Welcome to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), home of the UAB Blazers!

UAB is a comprehensive urban university and medical center complex with an annual enrollment exceeding 15,000 students. In a short period of time, UAB has established excellent programs through six liberal arts and professional schools, six health professional schools and graduate programs serving all major units.

As the University has grown, so have its contributions to the state and nation – and so has the potential to do even more. UAB is committed to education, research and service programs of excellent quality and far-reaching scope.

The UAB campus occupies 76 square blocks near downtown Birmingham. With a budget exceeding $5.5 million, UAB is one of Alabama’s largest employers. Its faculty, staff and support personnel total more than 15,000 individuals.

As an autonomous campus of the University of Alabama System, UAB serves the largest metropolitan area in the state. More than one-fifth of the state’s population lives within 25 miles of the urban campus. With classes scheduled from 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m., UAB offers unique educational opportunities to area citizens. These programs, combined with the University’s research and service efforts, make UAB an exciting institution and a contributing community citizen.

UAB’s primary purpose is to provide educational opportunities for members of a diverse student body. For this reason, educational programs are broad-based and designed to serve the most current needs of the contemporary society. At the undergraduate level, degree programs range from business to the fine arts, from natural sciences to the humanities and the life sciences. At the graduate level, programs serve the career needs of educators and business leaders, as well as those involved in advancing the frontiers of the health sciences. Training for health professionals is available through programs at the certificate (sub baccalaureate) level, baccalaureate, masters, doctoral and professional degree levels.

Facts and figures

Area: 3,358 square miles in the Birmingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jefferson, Walker, St. Clair, Shelby and Blount Counties)

Altitude: Average is 620 feet. Range is 583 to 1,200 feet

Latitude: 33°34’ North

Longitude: 86°45’West

Population: 938,500 in the Metropolitan Area

Statistics:
- Birmingham is 7th in size in metro areas in the Southeast
- 22% of Alabama’s total population is in the Birmingham area
- Birmingham ranks 11th in per capita income among southeastern metropolitan areas

Climate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Days of Rain</th>
<th>Average Inches of Rain</th>
<th>Average Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.22</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HELP LIST

AUTO LICENSE (Car Tag).................................................................916-2707

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU............................................................558-2222

BIRMINGHAM NEWS/BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD..........................325-2251

BUS SERVICE – SCHEDULE INFORMATION.....................................521-0101

BOARD OF EDUCATION:
  Birmingham 231-4600
  Jefferson County 379-2000

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE..............................................................324-2100

CRISIS CENTER..............................................................................323-7777

DRIVER’S LICENSE BUREAU............................................................252-7445

FIRE:
  Emergency 911
  Other 250-7575

LIBRARY:
  Birmingham Public Library 226-3600
  UAB Sterne Library 934-6364
  UAB Lister Hill Library 934-2230
  Reynolds Historical Library 934-4475

POLICE:
  Emergency 911
  UAB Emergency Only 934-3535
  UAB Other-Police Info 934-4434

UTILITIES – NEW SERVICE:
  Alabama Gas Corporation 326-8100/326-8200
  Alabama Power Company 800-245-2244
  Birmingham Water Works 251-5634
  South Central Bell 557-6500 (888-757-6500)

WEATHER INFORMATION................................................................916-0021

UAB HOSPITAL..................................................................................934-4011

TIME & TEMPERATURE.....................................................................979-8463

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Metro Area Express (MAX), provides an in-town bus service and maintains the trolley-style D.A.R.T. buses in the downtown area. The cost to ride the bus is $1 per person or you can buy a student UPASS. Bus schedules are available near the Information Desk at the Hill University Center. For additional schedule information, contact 521-0101.
Greyhound/Trailways (1-800-231-2222) provides interstate bus service while Amtrak (1-800-872-7245) provides daily, railroad passenger service to New York and New Orleans.

Taxis – There are several taxi companies in the Birmingham Metro area. Check the listing in the Yellow Pages of your local telephone book for more information.

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Yellow Cab Company of Birmingham
1601 Vanderbilt Road
871-4684

POST OFFICE
U.S. Postal Services in the UAB Area:
Phone: 1 800-275-8777

Downtown
251 24th Street N.
Green Springs
813 Green Springs Hwy.

South Highland
1821 11th Ave. S.
UAB Post Office
Central Support Bldg.
1530 3rd Avenue S.

Homewood
2710 18th St. S.

Check Cashing (up to $30.00 a day) is available at Student Accounting, located in room 322 of the Hill University Center. A valid student I.D. is required.

CHURCHES, MOSQUES, AND SYNAGOGUES

Here are some local churches and religious organizations within close distance or the only Birmingham representatives. For a more complete listing check the Yellow Pages:

BAPTIST
Southside Baptist Church
1016 19th Street South
933-8381

METHODIST
Highlands United Methodist
1045 20th Street S
205-933-8751

ISLAMIC
Birmingham Islamic Society
Muslim Community Cntr
1810 25th Ct S, Homewood
205-879-4247

PRESBYTERIAN
South Highland Presbyterian
2035 Highland Ave S
205-933-0790

BUDDHIST -- Tibetan
Losel Maitri – Tibetan Buddhist Cntr
205-970-4903

LUTHERAN
St. Paul Lutheran Church
132 6th Avenue South
205-324-2063
Feel free to attend the religious organization of your choice. Check the listings in the Yellow Pages of your telephone book for a full listing of denominations and churches.

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**DRIVER’S LICENSE**

Anyone with a valid non-immigrant status (F,J,H,TN, and their dependents), a U.S. Citizen or a permanent resident can apply for an Alabama Driver’s License. Alabama law requires that the applicant must have a U.S. social security number or proof of denial of the Social Security Number. Those with a social security number or Denial letter can apply directly to the driver’s license office. Necessary paperwork includes: passport, I-94 card, one of the following; DS-2019, I-20, H approval, O approval, or TN/TD approval, and a Birth Certificate if you have it with you may be helpful.

Dependents who are not eligible for a social security number should go to the Social Security office and obtain the denial letter. With this letter and their immigration documents they can go to the central driver’s license office (908 Bankhead Highway – 252-7445) and complete the required examinations.

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**TELEPHONE SERVICE**

If you live on the UAB campus, you will need to go to the Rust Communications building located on the corner of University Boulevard and 16th Street in order to establish phone service in your dormitory. Only Campus MCI can be used as a long distance carrier.

If you live off-campus. You can get phone service through BellSouth or some other alternate carriers. If you use BellSouth to request phone service, they will ask you questions similar to the following:

“What is your address?” – “Is it a single or family home? An apartment? A room? What is your room or apartment number?” – “Do you want this number listed in the phone book or unlisted?” – “What is your last name? First name? Do you use a middle initial?” -- “What is your social security number?” (If you don’t have a social security number, tell them the type of identification you are using, and they will ask you information from that) – “Do you have a phone number where you can be reached?” – “What is your date of birth?”

**Service Questions**

Other questions that may be asked concerning the service to be installed on your phone include the following:
“Is your phone touch tone or rotary dial?” — “Would you like call waiting?” — “Would you like a maintenance agreement?” (This service protects you from any repair costs you may have. You will also be asked to choose a long distance carrier. There are several to choose from you may wish to do research on which has the best rates for calling internationally to your home country before making a decision.

On your monthly bill, you may expect to pay a monthly service fee, taxes, and any custom calling services in addition to your long distance charges. The telephone representatives will explain all of your charges when you order service.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE RENTING AN APARTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much is the rent?</th>
<th>REALTORS IN THE UAB AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When is the rent due?</td>
<td>Phil Bostany Realty Co. Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is included in the rent payment?</td>
<td>1201 16th Avenue S  930-0697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities? Phone? Cable?</td>
<td>Broome Real Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you require a security deposit?</td>
<td>1228 21st Place S  933-6130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Lease questions:
- Will you return my security deposit when I leave?
- How long is the lease? Will I be penalized if I break the lease? Does the lease renew automatically?
- How much notice needs to be given before I can terminate the lease?
- Is subletting allowed? If yes, what procedures must be followed?

#### If you have a car or motorcycle:
- Is parking available and what kind is it?
- Garage, parking lot or street?
- Are there charges for parking?

#### If you have a pet:
- Are pets allowed? Maximum size, weight, height and type?
- Is there a pet deposit? How much is it and is it refundable?

#### If you have children:
- Do you allow children?
- Do you have childcare facilities? Are there additional charges?
- Where is the nearest school or daycare?

- Are storage facilities available? Are there additional charges?
- Are there laundry facilities?
- Are both furnished and unfurnished apartments available?
- Do you permit pictures to be hung on the walls or allow any type of improvements to be made?
- Where is the nearest grocery?

#### Apartment Locators (No Fee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apartment Finders 870-4868</th>
<th>Birmingham Apartment Guide 980-7155</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watts Realty</td>
<td>Apartment Hunters 987-7797</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OTHER PLACES TO LOOK:
- UAB Reporter and Kaleidoscope
- Birmingham Post-Herald/News Bulletin Boards Around Campus
BUYING A BICYCLE

There are bicycle shops in Birmingham where bicycles and/or accessories are sold:

Bob’s Bikes                  Homewood Cycle and Fitness
1410 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia  2834 18th Street South
979-3460                     879-3244

Department Stores also sell bikes and they are usually less expensive than the bike shops:

Big K (Kmart)                Sears
230 Green Springs Hwy, Homewood  7500 Crestwood Blvd, Century Plaza
916-0610                    599-7206

J.C. Penney                  Sam’s Club (Must have a membership card)
Century Plaza Mall          201 Lakeshore Pkwy, Homewood
591-7640                     941-3326

Wal-Mart Supercenter
209 Lakeshore Pkwy, Homewood
945-9728

Used bikes are sold through the newspaper in the classified advertising section. See the
Birmingham Post Herald/Birmingham News, UAB Report, Kaleidoscope, or Thrifty Nickel. They are also sometimes sold at garage/yard sales.

AVOID THEFT!! Buy a quality lock because many bikes are stolen in the Birmingham area. Locks are available at all bike shops and at the department stores listed. You can ask the salesperson’s advice as to which is the best quality lock.

The UAB Police advises that when you purchase a lock, be sure to buy a lock that cannot be cut with bolt cutters. The police also strongly suggest that you bring your bicycle indoors with you if possible.
RESTAURANTS AND GROCERY SHOPPING

There are many restaurants within walking distance of UAB. Here are a few restaurants as listed in the area.

On Campus
Located at the Hill University Center
Blazer Dining         Montague’s Deli
Chick Fil-A           Salad Bar

Very Near UAB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al’s Deli &amp; Grill</td>
<td>1629 10th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 939-4278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Onion</td>
<td>1717 10th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 933-2424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burger King</td>
<td>1524 6th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 933-2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arby’s</td>
<td>1700 6th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 930-0747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway Sandwich’s</td>
<td>403 19th Street South</td>
<td>(205) 252-8221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway Sandwich’s</td>
<td>1017 20th Street South</td>
<td>(205) 939-3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuseppe’s Italian</td>
<td>925 8th Street South</td>
<td>(205) 324-2626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony’s (Italian)</td>
<td>2131 7th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 324-1215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assagio (Italian)</td>
<td>2015 Highland Avenue S</td>
<td>(205) 933-6605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb Lane (American)</td>
<td>1 Cobb Lane</td>
<td>(205) 933-0462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curry in a Hurry (Indian)</td>
<td>1207 20th St S</td>
<td>(205) 930-0078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreamland BBQ</td>
<td>1427 14th Ave S</td>
<td>(205) 933-2133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Market (Greek/American)</td>
<td>611 21st Street S</td>
<td>(205) 322-3330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Temple (Vegetarian)</td>
<td>1901 11th Avenue</td>
<td>(205) 933-8933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Pancake House</td>
<td>1931 11th Avenue S</td>
<td>(205) 933-8837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Tuesday</td>
<td>200 Highland Avenue</td>
<td>(205) 939-1566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surin West</td>
<td>1918 11th Avenue S</td>
<td>(205) 324-1928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beyond Southside (but walking distance)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taj India</td>
<td>2226 Highland Avenue</td>
<td>(205) 939-3805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grocery Stores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grocery Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chai’s Oriental Food Store</td>
<td>2133 7th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 324-4873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Supermarket</td>
<td>2230 Highland Avenue</td>
<td>(205) 933-6220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Fair</td>
<td>1218 6th Avenue South</td>
<td>(205) 323-4391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO BUY A USED CAR

Before you consider buying any used car, be sure to read the Blue Book NADA (National Automobile Dealer’s Association) Official Used Car Guide. This book, which is available free of charge at most banks, automobile insurance offices, and libraries, describes the price range of any year, make, model, and type of car. You should expect to pay a sum of money close to the price listed in the Blue Book. You can also consult online sources to find this information.

The three types of used cars available for purchase:

New Car Dealer – Some new car dealers also sell used cars. These cars can be slightly used “demos” or trade-ins. Dealers usually keep the best cars for trade-ins and sells cars that are older and/or needing repairs to auctions, wholesale buyers, and used car dealers. The new car dealers usually sell their used cars with a limited warranty and have the facilities to service the cars they sell. They also generally sell these cars for more than the Blue Book price.

Used Car Dealer – Get their car from New Car Dealers. These cars are older models that the New Car Dealer received as a trade-in and would not be able to sell. This type of dealer usually does not offer any type of repair services.

Private Cars – You can also buy a car from someone you know. This might be safer than buying a car from a stranger because your friends would probably tell you if the car had any problems and would need repairs.

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE BUYING A USED CAR

What is the car’s condition? What is the mileage? Be aware that there is an illegal practice of setting the mileage “back” on the odometer. Has it ever had an accident? What were the damages? Why are you selling the car? The reason the car is being sold may indicate that it needs some repairs?

PROBLEMS TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A USED CAR

Leaks – Look at the pavement under the car for dark stains or puddles. This may indicate that the oil or brake fluid is leaking, which can be expensive to repair.

Body – Look for any type of rust or “bubbling” under the car’s paint. Also, check the wheels well, door edges and trunk floor and lid. Bring a small magnet and try attaching it to different exterior areas of the car’s body. If it will not stick, this might indicate that the car was hastily repaired with a temporary plastic, possibly due to an accident. Ask the seller what happened.

Steering – Before turning on ignition, unlock the steering wheel and turn it. There should not be a lot of motion or “play”. When driving, there should not be any vibration in the steering.

Engine and Transmission – The car should start and accelerate smoothly. If there is any bucking, skipping, hesitation, or noise, the car will probably need expensive repairs. Check the gears; they should shift smoothly and quietly.

Tires – Bald tires or different brands of tires on a car whose odometer only says 10,000 miles can mean that the odometer has been “rolled back” or disconnected. Also, check for uneven tire wear, which can indicate an accident or alignment problem. Remember to examine the truck and spare tire equipment. Make sure all the necessary parts of the jack are there and that there are not any water leaks in the trunk.

Suspension – Push and pull the top of each front tire. If it moves or makes a noise, the bearings or suspension joints could be badly worn. Push down with your body weight on each fender and make the car bounce up and down a few times. Then give the car one more downward push and release it. The car should bounce back up and stop moving, if it does not level off, and continues to bounce, it may need repairs or new shock absorbers.

Interior – Be sure to check window controls, safety belts, seat adjusters, warning lights, wipers, washers, radio, heater and air conditioner. Check the seats for comfort, broken springs, and torn seat covers. Have a friend stand in front of and behind the car while you turn on the headlights, turn signals, parking lights, and brake lights. Everything should be in good working condition. Look at the rubber pedal pads, if they are greatly worn or new and the car has low mileage, ask questions. Also, check along the window seams for water leaks.

Alignment – Drive straight, through a puddle, if possible, with a friend standing outside the rear of the car. The front and rear wheel should follow each other in a straight line. If it moves, even slightly, to one side, then it was probably in an accident and has a bent frame. This is very expensive to repair. Do not buy the car.

Brakes – Drive the car at 45 mph on a quiet road and apply the brakes firmly without locking them. Do this three times, the car should come to a quick stop without swerving, and the brakes should not vibrate or grab. When you stop the car completely, push the brake pedal down. It should stop well off of the floor. If not, and it goes down close to the floor of feels spongy, there may be a leak in the brake fluid or problems with the master cylinder. These repairs can be very expensive.

Oil use – After the engine has warmed up, drive the car at highway speed and take your foot off of the gas pedal for a few seconds. Then press the gas pedal down hard for two seconds, have a friend look for the exhaust smoke. Blue smoke means the car is burning oil.

Repairs for this car can be very expensive. Black smoke means that that fuel system may need a minor adjustment.

It is a good idea to test-drive a car. Pay attention to how the car handles. Listen for any noises. Take the car to a mechanic for a complete inspection. If he finds anything that needs repair, take the estimate to the owner and ask for a price reduction relative to the repairs needed.
Help Guide For The Newly Arrived!!