Working together is success
As a campus community, we share in the responsibility of student recruitment, retention and graduation as our students represent the present and future of UAB. Achievements in these areas over the past year resulted from interdependent collaborations between academic and non-academic support units. Our success is truly underscored by the value of working together. Go Blazers!

Dr. Pam Benoit
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. 

Henry Ford
A message from the Vice Provost

It has been another banner year for UAB and there is much to celebrate. The outcomes detailed in this report are evidence of the success of our collective work as one UAB.

For starters, the college and schools each shared measurable growth as total enrollment increased by 7% over the previous year. This brings UAB’s two-year total enrollment growth rate to 14%.

The freshmen class that joined the UAB community this fall included 2,299 students, which represents a freshmen enrollment increase of 42% since Fall 2015. As a class, they averaged in the top 20% nationally on the ACT and had a 3.66 high school GPA. In sum, UAB enrolled the largest and most qualified class in its history.

Also contributing to this historic growth are improved student success and retention outcomes. Collaboration between faculty, staff and advisors has played a critical role in unifying discussions around new initiatives and best practices. As a result, the freshmen retention rate has risen 2.6% above last year for a combined two-year gain of 5.7%. Four and five-year graduation rates are also up sharply over last year as the four-year graduation rate increased by 5.3% and the five-year graduation rate increased by 4.5%.

Taken together, these achievements have helped bring UAB closer to accomplishing long-term enrollment, retention and graduation goals. As we begin a new year charged by lofty goals and increased expectations, the Office of Enrollment Management proudly embraces this responsibility and does so with a sincere appreciation for your contributions and partnership.

Together, we are making a difference!

Bradley Barnes, Ph.D.
Enrollment Management
UAB reached record enrollment in fall 2017 with 20,902 TOTAL STUDENTS.
Student Success

The Office of Undergraduate Student Success and Retention has led concerted efforts to ensure successful outcomes for current students as well as new initiatives around college access for local disadvantaged students, including:

- The establishment of a new staff position focused strictly on academically at-risk students.
- Three new federal TRIO grants: two classic Upward Bound programs and one McNair grant.
- UAB’s TRIO programs support approximately 320 disadvantaged students in two programs: TRIO Classic and TRIO STEM-H.
- The Classic Group achieved an overall retention rate of 92.5% and a first-time freshmen, six-year graduation rate of 69.2%.
- The STEM-H Group has an overall retention rate of 94.2% (program has only existed 2 years so no graduation data).

More than 28,000 visits or appointments were made to the Vulcan Materials Academic Success Center (VMASC) last year which provides tutoring, exploratory advising, supplemental instruction, workshops and academic coaching services. New initiatives included Mid-term Madness, Finals De-Stress Fest and a Lighten the Load event where ‘good luck on finals’ balloons were given to all freshmen.

The Upward Bound Grants will serve 120 local students in failing high schools—providing college access services. $527,874 annually.

The McNair Students that will provide support to twenty-five underrepresented UAB students interested in pursuing a doctorate. $232,265 annually.

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UAB is working to establish expectations and create tools to help students graduate in four years. This fall, we will be establishing a progression rate to monitor students’ persistence from one class level to the next. Over the next year, we will be working toward a block tuition model and a “Think Thirty” program that together, will incentivize on-time graduation. Additional initiatives include a new pilot course aimed at transfer students along with increased tutoring for high-failure freshmen courses that will provide added measures to help ensure our student’s success.

Dr. Tracy Lyons, Executive Director
Undergraduate Student Success and Retention

Retention among freshmen at a rate of +2.6% representing the highest ever one-year increase in retention at UAB.

78.7% 81.8% 84.4%

2015 2016 2017

5.7% increase from 2015-2017
2017 first-time freshmen

mean ACT score
mean high school GPA
entering with AP/IB credit

25.1
3.66
28.7%

Student Diversity

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

UAB is consistently ranked as one of the most diverse campuses in the country.

1st generation students
34.4% of freshmen

Pell-eligible students
20.4% of freshmen

UAB students earned a record 31 nationally competitive scholarships in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Charles Coleman
Fulbright scholarship winner

academic year:

Academic Quality

mean act score
mean high school GPA
entering with AP/IB credit

25.1
3.66
28.7%

total freshmen

residents
719
793

non-residents
74

ethnic diversity

white
59.2%

Asian
7.4%

African American
22.9%

Hispanic
2.6%

Other
7.9%

total freshmen

residents
420

non-residents
51

Pell-eligible students
20.4% of freshmen

first-time freshmen
2017

28.7%
It has been another record year for the area of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Scholarships. In addition to welcoming the largest incoming class in school history, we saw growth in our transfer partnerships, enabling us to better transition students from our 2 year partners. Both Financial Aid and Scholarships saw a significant increase in the number of applicants and in the amount of aid that we were able to distribute to assist our students. We continue to benefit from the support of all constituencies across campus as we work to grow enrollment.

Tyler Peterson, Executive Director
Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial Aid & Scholarships

% of students graduating with debt greater than the national average
12.02%

% of students graduating with no debt
42.81%

2016 student debt at graduation
45.18%

55% of freshmen received need-based aid and 69% received a scholarship.

Financial aid awards

FEDERAL
$180,365,169.24

STATE
$792,382.50

INSTITUTIONAL
$38,702,585.73

TOTAL AID AWARDED
$219,860,137.47

Recruitment

7 IN-STATE RECRUITERS

7 OUT-OF-STATE RECRUITERS

5 TRANSFER RECRUITERS

states visited
10

college fairs
448

high school visits
512

events
126

“states visited
10

college fairs
448

high school visits
512

events
126

“
As UAB continues to grow, our approach to efficiency, technology and service must evolve to address the needs of our students. Whether it is our commitment to providing an admission decision within 24 hours of completion, improving university practices and policies to be more student-centered, or generating effective and targeted communications, our goal is to provide a quality experience for both prospective and current students.

Chenise Ryan, Executive Director
Enrollment Operations

The University Registrar’s office continues to assist students, faculty and staff in achieving individual, departmental and institutional goals. We strive to provide personalized attention while serving the vast number and variety of campus constituents. A major focus of our efforts is on how we can contribute to university initiatives and goals in a way that balances innovation with preserving the accuracy and integrity of university records.

Cynthia Terry
University Registrar
Student-Athlete Services

83% record graduation success rate

6% increase in federal graduation to 70%

419 student-athletes served

16 of our 18 teams earned a 3.0 team GPA for spring 2017, with 247 students (64%) earning a 3.0 or better and 46 students earning a perfect 4.0

Women's tennis placed for all of other Division I Women's Tennis programs in community service

New Student Programs

student campus visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I'm proud of the work that our students-athletes and staff have put into achieving such lofty academic achievements and community service this past year. Our staff, coaches, administration, and faculty have high standards for our students and challenge them to succeed in all facets of higher education and athletics.

Fernandez West, Associate Athletic Director
Student-Athlete Services

"I'm proud of the work that our students-athletes and staff have put into achieving such lofty academic achievements and community service this past year. Our staff, coaches, administration, and faculty have high standards for our students and challenge them to succeed in all facets of higher education and athletics." - Fernandez West

New Student Programs is sometimes the first and last interaction a prospective student has with UAB before their first day of classes as a Blazer. This gives us both a unique opportunity and a significant obligation to make sure that a student’s experiences with New Students Programs are positive. Our prospective student visit program was greatly enhanced in 2016-2017 by the addition of a 28-seat tour bus—The Dragon Wagon. This new resource enabled us to provide a view of far-reaching areas of the campus as well as beautiful and popular areas of our surrounding city, emphasizing UAB’s partnership with Birmingham in education and life experiences. Many of those same students were hosted again at New Student Orientation where they registered for courses to begin their UAB journey. When partners across campus commit to active engagement with prospective students, a prospective student’s impression of UAB matches the amazing opportunities offered here. It takes a campus to grow a campus and, like any team, the “wins” are earned by the whole team.

DeeDee Barnes Bruns, Executive Director
New Student Programs

"New Student Programs is sometimes the first and last interaction a prospective student has with UAB before their first day of classes as a Blazer. This gives us both a unique opportunity and a significant obligation to make sure that a student’s experiences with New Students Programs are positive. Our prospective student visit program was greatly enhanced in 2016-2017 by the addition of a 28-seat tour bus—The Dragon Wagon. This new resource enabled us to provide a view of far-reaching areas of the campus as well as beautiful and popular areas of our surrounding city, emphasizing UAB’s partnership with Birmingham in education and life experiences. Many of those same students were hosted again at New Student Orientation where they registered for courses to begin their UAB journey. When partners across campus commit to active engagement with prospective students, a prospective student’s impression of UAB matches the amazing opportunities offered here. It takes a campus to grow a campus and, like any team, the “wins” are earned by the whole team." - DeeDee Barnes Bruns

New Student Programs

3.14 record team GPA in fall 2016

16 of our 18 teams earned a 3.0 team GPA for spring 2017, with 247 students (64%) earning a 3.0 or better and 46 students earning a perfect 4.0

Women’s tennis placed for all of other Division I Women’s Tennis programs in community service

UAB Football Operations Center and Legacy Pavilion opened in summer 2017.

46 trailblazers

558 campus tours

232 special interest sessions

244 gold VIP visits

UAB Football Operations Center and Legacy Pavilion opened in summer 2017.
Enrollment Management
Senior Leadership Team

**Dr. Bradley Barnes**
Vice Provost, Enrollment Management

**DeeDee Barnes Bruns**
Executive Director, New Student Programs

**Dr. Tracy Lyons**
Executive Director, Undergraduate Student Success and Retention

**Tyler Peterson**
Executive Director, Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid

**Chenise Ryan**
Executive Director, Enrollment Operations

**Cynthia Terry**
University Registrar

**Fernandez West**
Associate Athletic Director, Student-Athlete Services

**Additional appreciation to**

**Cindy Bright**
Executive Assistant of the Vice Provost

**Rachel Flint**
Coordinator of Admissions Events & Marketing

**Laura Pearson**
Institutional Effectiveness and Analysis

**Brandi Rhea Robinson**
Director of Communications