



2024 2025 COLLEGE PROFILE

232 McClellan Road • Jackson, TN 38305 • (731) 664-0812 • Fax: (731) 664-5046 • www.usjbruins.org

CEEB: 430-967

Accreditations

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

Head of School

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Associate Head of School

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Upper School Director

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College Advising Assistant

Lori Howell,
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Grades Infant-12th Grade

Total Enrollment 1,076

Upper School (9-12) 262

Class of 2023 71

Class of 2024 80

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 and 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 with 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 32 faculty and administrators, with 23 masters degrees and one doctorate. 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, a comprehensive wireless network that supports the 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 more in an atmosphere where honesty and integrity endure and are integral parts of their lives. Elected class representatives and one speaker administer the Honor Code, guided by the Dean of Students and two faculty advisors. Students respect the council members' leadership and impartiality.



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.

USJ & Covid 19: The University School of Jackson's fourth quarter of the 2019-20 school year was conducted via synchronous, online learning. The calculation for that semester was adjusted from 25% for each quarter to 30% for quarter three and 20% for quarter four with no semester exams being given. There were no club meetings or officers selected for 2020-21.

18 Advanced Placement Courses

English Language, English Literature, Calculus (AB/BC), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, U.S. History, Music Theory, European History, Environmental Science, Spanish Language, French Language, Psychology, Human Geography, 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. (* Number of AP classes can vary due to student course requests.)

Honors Courses

English I & II, Algebra I, Algebra II & Advanced Math, Geometry, Precalculus, Spanish I, French I, Spanish II, French II, Spanish III, French III, Spanish IV, French 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
- 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, 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 Exams Taken in 2024

Total Number of AP Students

104

Total Number of AP Exams taken

200

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

Advanced Placement Scholars (# of Students/Grade Mean)

Year	Scholars	With Honor	With Distinction	National Scholars	Total
2024	15/3.19	13/3.75	9/4.16	-	37/3.71
2023	18/3.13	10/4.0	5/4.13	-	33/3.64
2022	9/3.35	3/3.75	6/4.05	-	18/3.75
2021	8/3.34	3/3.88	7/3.86	-	18/3.69
2020	11/2.84	5/3.67	14/3.82	1/4.60	30/3.54

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 or Honors
- Government/Economics
- Elective

Grade 11

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

Electives

- Accounting
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Art I, II, III
- Art History I, II
- Band or Honors Band
- Book Study Seminar
- Choir
- Communications
- Creative Writing

- Criminal Justice
- AP European History
- Forensic Science
- Guitar
- Health & Wellness
- History in Film
- Intro to Theater/Advanced Theater
- AP Human Geography
- Journalism

- AP Music Theory
- Personal Finance
- Psychology
- AP Psychology
- Speech
- STEM
- Strength and Conditioning
- Studio Art AP: 2-Dimensional Design, 3-Dimensional Design, and Drawing

- Study Abroad*
- U.S. & World Issues
- World Religions

(*Course offerings can vary due to student course requests.)

* Study Abroad (1/2 credit elective)

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

CLASS OF 2024

ACT (100% tested)		Quintiles	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
33-36	5%	GPA	4.64	4.50	4.19	3.68	3.05
28-32	26%	ACT	30	26	25	22	20
24-27	23%						
20-23	30%						
<20	16%						

Student averages in Class of 2023

>4.5 = 24 (30%)	>4.0-4.49 = 22 (28%)	3.99-3.5 = 13 (19%)	3.49-3.0 = 12 (15%)	2.99-2.5 = 7 (9%)	2.49 ≥ 0
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National Merit Competition

Class of	Finalist	Commended	Class Size
2024	-	1	80
2023	1	-	71
2022	-	1	44
2021	1	1	66
2020	2	2	69

College Acceptance Summary for Classes of 2020-2024

The colleges listed below have accepted a USJ student from the Classes of 2020-2024.

An asterisk indicates that a USJ graduate from the Classes of 2020-2024 has attended this college.

AMDA College of Performing Arts - LA
Appalachian State University
*Arkansas State University
*Arkansas Tech University
Arizon State University
*Auburn University
*Austin Peay State University
*Baldwin Wallace University
Ball State University
*Baylor University
*Belmont University
Bellarmine University
Berry College
*Boston College
Boston University
*Bresica University
*Brown
Butler University
*Centre College
*Christian Brothers University
*Citadel
Charleston Southern University
Clemson University
*College of Charleston
College of Wooster
Colorado State University
*Columbia University
CUNY John J. College
Denison University
*Drake University
Drexel University
*Duke University
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eckerd College
*Elon University
Emory University
*Florida International University
*Florida State University
Fordham University
Freed-Hardeman University
Furman University
George Mason University
*Georgia State University
Harding University
*Harvard University
Hendrix College
High Point University
*Howard University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University
*Jackson State Community College
Kent State University
Kentucky State University

Lee University
*Lipscomb University
*Louisiana State University
Loyola- Chicago
*Loyola- New Orleans
Lyon College
Marymount Manhattan College
Mercer University
*Miami of Ohio
*Middle Tennessee State University
*Mississippi College
*Mississippi State University
Missouri State College
Molloy College
Mulhenburg College
*Murray State University
Nazareth College
Northeastern University
*Northwestern University
Ohio Northern University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
Pace University
Pamona College
Pennsylvania State
Pennsylvania State-Harrisburg
Point Park University
*Purdue University
Randolph-Macon College
*Rhodes College
Rice University
Ripon College
Rockhurst University
*Samford University
*Savannah College of Art
Seton Hall University
*Sewanee: University of the South
*Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
*Southern Methodist University
St. John's College
*St. Louis University
Syracuse University
Temple University
*Tennessee Technological University
*Texas A&M University
*Texas Christian University
The New School
*Trine
Tufts University
*Tulane University
Tuskegee University
Tusculum University
*Union University

University of ...

*Alabama
*Alabama-Birmingham
Alabama-Huntsville
*Arkansas
Arkansas-Little Rock
Arizona
California Irvine
Central Florida
Cincinnati
*Connecticut
Evansville
*Florida
*Georgia
Illinois
Kentucky
*Memphis
Miami
Michigan
*Mississippi
Missouri
*North Alabama
North Carolina-Ashville
North Carolina-Chapel Hill
North Carolina-Greensboro
*Oregon
*Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh
Richmond
Rochester
San Francisco
South Carolina
*Tennessee-Chattanooga
*Tennessee-Knoxville
*Tennessee-Martin
Texas
West Florida

Ursinus College
*Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Viterbo University
Wake Forest University
Washington & Lee
*Washington University in St. Louis
*Western Kentucky University
Wheaton College
*Wofford College
Wright State University
Xavier University
*Yale University