical supplements.

The School of Engineering has experienced a surge in enrollment, growing 147 percent over the past decade. The school’s Department of Geology and Geological Engineering ranks as the nation’s largest, enrolling 303 students in fall 2014.

The Center for Manufacturing Excellence, in its sixth year of operation, is a first for Mississippi and unique in the nation, incorporating coursework from engineering, accountancy, business and liberal arts to produce graduates with a unique set of skills.
UM offers the state’s only Mandarin Chinese degree program, one of 12 Chinese Flagship programs in the U.S. The university is developing a flagship program in Arabic.

The School of Law is home to one of the nation’s two degree programs in space law and in 2013 launched the country’s first Master of Laws program in air and space law. Faculty members from the program have consulted with several countries to help draft their aviation and space law systems. The school also publishes the *Journal of Space Law*, the world’s oldest publication devoted to the field.

The university’s Patterson School of Accountancy is ranked No. 6 in the nation – atop all other SEC programs – for undergraduate education by the *Public Accounting Report*. The school’s master’s and doctoral programs are ranked at Nos. 17 and 9, respectively, in their categories. The university also is home to the world’s largest accounting library, the National Library of the Accounting Profession.

The American Academy of Forensic Science ranks the UM degree in forensic chemistry among the top five in the country. The program, which trains students to work as professionals in crime labs and other settings, was also ranked among the nation’s Top 13 by ForensicColleges.com, which lauded its internship program and opportunities for hands-on experience.

Created in 1997, the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College attracts acclaim for its blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action. The Honors College has grown to more than 1,100 students and is undergoing a major expansion and renovation to provide space for study, discussion and reflection.
A favorite spot for generations of tailgaters before Ole Miss home football games, the Grove – a 10-acre space near the center of campus – consistently ranks high on rankings of America’s best tailgating venues. ESPN’s “College GameDay” broadcast live from the Grove for the Alabama game in October 2014, and producers called the show the “Best on-campus experience” ever. In previous years, the Grove experience has been hailed by Sports Illustrated and Parade magazines, ESPN’s “College Gameday” and “CBS This Morning.” In fall 2014, the Grove was again lauded as one of the nation’s best spots for pregame revelry by Tailgater Monthly and Bon Appetit magazines.

UM’s Media and Documentary Projects program offers an academic path unique in the SEC and rare in the U.S., drawing students from around the world. It is the only program in the SEC offering students an opportunity to produce films as capstone thesis work. A film produced by the office recently won an Emmy Award.

The School of Pharmacy is helping improve the health of Delta residents through the Delta Pharmacy Patient Care Management Project. Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Delta Health Alliance, the project uses community pharmacists to help meet the extraordinary unmet health care needs of Delta residents with diabetes and asthma.

The Oxford campus is among the nation’s safest campuses. In May 2012, the Ole Miss campus was ranked safest in the SEC and in the top 10 nationally by CollegeSafe.com.
The Mississippi Innocence Project, housed in the School of Law, identifies, investigates and litigates viable claims of innocence on behalf of Mississippi prisoners who have been wrongfully imprisoned. Second- and third-year law students join with MIP staff and serve as student attorneys to represent clients. UM law student attorneys in the clinic have been involved in close to a dozen exonerations in the state.

The University of Mississippi Public Interest Law Foundation, or PILF, founded in 1989, is a student-run, public interest and pro bono organization. PILF works to educate law students about the diversity of public interest law through meaningful volunteer opportunities and community involvement. This year, the group is helping immigrants obtain U.S. visas so they can report crimes committed against them without having to fear repercussions because of their immigrant status.

Ole Miss social work students have established the San Mateo Empowerment Project, a nonprofit partnership between the students and the community of San Mateo in Ambergis Caye, Belize. The students work in the community’s schools and are helping replace miles of rotting plank bridges with essential roadways.

UM is a collaborator in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, designed to attract top students to teacher education programs with full scholarships and professional incentives. Funded by the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation, the program is designed to create a unique “honors college style” learning experience for high-performing education students and promote collaboration between students and faculty at UM and Mississippi State University.

And, that’s just to name a few ...
Application/Nomination Process

Reflecting the importance of a search for a Chancellor, the Mississippi Board of Trustees has retained the services of R. William Funk & Associates to assist in the recruitment of the school’s next leader. Bill Funk, the founder and president of the firm, is personally working with the search committee and Board of Trustees. Funk is nationally regarded as one of the foremost recruiters of college and university presidents and chancellors, having recruited leaders of such institutions as Rutgers University, University of Virginia, University of North Carolina, Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Purdue University, Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, University of Southern California, Louisiana State University, University of Kansas and others.

While applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials to our consultant by September 1.

All nominations, applications and questions regarding the search should be directed to our consultant as noted below:

University of Mississippi
Chancellor Search
R. William Funk & Associates
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205
Email: krisha.creal@rwilliamfunk.com
Fax: 214-295-3312