



Dean of the Graduate School

Position Prospectus

UAB The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.

Table of Contents

[The Opportunity](#)2

[The University](#)3

[The Community](#)9

[The Role](#)10

[Procedure for Candidacy](#)11



The Opportunity

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) seeks a dynamic and strategic leader to serve as Dean of the Graduate School. A nationally recognized hub for advanced education, UAB's graduate school offers over 100 master's and doctoral programs and more than 40 certificate options across diverse disciplines. With a graduate student population exceeding 7,400 — including more than 1,800 international students and scholars — UAB fosters a vibrant, inclusive academic community committed to innovation and global engagement. The university ranks 38th in federal research funding and 13th among public institutions in NIH support, reflecting its strength as a top-tier research university. UAB's Graduate School encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and accelerated pathways, preparing students to thrive in a dynamic, interconnected world. This environment provides a strong foundation for the next Dean to lead with vision, drive strategic growth, and elevate graduate education on a national scale.



The University

Since becoming an autonomous campus of the University of Alabama System in 1969, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) has grown into a world-renowned research university and academic medical center, occupying more than 100 city blocks in Alabama's largest metropolitan area. With its culture of intense collaboration and longtime partnership with its community and state, UAB continues to impact lives locally and globally in all four pillars of its mission: Education; Research, Innovation & Economic Development; Patient Care; and Community Engagement.

The total operating budget for UAB and UAB Hospital in FY26 is \$6B, and the state appropriations budget for FY26 is \$421M. The university has an Aa2 rating from Moody's and an AA+ rating from S&P. Research expenditures for UAB in FY24 exceeded \$866M.

Vision, Mission & Values

UAB continues building an even bolder future through its strategic plan, [Forging Ahead](#) (2024-2028), which outlines the university's vision, mission, values, institutional goals and objectives, and metrics for gauging progress towards those goals.

VISION

UAB is a world-class research university and academic health system committed to understanding and improving the human experience.

MISSION

UAB enriches society and improves health and well-being through transformational educational experiences, groundbreaking research, innovation and entrepreneurship, community engagement, and world-class patient care while serving our UAB, local and global communities.

VALUES: We CARE

- **Collaborate:** Work as a team for the greater good.
- **Act with integrity:** Be accountable and always do the right thing.
- **Respect all:** Champion diversity and opportunities for all, with civility.
- **Excel:** Innovate and strive for excellence in everything we do.



Academics and Enrollment

The university comprises 12 academic units (Schools of Business, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Graduate School, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, and Public Health; Honors College; and the College of Arts and Sciences). In fall 2024, UAB welcomed 20,905 enrolled students, seeing a 1.1 percent increase in graduate students and a 3.2 percent increase in doctoral students. Underrepresented groups comprise 55 percent of the student body. UAB was the first academic partner to support the Birmingham Promise scholarship in providing Birmingham City Schools graduates an opportunity to attend the university with a tuition scholarship match and additional academic support.

Academic programs at all levels are nationally and globally recognized for exceptional research, scholarship, and service-learning opportunities. In U.S. News & World Report rankings, UAB is among the top 6 percent of global universities and had a record 25 graduate programs in the top 25 (with 10 in the top 10), including a Master's in Health Administration that has been No. 1 nationally since 2019. Forbes also ranks UAB's Master's in Computer Science No. 3 nationally and Master's in Cyber Security No. 10.

In recent years, UAB has launched a host of novel, interdisciplinary programs, including BS degrees in Cancer Biology (first in the U.S.), Immunology (first in the Southeast), and Bioinformatics (first in Alabama); a MS in AI in Medicine (first in the Southeast); and PhDs in Biotechnology and Neuro-engineering (both are first in the U.S.).

UAB undergraduate and graduate students continue to earn highly competitive national and international honors. Over the past five years, for instance, 11 UAB students have been awarded the Goldwater Scholarship, one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics.

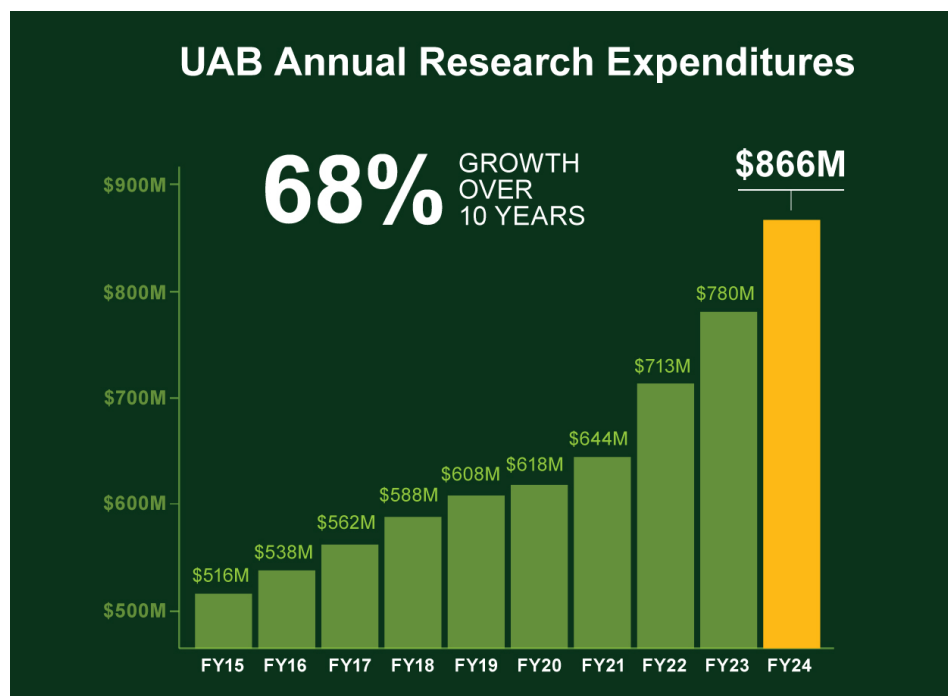
UAB was recently named an Honor Roll university through the [Great Colleges to Work For®](#) program, placing the institution among the nation's best in employee engagement and satisfaction. The Honor Roll designation reflects UAB's exceptional workplace culture and commitment to employee engagement and satisfaction.



Research and Innovation

UAB's robust, interdisciplinary research enterprise remains highly competitive among its peers and has an impact on health and quality of life that reaches across Alabama, the U.S., and the globe.

Annual research expenditures totaled \$866 million in FY24, a 68 percent increase over 10 years. UAB ranks 13th (top 4 percent) among public universities in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and all six UAB health-related schools are top 15 among publics in NIH funding. An array of other funding sources — including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Defense, and NASA as well as private industry and philanthropy — fuel the university's life-changing research.



UAB conducts hundreds of clinical trials across many medical specialties at any given time, promoting innovation, improving patient care, and offering hope to patients whose conditions have no treatment or haven't responded to standard treatments. UAB clinical trial expenditures have more than tripled over the past decade, reaching \$140M in FY24.

UAB continues growing its research infrastructure with key renovations and state-of-the-art new facilities. These include, the Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data Sciences Building (below left, opened fall 2025); Gorrie Hall (below center, opened summer 2025), new home of the School of Engineering and final phase of a new Science & Engineering Complex; and a future Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research & Psychology Building (bottom right, projected completion in early 2027).



Commercialization and Economic Impact

The UAB Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HIIE) is accelerating commercialization and training tomorrow's entrepreneurs. In FY24, HIIE generated \$6.5 million in revenues, 124 Intellectual Property Disclosures, 17 U.S. patents, and five startup companies.

UAB continues collaborating with Southern Research, Innovation Depot, the City of Birmingham, Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA), the corporate community, and other partners to foster a robust technology-based economy for the region and state.

As the single largest employer in Alabama, UAB has a profound economic impact, annually exceeding \$8.3 billion on Birmingham and \$12.1 billion statewide.

\$12.1 BILLION+

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANNUALLY ON ALABAMA

STATE'S LARGEST SINGLE EMPLOYER
(35,000+ EMPLOYEES)

SUPPORTING 1 OF EVERY 20 JOBS STATEWIDE

\$371M GENERATED IN STATE/LOCAL TAXES

ROI ON EVERY \$1 FROM STATE: \$39.95

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



\$8.3 billion
generated in
economic impact



73,595 jobs
supported and
sustained



\$256.2 million
generated in state
and local taxes

World-Class Patient Care

The UAB Health System (UABHS) sees roughly two million patient visits annually in a system of 15 owned, affiliate and network entities across the state (a total of 3,100 beds). The flagship UAB Hospital is the 8th largest in the nation (1,207 beds), consistently ranked in U.S. News & World Report as the top hospital in Alabama (with seven specialties currently in the top 50), and among only 19 hospitals worldwide to receive the coveted Magnet Designation for Nursing Excellence six straight times.

UAB Hospital is home to the state's only Level I Adult Trauma Center, which is roughly the length of a football field and is currently undergoing a \$73 million expansion that will double its space. The O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center was among the original eight centers designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 1971 and remains the only such center in Alabama and among 15 in the Southeast. UAB also houses the State's only Level IV Regional Newborn Intensive Care Unit and the only 24-hour freestanding Level I Ocular Trauma Center in the U.S.

In November 2024, UABHS acquired Ascension St. Vincent's Health System — now UAB St. Vincent's — adding five hospitals and 19 ambulatory facilities to UABHS and further enhancing patient access to an even larger network of care.



Community Engagement

UAB'S longtime partnership with its community and state continues to impact education, health, arts and culture, and economic development.

LIVE HEALTHSMART ALABAMA

Live HealthSmart Alabama (LHSA), UAB's Grand Challenge launched in 2020, aims to raise Alabama from the bottom 10 percent nationally in key health metrics (e.g., incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity) by the year 2030. Begun in initial demonstration communities around Birmingham, LHSA has now extended its successful community-based model statewide to Selma, Demopolis, Dothan, and other communities. To date, LHSA has provided 4,200+ comprehensive health screenings, Community Coaches have connected 900+ residents with primary care, and the LHSA Mobile Market has delivered healthy foods to 11,900+ customers in 40 communities.

BIRMINGHAM PROMISE

Birmingham Promise, a partnership with the City of Birmingham, is widening access to higher education and economic opportunity. UAB provides full tuition to qualifying Birmingham City Schools graduates, intensive mentoring and resources, and internship opportunities with local businesses. More than 300 "Promise Scholars" have enrolled at UAB since 2020.

UAB ARTS

UAB Arts continues to promote the arts and arts education throughout campus and the community, with the Alys Stephens Center for the Performing Arts reaching record attendance in FY24, including seven sold-out performances.

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNIVERSITY

UAB is among less than 100 universities designated by the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLU) an Innovation & Economic Prosperity University for institution-wide commitment and strategy to achieve regional economic engagement, growth and economic opportunity.



The Community

Birmingham, Alabama

Located in the heart of the Southeast, Birmingham is a short drive from Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Gulf Coast beaches. Birmingham has been recognized as an "All-American City" by the National Civic League, as one of the top 10 American cities to live and work, one of the top 10 entrepreneurial and job growth hot spots in America and Conde Nast Traveler's pick for one of 22 Best Places to Go in 2022.

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, with the development of Railroad Park, an award-winning urban park, and its adjacent Regions Field, home to the minor league Birmingham Barons. The park and stadium projects have kickstarted major growth in surrounding districts, including craft breweries, boutique shops, restaurants, loft and apartment buildings, innovative workspaces, and hotels. Birmingham was selected to serve as the host city of the 2022 World Games. [UAB played a major role](#) in coordinating the spectacular event, providing athletic venues and hosting 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries.

Birmingham is also a renowned culinary destination, with one of its signature restaurants recently winning two James Beard Foundation awards and many other restaurants named as finalists. There are a host of attractions only a short walk from UAB's campus. The Birmingham Civil Rights District National Monument, composed of sites such as Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, and the Civil Rights Institute, is a major destination for visitors from around the world. Birmingham's cultural scene is thriving, with museums, galleries, music and arts festivals, theaters and live music venues, a professional ballet company, a professional opera company, a School of Fine Arts, the Jazz Hall of Fame, the recently restored historic Lyric and Alabama theaters, and UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center, home of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Birmingham is in proximity to many state and national parks, lakes, urban greenspaces, and hiking and biking trails. The city has more green space per capita than any other major city in the United States. [Explore Birmingham online](#).



The Role

Dean of the Graduate School

SUMMARY

The role of Dean of the Graduate School provides a unique opportunity to shape the future of graduate education at a leading R1 institution, advancing UAB's research mission and institutional priorities. The ideal candidate will bring visionary leadership, operational acumen, and a deep commitment to graduate education and institutional advancement.

KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Leads with vision, drives strategic growth, and elevates graduate education on a national scale.
- Articulates and implements a compelling vision for graduate education, collaborating with academic deans, faculty, and institutional leaders to strengthen and expand programs across disciplines.
- Oversees key operational areas, including admissions, fellowships, student success initiatives, interdisciplinary programs, and professional development.
- Guides a team of approximately 40 full-time staff and stewards a budget of \$8.8 million to ensure excellence, innovation, and impact.
- Plays a central role in supporting UAB's Student SUCCESS Initiative, which emphasizes retention, graduation, and holistic student support.
- Grows PhD enrollment to remain competitive with peer institutions.
- Coordinates a hybrid funding model that integrates centrally awarded fellowships with department-based assistantships.
- Serves as a visible campus leader, representing the Graduate School in university-wide and external forums.
- Advises the Graduate Student Government and partners with faculty leaders to refine academic policies and foster inclusive student engagement.
- Serves on standing and ad-hoc committees in support of UAB programs and activities.



Procedure for Candidacy

UAB has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed below.

To apply, visit the [Isaacson, Miller website](#).

For confidential inquiries, please contact:

Greg Eposito, Partner

617-933-1869

gesposito@imsearch.com

Applications should include a detailed letter of interest and a current curriculum vitae.

*UAB is an Equal Employment/
Equal Educational Opportunity
Institution dedicated to providing
equal opportunities and
equal access to all individuals
regardless of race, color, religion,
ethnic or national origin, sex
(including pregnancy), genetic
information, age, disability and
veteran's status. As required
by Title IX, UAB prohibits sex
discrimination in any education
program or activity that it
operates. Individuals may report
concerns or questions to UAB's
Assistant Vice President and
Senior Title IX Coordinator. The
Title IX notice of nondiscrimination
is located at uab.edu/titleix.*

ABOUT ISAACSON, MILLER

For over 40 years, Isaacson, Miller has partnered with clients to solve their most demanding leadership challenges. We help you build highly qualified teams to lead the future. The organizations we serve protect and advance the tenets of democracy. We are dedicated to understanding and progressing the aspirations that drive our clients' missions. We have conducted nearly 10,000 searches across the independent sector.

Visit imsearch.com to learn more.

ISAACSON, MILLER