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 and the schools of Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry and Public Health, with graduate programs serving all major units. Fall 2019 enrollment was a record-high 22,080 students, the fourth consecutive year of record enrollment. The freshman class had an average ACT of 25.6, and a high school GPA of 3.78.

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 23,000 employees and an economic impact exceeding $7.15 billion annually on the state.