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 Samford is a leading Christian university offering undergraduate programs grounded in the liberal arts with an array of nationally recognized graduate and professional programs through 10 academic schools: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health.

 Samford is regularly recognized as one of the best Christian universities in the United States, receiving high marks for academic quality and value. Samford is the top-ranked university in Alabama in national rankings published by *The Wall Street Journal*. Additionally, the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher*

*Education* ranks Samford 2nd in the nation for student engagement. Samford is ranked 86th nationally for best value by *U.S. News & World Report*, and is the only Alabama university included in the list.

**Samford University Highlights 2020-2021**

* Samford achieved its 12th consecutive year of **record enrollment**, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 5,729 students enrolled for the fall semester. Included in the totals are 2,153 graduate/professional students and 3,576 undergraduates representing 47 states, the District of Columbia, and 30 countries. The numbers reflect new individual records in terms of size and quality for both enrolled graduate students and the entering class of 971 freshman students.
* **Samford’s Board of Trustees elected Beck A. Taylor as the university’s 19th president**, effective July 1, 2021. Taylor succeeded Andrew Westmoreland, who retired after serving as president of Samford University since 2006. Taylor was recommended to the board by a 23-member presidential search committee following a six-month national search involving more than 80 nominations and applicants. Taylor comes to Samford from Whitworth University in Spokane, WA where he served as president since 2010. Taylor returns to Samford where he served as dean and professor of economics for Samford’s Brock School of Business from 2005-2010. After earning his undergraduate degree from Baylor University with majors in economics and finance, Taylor was employed as an analyst for Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) in Houston, Texas. He went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from Purdue University. He and his wife of 28 years, Julie, have three children: Zachary, 25, Lauren, 22, and Chloe, 14.
* **Samford’s Ministry Training Institute** afforded courses at 35 extension locations, adding new extension sites at Golden Springs Baptist Church in Anniston, Ruhama Baptist Church in Fort Payne, and continuing to reach other states with a new site at the Alpha Baptist Association in Tennessee. The MTI office processed about 1,600 enrollments through the extension network and online certificate programs, and awarded 84 Biblical Studies Diplomas and 40 certificates to students who finished our curriculum. Samford continues to offer our online Women’s Leadership Certificate in partnership with the Women’s Missionary Union.
* Samford Athletics, with 17 varsity sports in the NCAA Division I level in the Southern Conference, earned a 99% Graduation Success Rate by the NCAA, ranking No. 1 nationally. This year Samford won the prestigious Germann Cup, which goes to the top women’s athletic program in the Southern Conference. This marks the third time Samford has won the award. **Overall, Samford teams won a school-record nine Southern Conference championships this year,** breaking the old record of eight set during the 2019-20 season.