



2016 2017 College Profile

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CEEB: 430-967

Accreditations

Southern Association
of Independent Schools (SAIS)
Southern Association
of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Head of School

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Upper School Director

Ben Murphy,
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Director of College Advising

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College Advising Assistant

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Grades PreK2-12th Grade

Total Enrollment 1,035

Upper School (9-12) 312

Class of 2016 82

Class of 2017 85

Founded in 1970, University School of Jackson (USJ) is West Tennessee's premier college preparatory school. From the developmental curriculum in the pre-kindergarten program to the Advanced Placement courses in the Upper School, USJ focuses on the needs of the individual student, providing an environment in which each student can maximize his or her potential in academics, athletics, fine arts, and leadership. We attract students throughout West Tennessee; some of our students travel an hour or more each day to our campus. USJ students routinely win awards in state and regional academic, athletic, and fine arts competitions.

Students

Students who choose USJ seek a school with a challenging college preparatory curriculum plus extensive extracurricular programs. An education at USJ prepares students for the most academically selective colleges and universities. In addition, a USJ education provides our students access to many college scholarship opportunities. Not only do USJ students earn scholarships and gain acceptance to a college of their choice, our students also find that they are well prepared to succeed in college. Each candidate for admission to USJ is evaluated on the basis of a personal interview, admission tests, and academic records. USJ admits students of any race, color, gender, and national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, and national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Faculty

The Upper School staff consists of 38 faculty and administrators, with 28 masters degrees and four doctorates. Faculty are selected on the basis of their academic qualifications in the subject they teach, effective communication skills, and an abiding commitment to the teaching profession.

Environment

Our Upper/Middle School campus features science labs with separate classrooms and computer stations, a comprehensive wireless network that supports the campus 1:1 laptop program, 500-seat performing arts theater, Library/Media Center, and one of the finest secondary school athletic complexes in Tennessee. USJ's unique learning environment challenges students to do their best in all that they pursue. Expectations for our students are high as we prepare them for the world beyond USJ.

Honor Code

The Honor Code at USJ is predicated on the belief that all students are honorable young men and women and have the right to be trusted. Our students desire to learn in an atmosphere where honesty and integrity endure and are an integral part of their lives. Elected class representatives and one Speaker administer the Honor Code, guided by the Dean of Students and two faculty advisors. A position on the Honor Council is considered one of reverence and leadership.



Academic Profile

Grading Scale

Letter Grade/GPA

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 65-69

F < 65

GPA – Honors & AP Weighting

Letter grades on transcripts are unweighted. GPA is based on the weighted average of all honors and AP courses. Honors courses are given a 0.5 point weight, and AP courses are given a 1.0 weight to the semester grade in calculating the 4.50 GPA. Academic honors are determined by the 100-point average using number grades only with the honors grades weighted 5 points and the AP grades weighted 10 points.

Class Rank

Due to the small class size and challenging curriculum, we believe class rank is not a strong discriminator with which to predict college performance. Therefore, USJ does not rank.

Scores for Advanced Placement Exams Taken in 2016

Total Number of AP Students
105

Total Number of AP Exams taken
198

Percent of AP Students with
Scores of 3+

USJ
91%

State
58%

Global
60%

All USJ students who are enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam.

14 Advanced Placement Courses

English Language, English Literature, Calculus (AB/BC), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, U.S. History, Spanish Language, French Language, Psychology, 2-Dimensional Design, 3-Dimensional Design, and Drawing. Students are required to take the AP exam in the spring in order to earn the AP weighting.

Honors Courses

English I & II, Algebra I, Algebra II & Trigonometry, Geometry, Precalculus, Spanish I, French I, Spanish II, French II, Spanish III, French III, Spanish IV, Biology I, Chemistry I, and Physics.

Graduation Requirements

- 4 units of English
- 4 units of Math (Algebra I, II, III & Trigonometry, Geometry)
- 3 units of Social Science (U.S., World History, Social Science)
- 3 units of Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- 3 units of the same World Language
- 1 unit of Creative/Performing Arts
- 0.5 units of Computer
- 4.5 units of electives

23.0 Total Units + Community Service
(minimum of 50 hours)

Graduation Honors

Seniors are honored for their academic excellence. Graduating with Honors requires a 94.5 weighted average, High Honors requires a 96.5 weighted average, and Highest Honors requires a 98.5 weighted average.

Calendar & Day

The school year has two semesters; each with two quarters and end-of-semester exams. The school day has seven periods that are 50 minutes each. Given the privilege of a free period, seniors must take five courses and a study hall both semesters.

Memberships

College Board, Educational Testing Service, ERB, ACT, National Association of Independent Schools, Southern Association of Independent Schools, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, Memphis Association of Independent Schools, Mu Alpha Theta, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Southern Association for College Admission Counseling, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, National Art Education Association, National Association for Music Education, National Honor Society, National Social Studies Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, Société Honoraire de Française, National English Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society.

Advanced Placement Scholars (# of Students/Grade Mean)

Year	Scholars	With Honor	With Distinction	Total
2016	7/3.30	5/3.57	11/4.06**	22/3.84
2015	9/3.88	5/3.85	14/4.17	28/4.06
2014	14/4.12	6/4.04	12/4.10	32/4.18
2013	11/3.38	8/3.65	13/4.28*	32/3.99
2012	15/3.70	11/4.11	10/4.12**	36/4.01

*w/3 National AP Scholars and 1 International Diploma Scholar w/AP average of 4.50

**w/1 National AP Scholars w/AP average of 4.56

Typical Course of Study

University School of Jackson offers a challenging course of study for students throughout their four years in the Upper School. These academic pursuits are blended with extracurricular activities of the student's choosing, including athletics, club leadership and participation opportunities, and the arts, and together result in a well-rounded life of excellence. Students are also encouraged to balance their participation in curricular and extracurricular activities with time spent with family and friends, helping them learn how to lead productive, fulfilling, and enriched lives.

Grade 9

- English I or I Honors
- Algebra I or I Honors
- French I or I Honors or Spanish I or I Honors
- Biology I or I Honors
- World History
- Elective

Grade 10

- English II or II Honors
- Geometry or Geometry Honors
- French II or II Honors or Spanish II or II Honors
- Chemistry I or I Honors
- Government/Economics
- Elective

Grade 11

- English III or AP Language
- Algebra II or II and Trigonometry Honors
- French III or III Honors or Spanish III or Spanish III Honors
- Physics, Physics Honors, AP Biology, or AP Chemistry
- U.S. History or AP U.S. History
- Elective

Grade 12

- English IV Modern Literature or AP Literature
- Algebra III & Trigonometry, Precalculus Honors, or AP Calculus AB/BC
- 3 Elective choices from Electives list, below:
- Spanish IV Honors or AP Spanish Language, AP French Language
- Physics, Physics Honors, AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Biology
- U.S. History, AP U.S. History

Electives

- Accounting
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Art I, II, III
- Band
- Book Study Seminar
- Broadcast Journalism

- Choir/USJ Singers/Concert Choir
- Computer Coding
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Tools
- Forensic Science
- Intro to Theater/Advanced Theater

- Journalism
- Library Research & Operations
- Personal Finance
- Psychology
- AP Psychology
- Speech
- Strength and Conditioning
- Studio Art

- Studio Art AP: 2-Dimensional Design, 3-Dimensional Design, and Drawing
- Study Abroad*
- U.S. & World Issues
- Wellness
- World Religions

* Study Abroad (1/2 credit elective)

- Costa Rica Study Abroad Program: Students are immersed in Spanish for three weeks, earning more than 40 contact hours of instruction at the Intensa Language Institute. The trip is offered during the summer of even years.

- French Study Abroad Program: Students are immersed in French for three weeks, earning more than 40 contact hours of instruction. The trip is offered during the summer of odd years.

Class of 2016

ACT (100% tested)

33-36	4%
28-32	33%
24-27	25%
20-23	36%
<20	2%

Quintiles	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
GPA	4.59	4.14	3.84	3.37	2.79
ACT	31	27	25	23	21

ACT Middle 50% Range 21-30

National Merit Competition

Class of	Finalist	Commended	Class Size
2016	-	2	82
2015	1	2**	73
2014	3*	2	67
2013	1	2**	88
2012	2*	3**	103

*w/1 National Achievement Finalist

**w/1 National Achievement

Student averages in Class of 2016

≥4.0 = 33 (40%)	3.99-3.5 = 19 (23%)	3.49-3.0 = 19 (23%)	2.99-2.5 = 9 (11%)	2.49-2.0 = 2 (2%)	≤2.0 = 0 (0%)
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College Acceptance Summary for Classes of 2012-2016

The colleges listed below have accepted a USJ student from the Classes of 2012-2016.

An asterisk indicates that a USJ graduate from the Classes of 2011-2015 has attended this college.

American University	*Harding University	*Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Maine
Arkansas State University	*Harvard College	*Samford University	Maryland-College Park
Arkansas Tech University	*Hendrix College	*Savannah College of Art	Massachusetts, Amherst
Art Institute of Los Angeles	*High Point University	*Sewanee: University of the South	Massachusetts, Boston
Art Institute of Nashville	Huntingdon College	South Dakota School of Mines	*Memphis
*Auburn University	*Jackson State Community College	Southeast Missouri State University	Miami
*Austin Peay State University	Jones County Junior College	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	*Michigan
Azusa Pacific University	Kenyon College	*Southern Methodist University	*Mississippi
Baldwin Wallace University	*Lee University	Southern University of A&T College	*Missouri-Columbia
*Baptist College of Health Science	Lindsey Wilson College	*St. Louis University	*Missouri-Kansas City
Baylor University	*Lipscomb University	St. Thomas Aquinas College	New Hampshire, Durham
*Belmont University	*Louisiana State University	Stanford University	*New England
Berry College	Louisiana Tech University	Stetson University	*North Alabama
*Bethel University	Loyola-Chicago	*Tennessee Technological University	North Carolina-Asheville
*Birmingham-Southern College	Lyon College	*Tennessee Wesleyan College	North Carolina-Chapel Hill
*Boston College	*Martin Methodist College	Texas A&M University	North Carolina, Wilmington
*Boston University	Marymount Manhattan	*Texas Christian University	*Pennsylvania
Brigham Young University, Idaho	Maryville College	The King's College	*Pittsburgh
Butler University	*Memphis College of Art	*Trevecca Nazarene University	*Rochester
California Baptist University	Mercer University	Tulane University	South Alabama
*Carnegie Mellon University	*Middle Tennessee State University	Tusculum College	South Carolina
Carson Newman	Millikin University	Tuskegee University	South Carolina Upstate
Case Western Reserve University	*Millsaps College	Union College	Southern Mississippi
Centre College	*Mississippi State University	*Union University	St. Francis
Chicago Art Institute	*Mississippi State University		Tampa
*Christian Brothers University	*Montana State University		*Tennessee-Chattanooga
Cincinnati Christian University	*Murray State University		*Tennessee-Knoxville
Citadel	New York University		*Tennessee-Martin
Clemson University	North Carolina A&T State University	University of ...	Texas
*Coastal Carolina University	North Carolina State	*Alabama	The Cumberlands
Colgate University	Northeastern University	*Alabama-Birmingham	Virginia
College of Charleston	*Northwestern University	*Alabama-Huntsville	Washington
College of Wooster	Notre Dame	Alaska	West Florida
Colorado School of Mines	Nova Southeastern University	*Arizona	Utah
*Cumberland University	Ohio State University	*Arkansas	Utah Valley University
Davidson College	Oklahoma City University	*Arkansas-Little Rock	Valdosta State University
*Delta State University	Oklahoma Wesleyan University	California-Davis	*Vanderbilt University
Duke University	Palm Beach Atlantic University	California-Irvine	Vassar College
Duquesne University	Pellissippi State Technical Community College	California-Los Angeles	Virginia Military Institute
Dyersburg State Community College	Pennsylvania State	Chicago	*Viterbo University
East Tennessee State University	Point Park University	*Cincinnati	Wagner University
*Eckerd College	Purdue University	*Colorado at Boulder	Wake Forest University
Emory University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Colorado at Denver	*Washington University in St. Louis
Florida Institute of Technology	*Rhodes College	Denver	*Watkins College of Art and Design
Florida Southern University	Ringling College of Art/Design	Evansville	Webster University
Florida State University	Rochester Institute of Technology	Florida	Wheaton College
*Freed-Hardeman University	*Rockford College	*Georgia	Wittenberg University
Furman University	Rollins College	Great Falls	*William Jewell
*Georgetown University		Kansas	*Wofford College
*Georgia Tech		Kentucky	