

The University of Alabama System
Three-Year Academic Planning Document
2002-2005

presented to

The Board of Trustees
of The University of Alabama



June 21, 2002

The University of Alabama

The University of Alabama
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION

INSTITUTION	PROJECTED YEAR TO BE SUBMITTED	SIX-DIGIT CIP CODE	DEGREE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	IS ROLE CHANGE REQUIRED?	UA SYSTEM CATEGORY*
The University of Alabama	2001	45.0201	Ph.D.	Anthropology	Offer the only Ph.D. in Anthropology in the state. Major specialty will be Archeology of Complex Societies (eg., Moundville)	No	A

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The University of Alabama
Other Academic and Institutional Initiatives
2002-2005

Undergraduate Programs

Honors Programs

Strengthen the course offerings in the junior and senior years, with an emphasis on theses, research projects, and creative activities. Expand the scope of Honors to include areas such as Business and the Fine Arts. Increase participation in the International Honors Program. Build on spring 2002's first UA System-wide Honors Research presentation day. Develop and refine programs such as the Urban Action program and the Common Book Experience for incoming freshmen.

Living-Learning Options

Continue to develop the highly successful living-learning program at Parker-Adams residence hall. In addition to Parker-Adams and New Hall, Blount, Friedman, and Paty residence halls, develop a living-learning center for Tutwiler/Burke focusing on health professions.

New Approaches to Math Instruction

Based on our success in MATH 100 (supported, in part, by a Pew Grant in Course Redesign), we are extending the student-centered, computer-assisted tutorial approach to other math courses. The new Math Technology Learning Center—a 270 computer station—opened in fall 2001. For fall 2002, we anticipate opening a similar lab for Computer Sciences in Paty Hall. We will study the applicability of the MATH 100 approach to other courses and disciplines.

Freshman Seminars

A new program for incoming freshmen to study with outstanding senior faculty in small classes (maximum enrollment of twenty students per class). These courses will explore a range of topics of distinctly contemporary interest. The initial seminars include courses on the AIDS epidemic, on Holistic Healing, on the Hero in contemporary film, and on the ethics in the Napster era of computer information. We anticipate offering 20-25 seminars in 2002-2003 and 40 seminars for 2003-2004.

Student Retention Initiatives

We will evaluate and refine a number of new retention initiatives, including the parent-student partnership (which builds upon communication with parents about a student's freshman-year academic performance), freshmen midterm grades, and a residence hall contact system to work with at-risk students.

Changes in Advising

With the installation of Tide Navigator (which will include Web-based registration, a degree-audit system, and a transfer credit component), we anticipate major changes in advising. We will move away from advising as the signing of schedules to more holistic advising throughout the year, including pre-advising of incoming students.

Student Attendance and Performance in Large Introductory Lecture Courses

Based on an initial spring 2002 survey, we will work with the colleges to devise more effective ways of teaching large introductory courses and to encourage greater student attendance. We will also gather more data about student attendance, about those teaching modes that most engage students in large classes, and we will ask faculty to examine class attendance policies.

Graduate Programs

Strong graduate programs establish the reputations of national research universities. The presence of outstanding faculty and graduate students attracts more top faculty and students who will attract federal research funding, strengthen outreach activities, improve industrial relations, and improve undergraduate education.

Our plan is to select up to two graduate programs per year for strategic development with a permanent budget increase of \$250,000 for each program. Programs will be selected on the bases of the quality and potential of the current program and the program's strategic plan. Our goals are to provide the highest quality programs to the state of Alabama and to improve our national prominence.

Since submission of the last planning document, we have awarded enhancements to the following programs:

Department of Biological Sciences

To enhance the prominent program in Aquatic Ecology and Systematics, new faculty members and other resources will be added in conservation biology and trophic dynamics.

New Degree Programs

We plan to offer the Ph.D. in Anthropology. The program is listed on the enclosed form "Plans for New Program Development in Instruction." No additional graduate programs are in the planning stage.

The University of Alabama
at Birmingham

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION

INSTITUTION	PROJECTED YEAR TO BE SUBMITTED	SIX-DIGIT CIP CODE	DEGREE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	IS ROLE CHANGE REQUIRED?	UA SYSTEM CATEGORY*
UAB	2001-2002	51.2308	D.Sc.P.T.	Physical Therapy	A post-professional program to provide advanced training for licensed physical therapists.	No	C
UAB	2002-2003	9.0101	M.A.	Communication Management	A program that prepares students to handle communication problems in an organization.	Yes	D
UAB	2002-2003	13.1315	M.A. or Ed.S.	Reading Specialist	A program to prepare teachers to focus specifically on teaching reading, identifying problem areas, and developing strategies for improvement.	No	H
UAB	2002-2003	13.9999	M.A.	Instructional Technology	A program focused on preparing teachers, curriculum developers, and business technology trainers to integrate technology into instructional programs.	No	E

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION
(Continued)

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UAB	2002-2003	31.0503	B.S.	Athletic Training	A program that prepares athletic trainers with a special orientation toward joint athletic training/physical therapy education.	Yes	H
UAB	2002-2003	50.0903	B.Mus.	Music	A performance degree in applied music which will build on the existing music program.	No	H
UAB	2002-2003	51.0702	B.S.	Long-term Care Administration	A program to prepare administrators for long-term health care facilities.	No	H
UAB	2002-2003	51.0807	M.S.	Physician Assistant	A program to train allied health professionals who are qualified to assist the physician in all patient care activities. (Will replace the B.S. in Surgical Physician Assistant.)	No	H

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION
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UAB	2002-2003	51.2308	D.P.T.	Physical Therapy	An entry-level doctoral program that will prepare individuals for physical therapy practice. (Will replace the current M.S.P.T. degree program.)	No	D
UAB	2003-2004	11.9999	M.S.	Bioinformatics	A program that uses computer science techniques to solve problems in molecular biology. (Currently offered as specialization in M.S. in Computer and Information Sciences.)	No	H
UAB	2003-2004	13.9999	M.A.	Urban Education	An instructional program to prepare teachers to work more effectively in urban schools.	No	H
UAB	2003-2004	51.0501	Ph.D.	Clinical Trials Dentistry	A program that will prepare specialists to perform high quality clinical trials in dentistry.	Yes	E

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PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION
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a program is being considered.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION
(Continued)

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UAB	03-04	52.1201	B.S.	Information Systems	An instructional program to train professionals for careers in information technology and information systems fields. (Currently offered as a track in Management major.)	No	E
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The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Institutional Initiatives
2002-2005

Emergency Medicine Residency Training Program

Also related to the issue of emergency preparedness, the School of Medicine is planning to create an Emergency Medicine Residency Training Program. Current emergency medicine practitioners are no longer eligible for board certification unless they are residency trained. There is no such training program in the state, and six to twelve UA School of Medicine graduates leave the state each year to receive residency training in emergency medicine. UAB was approved for an Emergency Medicine Residency Training Program by the National Residency Review Program in Fall 2001 and plans to enroll its first class of residents in 2003.

Functional Neuroimaging

A center focusing on functional neuroimaging is being developed around a new magnet facility designed for experimental use in non-human primates. This effort would bring together faculty from Optometry, Engineering, Medicine, and Social and Behavioral Sciences to investigate, among other questions, the meaning of the signals obtained through nuclear magnetic resonance imaging and their relationship to the activity of brain cells. The proposed center's goals would fit well with a recent NIH call for proposals to develop national research resources in this area.

Life Sciences and High Technology Entrepreneurship

This program would help create and support enhanced technology transfer and the commercialization of new breakthrough solutions to solve challenges in the life sciences and information technology. It would provide educational, research, and outreach/service programs that assist scientists, engineers, and medical doctors in creating feasible/marketable products, devices, or inventions or to expand existing early stage entrepreneurial opportunities. Teams of faculty and graduate students would work together to facilitate business formation in high potential, high growth sectors related to the mission of UAB and the needs of the Birmingham community. This program would be a collaborative venture among the Schools of Business, Engineering, and Medicine, the UAB Research Foundation, the Office for the Advancement of Developing Industries, and Southern Research Institute.

Industrial Distribution Institute

A collaborative venture of the Schools of Business and Engineering, an industrial distribution institute would promote the exchange of ideas, programs, and initiatives in the fields of industrial distribution, engineering, and management development between the academic and business communities. Expected results would be the development and application of research designed to improve the operations and knowledge base of managers to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The industrial distribution degree program at UAB is one of only two in a 17-state region residing in accredited schools of business and engineering. An institute would provide the region with a strong base for developing a more competitive structure of manufacturers and industrial distributors. Financial support would come primarily from "partners" (business firms)

that would benefit from the greater availability of talented people who are educated and trained at UAB.

School of Medicine: Top 10 by 2010

The University of Alabama School of Medicine has set as a goal to become one of the top ten schools of medicine in terms of NIH funding by 2010. An analysis has been completed showing where it stands relative to other schools who are either in the top ten or moving in that direction, the areas where the School is competitive, and areas where it needs additional resources. The results of achieving this goal would be increased resources as a result of new NIH funding and additional indirect costs recovery; better integration of School of Medicine, Health System, and University resources; better students and faculty; more patients; and an economic impact for the Birmingham area and state that would be in the billions. A strategy has been developed and proposed that would begin to move the School in that direction.

Minority and Rural Health Improvement

UAB faculty in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Nursing, Public Health, and Health Related Professions are actively engaged in service, education, and research programs that have a direct impact on the health of minorities and those living in rural parts of the state. There is particular interest in diseases such as diabetes, stroke, and heart disease in which racial disparities in frequency are evident. Under consideration is the development of a center which would provide core services and facilities that would enhance the work of those engaged in various projects related to specific diseases. Funding for existing projects comes from numerous sources, and additional funding would be sought through several mechanisms including the regular grant programs of NIH and CDC.

Molecular Target Laboratory

UAB and Southern Research Institute, along with cancer centers at a number of prominent institutions, have collaborated to compete for an NCI-funded laboratory to combine new molecular and bioinformatic techniques to drive the discovery and development of new drugs. Although the initial effort did not result in funding, the consortium continues to work toward funding for this important initiative.

Center for Health Professions Education and Workforce Development

The School of Health Related Professions is developing a center that would include elements of health workforce analysis and policy, curriculum development, and innovation in student recruitment directed toward K-12 and community college students. The goals of the center would be (1) to attract experts in these areas who work in a coordinated fashion with national healthcare delivery leadership to envision the workforce needs of the future, (2) to design creative programs and curriculum delivery models to address these needs for both degree-seeking and life-long learners, and (3) to pioneer education and recruitment strategies that interest and attract bright, creative minds into the health professions.

Biodefense

In response to the emerging threat that bioterrorism poses to the nation's public health, the National Institutes of Health are substantially increasing extramural funding available in this area. The School of Medicine is coordinating a multi-disciplinary response to this research and service opportunity. It will range from prevention and treatment for exposure to biologic agents to emergency response preparedness. The School of Medicine will compete to become one of five federally funded Biodefense Research Centers in the country.

Interdisciplinary Research/New Biomedical Research Building

In Spring 2002, UAB broke ground for the 340,000 square foot Richard C. and Annette N. Shelby Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building. This facility is a part of the effort to help move the School of Medicine into a top 10 ranking in NIH funding by 2010. Funding has been a joint effort of federal, state, county, and city governments, private contributors, and UAB. Plans for the building call for it to house three major research programs:

(1) Autoimmunity/Immunobiology - Genomics offers new opportunities to identify treatments for disorders associated with immune system dysfunction such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and Type 1 diabetes. These problems are very common and are associated with high rates of morbidity and disability as well as enormous economic burden.

(2) The Brain Initiative - This effort will enhance understanding of the brain's adaptive response to injury or disease. Brain diseases and injuries such as behavioral disorders, spinal injuries, brain tumors, and neurodegenerative disease account for more personal suffering and economic cost than any other set of afflictions in the state and nation. UAB is committed to becoming one of the top five institutions in the U.S. in this area.

(3) Biomedical Engineering and Bone Matrix Research - Research in this area will affect the millions of patients experiencing diseases in this area such as osteoporosis, all forms of joint diseases, and complications of diabetes and hypertension. Outcomes for patients who need implant devices such as hip and knee replacements should improve.

The University of Alabama
in Huntsville

The University of Alabama in Huntsville
PLANS FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN INSTRUCTION

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UAH	2003-2004	40.0703	B.S.	Earth Systems Science	Interdisciplinary program that will focus on understanding the natural cycles of the Earth and assessing the impact of mans' activities.	No	H
UAH	2003-2004	40.0703	M.S.	Earth Systems Science	Advanced study/research in the area described above.	No	H

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The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Additional Academic and Institutional Initiatives
August 2002-July 2005

Expand graduate nursing offerings via distance learning.

- Work with the Education Committee at Redstone Arsenal to offer a master's program in engineering utilizing distance-learning technology.

- Expand collaborative initiatives with NNSTC and SSTA partners to develop and implement K-12 graduate science educational outreach.

- Implement a joint Primary Health Care Scholars certificate program with the UAB-Huntsville School of Medicine.

Implement a Supply Chain Management, Transportation and Logistics option within the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program.

- Explore the feasibility of a science education option within the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science.

- Develop alternative methods of offering international studies cognates.

Seek additional African-American faculty, particularly in departments that lack sufficient role models.

- Closely monitor and strengthen initiatives to improve performance and retention of undergraduate students in mathematics courses.

Continue implementation strategies to increase enrollment.

- Begin planning for new research and teaching building.

- Initiate planning for 2006 reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).