UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

# University of Alabama Facilities and Resources

The University of Alabama (UA), the State of Alabama’s oldest public university, is a comprehensive doctoral level institution. The University’s mission is to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the State through quality programs of teaching, research, and service. Located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, UA has a current enrollment of over 40,000 students, offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in more than 200 fields of study, and awards more than 300 doctoral degrees annually. Graduate programs concentrate on the development of original scholarship, research, and creative activity. The University of Alabama has consistently been ranked among the nation's top 60 public universities by U.S. News & World Report for the last several years. The University of Alabama is a leader among public universities nationwide in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars with more than 700 currently enrolled.

The University of Alabama has 11 libraries encompassing various fields of study. The libraries include the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, Angelo Bruno Business Library, McLure Education Library, Rodgers Library for Science & Engineering, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, Music Library, Bounds Law Library, Health Sciences Library, Map Library & Place Names Research Center, Summersell Library, and the William E. Winter Reading Room. They support the academic mission of the university through strong collections and services; including providing unique collections through special collections and digital collections, instruction for research and use of resources, variety of spaces for individual and group study, promote research skills and strategies though collaboration with other libraries on campus, and access to academic software and technology. Libraries grant access to digital resources 24/7, 24/5 access to Rodgers Library during the academic year, and 24/7 access to Rodgers and Gorgas Libraries during study week and final exams. UA has academic memberships in Association of Research Libraries, Center for Research Libraries, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, the Southeastern Library Network, the Coalition for Networked Information, and the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. These memberships allow the university to request to loan materials from other participating libraries.

The University of Alabama has over 30 facilities for research, which include 3D Printing Laboratory, Athletic Training Research Lab, Child Development Research Center (CDRC), Child Media Lab, Electronic Health Record Center, EPR Facility, Exercise Physiology Laboratory, Food and Nutrition Research Lab, Health Communications Lab, ICIR Content Analysis Lab, Mass Spectroscopy Facility, NMR Facility, Organic Analysis Lab, Psychophysiology Lab, Simulation Lab, Statistics Research and Consulting Lab (SRCL), X-ray Diffraction Laboratory, and Youth Services Institute - School of Social Work.

The University of Alabama receives more than $73M in externally sponsored programs, sustaining its reputation for excellence. The University has more than 38 research centers, institutes, and bureaus. Some of the research centers include: **Alabama Center for Research on OnLine Learning (acROLL)**, **Alabama Law Institute, Alabama Life Research Institute,** **Alabama Productivity Center**, **Alabama Research Institute on Aging**, **Alabama State Data Center**, **Center for Advanced Public Safety**, **Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility**, **Center for Mental Health and Aging**, **Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems**, **Center for Southern History & Culture**, **Central Analytical Facility, Education Policy Center**, **Institute of Business Analytics, Institute for Communication and Information Research**, **Institute for Interactive Technology**, **Institute for Rural Health Research**, **Institute for Social Science Research**, **Optical Analysis Facility**, and the **Qualitative Research Lab**.

## Alabama Life Research Institute (ALRI)

The Alabama Life Research Institute (ALRI) will serve as a focal point for interdisciplinary bio-psychosocial research that seeks to investigate the human condition at all levels, from the molecular to the environmental. All ALRI research efforts– from the study of genetic anomalies to governmental policy, from drug discovery to prosthetic design, from education to behavior change–seek to improve life, whether through the reduction of morbidity and mortality, the elimination of health inequity, or other quality-of-life improvements. In these efforts, the ALRI will collaborate across the University, as well as with peer institutions, health care corporations, governmental agencies, community-based organizations and other concerned individuals.

## Alabama Research Institute on Aging (ARIA)

The mission of The Alabama Research Institute on Aging (ARIA) is to develop new knowledge, test new interventions, and disseminate information related to mental health and aging. Through applied interdisciplinary research, ARIA promotes improved quality of life for older adults. Research projects span ARIA’s four focus areas: elder caregiving, diversity in aging, quality of care in institutional settings, and palliative care and end of life issues. All of these focus areas are represented by ongoing or recently completed research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, including the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Nursing Research; the Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality; the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and national aging research funding agencies such as the Retirement Research Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Association of America, and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

## Institute of Business Analytics

This Institute of Business Analytics (IBA) is a collaborative resource for both the Culverhouse College of Commerce and University-wide research activities. Our interdisciplinary team seeks to develop and cultivate analytics expertise through evidence based research via communicating applied research discoveries and approaches with analytic focused students and various corporate and government partners with underutilized data.

The IBA’s specialty includes the application, development, and implementation of analytic methodologies for applied research as well as support for various disciplines. Historically, research support has been the core function of the IBA team. Research activities that we assist with include: analytic applications in industry, study design for extramurally funded research proposals, manuscript development, consultative services, and experiential learning.

## Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR)

The Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) is an interdisciplinary organization with a broad mission to promote and conduct research in the social sciences at the University of Alabama. Through its research efforts, the Institute also provides opportunities for graduate training in social science research. Service to those outside the University is provided through research partnerships with agencies and organizations throughout the state and nation.

ISSR provides a wide range of support for research activities at the University: policy-relevant social research with an interdisciplinary perspective, facilitation and support of collaborative research projects and research infrastructure at the University, local, statewide, and national telephone interviewing by the Capstone Poll, consultation on statistical analysis and social and behavioral research methodology, Program evaluation and assessment with University researchers and scientists from other institutions, research experience for graduate and undergraduate students through research assistantships.

## The University of Alabama Office of Information Technology (OIT)

The OIT provides comprehensive technical support and maintains a 24-hour User Services center, available on-line, in person, or via telephone.

For technical support at CCN, there are several professionals available to provide assistance including: the Manager of Area Computing Services; Coordinator of Multimedia Production and Web Supported Applications; and Director of Technology and Distance Education.

## Telehealth Division – College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS) - The University of Alabama

CCHS has established multiple partnerships with providers and organizations to provide a variety of telemedicine services to underserved populations in rural Alabama. Services have included direct care, consultations, and health education. In 2007 CCHS obtained a $1.2 million Bristol-Myers Grant in collaboration with West Alabama Community Mental Health Centers (WAMHC). WAMHC provides mental health services in the rural Alabama counties of Choctaw, Marengo, Hale, Green and Sumter counties. The grant funded staff mental health in-service opportunities and direct care psychiatric services to clients at centers in those counties (clinic to clinic). CCHS also obtained a USDA Grant, which provided telemedicine equipment, (PolycomTM), to establish telemedicine services in 4 Alabama rural physician practices (clinic to clinic). In 2012 an $18,000 gift was obtained from Verizon to fund the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program. This program occurred in collaboration with Maude Whatley Health System and MedNet West community organizations to provide diabetes education to patients and family members at rural Alabama clinics and physician practices (clinic to clinic)

Since 2010, the DeKalb County Youth Services Center, a comprehensive service center, which operates in conjunction with the DeKalb Juvenile Court DeKalb and Fort Payne City Boards of Education, has collaborated with the CCHS Telemedicine Division to provide child and adolescent telepsychiatry consultation services to youth at their center. Currently 2 board certified CCHS child and adolescent psychiatrists complete assessments. Other services include forensic telepsychiatry evaluations to the DeKalb Juvenile Court by a forensic psychiatrist (clinic to community-based organization). A $15,000 gift has been obtained, each year for the past 2 years, from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama to fund the School Based Asthma Education Program. This program connect a pediatrician and nurse practitioner with students, parents, teachers, and other school staff, in DeKalb and Hale Counties to provide about the critical disease of asthma (clinic to school). Lloyda Williamson, MD, is the Telehealth Directorand Amelia de los Reyes, is the Telehealth Program Coordinator. In collaboration with many other CCHS administrators and supporting staff, this team has 8 years of experience in developing, solving problems, and sustaining the implementation of telemedicine/telehealth programs.

## The Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) Facilities and Resources

The CCN mission is to promote the health and well-being of the people of the State of Alabama, the nation, and the world through nursing education, research, scholarship, and service. Our research ranges across a wide spectrum of topics and advances the understanding of preventing, treating, and curing disease in Alabama and across the nation. Our current enrollment is over 2,300 undergraduate students and over 700 graduate students. Programs include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), an RN Mobility track leading to a BSN or MSN, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with five concentrations (Nurse Administrator, Nurse Educator, Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and Dual Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner), an upcoming Masters Entry into the Profession of Nursing (MEPN), a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Doctor of Education in Nursing (EdD), and Joint Nursing Science PhD.

The CCN affords researchers the time and resources to work on the project, and all personnel have office and lab space. CCN supports faculty with leading-edge technology and computing facilities. All faculty computers have high capacity hard drives and computing/processing abilities and are on a three-year update plan, are networked, and provide access to library and other resources. Network servers are backed up nightly and network software provides heightened data security. All CCN computers are protected by McAfee anti-virus software.

### Center for Substance Use Research and Related Conditions

Housed in the Capstone College of Nursing and in collaboration with the Alabama Life Research Institute, the mission of the CSURRC is to promote the health and well-being of individuals and communities affected by substance use disorders in Alabama and beyond through innovative, state-of-the-science and culturally responsive research that reduces health disparities, improves health equity and addresses social determinants of health.

### CCN Learning Resources Center (LRC)

CCN’s learning resource center staff provide technical assistance and multimedia capabilities and support. LRC support staff assist CCN researchers and faculty with any technical issues. CCN LRC facilities and support staff provide faculty with the necessary resources to teach essential nursing concepts and skills. The LRC is composed of a computer laboratory with 35 computers, including an instructor workstation, clinical practice laboratory and simulation laboratory. Technology available includes multi-media classrooms, low, moderate, and high fidelity simulation where students participate in in-depth simulation scenarios, iPod Touch with nursing references for the classroom and clinical experiences, BlackBoard Learn – the Learning Management System for course delivery, laptops for testing and accessing unfolding case studies and online resources, Stryker hospital beds including critical care beds, Hospira Plum A+ IV pumps, IV simulators, telehealth equipment and videoconferencing, and METI Vision.

### CCN Office of Nursing Research and Translational Science (NRTS)

The over-riding mission of the Office of Nursing Research and Translational Science (NRTS) is to facilitate faculty and students in the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge as it relates to nursing care of individuals and families across the lifespan and around the globe. To this end, the Dean of the Capstone College of Nursing has invested significantly in the NRTS. CCN’s Office of Nursing Research and Translational Science provides support and assistance with proposal development, submission and administration, including statistical analysis. NRTS is directed by the Associate Dean for Research, who leads the NRTS committee, sets NRTS objectives and provides oversight, as well as provides a structure for development and review of faculty research proposals. NRTS utilizes a biostatistician who provides consultation and feedback on statistical methods and analysis; in addition, a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) provides statistical analysis support to DNP students. NRTS also has several GRAs available to help faculty with literature reviews, manuscript editing, and other scholarship support. NRTS’s Contract and Grants Specialist assists with grant budget preparation and justification, provides proposal requirements and facilitates proposal submission, organizes professional development activities related to research and identifies funding opportunities. The Proposal Development Specialist assists faculty with concept development, drafting proposals, and editing proposals, reports, and manuscripts. NRTS also employees a full time Contract and Grants Associate who provides support for professional development activities and post-award administration of grant funds. In addition, the NRTS collaborates with clinical faculty to provide at least one session per semester on supporting the advancement of clinical scholarship.

The research efforts of the faculty and students in the College of Nursing address a variety of contemporary clinical and health policy questions. Pertinent areas of inquiry include chronic disease management and prevention, of illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and cancer. Faculty scholarship also includes work regarding pediatric and adolescent health, women’s health, gerontology, mental health, and health equity. Consistent with strategic themes in the college and across the university, a number of faculty members are engaged in rural health research and international research. Almost all of the research conducted by faculty members from the College of Nursing is interdisciplinary in nature. Many of the College’s faculty are also engaged in nursing education and leadership research. The college has federal and non-federal funding, including NIH, HRSA, CDC, DOL, SNRS, AACN, the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation and the CVS Foundation.