

1967

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

The rapidly expanding activities of the University of Alabama in Huntsville include four areas of service: research, graduate instruction, undergraduate instruction, and continuing education.

The research program exists primarily within the Research Institute which is housed in a building with more than 60,000 square feet of floor space. In addition to office and laboratory space, a major facility of this building is a Univac 1107 (large configuration) digital computer. The purpose of the Research Institute is to lend support to the total program of activities of the University of Alabama by providing highly qualified faculty, research opportunities to faculty and graduate students, and research support to governmental and industrial operations in the area, state, and nation.

The graduate program at the Huntsville Campus provides masters degree opportunities for students desiring to major in mathematics, physics, and engineering with specialties in various aspects of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, engineering mechanics, industrial engineering, and aerospace engineering. Other graduate degree opportunities will be considered as the need arises and facilities permit.

Opportunities for pursuing the Ph.D. degree in physics, mathematics, engineering mechanics, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering exist, but associated attendance at the Tuscaloosa Campus is required to establish residency. Research opportunities applicable to Ph.D. dissertations in these areas are available in Huntsville.

Graduate instruction was first offered in the fall of 1956, and graduate degree programs have been available at the Huntsville Campus since 1963. It is anticipated that these programs will continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of the area.

The undergraduate program which began operation in 1950, was designed initially to meet the needs of evening students; but in 1964, the University committed its resources to the development of undergraduate degree programs, with the first freshmen being admitted on a full-time basis in September, 1964.

The undergraduate program of the University of Alabama in Huntsville includes instruction in various areas of study commonly found in colleges of arts and sciences, engineering, commerce and business administration, and education.

For administrative purposes separate divisions have been established in Engineering, in General Studies, and in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

At the present time a student may work toward a major in English, history, mathematics, or physics, and plan to complete all requirements for a bachelor's degree at the Huntsville Campus. A student may minor in psychology or any one of the major areas listed.

A student may also work toward an undergraduate degree in engineering and plan to complete all requirements for a bachelor's degree at the Huntsville Campus.

Degree designations are Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science.

Students desiring to major in secondary education can complete three years of college work applicable to a degree in education. Those planning to become high school teachers may work toward a degree in one of the majors listed on the previous page and take a number of courses in education which will count toward teacher certification requirements for the State of Alabama.

Those students working on programs in commerce and business administration or in elementary education can complete the equivalent of two years toward an undergraduate degree.

UAH also offers a significant number of courses in chemistry that are applicable toward a degree in that field or toward satisfying the requirements in the pre-medical or pre-dental curriculum.

Since basic programs in undergraduate curricula are similar in nature, students interested in majoring in law, home economics, nursing, and other areas of Arts and Sciences may take courses useful to them in the development of their desired programs.

Other major and minor programs will be developed as increases in faculty and facilities make expansion academically feasible.

The special continuing education program on a non-credit basis at the Huntsville Campus includes a wide variety of short courses, seminars, conferences, institutes, and similar activities designed to meet the specific needs of identifiable groups of individuals.

The Huntsville Campus consists of 330 acres located within the city limits, and adjacent to lands zoned for a Research Park by the City of Huntsville. The Research Institute Building houses the laboratories for research in electromagnetic, solid mechanics, surface physics, high temperature, chemistry, fluid dynamics, and other fields; also offices, and the digital computer facility. Morton Hall houses administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, instruction laboratories, and library space. The Graduate Studies Building which was completed in October 1966, houses administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, graduate assistant offices, student study areas, and an enlarged interim library facility. Funds amounting to \$900,000 for this new building were given by citizens, businesses, and industries of the Tennessee Valley area and by the federal government through the Graduate Facilities Act amounting to \$420,000.

With additional funds which have become available, UAH has initiated the planning of a first phase of a permanent library and of a science and engineering laboratory/classroom building. Construction of these facilities will begin in 1967. Other buildings, including a student union facility and classrooms, will

follow.

The full-time student enrollment increased from 208 students in 1964 to 600 students in 1966. These are predominately freshmen, sophomores, and junior students. The total number of students continues to increase with 2400 being registered in the fall of 1966. As facilities are added, the total enrollment will be permitted to expand more rapidly. Enrollments (primarily part-time students) in the graduate courses totaled more than 600 in the fall quarter of 1966. Almost 1100 students are actively majoring in some graduate area. All applicants qualified for admission on the basis of stated University policies are accepted as students.

The faculty that is being assembled at the Huntsville Campus is one of high quality potential. The full-time faculty has grown from 18 members in 1963 to 75 members in 1966. Forty-eight of the present faculty hold doctorate degrees. Faculty appointments include 16 professors, 16 associate professors, 24 assistant professors, and 19 instructors. Among the teaching faculty considered to have permanent appointments, 67 percent hold the doctorate or other terminal degree and 10 percent are near completion of the terminal degree. Approximately 75, out of a pool of some 300 available individuals from local industry, governmental agency, or other employment, teach one or two courses each quarter on a part-time basis; many of these hold terminal degrees for the assignments given to them.

Huntsville is a dynamic city closely aligned with the nation's space industry. The Tennessee Valley area extends across the northern part of the state and constitutes a rapidly expanding industrial area with tremendous potential for more growth. The population of Huntsville is nearly 150,000 and growing in excess of 1000 per month.

Because of the type of employee required by the growth industries of the valley, a high level of intellectual activity exists. Various civic activities are under way to provide facilities adequate to meet the needs of the citizens. A new city government complex was recently completed. A one million dollar library has been completed. A courthouse with cost in excess of four million dollars will be open in December 1966. An airport costing in excess of 12 million dollars with capability of handling all commercial planes will open early in 1967. Plans are under way for the construction of a multi-million dollar fine arts center to house the many cultural organizations that are banded together in an Arts Council.

Public schools have expanded along with private schools at a pace to eliminate the necessity of double sessions except temporarily when a particular building contract may have been delayed. Many fraternities, plus entertainment, youth, recreational, and civic organizations operate in Huntsville. Practically all professional societies of a scientific and technical nature have organized groups; some are the largest groups in the national organization. Extensive recreation facilities of varied types exist within no more than a two-hour drive from Huntsville.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is challenged to assist the development of the educational environment of the Tennessee Valley area along with Athens College, Oakwood College, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, Sacred Heart College, Florence State College, and three recently organized junior colleges and technical schools.

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