



Vice President, Research

Position Prospectus

UAB The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.

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The Opportunity

The [University of Alabama at Birmingham](https://www.ua.edu/) (UAB) seeks a dynamic and strategic leader to serve as its next Vice President of Research. As a world-class research university and academic health system committed to understanding and improving the human experience, 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.

UAB's research enterprise is strengthened by its commitment to nurturing excellent research, scholarship, and creative activity by faculty, staff, and students. With FY25 NIH expenditures totaling \$349 million and all six health-related schools ranked among the top 20 public institutions in NIH awards, UAB stands among the nation's most competitive research universities. The University's clinical trial expenditures have tripled over the past decade, reaching \$139 million in FY25, reflecting robust growth in translational and patient-centered research. UAB is home to more than 1,270 funded principal investigators and ranks in the top 4 percent of all public U.S. universities for NIH awards and in the top 5 percent for federal R&D expenditures. This depth and breadth of activity position UAB as a national leader in discovery and innovation, supported by a comprehensive research infrastructure and a culture that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world impact.

The next Vice President of Research will shape and execute a bold vision for UAB's research future — empowering research excellence, impact, scholarship, and innovation that drive knowledge and job creation, while developing and sustaining opportunities that enhance its contribution to new knowledge and the national standing of UAB. As a key member of the President's Cabinet, the Vice President will provide counsel on matters related to the research enterprise and collaborate with leadership across the institution to develop pipelines for research growth. This role offers the opportunity to guide a thriving research enterprise and expand UAB's capability to continually discover and share knowledge that benefits society.



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

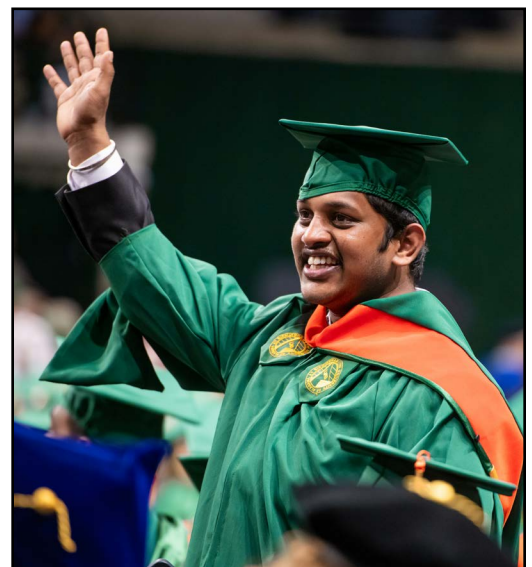
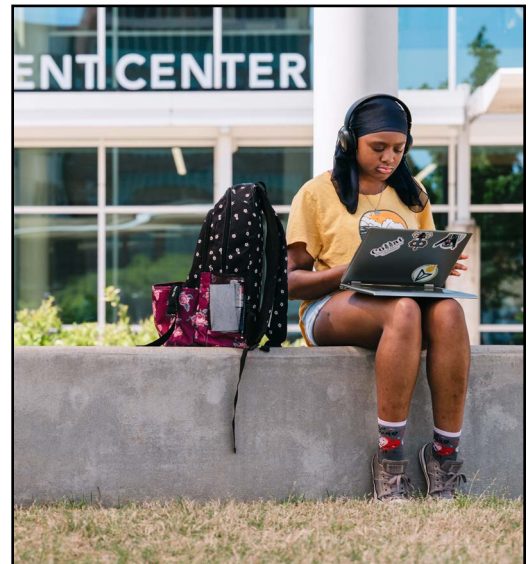
The university comprises 12 academic units (Schools of Business, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Graduate School, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, and Public Health; Honors College; and the College of Arts and Sciences). In fall 2024, UAB welcomed 20,905 enrolled students, seeing 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.

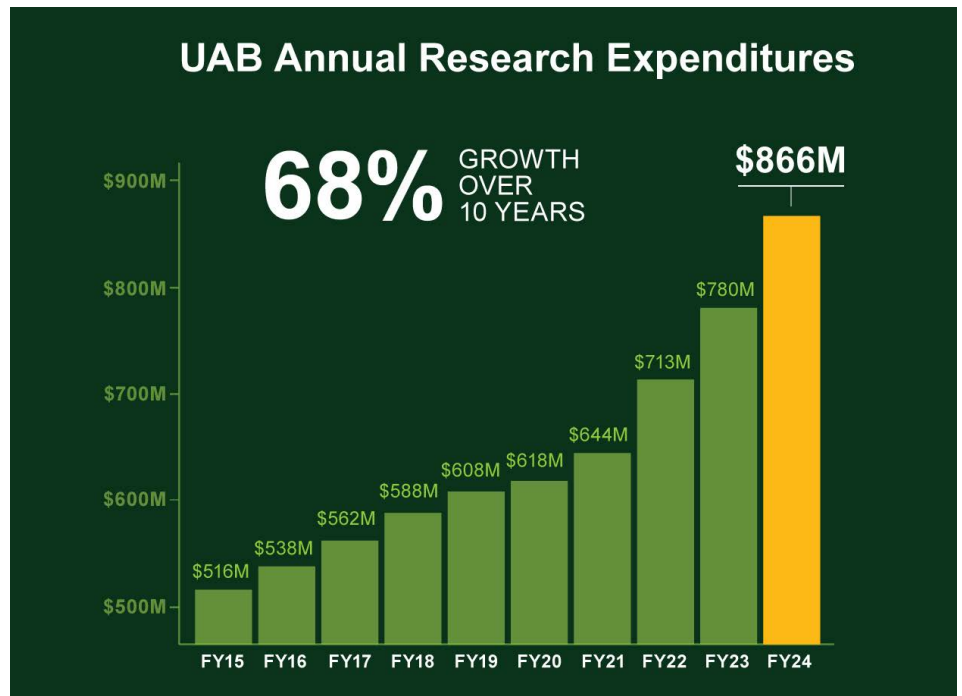
UAB was recently named an Honor Roll university through the [Great Colleges to Work For](#)® program, placing the institution among the nation's best in employee engagement and satisfaction. The Honor Roll designation reflects UAB's exceptional workplace culture and commitment to employee engagement 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 in Birmingham and \$12.1 billion statewide.

\$12.1 BILLION+

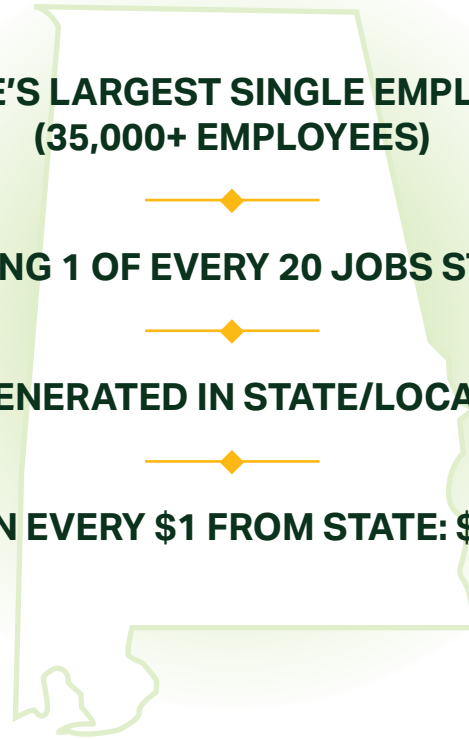
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANNUALLY ON ALABAMA

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.



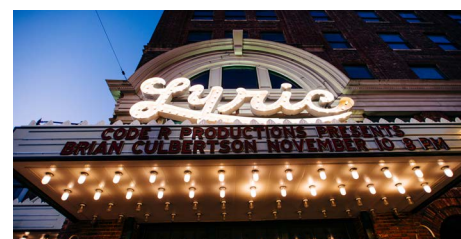
The Community

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

Vice President, Research

The Vice President for Research leads and executes UAB's strategic plan for empowering research excellence, impact, scholarship, and innovation that drive knowledge and job creation focused on increasing UAB's positive impact and improving society. This role develops and sustains successful research programs and directions to enhance the University's contribution to new knowledge and the national standing and recognition of UAB; collaborates with University leadership to develop pipelines for research growth; and ensures research initiatives are compliant with applicable federal, state and local laws, agencies policies, and contractual obligations. This role serves as a member of the President's Cabinet for all major decisions affecting the University, providing counsel to the President and other executive officers on matters related to the research enterprise. This role supports the University's overarching strategic plan through collaboration with the Sr. Vice President Academic Affairs, Provost, and Deans on the recruitment and retention of high-potential faculty in support of multi-disciplinary hiring strategies and nurtures excellent research, scholarship and creative activity by faculty, staff and students.

KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Anticipates and articulates the ever-changing landscape of research and how UAB can navigate challenges and embrace opportunities to meet its strategic goals.
- Enhances and grows community engagement through emphasis on clinical trials and translational research in conjunction with the UAB Health System.
- Maintains, enhances and promotes the institution wide research infrastructure including the myUABResearch portal.
- Provides effective leadership to all administrative research units serving the research enterprise at UAB.
- Works in collaboration with faculty, staff and students to develop appropriate policies and procedures for the management of research programs, including University Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers (UWIRCs), cores and institutes within the university.
- Serves as Institutional Official for the Institutional Review Board for Human Use (IRB), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and other units as required.
- Works closely with the Office of Compliance & Risk Assurance, Grants Accounting, and other central administration units to provide effective and compliant awards management.
- Collaborates with the UA System Office of Government Relations to advocate for UAB's research priorities at the federal and state levels.
- Pursues research, scholarship and creative activities that spur innovation, makes UAB a vibrant cultural center and expands UAB's capability to continually discover and share new knowledge that benefits society.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Philosophy or Medicine in a related field and ten (10) years of related progressive experience to include progressive leadership experience required. Work experience may NOT substitute for education requirement.

Procedure for Candidacy

Confidential review of applications, nominations and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

To be ensured full consideration, please email a letter of interest and CV to our Korn Ferry partners at UAB-VPResearch@kornferry.com.

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, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, 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.

UAB also encourages applications from individuals with disabilities and veterans. A pre-employment background check is performed on candidates selected for employment. In addition, physicians and other clinical faculty candidates who will be employed by the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF) or other UAB Medicine entities must successfully complete a pre-employment drug and nicotine screen to be hired.

ABOUT KORN FERRY

Korn Ferry is a global consulting firm that powers performance. We unlock the potential in your people and unleash transformation across your business — synchronizing strategy, operations, and talent to accelerate performance, fuel growth, and inspire a legacy of change. That's why the world's most forward-thinking companies across every major industry turn to us — for a shared commitment to lasting impact and the bold ambition to Be More Than.



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