The goals of the University

Butler University is an independent university composed of a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and five professional colleges. Butler University is committed to its mission to provide the highest quality of liberal and professional education and to integrate the liberal arts into professional education by creating and fostering a stimulating intellectual community built upon interactive dialogue and inquiry among students, faculty, and staff. Butler University is committed to:

- Providing the highest quality of teaching and to achieving the highest ideals of student learning, which include clear and effective communication, appreciation of beauty and a commitment to lifelong learning, community service, and global awareness.
- Being a national university that serves students from other regions and other countries, while recognizing its special responsibility to serve the undergraduate and graduate students of Indiana and the Midwest.
- Being a residential campus, one on which both academic and nonacademic aspects of student life receive important attention.
- Recruiting and sustaining practicing scholars and professionals dedicated to intellectual self-renewal for the benefit of their students.
- Cultivating an awareness and understanding of other cultures in its curriculum and to promoting cultural and ethnic diversity of its faculty and its students.
- Providing intellectual, cultural, and artistic opportunities and leadership in Indianapolis and the surrounding areas.
- Providing opportunities and lifelong support to its alumni in recognition of their special relationship to the institution.

Student learning

In furtherance of the first goal cited above, Butler has established learning outcomes for all students. The outcomes are assessed in students’ coursework and elsewhere throughout their undergraduate years, and the results of these assessments are used to improve teaching and learning. The University learning outcomes are:

- Students will explore various ways of knowing in the humanities, social and natural sciences, creative arts, and quantitative and analytic reasoning.
- Students will articulate and apply required content knowledge within their area(s) of study. Students will know how to find, understand, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and use information, employing technology as appropriate.
- Students will explore a variety of cultures.
- Students will recognize the relationship between the natural world and broader societal issues.
- Students will communicate clearly and effectively.
- Students will demonstrate collaborative behavior with others.
- Students will practice ways and means of physical well-being.
- Students will make informed, rational, and ethical choices.
- Students will appreciate diverse cultures, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations.
- Students will share their talents with Butler and the greater community at large.
- Students will be exposed to the value of lifelong learning.

Students are afforded ample opportunities to achieve these learning outcomes through a combination of courses—both in the major and in the core curriculum—and through co-curricular experiences.

Butler University today

In 1855, Butler University enrolled 20 students. Today, Butler is an independent, co-educational university with a total undergraduate enrollment of approximately 4,200 students. The faculty, too, has grown from two when the University was founded, to 406 full-time; 83 percent hold the highest degree in their fields. The original charter of the University established in 1855 required the establishment of departments or colleges for the instructing of students in every branch of liberal and professional education, and for the promotion of the sciences and arts.
True to the vision of its founders, the University emphasizes the warmth and sense of community characteristic of a small liberal arts institution while offering the educational and cultural advantages of an urban center.

The University maintains a favorable student to faculty ratio of 12 to 1. Because of its size, Butler can offer its students opportunities to work closely with the faculty. Classes are small, and students are encouraged to seek out faculty in their offices, studios, or laboratories. Undergraduate research and independent study are encouraged. Although Butler professors are teaching faculty, they understand that first-rate teaching must be complemented with scholarly activity that extends the boundaries of knowledge.

Butler students represent 45 states and 49 countries, reflecting diverse cultures, interests, aspirations, personalities, and experiences. Students can join one of more than 150 student organizations, 15 Greek organizations, and 19 varsity athletic teams. More than 94 percent of Butler students are involved in campus activities; 69 percent participate in community service. As it has since its founding, Butler continues to both value tradition and embrace innovation.

**The campus**

The City of Indianapolis encircles the University, while the 295-acre campus rests in a historic north-side neighborhood. This serene, beautiful area has nearly 30 buildings, playing fields, a formal botanical garden and nature preserve surrounded by well-established residential communities and the White River. Located five miles from the heart of the city, the campus offers easy access to downtown. The campus is home to 70 percent of the University’s full-time students.

Its urban location allows Butler to offer students a wide range of internship opportunities that are excellent preparation for careers and graduate schools. In addition, full-time faculty in several disciplines, such as accounting, journalism, and instrumental music, are supplemented with adjunct instructors, drawing on the vast resources of the professionals in the surrounding community.

The campus is hailed as one of the most attractive in the Midwest. Arthur Jordan Memorial Hall, built in 1927, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The building has undergone extensive restoration and renovation to incorporate multiple computer labs, an electronic language laboratory, administrative and faculty offices, student accounts, registration, classrooms, and several departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Education.

The Richard M. Fairbanks Center for Communication and Technology houses Computer Sciences and the College of Communication, which includes the Eugene S. Pulliam School of Journalism, the first school to be endowed at Butler.

Adjoining Jordan at its west end is the Dorothy and Edward Gallahue Science Hall, which houses the departments of biological sciences, chemistry, and physics and astronomy, and provides extensive facilities and equipment for faculty and student research.

Linked to Gallahue is the Holcomb Building, home to the College of Business. The structure was originally known as the Holcomb Research Institute, established through a bequest from Indianapolis industrialist J.I. Holcomb. In addition to the college offices, the building also is home to the Ruth Lilly Science Library and the Butler Business Accelerator.

Completing the U-shaped mall is the Pharmacy and Health Sciences Building. A 40,000-square-foot, four-story addition to the building has LEED gold certification for its environmentally conscious materials, construction, and operations. Its state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms, and technology support student and faculty collaboration.

Lilly Hall, housing the programs of the Jordan College of the Arts, is located south of the Pharmacy and Health Sciences Building. Adjoining Lilly is Clowes Memorial Hall, designed as a multipurpose hall for the performing arts and other civic functions. Butler students and faculty, as well as internationally renowned artists, perform in the hall, a 2,200-seat facility with a 90-foot stage.

In April 2013, the 450-seat Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts theatre opened. It provides performance and exhibition space for the theatre, dance, music, and visual arts programs.

To the south of Clowes stands the Irwin Library, designed by world-famous architect Minoru Yamasaki. It provides basic research tools and holds the majority of the University’s over 350,000 volumes of books, bound periodicals,
and manuscripts. Butler Libraries also offer 100,000 e-books, access to more than 170 online databases, and 30,000 online journals and magazines. Irwin is home to Butler’s rare book and archives collections. The library’s digital environment provides access to numerous electronic databases and Internet through dedicated workstations.

Diagonally across a wide grassy mall from the library is Atherton Union. The University bookstore is located here, as is Indianapolis’ first Starbucks Café. A student lounge, food service operations, a 24-hour computer lab, meeting rooms, and lounges round out the union facilities. The Efroymson Diversity Center and the Office of Internship and Career Services are located in the union, along with the offices of Student Affairs, student leadership and service education, international student services, residence life, Greek life, and orientation programs. Various student organizations based in the union include the Student Government Association, Commuter Association, The Drift (yearbook), and different cultural organizations.

Residential College (ResCo) is located on the south end of the campus. ResCo features suites for students, four apartments for faculty-in-residence, and dining services. In addition to the regular facilities for residence hall supervisors, the building accommodates nearly 500 upper-class students. Ross Hall, Schwitzer Hall, the upperclassman residential Apartment Village, University Terrace, and fraternity and sorority houses provide additional campus housing.

At the north end of campus is the Holcomb Observatory and Planetarium with a 38-inch telescope, one of the largest in the state. Just west of the observatory is Robertson Hall. It houses the offices of admission, financial aid, alumni and parent programs, and the Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall, a 140-seat concert venue for faculty and student recitals and guest performances.

From this point, winding roads lead through the most scenic and historic areas of the campus through the 20-acre Holcomb Gardens.

Like many cities that developed along rivers, Indianapolis was chosen as the state capital because of its proximity to the White River that borders the far-west end of the campus. In the mid-1880s, a canal was built in an effort to link Indianapolis with waterways going to Lake Erie to the north and the Ohio River to the south. Though this effort was unsuccessful, the canal still runs through the city and the Butler campus. The tow path is a favorite walking, jogging, and bicycling route for students, especially with the addition of two pedestrian bridges that link the main campus to athletic fields, the Center for Urban Ecology’s Campus Farm, and Butler Prairie, a nature preserve.

From the Holcomb Gardens entrance, the road winds east, past the Holcomb Carillon and pond, through a quiet wooded area to the Health and Recreation Complex, Hinkle Fieldhouse, and the Butler Bowl. Like Jordan Hall, Hinkle is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 10,000-seat fieldhouse is the home of Butler basketball and volleyball teams, the physical education program, and spring commencement ceremonies. The Butler Bowl is the site of Butler football and soccer.

**Indianapolis**

Butler University remains deeply committed to serving its community. Clowes Memorial Hall and Jordan College of the Arts fulfill a cultural responsibility by presenting a vast array of performing arts and spoken word programs open to the public, with many enriching area elementary and secondary students. Indianapolis schools, corporations, and cultural organizations benefit from the University’s cooperation, and student interns serve in a wide variety of Central Indiana businesses, governmental offices, non-profit agencies, schools, hospitals, and pharmacies. Butler seeks to continue to strengthen its partnership with a vital, growing city and region.

Butler is located on the north side of Indianapolis in a residential neighborhood. The Hoosier capital is the 12th-largest city in the United States with a metropolitan area of more than 1.8 million inhabitants. In recent years, the city has emerged as a leader in science, medicine, research, technology, and sports. Indianapolis is on the cutting edge of medical science with research facilities for insulin and advanced genetic engineering. Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company is located in the city, as are two of the top 11 teaching hospitals in the United States. The city is considered a leading center of research and development for robotics and automation with more than 100 computer software companies.

Many performing arts companies call Indianapolis home, including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Repertory Theatre, Dance Kaleidoscope, and Indianapolis Opera. Museum offerings include...
the world’s largest children’s museum, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Conner Prairie, and the nearby Indianapolis Museum of Art. Popular citywide celebrations include the Indianapolis 500 Festival, Indiana Black Expo, Greek Festival, Penrod Art Fair, International Festival, Circle City Classic, and the Talbot Street Art Fair. Also of interest is the Indianapolis Zoo; Eagle Creek Park, with 4,000 acres including a 1,300-acre reservoir; and Circle Centre mall, a vast three-city-block complex for shopping, dining, and entertainment.

Once known only in the athletic world for the annual 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the city has two major league professional sports teams: the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League and the Indiana Pacers of the National Basketball Association, along with the Indiana Fever of the Women’s National Basketball Association. The city also has an AAA professional baseball team and a hockey team representing the United States Hockey League. The city hosts the NASCAR Brickyard 400 and the Indianapolis MotoGP races. In addition, Indianapolis also has hosted hundreds of national and international amateur sporting events, including numerous Olympic trials, NCAA championships, and the 2001 World Police and Fire Games. Indianapolis boasts world-class sports facilities, including a domed stadium, natatorium, track and field stadium, and a 1,300-acre reservoir certified for international rowing competition.

The home of the NCAA national headquarters and Hall of Champions, Indianapolis has long been an advocate of college athletics. The University has been the proud cohost of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Division I Final Four Championships six times since 1991, including the 2010 championship game featuring the Butler Bulldogs versus the Duke University Blue Devils.

**History**

**Ahead of its time in higher education**

Six years before the Civil War, in 1855, two professors, a couple of assistant teachers, and 20 students walked through the doors of North Western Christian University (later renamed Butler University) located at 13th Street and College Avenue. The University immediately began establishing precedents virtually unheard of in the world of academia:

- Women were admitted on an equal basis with men—a first for Indiana—and only the second university in the nation to do so.
- Butler admitted students representing all minorities, and has continued to do so throughout its history.
- The first in the state to allow its students, with parental consent, to choose subjects suited to their needs under a new “elective” system.
- In 1870, Catharine Merrill was appointed as Demia Butler professor and was the first female professor of English literature in Indiana. This appointment positioned Butler as the first in the nation to establish an endowed chair specifically for a female professor and only the second university to appoint a woman to the faculty (Maria Mitchell, Vassar College was the first). Merrill also was the first to use the lecture method for any subject other than science. Professor Susan Neville is the current chair.
- Phi Delta Theta fraternity was the first Greek-letter organization on campus in 1859, followed by Sigma Chi in 1865 and Delta Tau Delta in 1878. Kappa Alpha Theta sorority founded a chapter in 1874 before the move to Irvington; Kappa Kappa Gamma, Butler’s oldest continuously active sorority, established itself in 1878. The country’s first chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. sorority for African-American women was founded on campus on Nov. 12, 1922.

In the absence of high schools or adequate private academies, the University also operated its own preparatory department until 1907. At its inception, this department enrolled about 60 students, with another 54 in the pre-prep classes. In 1875, the board of directors decided to sell the downtown campus and accept a gift of 25 acres in Irvington, then a suburb east of Indianapolis. Four years later the school became known as Butler University, in honor of Ovid Butler, a prominent Indianapolis attorney and abolitionist who wrote the University’s charter in 1850. The handwritten document is preserved in Irwin Library.