



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

ESTABLISHED 1896 | ENTER TO LEARN, DEPART TO SERVE

MISSION

The mission of Oakwood University, a historically black, Seventh-day Adventist institution, is to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity.

HISTORY

Oakwood University opened its doors in 1896, with an initial enrollment of 16 students. It was then an industrial school on approximately 375 acres of property of a former plantation, founded by visionary leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to educate African-Americans in the South. Today, Oakwood is considered one of Huntsville, Alabama's historical landmarks, with current land holdings of over 1,200 acres, and a student enrollment of approximately 1,900. The university is very much a part of the Huntsville community, with students carrying out their mission of service by participating in local tutoring, disaster relief, community improvement, and child development programs.



In 1943, Oakwood received its first accreditation as a junior college, having already begun the process of achieving senior college status. Fifteen years later, in 1958, it was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. As the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) member institution in Northern Alabama, Oakwood participates in and benefits from UNCF's fund-raising campaigns, including scholarships, as well as access to international educational opportunities.



The institution's current name was adopted on January 1, 2008, when the school achieved university status after adding its first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. *U.S. News & World Report* has consistently ranked Oakwood University among top-tier, private liberal arts colleges and universities in the South. The university offers approximately 60 degrees in more than 16 academic disciplines, and Oakwood has an outstanding record of preparing successful applicants to graduate and attend professional schools. Approximately 60% of the culturally diverse faculty hold doctorate degrees.



ADVENTIST BELIEFS

Oakwood University is affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a world-wide Christian community that operates one of the world's largest Protestant school systems.

Adventists hold most beliefs in common with other Bible-based Protestant faiths. The Trinity. The divinity of Jesus. Salvation through faith in Jesus. Adventists believe that true spirituality impacts every area of their lives. Physical health, a sound mind and strong relationships with God and other people are all seen as important. Each week Adventists celebrate a 24-hour Sabbath rest from work and school, from Friday sunset through Saturday sunset. The Sabbath celebration facilitates spending quality time in worship to God The Creator, nurtures fellowship with family and friends, and offers generous service to our community.

PHILOSOPHY

As a Christian school, we promote strong moral principles and encourage students to develop a close relationship with God. We celebrate the diversity of cultures represented at Oakwood and respect the differences between people groups. We believe in and teach a comprehensive approach to life that balances mind, body, and spirit in such a way that students are fully prepared to serve the world while attending Oakwood and after they complete their studies. 🌍



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

GOD FIRST!

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