



Samford University

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020







A Message *from the President*

In moments of tranquility, we gain insight about others and the world around us. In moments of crisis, we learn about ourselves. The remarkable year of 2020 afforded those of us at Samford an opportunity to see, perhaps more clearly than ever, the resilience and grace of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. With each challenge came the creativity and competence to overcome and to thrive. Perfect? Not by a long shot. But never have I been so proud of our people than during these days.

Within these pages you will read the details of amazing accomplishments in an unforgettable year, from national rankings for academic quality and student engagement, to promoting racial justice, to welcoming the largest enrollment in our history.

We learned in 2020 that Samford people are solvers of complex problems. Indeed, they are agents of change in a broken, beautiful world.

With hope for a bright future, for God, for learning, forever.



Andrew Westmoreland
President



Samford University

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

The mission of Samford University is to nurture persons in their development of intellect, creativity, faith and personhood. As a Christian university, the community fosters academic, career and ethical competency while encouraging social and civic responsibility and service to others.

Vision

Anchored in Christian understanding, Samford University will be a diverse community, stressing vigorous learning and personal faith, in the Baptist tradition. Within that commonality, the community will be innovative in teaching, learning and research; sensitive to global issues; and aggressive in self-assessment and continuous improvement. Faithful to its mission, Samford will be known and acknowledged worldwide by holding to its core values. The world will be better for it.



Core Values

The Samford community values lifelong:

- Belief in God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord
- Engagement with the life and teachings of Jesus
- Learning and responsible freedom of inquiry
- Personal empowerment, accountability and responsibility
- Vocational success and civic engagement
- Spiritual growth and cultivation of physical well-being
- Integrity, honesty and justice
- Appreciation for diverse cultures and convictions
- Stewardship of all resources
- Service to God, to family, to one another and to the community

Established
1841

87th-oldest university
in the United States

Enrollment

5,729

3,576 undergraduate
2,153 graduate/professional

361

**full-time
teaching
faculty**

Geographic Diversity of Student Body

47 STATES

AND **30** COUNTRIES

Academic Schools

School of the Arts

Howard College of Arts
and Sciences

Brock School of Business

Beeson Divinity School

Orlean Beeson
School of Education

School of Health Professions

Cumberland School of Law

Moffett & Sanders
School of Nursing

McWhorter School of Pharmacy

School of Public Health

Campus Size **247 acres**

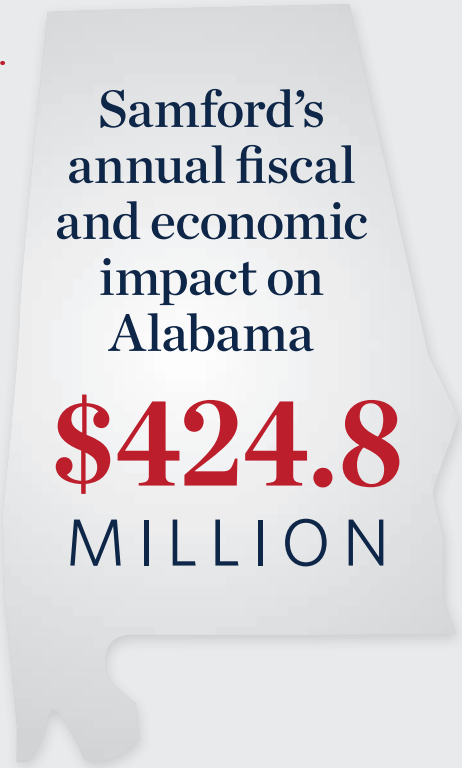
Endowment **\$297 million**

Undergraduate majors, minors and concentrations **184**

Graduate majors, minors and concentrations **66**

Average undergraduate class size **19**

Student-to-faculty ratio **14:1**



Samford's annual fiscal and economic impact on Alabama **\$424.8 MILLION**

17
NCAA Division I Varsity Sports



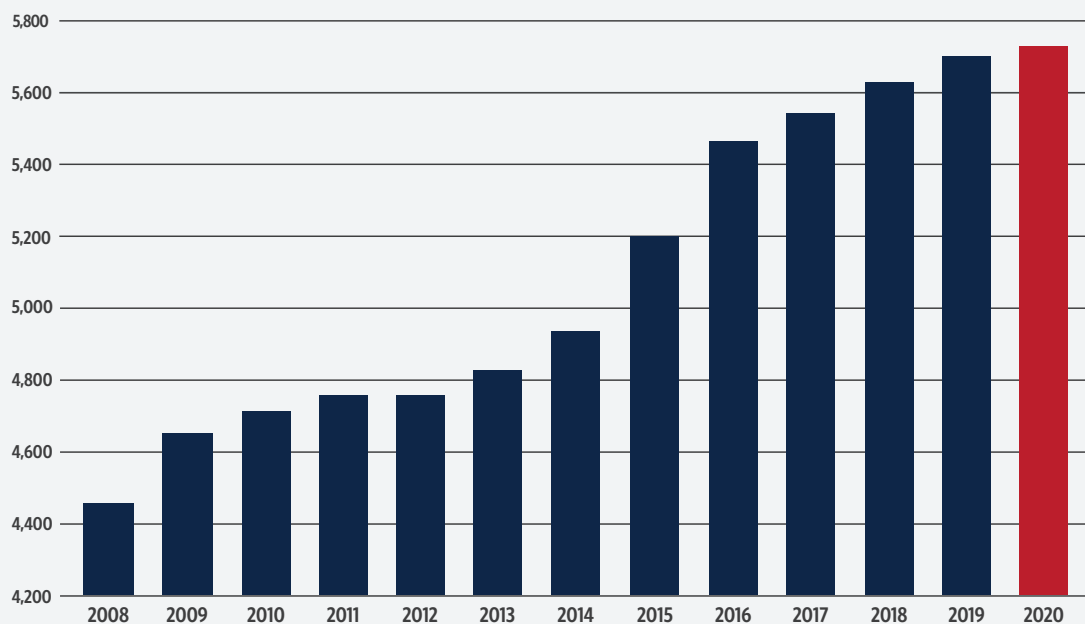
12th Consecutive Enrollment Record

Samford continues a growth pattern that exceeds national norms, setting a fall enrollment record for the 12th consecutive year with 5,729 students enrolled for fall 2020.

Included in the totals are 3,576 undergraduate and 2,153 graduate/professional students, representing 47 states, the District of Columbia and 30 countries. The numbers reflect new records in terms of size and quality for both enrolled graduate students and the entering class of 971 freshmen students.

The record fall enrollment comes at a time of growing national recognition and expansion across all 10 academic schools at the university. The past year brought a number of new bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree offerings, including game design and 3D animation, data analytics, architecture, and commercial music.

Total Fall Enrollment by Fiscal Year (2008-2020)



Rankings Affirm Samford's National Reputation for Quality

Samford Ranks Second in the Nation for Student Engagement

Throughout the year, Samford achieved significant recognitions highlighting scholarship, research and performance. Distinguished academic programs, accomplished faculty and an engaged student community combine to foster Samford's reputation as a leader in higher education.

Samford students are among the nation's most engaged according to the 2021 rankings published by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*. Samford ranks second nationally for student engagement, which captures the degree to which students feel prepared to use their education in the real world. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, student engagement is deemed to be central to exceptional teaching quality and reflects how well a university manages to inform, inspire and challenge students both inside and outside of the classroom.



#1 in Alabama
—The Wall Street Journal/
Times Higher Education

#1 in the Nation
for Graduation
Success Rate
—NCAA Division I

#2 in the Nation for
Student Engagement
—The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education

#34 Private University
in the U.S. for Value
and Affordability
—Kiplinger's Personal Finance


#86 in the Nation
for Best Value
—U.S. News & World Report





DIVINITY HALL





The Reconciliation Memorial was installed May 4, 2020, and affirms the university's commitment to racial reconciliation.

Samford Launches New Initiatives Aimed at Increasing Diversity and Advancing Racial Reconciliation

Samford has launched a number of new initiatives as part of a renewed university-wide commitment to racial diversity and reconciliation throughout campus. These include new diversity training programs, events to facilitate meaningful dialogue around race and justice, student scholarships, and the expansion of the university's Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives.

In June, the university announced the appointment of a Task Force on Racial Justice consisting of students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni. The group is charged with assisting the university in fostering positive, enduring changes in campus culture and existing systems to promote diversity and reconciliation so that racial justice may become a known attribute of the institution.

"It is important to me and to so many others at Samford to do whatever we can, day by day and course by course, to help each of us understand and practice ways in which we can build a better future, not just for ourselves, but for everyone," said President Westmoreland. "We must achieve the elimination of racism from the root and branch of our lives and our institution."

Faith Formation

Faith Development Enriches the Learning Experience

As a Christ-centered university, faith development is at the heart of the Samford experience. A variety of activities and organizations throughout the campus provide opportunities for students to engage their faith and serve, both locally and around the world.

Campus Worship

A variety of worship opportunities on campus, including services coordinated by the Office of Spiritual Life and Beeson Divinity School, attract hundreds of students each week. During the pandemic, these activities are mostly provided virtually.

Convocation

Samford's Convocation program exists to encourage spiritual growth and development by providing worship and programming that seeks to integrate faith and learning from a distinctively Christian perspective. Convocation reinforces Samford's identity as a Christ-centered university and is designed to build a community at Samford with values rooted in a biblical worldview.

Samford Small Groups

Student-led small groups meet on multiple nights throughout the week to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and biblical community. These groups study God's Word together, develop lasting friendships and encourage spiritual conversations that lead to a deepening faith.

Cadres

Cadres are groups led by Samford staff and faculty to engage students in a spiritual growth book, biblical topic or to participate in a service project. Students can choose from a list of various topics or service

opportunities each semester, earning convocation credit through participation. These groups provide unique access to staff and faculty as students are challenged to think biblically through these various conversations and projects.

Faith Enrichment Lecture Series

Ongoing university lectures feature local and national speakers to connect Christian faith and learning across an array of academic disciplines.

Global Missions

Samford seeks to offer students opportunities to experience the world and other cultures as they develop their own understanding of what it means to be a global Christian. Go Global Week is the annual fall partnership between Beeson Divinity School's Global Center and the Office of Spiritual Life to highlight mission opportunities for students and to bring awareness to all that is occurring around the world to reach others for Christ.

Global Missions Scholars

This unique program is open to students from every academic school at Samford, allowing a personalized opportunity to prepare for a career related to missions. The group meets regularly for biblical training, fellowship, vocational counseling and mentorship in preparation for God's call to missions and ministry.





Samford Students Confirm High-impact Education in National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Samford University leads in high-impact education according to data reported in the 2020 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Graduating seniors in the class of 2020 reported higher levels of student engagement compared to both private southeastern institutions and peer national doctoral/professional institutions.

The annual NSSE survey, involving first-year and senior students, represents empirically confirmed practices in undergraduate education that reflect positive student learning outcomes. NSSE has been in operation since 2000 and has been used at more than 1,600 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. The NSSE questions explore student study habits, educational plans and experiences, time spent out of the classroom, and satisfaction with the campus, faculty and

curriculum. Additionally, NSSE provides results on six “high-impact practices” that are positively associated with student learning, development and retention.

According to NSSE, “High-impact practices share several traits: they demand considerable time and effort, facilitate learning outside of the classroom, require meaningful interactions with faculty and students, encourage collaboration with diverse others, and provide frequent and substantive feedback. As a result, participation in these practices can be life-changing.”

Compared to students of other private universities in the Southeast, as well as peer national doctoral/professional institutions, Samford senior students reported significantly higher participation in all of the high-impact practices assessed:

High-Impact Practice (HIP) Indicators NSSE 2020	Samford University	Private Institutions in the Southeast	National Carnegie Peer Institutions
Completed a Culminating Senior Experience	84%	43%	35%
Completed an Internship or Field Experience	84%	43%	39%
Participated in Service Learning	62%	58%	62%
Participated in Study Abroad	52%	16%	10%
Participated in a Learning Community	45%	20%	19%
Participated in Research with a Faculty Member	50%	21%	16%
Participated in at Least One High-Impact Practice	99%	77%	79%
Participated in Two or More High-Impact Practices	95%	54%	49%

Private institutions in the Southeast include 119 private colleges and universities from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The National Carnegie Peer Institutions include 88 doctoral/professional universities included in Samford's Carnegie Classification.

Championships and Honors for Samford Athletics

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Samford Athletics celebrated a year of championships and honors. Samford student-athletes lead the nation in the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR). Samford was one of nine schools to score 99 on the latest GSR for all Division I student-athletes who began their college careers in 2013. Samford has a long history of performing among the nation's elite universities for its combination of excellence in academic and athletic performance, and has consistently earned an overall GSR above 90% since 2012.

Samford teams won four Southern Conference tournament and regular-season titles in 2020. These include men's indoor track and field, women's indoor track and field, and women's basketball regular-season and tournament championships. Samford teams have won a total of 48 championships since joining the Southern Conference in 2008.

Samford placed 234 student-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll during the 2019-20 season.

Rod Tiffin was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year for both the men's and women's track and field teams.

Carley Kuhns was named Southern Conference Co-Coach of the Year for women's basketball.

Student-athletes received top honors from the Southern Conference. Kelsi Hobbs was named the Southern Conference Player of the Year for volleyball and Taylore Miller of the soccer team was named the Southern Conference's Defensive Player of the

Year. In indoor track and field, Matt Cahoon and Emmanuel Tait received the Heath Whittle Award as the men's most outstanding athletes. On the women's team, Maggie Johnston earned recognition from the Southern Conference as the Most Outstanding Field Performer.

Success in professional sports continues for former student-athletes. Samford currently has six players on either active rosters or practice squads of National Football League (NFL) teams. In the past 12 years, 26 Samford players have been drafted to Major League Baseball (MLB).

Former baseball star Philip Ervin continued his career in Major League Baseball over the last year. During the 2020 season, Ervin played for both the Cincinnati Reds and the Seattle Mariners.

Six outstanding former student-athletes and coaches were inducted into the Samford Athletics Hall of Fame: Efre Hill and Bobby Jackson (football), multi-sport star and former coach Virgil Ledbetter, Michaela Reesor (volleyball), Michael Seaman (track and field), and former head football coach Pat Sullivan.

Nationally ranked basketball coach Bucky McMillan was hired as Samford's head men's basketball coach, bringing a wealth of coaching experience and excitement to the program.

Several Samford student-athletes earned prestigious academic awards in 2020. Maggie Johnston earned a Southern Conference postgraduate scholarship and Allison Howard was named a Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-Academic Scholar.

#1 in the Nation
for Graduation
Success Rate
NCAA Division I





Academic Accolades

National rankings, licensure and certification pass rates continue to affirm Samford's commitment to excellence in academics.

#7 in the nation for trial advocacy for
Cumberland School of Law
-U.S. News & World Report

100% pass rate on national
undergraduate PRAXIS II licensure
exam for Orlean Beeson School of Education
students

98% of School of Health Professions graduates
are employed, accepted to graduate
school or completing internships within the field

#4 in the nation for best quality of life for
Cumberland School of Law
-The Princeton Review

100% Doctorate of Nursing Practice first-
time pass rate on the Family Nurse
Practitioner Certification Exam

#2 among private pharmacy schools in the South
for McWhorter School of Pharmacy
-U.S. News & World Report

100% pass rate on the PRAXIS exam for
speech language pathology students

97.6% first-time NAPLEX pass rate for
McWhorter School of Pharmacy's
class of 2020 (preliminary results)

#1 in the nation for best Christian online Master of
Business Administration (M.B.A.) program
-College Consensus

100% placement rate for nutrition and
dietetics seniors who applied for a
dietetic internship

97% of Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates
were licensed and employed within six
months of graduation

Academic Achievements Bring National and International Recognition for Samford

Over the past year Samford students, faculty and programs have earned national and international recognition. Some of the outstanding accomplishments of the past year include:

Fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy student Jillian Walters was selected as one of 10 graduate students in the country to receive the Gateway to Research Scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for her contributions to cancer research in collaboration with faculty member Bernadette D'Souza.

Psychology professor Stephen Chew was awarded Distinguished Member status by Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Distinguished member honorees are people who have national or international reputations resulting from contributions to the field of psychology. The honor is the organization's highest and has been conferred upon only 40 individuals in the organization's 90-year history.

Cumberland School of Law launched the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic (C-VETS), the first full-service law school clinic in Alabama for veterans.

Professors Joel Davis and Jeffrey Flaniken were named finalists for the nationally acclaimed Lilly Fellows Program's 2020 Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Musical Performance. They were chosen for the prestigious honor based on their collaboration in presenting the Samford String Quartet's 2017 live performance of "Antiphons-Benedictions" from Davis' String Quartet No. 1: *Vespers*.

Samford's chapter of the Beta Alpha Psi international honor society was recognized as a superior chapter, the top level of achievement for university chapters. The international organization for business students at AACSB-accredited universities provides development of technical and professional skills to complement undergraduate accounting education.

Opera and musical theatre students in School of the Arts won first place in the musical theatre division at the National Opera Association's Collegiate Scenes Competition.

Orlean Beeson School of Education was recognized among the top national institutions for excellence in educator preparation. The school was one of 59 institutions to earn accreditation for their education preparation programs through The Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) through spring 2027.

Geography professor Jonathan Fleming created a COVID-19 Data Dashboard for the state of Alabama in the early weeks of the pandemic, providing a reliable source of information for hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Cumberland School of Law's National Trial Team is ranked third in the nation in the Trial Competition



This photo was taken before the coronavirus pandemic.



Performance Rankings for 2019-20. The team also ranks third for overall performance since 2016.

A new book cowritten by Brock School of Business professor of economics Art Carden, *Leave Me Alone and I'll Make You Rich: How the Bourgeois Deal Enriched the World*, was widely acclaimed and nationally recognized.

Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing launched the school's first residency program in 2020 utilizing a \$3.5 million Advanced Nursing Education-Nurse Practitioner Residency Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration.

Paul R. House, professor of Old Testament in Beeson Divinity School, received The Center for Biblical Studies' Biblical Foundations Book Award for the best Old Testament Commentary for his *Isaiah: A Mentor Commentary, Volumes I-II*.

Samford's debate program, one of the university's oldest and most honored academic traditions, once again qualified for the National Debate Tournament in 2020.

Third-year School of Health Professions Doctor of Audiology student Jori Childs was selected as Alabama's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association Audiology Student State Officer.

Four Orlean Beeson School of Education alumni were named Alabama Teachers of the Year at their respective schools. One of the four, Andrew "Andy" Jackson, was named the Alabama State Teacher of the Year.

Christson Adedoyin, a professor of social work in the School of Public Health, served as the lead editor for a special issue on the effects on social distancing and human behavior for the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* (JHBSE).

Thirty-five percent of McWhorter School of Pharmacy's class of 2020 matched with an accredited postgraduate year one pharmacy residency, which is a school record.

Howard College of Arts and Sciences professor Josh Reeves was named a fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion.

Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing received a \$2,040,600 Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support efforts to make graduate nursing education more affordable for current nurse educators or practicing nurses committed to careers in nursing education. The grant is the largest in the country.

History department chair Jonathan Den Hartog received a grant from the Stanton Foundation to develop a new course on the United States in the world, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support a new book on John Jay.

The Bulldog Investment Fund is a portfolio valued at approximately \$2.4 million that is managed exclusively by current business students. It is the largest student-managed fund in Alabama and is among the largest in the Southeast.

School of the Arts launched two new areas of study, Bachelor of Arts in commercial music and Bachelor of Science in game design and 3D animation.

Beeson Divinity School professor of New Testament Frank Thielman's commentary, *Romans* (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary, 2018), was a finalist in the category of Bible Reference Works for the 2020 Christian Book Award.

Best-selling author Patti Callahan Henry shared insights on her recent book *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* as the keynote speaker for the Tom and Marla Corts Distinguished Author Series, presented by Orlean Beeson School of Education.

Carol Koch, School of Health Professions professor and graduate program director of the speech language pathology program, was named a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Fellowship is retained for life and is one of the highest honors ASHA bestows.

French and global and cultural studies alumna Mia Owens earned the first White House Historical Association fellowship to research the history and legacy of slavery in Washington, D.C.

Brock School of Business launched a new data analytics concentration in the M.B.A. program, including courses in data visualization for business analytics, data analytics in accounting and finance, and big data strategy/topics in organizational leadership.

School of the Arts student Blake Mitchell won the University of Notre Dame Basilica Schola's 2020 Liturgy Alive composition competition.

The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) awarded Samford University's National Student Speech Language Hearing Association chapter (SUNSSLHA) gold chapter honors for the 2019-20 academic year. NSSLHA is a student organization for preprofessionals studying communication sciences and disorders. The ranking, which places Samford in the top tier of more than 320 chapters, recognizes the university's strong commitment to service, community outreach and legislative advocacy.



Career Readiness: *Preparing for Success*

Despite the various challenges presented by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Samford graduates continue to transition into the workforce successfully. The university's census of all May 2020 undergraduate alumni indicates 95% of the graduating class are either employed or continuing their education in graduate school. The biannual survey of all undergraduate alumni confirms consistently high employment and graduate school placement rates for Samford graduates, averaging 97% in recent years.

Career readiness is a central goal of all academic programs across the university. Beginning their freshman year, students are equipped with resources to explore interests and career aspirations through individual career counseling services. The result is a highly-tailored educational experience that results in consistently high employment and graduate school acceptance rates among Samford graduates.

95% of 2020 graduates were working or in further study within six months of graduation

Building for the Future

Forever Samford is a multiyear, \$300-million capital campaign that was launched publicly in fall 2016. It is the largest undertaking of its kind in Samford history.

The campaign will support scholarships, enhance academic programs, improve places and spaces on campus, build a solid foundation for operations and unrestricted endowment, and help ensure that Samford continues to prepare and send dedicated, thoughtful, ethical people throughout the world.

As of Dec. 31, 2020, a total of \$206 million in gifts and pledges had been made to *Forever Samford* by 16,240 donors. To date, 78% of employees, 30% of current parents and 15% of alumni have contributed to the campaign. For more information and to join us in this historic initiative, go to samford.edu/giving.

16,240
DONORS

244 NEW
SCHOLARSHIPS

Total \$206 MILLION

For God, For Learning

FOREVER SAMFORD

Building a strong future for Samford University



Summary Consolidated Statement *of Financial Position*

Year Ended June 30, 2020

Assets

Cash	46,290,839
Investments	293,002,839
Pledges Receivable, net	8,514,102
Student Loans Receivable, net	13,711,131
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	339,065,700
Other Assets	16,731,981
Total Assets	\$717,316,592

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	9,095,929
Deferred Revenue	9,958,273
Other Liabilities	12,375,677
Line of Credit	3,219,945
Annuities Payable	6,308,445
Pension Plan Obligation	129,559,937
Notes Payable of Consolidated Subsidiaries	25,365,431
Infrastructure Debt	30,162,931
Long-term Debt	234,823,486
Total Liabilities	\$460,870,054

Net Assets

Unrestricted	4,533,157
Temporarily Restricted	88,217,847
Permanently Restricted	163,695,534
Total Net Assets	\$256,446,538
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$717,316,592

Financial information was derived from the audited, consolidated financial statements.

Summary Consolidated Statement *of Activities, All Funds*

Year Ended June 30, 2020

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Tuition and Fees	179,480,030
Less: Scholarships and Fellowships	(60,730,212)
Net Tuition	\$ 118,749,818
Board and Lodging	19,415,205
Gifts, Grants and Contracts	9,948,950
Endowment Spending	18,045,653
Sales and Services of Auxiliary Enterprises	788,891
Other Income	6,053,915
Total Operating Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$173,002,432

Expenses by Function

Academic and Student Services	148,709,962
Administrative Support	21,961,824
Fundraising Expense	3,539,136
Total Operating Expenses	\$174,210,922
Decrease in Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$(1,208,490)

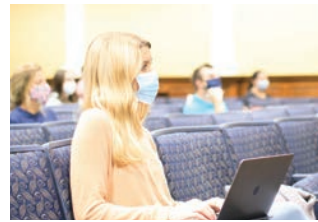
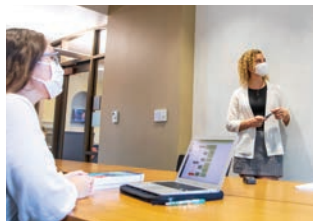
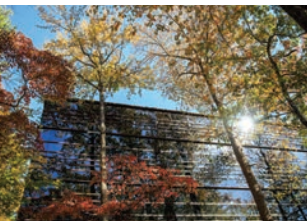
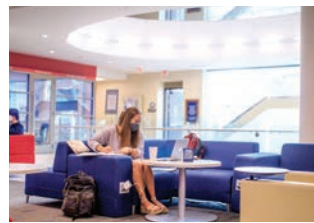
Non-operating Activities

Pension Liability Adjustment and Periodic Pension Cost	(12,781,541)
Loss on Defeasance of Bonds	(4,048,163)
Investment Income	589,039
Draws from Endowment for Scholarships and Operations	(18,058,394)
Capital and Endowment Gifts	4,438,515
Other Changes	(1,733,180)
Net Decrease from Non-operating Activities	\$(31,593,724)

Total Decrease in Net Assets	\$(32,802,214)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$289,248,752
Net Assets at End of Year	\$256,446,538







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