



A YEAR IN REVIEW | SPRING 2026

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NATIONALLY

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2026

TOP 50

PUBLIC
INSTITUTION

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2026

TOP 50

FIRST-YEAR
EXPERIENCES

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2026

#851- 900

WORLD UNIVERSITY
RANKING

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS,
2027

TOP-RANKED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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PROGRAM
ROAD2COLLEGE, 2026

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IN THE U.S.
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BACHELOR'S
PROGRAM
*COLLEGE FACTUAL,
2025*

#6

APPAREL
MERCHANDISING
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IN THE U.S.
FASHION-SCHOOLS.ORG

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*U.S. NEWS &
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IN THE U.S.
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UNDERGRADUATE
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NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

TOP-RANKED ONLINE PROGRAMS

#18
**MASTERS IN
EDUCATION**
U.S. NEWS
BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS, 2026

#18
**MASTERS IN
ENGINEERING**
U.S. NEWS
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#21
MBA
U.S. NEWS
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**MASTERS IN
NURSING**
U.S. NEWS
BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS, 2026

RESEARCH

#87
NATIONALLY
NSF HERD RANKINGS,
FY 2024

**TOP
10%**
**NATIONALLY
IN RESEARCH
EXPENDITURES**

\$393.6 M
**IN ANNUAL
RESEARCH
EXPENDITURES**
FY 2024

STUDENT SUCCESS FALL 2025

95%

**FIRST-YEAR RETENTION
RATE**

82%

**SIX-YEAR GRADUATION
RATE**

84%

**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT PLACEMENT
RATE**

89%

**GRADUATE STUDENT PLACEMENT
RATE**

Dear Colleague,

Over the past year, Auburn University has continued to build on its strong reputation for excellence, with students, faculty, and staff advancing discovery, expanding opportunity, and contributing solutions through innovative teaching, research, scholarship, extension and outreach.

Auburn is currently ranked **No. 102 nationally** and among the top **50 public universities** by **U.S. News & World Report**, reflecting our growing national reputation and continued focus on academic quality and student success. These rankings align with the university's commitment to preparing graduates for meaningful work in their professions and communities.

Research activity at Auburn continues to grow, with **more than \$390 million in annual research expenditures** supporting impactful work from across disciplines. Auburn is ranked **No. 87 nationally** in the **National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development Survey** and remains among the top 10 percent of institutions nationwide in research expenditures, reinforcing its reputation as a leading research university. Faculty are engaged in work spanning advanced manufacturing, agriculture, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, environmental resilience, infrastructure, and health sciences. This research contributes to advancements that impact the state, the nation, and increasingly global communities.

This report highlights selected examples of Auburn at work across many domains that distinguish our university. It also provides key indicators of Auburn's trajectory, including student outcomes, academic program strengths, research growth, and the expanding reach of its programs and partnerships.

War Eagle,



Christopher B. Roberts
President, Auburn University

Spring 2026



EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

Auburn University continues to strengthen its national reputation through top-ranked academic programs that prepare students to lead in high-demand and rapidly evolving industries. From business and engineering to aviation and design, Auburn combines rigorous academics with hands-on learning, industry partnerships and real-world experiences that position our graduates for success. National rankings and continued program growth reflect Auburn's expanding influence in developing talent that advances innovation and supports workforce needs across the nation and beyond.



#4 NATIONALLY COLLEGIATE AVIATION PROGRAM

Road2College, 2026

FLYING HIGH

As demand for pilots continues to rise nationwide, Auburn's aviation program is expanding to help meet a critical workforce need. Recognized as the **No. 4 Collegiate Aviation Program** in the nation by **Road2College**, Auburn continues to strengthen its reputation as a national leader in aviation education. Forecasts show the U.S. will need more than 6,000 new pilots each year over the next two decades, positioning Auburn at the forefront of preparing the next generation of aviation professionals. With more than 1,000 students enrolled in professional flight and aviation management, the **School of Aviation** combines hands-on training with industry-connected learning opportunities designed to meet evolving workforce demands. In 2025, construction began on a new **109-foot air traffic control tower** at the Auburn University Regional Airport to enhance safety and support growing flight activity. The project complements expanded hangar space and the **Delta Air Lines Aviation Education Building** by creating a modern, industry-connected training environment for the next generation of aviation professionals.

#5 FORESTRY BACHELOR'S PROGRAM AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

COLLEGE FACTUAL, 2025



EDUCATION ROOTED IN EXPERIENCE

Hands-on learning remains central to how Auburn prepares future leaders in conservation and natural resources. In 2026, a **\$5 million investment** at the **Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center** advanced that mission through plans for a modern residential facility that will replace dormitories dating back to the 1970s. Located within Alabama's internationally significant **longleaf pine ecosystem**, the center serves as a living laboratory where students in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment study forests, wildlife and ecosystem management through immersive field experiences. The new facility will provide updated housing, modern amenities and gathering spaces that support field-based instruction, research and experiential learning in one of the Southeast's most ecologically important landscapes.



#6

APPAREL MERCHANDISING PUBLIC PROGRAM IN THE U.S.

FASHION-SCHOOLS.ORG

AUBURN TO ARMANI

From Auburn to New York City, students in the **College of Human Sciences' apparel merchandising program** are turning classroom experience into opportunities with some of the world's leading fashion brands. **Senior Gracie Silverthorn** became the **first Auburn apparel merchandising student to earn an internship with Giorgio Armani**, one of the industry's most competitive placements. As a visual merchandising intern, she contributed to showroom presentations, brand launches and store visits while gaining firsthand experience inside a global luxury company. Drawing on Auburn's collaborative, project-based coursework, Silverthorn developed the teamwork, communication and creative problem-solving skills needed in the fast-paced fashion industry.

#3

PUBLIC INSTITUTION PROGRAM IN THE SOUTH

TOP 50

APPAREL MERCHANDISING SCHOOLS & COLLEGES IN THE U.S.

FROM CLASSROOM TO BREAKTHROUGH

Auburn faculty are preparing students to lead through hands-on learning, mentorship and industry-connected instruction that connects classroom learning with real-world experience. Across disciplines, students collaborate with faculty on cross-disciplinary projects addressing complex challenges in healthcare, technology and global industry. From engineering human heart tissue and strengthening cybersecurity to studying neurodegenerative disease and advising global financial institutions, Auburn's collaborative research enterprise continues to expand its impact while equipping students with the knowledge and experience needed to drive innovation and discovery.

#12 KINESIOLOGY

DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN THE U.S.
NATIONALLY *NATIONAL ACADEMY OF KINESIOLOGY*



FUELING HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Auburn researchers are advancing a new understanding of how nutrition and exercise can improve health, performance and quality of life as people age. In 2025, **kinesiology doctoral student Mason McIntosh** earned the University's **Graduate School Distinguished Dissertation Award** for his research examining how dietary nitrate supplementation and resistance training affect muscle and vascular function in middle-aged and older adults. Working in the **Nutrabolt Applied and Molecular Physiology Lab** under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Roberts, McIntosh studies how targeted nutrition and training strategies can support healthier aging and long-term physical function. His award-winning research, supported through prestigious national fellowships, reflects Auburn's growing impact in exercise science, human performance and applied health research.



FELLOWSHIP OF DISTINCTION

As Alabama's **2026 James Madison Fellow**, **College of Education** senior **Katie Jett** has earned one of the nation's highest honors for future educators in American history and government. Awarded annually to only one recipient per state, the fellowship honors the legacy of President James Madison and supports future teachers dedicated to strengthening constitutional literacy and civic understanding. Following graduation, Jett will pursue a Master of Education before teaching social studies in a Title I school, where she will continue inspiring students to engage thoughtfully with history, government and their role as citizens.

RESTORING NEURAL PATHWAYS

As diseases such as dementia and Alzheimer's continue to impact millions of families, Auburn researchers are working to better understand how to protect and repair the brain. In the **Harrison College of Pharmacy's Department of Drug Discovery and Development**, doctoral researcher **Sampada Tamhankar** is studying a new Auburn-developed compound that may help damaged brain cells communicate more effectively. Working in the laboratory of **Dr. Raj Amin**, her research focuses on repairing myelin, the protective coating around nerves that helps signals travel through the brain and body. By helping restore these pathways, the college's research in healthy brain aging could lead to new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. In 2025, Tamhankar earned first place in **Auburn's Three-Minute Thesis competition**, showcasing her research to a broad audience.





#18



ACCOUNTING PROGRAM AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
BEST COLLEGES, 2026

ACCOUNTING FOR EXCELLENCE

Recognized among the nation's top accounting programs, Auburn's **Harbert College of Business** combines rigorous coursework, experiential learning and strong industry connections to prepare students for careers in a rapidly evolving accounting and financial environment. In the **2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges** rankings, Auburn's undergraduate accounting program was ranked **No. 18 among public universities** and **No. 40 nationally**, reflecting the college's emphasis on both foundational and advanced accounting skills, as well as faculty excellence in teaching and research. The publication also recognized the college's **undergraduate business programs**, ranking them **No. 31 among public universities nationwide**.

FROM CLASSROOM TO BREAKTHROUGH



FROM AUBURN TO ORBIT

Through the **Auburn University Small Satellite Program** in the **Department of Physics**, undergraduate and graduate students gain hands-on experience designing, building and operating CubeSats for real-world space missions, contributing to Auburn's growing role in aerospace research and innovation. Founded in 2001, the program allows students to take satellites from concept to orbit while developing technical expertise, teamwork and leadership skills. In 2025, students played a central role in the **Terrestrial RaYs Analysis and Detection (TRYAD) mission**, supported by the **National Science Foundation** in collaboration with the University of Alabama in Huntsville. As a result, Auburn's student-built CubeSats will launch aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** in 2026 to study gamma-ray flashes generated by thunderstorms in Earth's atmosphere.

**TOP
25**
**UNDERGRADUATE
NURSING
PROGRAM**
AMONG PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES
U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT, 2026



PREPARING NEXT-GENERATION NURSES

Auburn's **College of Nursing** continues to prepare the next generation of healthcare leaders through its nationally ranked undergraduate program that combines hands-on clinical training, advanced simulation and faculty mentorship. Students gain real-world experience in healthcare settings across the region while also participating in community-based initiatives like SOUND (Supporting Outreach for Understanding Neurodiverse Differences), which supports individuals with sensory processing challenges. Through experiences in schools, community events and patient-centered care environments, students develop the compassion, adaptability and clinical expertise needed in today's healthcare field. That preparation is reflected in the success of Auburn nursing graduates, who consistently achieve a **100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam**.

BARRY GOLDWATER

SCHOLARSHIP & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

In spring 2026, Auburn **engineering senior Eirik Mulder** earned one of the nation's most prestigious honors for undergraduate research, the **Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship**, recognizing exceptional promise in science, engineering and mathematics. A senior in the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** and the **Honors College**, Mulder is pursuing concurrent degrees in aerospace engineering and computer science. Mulder is studying complex challenges in astrodynamics and developing computational tools that help researchers model and plan spacecraft trajectories. His work also extends into elite national and international competitions. Mulder helped lead an Auburn team to a **No. 1 finish in the United States and a top 10 global ranking in NASA's Global Trajectory Optimization Competition**, an event typically dominated by graduate students and professional researchers. His honors also include recognition as a **University Space Research Association Distinguished Undergraduate**, an **Astronaut Scholar** and a **NASA Alabama Space Grant Consortium** recipient.



#31
UNDERGRADUATE
**BUSINESS
PROGRAMS**
AMONG PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2026



TRANSLATING IDEAS INTO IMPACT

At Auburn, entrepreneurial ideas are moving beyond the classroom and into the marketplace. **Harbert College of Business senior Sophia Aulisio** turned a frustration she experienced as a competitive volleyball player into **Protector Innovations**, a startup developing high-performance protective gear for athletes. With support from the **New Venture Accelerator** and the **Harbert College of Business**, Aulisio transformed her concept into a funded, patent-pending product after winning \$35,000 in startup capital through **Auburn's Tiger Cage Business Idea Competition**. Her success earned her recognition on the **Birmingham Business Journal's Inno Under 25 list**, which highlights Alabama's top young innovators. Aulisio is part of a growing pipeline of Auburn student entrepreneurs using innovation, research and industry partnerships to launch ventures with real-world impact.



BILLBOARD-WORTHY

Auburn continues to strike a chord in music business education. The **Department of Music's Commercial Music Program** continues to gain national recognition, earning a spot for the second consecutive year on **Billboard magazine's list of the Top Music Business Schools in the nation** in fall 2025. Through innovative coursework, industry partnerships and hands-on experiences, Auburn students gain the creative, technical and entrepreneurial skills needed to lead in today's evolving music industry. As a result, students have secured internships with major music companies, while recent graduates now work for leading global organizations, including Sony Records and William Morris Endeavor.

TOP 50

BEST COLLEGES
FOR VETERANS

U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT, 2026



COMPETING AMONG THE BEST

In May 2026, Auburn's **Army ROTC "War Eagle" Battalion** competed among the nation's elite at the **Sandhurst Military Skills Competition** held at the **United States Military Academy at West Point**. Auburn was one of only 16 U.S. Army Cadet Command programs selected for the prestigious international competition and represented the 6th Brigade after earning a top finish in the Brigade Ranger Challenge. Hosted since 1967, Sandhurst brings together ROTC programs, U.S. service academies and international military teams for a grueling 36-hour competition testing physical endurance, military skills, teamwork and leadership under pressure across 15 demanding events. Auburn's selection highlights the university's growing national reputation for leadership development and military excellence. Auburn again earned recognition as a **Military Friendly® University** for the 10th consecutive year in 2026, reinforcing its longstanding commitment to military students and leadership development.

FACULTY AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION

Across disciplines, faculty and students are tackling complex challenges through groundbreaking research, interdisciplinary collaboration and industry-connected innovation. Auburn researchers are advancing discoveries that are shaping the future of healthcare, technology, manufacturing and global industry. From engineering human heart tissue and strengthening cybersecurity in digital manufacturing to studying neurodegenerative disease and advising global financial institutions, Auburn's research enterprise continues to expand its impact far beyond campus. Recognized through prestigious national and international honors, Auburn faculty are not only leading discovery in their fields, but also preparing students to contribute to the next generation of scientific, technological and economic advancement.



BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

As Auburn University's 2026 SEC Faculty Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Francesca Adler-Baeder is strengthening relationships and improving family well-being across Alabama through nationally recognized research, outreach and education initiatives. An Alumni Professor in the **Department of Human Development and Family Science** in the **College of Human Sciences**, Dr. Adler-Baeder leads the **Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Initiative**, which received a **multi-million-dollar federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** in 2025 to expand programming through 2030. Throughout her career, Dr. Adler-Baeder has secured nearly **\$60 million** in competitive federal and state funding while serving as a major professor to **26 graduate students** and providing research assistantships to **90 graduate students**. Her work continues to impact thousands of individuals and families across Alabama while creating transformative research and experiential learning opportunities for Auburn students.



GLOBAL INFLUENCE

From campus classrooms to conversations shaping the global economy, Auburn's faculty expertise is influencing financial policy around the world. In 2025, **Damion McIntosh, professor of practice** in the **Harbert College of Business**, was invited to serve as a World Bank Short-Term Consultant following years of impactful work with the International Monetary Fund. A recognized expert in international financial systems and economic stability, McIntosh advises governments and central banks on strengthening financial institutions, managing economic risk and supporting long-term growth. At Auburn, he also helps lead experiential learning opportunities that connect students with the finance industry through visits to institutions, such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and hands-on training in global financial markets.

ADVANCING SMARTER MANUFACTURING

The future of manufacturing depends not only on innovation, but also on security. As industries adopt advanced technologies such as additive manufacturing and 3D printing, Auburn researchers are helping protect those systems from cyber threats that could compromise products, infrastructure and supply chains. **Dr. Mark Yampolskiy, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering**, studies vulnerabilities in digital manufacturing systems and develops strategies to strengthen cybersecurity protections. In 2025, Dr. Yampolskiy was selected as a **Visiting Research Fellow at the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at Tel Aviv University** and received the **ASTM International Additive Manufacturing Young Professional Award** for contributions helping shape global security standards for next-generation manufacturing technologies.



2026 FELLOW OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF KINESIOLOGY



ADVANCING SPORT SCIENCE

Selected as a **2026 Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology**, Dr. Gretchen Oliver is advancing sports biomechanics research through innovative work in injury prevention, athletic performance and human movement science. As director of the **Sports Medicine & Movement Laboratory** in the **College of Education's School of Kinesiology**, Dr. Oliver integrates markerless motion-capture technology, biomechanics research and performance analytics to understand better how athletes move, train and recover. Her scholarship has influenced player development and injury-prevention strategies from youth and collegiate athletics to Major League Baseball, creating hands-on research opportunities for students and shaping the future of sports medicine and athlete performance research.



2026 FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY FOR SIMULATION IN HEALTHCARE



THE SCIENCE OF SIMULATION

Inducted as a **2026 Fellow of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare**, the field's highest honor for excellence in simulation-based healthcare education and practice, Dr. Tiffani L. Chidume is helping shape the future of nursing education through innovation in immersive learning technologies. An associate clinical professor in the **College of Nursing**, Dr. Chidume specializes in critical care nursing, healthcare simulation and the integration of virtual reality into nursing curricula. As coordinator of Auburn Nursing's EAGLES Center, she leads hands-on simulation experiences that prepare students to deliver high-quality patient care in realistic clinical environments while advancing Auburn's leadership in innovative healthcare education.

CRACKING COLLAGEN

From gut bacteria to collagen molecules, Raissa Santos de Lima Rosa is using computational science to deepen insight into how biological systems function at the molecular level. A doctoral student in the **College of Sciences and Mathematics** conducting research across chemistry and physics, Santos de Lima Rosa studies complex protein interactions using computational modeling she describes as a "molecular microscope." In summer 2025, she expanded her work through a competitive internship at the **Flatiron Institute's Center for Computational Biology in New York City**, where she studied how collagen molecules assemble and behave, research with implications for pharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine and human health.

2026 FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

REBUILDING HUMAN HEARTS

By developing new ways to model human disease in the laboratory, Auburn researchers are helping accelerate the future of biomedical discovery, drug development and personalized medicine. **Dr. Elizabeth Lipke, professor of chemical engineering** in the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**, is pioneering innovative methods to **engineer human heart and cancer tissues**, giving scientists more powerful and reliable tools to study disease and test potential therapies. By combining biomaterials, microtissue engineering and advanced cell manufacturing, Lipke's work is transforming how researchers model complex biological systems and evaluate treatments before they reach patients. Lipke's work in biomedical engineering earned her election as a **2026 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science**, one of the scientific community's most distinguished honors.





UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD SLEEP

Millions of children struggle with sleep disruptions that can affect learning, emotional health and long-term development, yet researchers are still working to understand the family and environmental factors behind those patterns. Faculty and students in the **Department of Human Development and Family Science**, or HDFS, are helping address that challenge through research examining how family sleep conditions and routines can be leveraged to improve children's sleep. Drawing on interdisciplinary training in neuroscience, public health and family systems, HDFS graduate student **Elle Neuhoﬀ** is working with **Dr. Brian Gillis** to advance evidence-based strategies that support healthier sleep, stronger family well-being and improved long-term outcomes for children.



BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

In spring 2026, nursing professor **Dr. Chris Martin** was selected as one of only nine health professionals nationwide for the **National League for Nursing's Leadership Academy for Social Determinants of Health and Social Change**. The prestigious yearlong program develops national leaders committed to improving health outcomes through education, research and community engagement. Through this work, Martin is helping nursing students better understand how factors such as housing, transportation, environment and access to care shape patient outcomes and influence long-term well-being. His leadership further strengthens the **College of Nursing's** commitment to preparing compassionate, community-centered healthcare professionals equipped to address the evolving needs of patients and communities across Alabama and beyond.



TRACING HIDDEN ELEMENTS

Recognized in 2025 with the **Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award**, **Dr. Katie Rush** is uncovering how some of the body's smallest elements can have major impacts on human health. An assistant professor in the **Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry** in the **College of Sciences and Mathematics**, Dr. Rush studies how trace elements such as selenium function within proteins that regulate critical biological processes, including thyroid hormone balance and cellular health. Using advanced X-ray spectroscopy at national synchrotron laboratories, she and her students investigate these interactions at the molecular level, research that could improve understanding of diseases linked to nutrient imbalance and protein dysfunction.

BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE

Across Alabama, the Gulf Coast and beyond, Auburn University is helping communities prepare for the future through research and innovation focused on sustainability, resilience and environmental stewardship. Faculty and students are solving complex challenges tied to coastal resilience, water conservation, food systems, agriculture, infrastructure and ecosystem health through interdisciplinary collaboration and community partnerships. Through hands-on research and experiential learning opportunities, Auburn is developing practical solutions with real-world impact while advancing scientific discovery, strengthening communities and protecting natural resources for future generations.



SUSTAINING OUR WATERS

From catfish farms and rivers to coastal ecosystems, Auburn researchers are helping address some of the most pressing challenges facing aquatic environments and global food systems. In the **School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences**, faculty and students are advancing research in aquaculture, fisheries management, aquatic animal health and conservation while developing solutions to issues such as harmful algal blooms, fish disease and habitat loss. In 2026, Auburn researchers partnered with the **USDA** to study coinfections in warmwater fish species, work aimed at improving fish health and strengthening aquaculture production. By providing hands-on research in laboratories, hatcheries, ponds and coastal environments, students gain real-world experience while contributing to science that supports sustainable seafood production and aquatic ecosystems.



STRENGTHENING COASTAL COMMUNITIES

From water quality and habitat conservation to infrastructure and coastal resilience, some of the Gulf Coast's growing challenges will soon have a new hub for research and innovation. In July 2025, the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** broke ground on the **Gulf Coast Engineering Research Station** in partnership with the **city of Orange Beach**. The 21,000-square-foot facility will support research focused on issues that directly impact the region's environment, economy and long-term growth. Supported through **RESTORE Act funding from the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council**, the station will connect researchers, students, industry and local leaders to develop solutions that strengthen the sustainability and resilience of Gulf Coast communities.



DESIGNING COASTAL RESILIENCE

As rising seas, intensifying storms and environmental change continue to reshape the Gulf Coast, Auburn is helping communities prepare for a more resilient future through innovative, design-driven solutions. In 2026, Auburn's interdisciplinary **"Ready to Adapt: Building the Rural Working Coast through Design"** initiative received **\$875,000** from the **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program** to advance work focused on coastal resilience and sustainable community design. Led by faculty and researchers in the **College of Architecture, Design and Construction**, the initiative partners with Gulf Coast communities to develop high-performance housing, green stormwater systems and natural infrastructure designed to reduce environmental risk while strengthening local economies, ecosystems and long-term community resilience.



ENGINEERING BEYOND BORDERS

Communities without reliable infrastructure often face seasonal drought and limited access to clean water, conditions that threaten agriculture, health and daily life. Through **Engineers Without Borders**, students apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges abroad. Teams travel to Guatemala and Bolivia each May and August to carry out projects that optimize local water systems and expand access to safe, dependable supplies. In Bolivia, students work alongside residents to design and install irrigation systems that capture and store seasonal rainfall for agriculture. In Guatemala, teams help mountain communities improve access to safe, reliable drinking water. Both outreach projects give students practical engineering experience in design, construction and community partnership while delivering durable, impactful water solutions for the villages they serve.



WATER FROM WASTE

As agriculture faces growing pressure to conserve water and reduce environmental impact, Auburn researchers are developing new ways to turn industrial waste into a valuable resource. A multidisciplinary team spanning **biosystems engineering, poultry science, horticulture and crop sciences** has created a **biological filtration system** that safely repurposes poultry processing wastewater for hydroponic crop production. Supported by a **\$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture** in 2025, the system successfully removed harmful pathogens such as salmonella while producing romaine lettuce safe for consumption. The innovation could help the poultry industry recycle billions of gallons of nutrient-rich wastewater each year while supporting more sustainable food production and water conservation.

HARNESSING NATURE'S DEFENSES

As farmers face increasing pressure from pesticide resistance, rising costs and crop-damaging insects, researchers and students from the **College of Agriculture** are developing more sustainable ways to protect agricultural production. By studying naturally occurring bacteria found in Alabama soils, the teams are helping crops grow stronger while defending against destructive pests such as cotton aphids and tarnished plant bugs. Using a historic collection of more than 500 soil samples, researchers in the **Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology** are identifying bacteria that could become locally adapted bioinsecticides tailored to regional farming conditions. As a result, their research is reducing reliance on traditional chemical pesticides while improving crop resilience, sustainability and long-term food production.

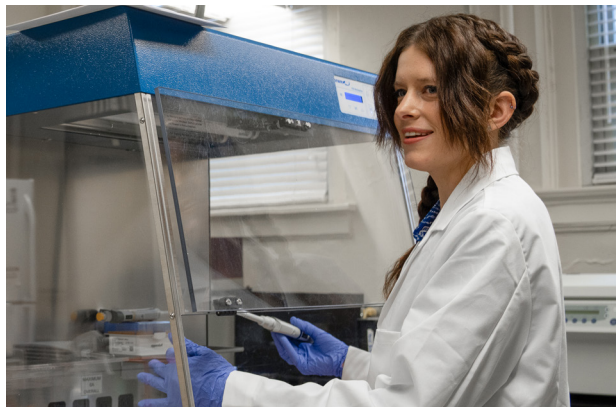


IMPACTFUL RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP



AUBURN IN BIRMINGHAM

Located in Alabama's largest metropolitan area, **Auburn in Birmingham** extends the university's presence into the state's leading center for business, healthcare, public leadership and innovation. Opened in 2024, the facility serves as a hub for academic programming, executive education, industry engagement and strategic partnerships while strengthening Auburn's connections with the Birmingham community. Home to the College of Architecture, Design and Construction's award-winning Urban Studio and the Harbert College of Business' Graduate Business and Executive Education programs, the facility also hosts university-wide initiatives, leadership programs and signature events. In spring 2026, Auburn in Birmingham welcomed teams from across the Southeast for the inaugural **AI Ethics Bowl**, a competition examining the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, where **Auburn captured the event's first championship**.



A SMARTER SHELF LIFE

Auburn researchers are helping address one of the nation's growing sustainability challenges by developing innovative ways to reduce food waste through science and technology. In 2026, researchers in Auburn's **College of Agriculture** used advanced machine learning and microbial analysis to study how ground beef spoils over time, work that could lead to more accurate "sell by" dates and significantly reduce unnecessary food waste. By tracking how bacteria interact, compete and evolve throughout the product's shelf life, the research team demonstrated new ways to predict spoilage more precisely. The project reflects Auburn's growing leadership in agricultural innovation, food science and sustainability-focused research with real-world impact.



DEFENDING THE FUTURE

The **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** continues to strengthen its role as a trusted partner in advancing the nation's defense and security priorities. In May 2026, the **U.S. Department of War** awarded Auburn a five-year contract valued at up to **\$49 million** to support research and technology development for the Army's aviation and missile enterprise. Building on a previous \$50 million agreement focused on advanced manufacturing, the award reflects growing confidence in Auburn's engineering expertise and ability to address complex national security challenges. Through its **Applied Research Institute in Huntsville**, the college's researchers are advancing technologies in areas such as advanced manufacturing, autonomy, digital engineering, sensors and hypersonics while helping develop the highly skilled workforce needed to support the future of defense innovation.

STRENGTHENING FOOD SYSTEMS

Millions of people across the rural South live in communities with limited access to affordable, healthy food, creating challenges tied to nutrition, health and economic opportunity. Established in 2024 through a partnership between Auburn's **Hunger Solutions Institute, Hope Enterprise Corporation and Wright Food Solutions, the Delta Healthy Food Financing Initiative** is working to build a stronger and more resilient food system across the Delta region. The multi-state effort supports communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee by providing financing, technical assistance and business development support to independent food retailers. The initiative positions Auburn as a regional leader in addressing food insecurity while strengthening local economies and community health.

SENTINELS OF CHANGE

As economic growth and development continue to transform the Gulf Coast, Auburn researchers are working to understand what those changes mean for the future of coastal ecosystems. **Antrelle Clark**, a doctoral student in **marine biology** in the **College of Sciences and Mathematics**, is studying how urbanization and environmental stress affect killifish, a species scientists use as an early indicator of ecosystem health. Working in the **Fish Ecology and Evolution Lab** with Dr. Moisés A. Bernal, Clark combines **Gulf Coast field research with molecular and ecological analysis to examine how pollution, habitat loss and changing environmental conditions impact aquatic life**. Her work is helping scientists better predict ecosystem resilience and inform future conservation and coastal management strategies.



BUILDING SMARTER SYSTEMS

From robotics and artificial intelligence to advanced construction systems and space logistics, Auburn researchers are developing technologies that are reshaping industries and expanding what is possible through innovation. Across disciplines, our faculty and students are combining engineering, design, automation and smart systems to create practical solutions that improve efficiency, sustainability and performance in the real world. Through collaborative research, hands-on learning opportunities and partnerships with industry leaders and government agencies, Auburn continues to foster technological leadership and applied problem-solving while preparing students to lead in rapidly evolving fields.



TRACKING CARGO

Space exploration depends on precise logistics, especially during long-duration missions where astronauts must track critical supplies in real time. In January 2026, Auburn formalized a partnership with NASA's Kennedy Space Center to develop advanced technologies for managing cargo in space. Through a **Space Act** agreement, Auburn's **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Lab** in the **Harbert College of Business** and the **Construction Automation, Robotics and Visualization Lab** in the **College of Architecture, Design and Construction** are researching how wireless tracking, robotics and automation can monitor inventory aboard orbiting laboratories and future deep-space missions. Building on this momentum, the **Auburn Research and Technology Foundation** broke ground in spring 2026 on a **\$22 million, 100,000-square-foot RFID Lab facility**, scheduled to open in summer 2027. Together, these initiatives position Auburn as a national leader in next-generation logistics and automation research, advancing technologies that will support both future space exploration and emerging industries here on Earth.

FROM BYPRODUCTS TO BREAKTHROUGHS

As industries and communities search for cleaner energy solutions and more sustainable ways to manage waste, Auburn researchers are finding new value in agricultural byproducts that would otherwise be discarded. In the **Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts**, faculty from the **College of Agriculture**, the **College of Sciences and Mathematics** and the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** are transforming agricultural waste into biochar, a carbon-rich material that can improve soil health, filter pollutants from water and support cleaner energy systems. Led by **Dr. Sushil Adhikari**, the center's interdisciplinary research is helping reduce environmental impact while creating new opportunities in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and the growing circular economy.





SMART FARMING SYSTEMS

Farmers increasingly rely on technology to detect crop stress, disease and pests before they damage yields. In the **department of Biosystems Engineering**, researchers in the **Smart Systems Lab** developed **Florabot**, an AI-powered robot that helps growers monitor plant health with greater speed and precision. Created by **Dr. Tanzeel Rehman** and graduate researcher **Hamid Syed**, the system combines advanced imaging, deep learning and real-time video analysis to identify early warning signs that may otherwise go unnoticed. In 2025, Florabot earned the **Excellence in Productivity Award** at the **International Farm Robotics Challenge**, highlighting Auburn's growing leadership in precision agriculture and agricultural automation.



DESIGNING WITH INTELLIGENCE
College of Architecture, Design and Construction professors **Cait McCarthy** and **Jordan Young** are redefining

construction through robotics and digital fabrication. Their **Direct Annotative Construction** process uses a custom-built robotic system, **Scribe 2.0**, to print assembly instructions directly onto building materials, allowing builders to follow guidance from the materials themselves while improving accuracy and efficiency. Working alongside Auburn students, McCarthy and Young have advanced the technology through experimental structures and installations that blend research, innovation and hands-on learning. Their award-winning project, **Curtain Call**, was selected for the **2024 BuildFest** competition at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the site of the historic Woodstock festival, while **Form & Forest**, showcased at the **2025 International Contemporary Furniture Fair** in New York City, highlighted the group's craftsmanship and use of sustainable materials and localized supply chains.



SMARTER SURGICAL CARE

Auburn's cross-disciplinary collaboration is turning student innovation into practical medical solutions. Students and faculty from the **Department of Mechanical Engineering** in the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** and the **School of Industrial and Graphic Design** in the **College of Architecture, Design and Construction** partnered with **KYRA Medical, Inc.** to design a new device that automatically switches IV bags during arthroscopic procedures, improving surgical efficiency and reducing interruptions in the operating room. Working alongside KYRA's engineering and clinical teams, students gained hands-on experience in medical device development while advancing a project combining engineering, industrial design and surgical innovation. Through a series of prototypes and refinements, the team brought the concept to life and launched the first working prototype at the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses Expo in 2025.



FROM SAPLING TO SHELTER

As demand grows for more sustainable and energy-efficient construction materials, the **Auburn Mass Timber Collaborative** is helping develop innovative alternatives rooted in Alabama's natural resources. Faculty from the **College of Architecture, Design and Construction**, the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** and the **College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment** are researching and advocating for ways to lead the construction industry and encourage mass timber education nationally. The collaborative's research has translated to hands-on projects for students like a mobile demonstration pavilion showcasing the state's emerging bio-based building materials. Supported by the **Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund** and **HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology**, the portable pavilion is designed to travel to trade shows and construction conventions across the Southeast, expanding industry exposure to bio-based materials while demonstrating how sustainable construction can support workforce development, economic growth and environmental resilience.

PAVING THE FUTURE

For 25 years, Auburn's **National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT)** in the **Samuel Ginn College of Engineering** has helped transform how roads are designed, tested and built across the U.S. In 2025, NCAT celebrated the **25th anniversary of its internationally recognized Test Track and research facilities**, where engineers evaluate new pavement materials, construction methods and infrastructure technologies under real-world traffic conditions. Since opening in 2000, the **1.7-mile Test Track has brought together more than 35 industry sponsors and transportation agencies to solve some of the nation's most pressing infrastructure challenges**, from road durability and safety to sustainability and long-term performance. Supported by more than 60 researchers and engineers, NCAT continues to shape national pavement standards and deliver innovations that impact highways and transportation systems across the U.S.



EXPLORING DEMOCRACY THROUGH DIALOGUE

From commemorating defining moments in American history to creating new spaces for civic dialogue and public engagement, Auburn University is helping students better understand their role in shaping society and democracy. Through interdisciplinary programs, experiential learning and community partnerships, students are examining the ideas and institutions that influence public life while developing the leadership and communication skills needed to engage thoughtfully with the challenges of today and the future.



FELLOWS IN INQUIRY

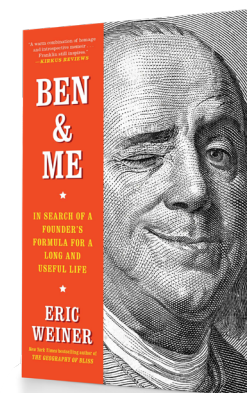
As part of **America 250 at Auburn University**, the new **Foundation Fellows Program** is creating opportunities for students and faculty to engage deeply with the ideas, institutions and debates that have shaped American democracy. In 2026, Auburn selected six faculty fellows and 22 student fellows from across the university for the program's inaugural cohort. Administered by the Honors College, the interdisciplinary initiative brings participants together for seminars, reading groups and discussion-based learning centered on foundational American texts, civic engagement and democratic life. Student fellows will also travel to Washington, D.C., in fall 2026 to engage with national institutions and policymakers. The program reflects Auburn's commitment to fostering thoughtful dialogue, civil discourse and civic leadership across disciplines and perspectives.



HISTORY TAKES FLIGHT

As the United States commemorates the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**, Auburn University will take part in one of the nation's most historic celebrations. In 2026, organizers of the America 250 commemoration invited the **College of Veterinary Medicine** and the **nationally recognized Raptor Center** to participate in the **Time Capsule Burial Ceremony at Independence Hall in Philadelphia**, placing Auburn at the center of the country's semiquincentennial observance. Auburn's bald eagle, **Independence**, and her care team will travel to Philadelphia to participate in the ceremony, representing the university's longstanding commitment to conservation, education

and public engagement. The invitation highlights the Raptor Center's national reputation while connecting Auburn to one of the defining milestones in American history.



A SHARED BEGINNING

As part of **America 250 at Auburn University**, the institution's Common Book program is helping connect incoming students to larger conversations about democracy, citizenship and civic life. During Camp War Eagle,

more than 6,000 students will receive a copy of this year's selection, ***Ben & Me: In Search of a Founder's Formula for a Long and Useful Life***. The book invites students to reflect on service, civic responsibility and purposeful learning while exploring themes connected to the American experiment and democratic participation. Through shared discussion and reflection, the program creates a common intellectual experience that introduces students to Auburn's broader campus-wide exploration of leadership, public life and the responsibilities of engaged citizenship.

DEMOCRACY IN PRACTICE

Preparing students to lead in an increasingly complex civic and political landscape is at the center of Auburn's new **Minor in Civic Life and the Public Good**, launching in fall 2026. Housed in University College, the interdisciplinary program brings together perspectives from history, philosophy, political science and communication to explore the **ideas, institutions and debates that have shaped democratic society**. Through discussion-based coursework and engagement with foundational texts, students will strengthen skills in critical thinking, communication, leadership and civil discourse. The program also includes a capstone experience focused on civic engagement and public problem solving, helping students connect academic study with the challenges facing communities and public life today.



VOICES OF DEMOCRACY

In spring 2026, Auburn University launched the **America 250 at Auburn University Signature Speaker Series**, bringing nationally recognized leaders, scholars and public voices to campus for major conversations on democracy, citizenship and the future of the American experiment. The series opened with an event featuring the **66th U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and author and political commentator Margaret Hoover**, drawing attention to Auburn's growing role as a national convening place for civic dialogue and public engagement. Designed to elevate discussion across disciplines and perspectives, the series gives students, faculty and the broader community direct access to influential thinkers examining the ideas and institutions that continue to shape American life as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary.



AN EVERYTHING SCHOOL

From national championships and record-breaking performances to innovative halftime productions and academic achievement, Auburn University students created memorable experiences on some of the nation's biggest stages during 2025-26. Across athletics, the arts and student life, Auburn programs captured national titles, earned prestigious honors and celebrated traditions that unite the Auburn Family through moments of pride, passion and shared purpose. Together, these accomplishments reflect a campus culture defined by teamwork, resilience, creativity and school spirit while reinforcing Auburn's reputation for delivering exceptional student experiences rooted in tradition, excellence and community.

18 of 21

CONFERENCE/NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
COMPETED IN OR WON
(2024-25 AY)

16 of 18

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
EARNED A MULTI-YEAR
ACADEMIC PROGRESS
RATE OF 980 OR ABOVE
(2024-25 AY)

92%

STUDENT-ATHLETE
GRADUATION SUCCESS
RATE OF 85% OR ABOVE
(2024-25 AY)



MARCHING INTO INNOVATION

Auburn University's Marching Band is blending technology, engineering and performance in ways rarely seen on the collegiate field. In fall 2025, the band debuted **Game On**, a video game-inspired halftime show that paired complex marching formations with synchronized LED lighting effects across 343 performers. The custom lighting systems were designed and operated by Auburn engineering students and alumni, transforming the field into a fully coordinated visual performance. The production showcased Auburn's collaborative culture, where students from different disciplines combine creativity and technical expertise to create large-scale experiences that push the boundaries of traditional marching band performance.



NIT CHAMPIONS

Auburn men's basketball added another milestone to the program's rise on the national stage by capturing the **2026 National Invitation Tournament championship** to secure the program's first NIT title. The Tigers powered through the postseason with **five consecutive tournament victories**, showcasing the depth, resilience and defensive intensity that defined the season. Along the way, Auburn earned key wins over nationally competitive programs while continuing to build momentum within one of college basketball's toughest conferences. The championship adds to Auburn's growing postseason résumé under new head coach Steven Pearl and reinforces the program's emergence as one of the nation's premier basketball programs.

STORYBOOK ENDING

Auburn Wheelchair Basketball completed a historic season in 2026 by capturing the program's **first national championship** at the **National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament**. The No. 2-seeded Tigers finished the year with a 29-7 record and dominated the second half of the season, going 16-0 in 2026. The championship marked a major milestone for a program founded just over a decade ago and reinforced Auburn's growing leadership in **adaptive collegiate athletics**. Led by head coach Robb Taylor, a longtime member of the U.S. Paralympic wheelchair basketball program, Auburn has rapidly emerged as one of the nation's premier wheelchair basketball programs and a model for inclusive athletic excellence.





RECORD PACE

Auburn hurdler **Ja'Kobe Tharp** took his dominant 2026 season to an unprecedented level by **setting the world record in the men's 110-meter hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships**. The **reigning national champion** ran a blistering 12.75 in the semifinal round at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, becoming the first individual in 50 years to break a world record at the national championships. Earlier in the season, the interdisciplinary studies major won his second SEC outdoor title at Auburn's Hutsell-Rosen Track.



SERVING UP HISTORY

Auburn women's tennis delivered the most accomplished season in school history in 2026, advancing to the **NCAA National Championship** match for the first time in program history and finishing as the national runner-up. The Tigers posted a 37-4 record, climbed to No. 1 in the ITA National Team Rankings and earned the **highest NCAA Championship seed in program history**. Auburn also captured its first SEC Tournament championship, a significant accomplishment in one of the nation's premier tennis conferences. The Tigers spent the season competing among the nation's best and finished the year as one of the top teams in collegiate tennis.



EXCELLENCE IN THE ARENA

Auburn equestrian continues to set the standard for success in both competition and the classroom. In 2026, junior **Avery Glynn** earned the prestigious **SEC Equestrian Scholar-Athlete of the Year** honor, becoming just the third student-athlete in program history to receive the award. A marketing major with a near-perfect GPA, Glynn also delivered one of the nation's top performances in competition, posting a **19-5 record** across Flat and Fences during the season. Her recognition highlights Auburn's longstanding reputation for developing student-athletes who excel academically while competing at the highest levels of collegiate equestrian.



DRIVEN TO WIN

In 2026, Auburn men's golf captured the program's second NCAA championship in three years, led by one of the most dominant individual seasons in collegiate golf history from junior marketing major **Jackson Koivun**. The **world's No. 1 amateur**, Koivun played a central role in the championship run while capturing the **SEC individual championship for the third consecutive year**, the first player in six decades to do so. Koivun also swept the **national player of the year awards, winning the**

Hogan, Haskins and Nicklaus awards for the second time in his career, the first player in collegiate golf history to win all three awards more than once. Koivun recorded **six tournament victories** this season, set multiple Auburn scoring records and surpassed a scoring benchmark previously held by Tiger Woods. He finished the year as a first-team All-American, capping a season that stands among the best in the history of the sport.



TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD

Under the leadership of head coach Nick Clinard, Auburn men's golf captured the **2026 NCAA Division I Men's Golf National Championship**, completing one of the most dominant seasons in program history. The Tigers held the No. 1 ranking in the nation for much of the year and entered the NCAA Championships as the top-ranked team in college golf. Auburn finished first in stroke play to earn the No. 1 seed for match play and secured the program's second national title in three years. Led by junior Jackson Koivun, the Tigers capped a remarkable season that reinforced Auburn's position among the nation's elite collegiate golf programs and added another championship to the university's tradition of athletic excellence.

DISTINCTIVELY AUBURN

#11

NATIONALLY
**COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY
MEDICINE**

*U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT,*
BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS
2026

A TRADITION THAT SOARS

For 25 years, Auburn University's War Eagle Flights program has transformed one of the university's most recognizable traditions into a symbol of Auburn spirit, conservation and educational excellence. A division of the **College of Veterinary Medicine**, the **Auburn University Raptor Center** is one of the Southeast's leading facilities for raptor rehabilitation and education, providing veterinary care to more than 300 injured or ill birds of prey each year. Beyond the iconic eagle flights over Jordan-Hare Stadium and appearances at national events, including select NFL games, the center hosts more than 300 educational programs annually focused on conservation, ecology and wildlife sciences.



ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY 2025

Auburn University plays a significant role in advancing Alabama's prosperity through workforce development, research innovation, and strategic industry partnerships that provide and expand opportunity across the state. According to a 2025 economic impact study, Auburn generates an **annual** statewide economic impact of **\$8.03 billion** and supports more than **33,000 jobs** through university operations, research activity, student spending, and visitor expenditures. In addition, the university contributes more than **\$5 billion** in long-term workforce and human capital value through the earning potential and economic contributions of Auburn graduates. As one of Alabama's foremost employers and research institutions, Auburn prepares graduates to meet evolving workforce demands while advancing discoveries that enhance quality of life, stimulate economic growth, and strengthen communities throughout Alabama and beyond.

AUBURN ADVANCEMENT

\$1.47B
ENDOWMENT
MARKET VALUE

(AS OF 4/30/26)

61%
Supporting
Students & Faculty

39%
Supporting
Programs

(FY 2024-2025)

\$237M
IN NEW
**GIFTS &
COMMITMENTS**

216
NEW
**SCHOLARSHIPS
& FELLOWSHIPS**

32,117
TOTAL
DONORS

AUBURN ALUMNI

96%

OF GRADUATES
**WOULD CHOOSE
AUBURN AGAIN!**



SPRING 2026