

General University Information

History

From modest beginnings, Jacksonville State University has evolved into the educational center of northeast Alabama. The Alabama Legislature, in the 1882-83 session, created a state normal school when Governor Edward O'Neal signed into law a bill creating the school on February 22, 1883. Jacksonville State Normal School acquired the facilities and equipment of Calhoun College, consisting of 12 acres of land and a two-story brick building. The Board of Directors elected James C. Ryals, Jr. as the first president. The school opened with three instructors: W. J. Borden, mathematics; Eliza A. Bowen, English; and Ida J. Woodward, primary department.

The Normal School remained in operation until 1930 when it became Jacksonville State Teachers College, reflecting an increasingly higher education role for the Institution. Five years later, the College earned regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1957, the name again changed to Jacksonville State College when the first graduate program - the master's degree in elementary education - was created.

On August 2, 1966, the State Board of Education was authorized to elevate the College to university status. On August 17, 1967, the Legislature established an independent Board of Trustees for the University and divested jurisdiction from the State Board of Education.

In December, 2010, JSU attained Level 5 accreditation status when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges gave approval for the University to begin offering its first doctoral degree, the Doctor of Science in Emergency Management, beginning Fall semester 2011. JSU was approved to begin offering its second doctoral degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, effective Fall 2017. JSU was approved to begin offering its third doctoral degree, the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, effective Fall 2022.

Presidents

Jacksonville State University has been served by 12 presidents: James G. Ryals, Jr. (1883-85); J. Harris Chappel (1885-86); Carleton Bartlett Gibson (1886-92); J. B. Jarrett (1892-93); Jacob Forney, IV (1893-99); Clarence William Daugette (1899-1942); Houston Cole (1942-71); Ernest Stone (1971-81); Theron E. Montgomery (1981-86); Harold J. McGee (1986-99); William A. Meehan (1999-2015); John M. Beehler (2015-2019); Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. (2020-Present).

Accreditation

Jacksonville State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Jacksonville State University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (sacsoc.org).

In addition to JSU's regional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's, education specialist, and doctoral degrees, the university offers many programs that have received specialized accreditation from state, regional and/or national professional associations and boards.

For additional information regarding accreditation at JSU, please visit our Accreditation and Licensing Information webpage located at: <https://www.jsu.edu/institutional-accreditation/accreditation-licensing.html>

Jacksonville State University Strategic Plan

Reach

As a thriving learning community, we depend on a strong financial foundation based on student enrollment, a spirit of generosity, and a culture of accountability.

Commitment 1

As the higher education landscape is challenged with access and competition, we will commit to advance JSU's financial strength, enrollment goals, and the overall success of students.

Goals

1.1 Inclusive Enrollment

Attract, enroll, and support undergraduate and graduate students with unique experiences from across the region, state, nation, and globe through diversifying academic program offerings and financial packages providing quality support services.

1.2 Spirit of Generosity

Create a dynamic culture of philanthropy to inspire generosity, increase funding from external sources, and provide networking opportunities.

1.3 Culture of Accountability

Cultivate an environment that promotes and encourages effectiveness, efficiency, innovation, informed practices, optimization, value communication, and transparency while continuously measuring our progress and seeking to expand our financial resources.

Engage

As a university, we ensure the vibrancy of our campus, community, and region through the benefit of belonging, mutual relationships, and power of place.

Commitment 2

Create symbiotic partnerships that impact the university learning environment, providing additional opportunities for the exchange of ideas, experiential learning, and community engagement, while allowing university members to give back to the community.

Goals

2.1 Benefit of Belonging

Improve the accessibility of a safe campus supportive of all campus and community members via co-curricular events, organizations, and partnerships; responsive environments; and opportunities to connect and learn from each other.

2.2 Mutual Relationships

Strengthen partnerships to improve quality of life through collective impact: reciprocal partnerships, mutually beneficial initiatives, strong relationships with JSU stakeholders (i.e., alumni, employers, local and state governments, parents, potential students).

2.3 Power of Place

Ensure a vibrant and successful campus and community that will be attractive to various populations through outreach and events in various sectors (arts, athletics, economics, education) and celebrations of the people, experiences and environments that make JSU unique.

Discover

As educators, we do not provide the answers. We provide the experiences, environments, and expectations that allow learners to discover the answers.

Commitment 3

In an age of rapid educational change and innovation, we will continue to advance our capacity for creating meaningful and accessible learning opportunities that prepare all learners (faculty, staff, students, community members) for success.

Goals

3.1 Experiences

Provide learning experiences that connect learners with real-world knowledge, skills, and opportunities through high-impact learning, expanded technology, and formal mentorship programs.

3.2 Environments

Create and efficiently use new flexible, technology-enhanced learning environments characterized by modern facilities, technological enhancements, active learning, and engaging instruction.

3.3 Expectations

Promote and assess critical thinking, essential employability skills, and successful degree completion in all learning experiences and environments through transformed teaching and learning support.

Fall 2026 Fast Facts

Enrollment by Level

Undergraduate: 9,090
Graduate: 1,142
Doctoral: 201
Total: 10,433

Highlights

- Overall enrollment is 10,433 and is the highest in JSU history.
- Fall undergraduate enrollment headcount of 9,090 is the highest JSU history.
- 1,813 Students participating in the Dual Enrollment program and is the largest number of DE students in JSU history.
- Fall Credit Hour Production of 119,346 is the highest in JSU history.
- First-Time freshman enrollment is 1,813.
- 228 International Student enrollment.
- Conferred 2,001 degrees in 2025-2026.

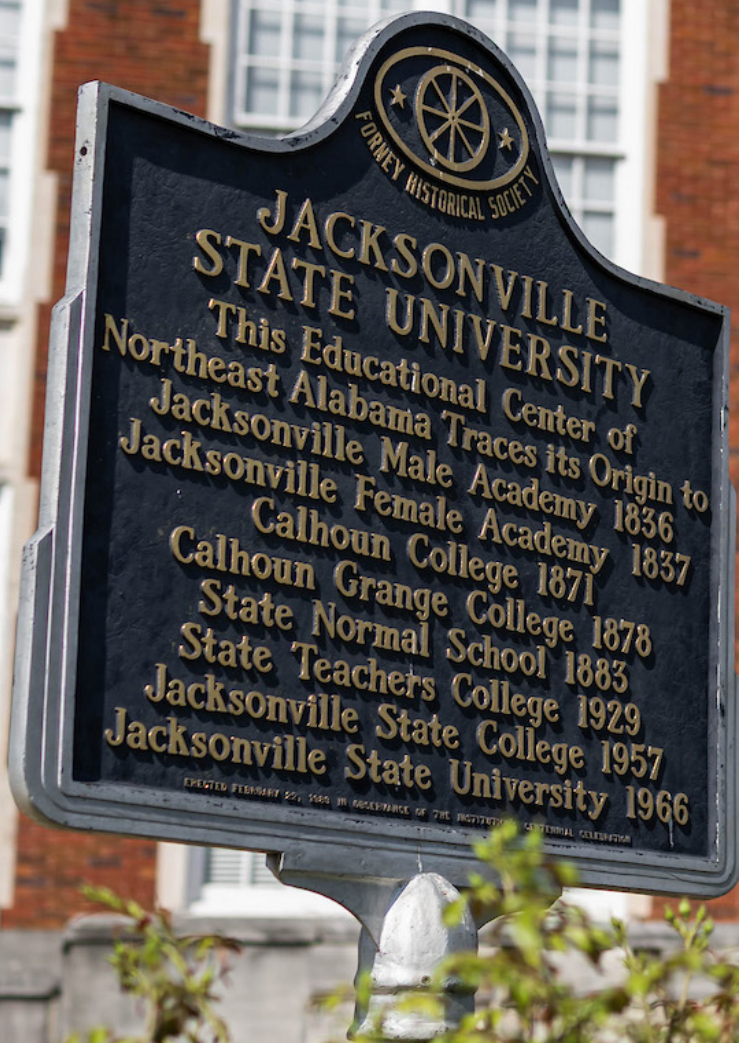
Degrees Awarded in FY 2025-2026 by Level

Undergraduate: 1,416
Graduate: 503
Doctoral: 15
Certificates: 67
Total: 2,001

Credit Hour Production by Level

Undergraduate: 109,025
Graduate: 9,205
Doctoral: 1,116
Total: 119,346

Administration





University Administration

Office of the President

President

University Auditor
University Counsel
External Affairs
Marketing and Communication

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr.

Nelson D. Clark
Gloria Floyd
Leigha Cauthen
Joshua Underwood

Academic Affairs

Provost and Executive Vice President

Honors and Special Programs
Institutional Accreditation
Academic Resources and Business Operations
Office of Sponsored Programs

Christie Shelton

Lori Owens, Dean
Kim Presson, Executive Director
Kim Turner, Director
Gordon Harvey, Interim Senior Director

Vice Provost, Academic Affairs

Rebecca O. Turner Faculty Commons
Online@JSU
International House and Programs
Jax MIX

Staci Stone

Mica Mecham, Director
Chris Casey, Director
Ingrid Galinat, Director
Ben Gross, Director

Associate Vice Provost

Dual Enrollment
University Registrar
Graduate Studies

Andrea Porter

Jay Reed, Coordinator
Emily White, Director
Andrea Porter, Dean

Assistant Vice Provost

IRB
IACUC
Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Marie Valentin

Sarah Donley, Chair
Rusty Nall, Chair
Marie Valentin, Assistant Vice Provost

Vice Provost for Student Success

Academic, Athletic & Career Advising
Learning Support Resources
Academic Support and Success

Staci Stone, Interim

Janet Bavonese, Associate Vice Provost
Sean Creech, Assistant Vice Provost
Debra James, Director

College of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences

Dean

Associate Dean

Assistant Dean

Assistant to the Dean
Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry and Geosciences
English
History and Foreign Language
Mathematical, Computing, and Information Sciences
Music
Theatre and Film
Integrated Studies
JSU Bands (Marching Southerners)
Randy Owen Center
Center for Information Security Assurance
Herbarium
The Writing Center
Manner's Art Gallery
Longleaf Studios
Trail Science Institute

Tim Lindblom

Seth Johnson

Lori Hensley

Rodney Bailey
Bryce Lafferty, Department Head
Lori Hensley, Department Head
L. Joe Morgan, Department Head
Raina Kostova, Interim Department Head
Paul Beezley, Department Head
Jan Case, Department Head
Renee Baptiste, Department Head
Alicia Corts, Department Head
Paul Beezley, UG Coordinator
Jeremy Stovall, Director
Emily Duncan, Executive Director
Eric Gamess, Director
Jimmy Triplett, Curator
Khadeidra Billingsley, Director
Morgan Worsham, Coordinator
Seth Johnson, Director
Ross Martin, Director

University Administration (Continued)

College of Business and Industry

Dean

Associate Dean

Applied Engineering
Communication
Gregory D. Brown Department of
Finance, Economics, and Accounting
Lyons & Company, Inc. Department of Management
and Marketing
Center for Economic Development & Business Research
Center for Manufacturing Support
Small Business Development Center
WLJS Radio/Chanticleer

John-Bauer Graham, Interim

Mark Hearn

Ragavanantham Shanmugam, Department Head
Teddi Joyce, Department Head

Julie Staples, Department Head

Celestino Valentin, Department Head

Ken Grissom, Director

Matt Rosser, Director

Ken Grissom, Director

Ben Cunningham, Director

College of Education and Professional Studies

Dean

Associate Dean

Teacher Education

Professional Counseling and Leadership
Career Technology Education and Professional Studies
Accreditation, Certification, and Partnership Initiatives
Field and Clinical Experiences
Teacher Certification
Child Development Center
Regional In-Service Center
Challenger Learning Center

Kimberly White

Nilufer Guler

Linda Mitchell, Department Head

Ahmad Alhammouri, Assoc. Dept. Head

Tammie Brown, Department Head

Kimberly White, Interim Department Head

Nilufer Guler, Associate Dean

Adam Clark, Director

Kelly Murray

Amy Crotts, Director

Valerie Curtis, Director

Farrah Hayes, Executive Director

College of Health Professions and Wellness

Dean

Associate Dean/Chief Nursing Administrator

Kinesiology
Respiratory Therapy
Academic Resources
Center for Best Practices in Teaching and Learning
Clinical Services

Tracey Matthews

Betsy Gullledge

Gina Mabrey, Department Head

Ed Goodwin, Department Head

Tammy Johnson, Director

Melissa Duckett & Jennifer Burgett, Co-Directors

Hannah Tucker, Director

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dean

Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation
Emergency Management and Public Administration
Military Science
Sociology and Political Science
Psychology
Social Work
Center for Applied Forensics
Center for Behavioral Studies
Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement
Center for Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience
Center for Emergency Preparedness

Maureen Newton

H. Dean Buttram, Department Head

Tanveer Islam, Department Head

LTC Eddie Walker, Dir, Prof of Mil. Science

Tina Deshotels, Department Head

Paige McKerchar, Department Head

Kimberly Wickersham, Department Head

Kaleb Littlejohn, Interim Director

Paige McKerchar, Director

Kaleb Littlejohn, Director

Scott Manning, Director

Sky Huang, Director

University Administration (Continued)

Houston Cole Library

Dean

Head of Library Services

John-Bauer Graham

Jodi Poe

Athletics

Vice President for Athletics

Senior Associate Athletic Director
Assistant Athletic Director Eligibility and SWA
Asst. Athletic Director/Compliance & Student Athlete Svcs.
Associate Athletic Director/Media Relations
Cheerleading Coach
Coordinator of Athletic Operations
Head Soccer Coach
Head Softball Coach
Head Trainer
Head Baseball Coach
Head Football Coach
Head Men's Basketball Coach
Head Women's Golf Coach
Head Men's Golf Coach
Head Women's Tennis Coach
Head Men's Tennis Coach
Head Volleyball Coach
Head Women's Basketball Coach
Head Women's & Men's Track/Cross Country Coach
Head Bowling Coach
Rifle Team Coach/Head Rifle Coach
Strength and Conditioning Coach

Greg Seitz

Greg Bonds
Tracy Broom
Misty Ray
Donnie Smith
Adam Roden
Derrick Baer
Corey Smith
Julie Boland
Justin Files
Travis Creel
Charles Kelly
Ray Harper
Robbie Fields
Sylas Elliott
Michael Helms
Michael Helms
Tim Ebbecke
Ricky Austin
Jeremy Provence
Shannon O'Keefe
Ron Frost
Will Wright

Finance and Administration

Senior Vice President

Assoc. Vice President - Auxilliary and Business Services
Student Accounts
Capital Planning and Facilities
Controller
Human Resources
Procurement and Fixed Assets

Arlitha Williams-Harmon

Kevin Hault
Alice Wudarczyk, Associate Controller
Dusty Christopher, Director
David Lyon, Controller
Allison Casey, Director
Shasta Platt, Director

Information Technology

Vice President

Associate Vice President

Enterprise Information Systems
IT Infrastructure
Technology Support

Vinson Houston

Brad McGriff

Kristin Bright, Director
Jimmy Surrent, Director
Michael Sanders, Manager
Shana Harvel, Manager

University Administration (Continued)

Student Affairs

Vice President

Associate VP for Student Affairs, Dean of Students

Community Standards

University Recreation

Associate VP of Health & Public Safety, Chief of Police

Counseling Services

Health Center

Senior Director, Housing Operations & Residence Life

Residence Life

First & Second Year Experience

Terry Casey

Josh Robinson

Paige Rochus, Assistant Director

Dominic DiMauro, Director

Michael Barton

Lola Johnston, Director

Miranda Posey, FNP

Brooke Lyon

Rochelle Smith, Director

Keaton Glass, Director

Enrollment Management

Vice President

Admissions, Undergraduate

Admissions, Graduate

Enrollment Partnerships & Marketing

Financial Aid

Veteran and Military Services

Jessica Wiggins

Kelly Martin, Director

Ashlee Hanvey, Director

Will Tucker, Associate Director

Charlotte Cole, Director

Justin Parker, Director

University Philanthropy

Vice President

JSU Foundation/Philanthropy Services

Alumni Engagement

Alan Medders

Justin Quinn, Director

Wendy Cash, Director

University Administrative Structure

Board of Trustees

Trustee Name	District	Term
The Honorable Kay Ivey	Governor of Alabama	President, Ex Officio
Mr. Randall Jones (Chairman)	Fifth	2008-2027
Senator Vivian Davis Figures (Vice Chair)	In-State At-Large	2012-2029
Mr. Loring White	First	2025-2031
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main	Second	2012-2029
Mr. Greg Brown	Third	2016-2027
Mr. Tony Smoke	Third	2019-2028
Mr. Clarence W. Daugette, III	Fourth	2012-2029
Mr. Randall Jones (Chair)	Fifth	2008-2027
Mr. Michael Suco	Sixth	2026-2031
Mr. Drew Linn	Seventh	2020-2025
Mr. Tony Ingram	Out-of-State At-Large	2015-2027
Mr. Randy Owen	In-State At-Large	2000-2030
Mrs. Cheryl L. Bevelle-Orange	Out-of-State At-Large	2025-2031

President

Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr.

President's Cabinet

Dr. Christie Shelton, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Arlitha Williams-Harmon, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration
Mr. Terry Casey, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. Vinson Houston, Vice President for Information Technology
Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for Philanthropy
Mr. Greg Seitz, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics
Ms. Leigha Cauthen, Chief External Affairs Officer
Mrs. Gloria Floyd, University Council
Dr. Jessica Wiggins, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Mr. Joshua Underwood, Vice President for Marketing and Communications

University Executive Council

Dr. Christie Shelton, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Chair)
Dr. Arlitha Harmon, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration/CFO
Mr. Terry Casey, Vice President, Student Affairs
Mr. Vinson Houston, Vice President, Information Technology
Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President, Philanthropy
Mr. Greg Seitz, Vice President, Athletics
Ms. Leigha Cauthen, Chief External Affairs Officer
Dr. Tracey Matthews, Dean, College of Health Professions and Wellness (2024-2026)
Dr. Staci Stone, Vice Provost
Ms. Jessica Wiggins, Vice President, Enrollment Management
Dr. Joshua Robinson, Dean of Students
Ms. Allison Casey, Director, Human Resources
Mr. David Lyon, Controller
Dr. Kevin Hoult, Associate Vice President, Auxiliary and Business Services
Ms. Bethany Stoots, President, Student Government Association
Dr. David Dempsey, TBD
Dr. Lori Hensley, Department Head Council Co-Chair (2025-2027)

