Over five decades, UAB has evolved from an academic extension center into an autonomous, comprehensive urban university and academic health center within the University of Alabama System. UAB has established wide-ranging programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Collat School of Business, the Heersink School of Medicine and the schools of Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Health Professions, Nursing, Optometry and Public Health, with graduate programs serving all major units. UAB has 16 graduate programs ranked in the top 25 of the U.S. News Best Graduate Schools 2022 rankings.

Fall 2021 enrollment surpassed 22,000 students for the third consecutive year, including the largest first-time freshman cohort in UAB history. The freshman class had an average ACT of 26.5, and a high school GPA of 3.82. UAB has a very diverse student body, with underrepresented students making up more than 45 percent of overall enrollment and first-generation students making up 28 percent of undergraduate enrollment.

UAB is situated near downtown Birmingham and the historic Five Points South district. The campus stretches across 100 square blocks and occupies more than 100 primary buildings. UAB is Alabama’s largest single-site employer, with more than 26,000 employees and an economic impact exceeding $7.15 billion annually on the state. In 2021, UAB was named America’s No. 1 Best Large Employer by Forbes, topping a list of more than 500 public and private corporations, hospitals, university, Fortune 500 companies and more. UAB also was named the Best Employer for Diversity among colleges and universities by Forbes in 2021.