

BECOMING

Guided by Faith, Rooted in Purpose



Samford University

What does it mean to be a Samford Bulldog?

For as long as you can remember, someone has been asking you what you want to do.

What do you want to be when you grow up? What are you going to study? What's the plan? It's a reasonable question. But somewhere in the asking, a more important one gets missed.

Who do you want to become?

Not what role you'll fill or what title you'll hold. Not what you'll put on a resume or how you'll answer at a dinner party. But the person underneath all of it. The thinker. The maker. The neighbor, the leader, the friend. The one who knows what they believe and why they believe it.

The one who shows up with both capability and character. That question doesn't have a quick answer. It's a process.

And that process, the real one, the one that shapes you at the level where it actually matters, doesn't happen by accident. It happens in the presence of professors who know your name. In a community that holds you to something. In a faith that isn't just practiced on Sunday. In a city full of opportunity and a campus full of people who are figuring it out right alongside you.

You're standing at the beginning of something. You can feel it.

This is the moment everything starts to take shape.





Nurturing students in their
development of intellect,
creativity, faith and personhood.

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186 majors, minors and
concentrations

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Become a Bulldog

A Samford education spans 10 schools and 186 majors, minors and concentrations, from divinity to nursing to business to the arts. Underneath all of it runs a liberal arts foundation, which means a chemistry major reads literature and a finance major studies ethics. The schools are different, but the formation is the same. Each one is built around the conviction that the strongest professionals are people first, and that a degree that does not also shape a person is only half a degree.

10 Schools. 1 Mission.

1. School of Public Health

Prepares future health professionals and leaders through interdisciplinary programs in nutrition and dietetics, healthcare administration and informatics, public health and social work focused on improving health and well-being.
2. School of the Arts

Brings music, theatre, dance and visual arts to life, equipping students to create boldly, perform confidently and pursue meaningful creative careers.
3. Howard College of Arts and Sciences

The university's largest academic unit, offering liberal arts and science programs that build critical thinking and prepare students for diverse careers or graduate study.
4. Brock School of Business

Equips students to lead with purpose through a faith-driven business curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, and a broad portfolio of programs that help students discover how their gifts translate into impact.
5. Beeson Divinity School

Offers theological education and ministry training that prepares students for church leadership, missions, counseling and faith-based service.
6. Orlean Beeson School of Education

Equips future educators and leaders through hands-on classroom experience, research-based teaching methods and leadership development.
7. School of Health Professions

Prepares students to lead across allied health careers through diverse academic programs and interprofessional training, promoting health, wellness and quality of life.
8. Cumberland School of Law

An ABA-accredited law school emphasizing practical courtroom skills, legal reasoning and ethical advocacy through its Juris Doctor program.
9. McWhorter School of Pharmacy

Prepares future pharmacists through integrated course work, early clinical experiences and advanced practice training, equipping graduates to improve patient outcomes across health care, community and industry settings.
10. Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing

Nursing prepares caring, competent and compassionate graduates committed to service and professional practice by providing quality education in a nurturing Christian environment.



186 majors, minors and concentrations

#5 in the nation for most recommended universities
(The Wall Street Journal, 2026)





View Our Degrees

A complete list of majors, minors and concentrations across all ten schools.



75% out-of-state students
(representing 44 states, Puerto Rico and 16 countries)

14:1

Student:Faculty

19

average
undergraduate
class size



The faculty at Samford are not here by accident. They came because they believe the biggest difference they can make is at a place small enough to make mentorship a normal part of the week. The goal is not simply to teach students. It is to invest in them. That is not a posture taken for the sake of visibility. It is a posture taken because who each student is becoming actually matters to the people standing at the front of the room.

That investment is what you will feel here. In the office hours that turn into real conversations. In the recommendation letters that speak to who you are beyond the classroom. In the introductions, the advice, the late afternoon coffee meetings that were never on the calendar. The professors at Samford want you to leave better than you arrived, and they want to be part of how that happens.



Where Mentorship *Matters*



The phone call that brought Wink Winkler to Samford came from the VP of Disney Imagineering. Samford was building a new program and asked if there was anyone he would recommend. Without hesitation, his answer was “Wink.”

He had spent his career at Disney, Electronic Arts, CBS, Nickelodeon and Digital Domain, doing everything from feature films to game design. While he had a decorated career, he came to Birmingham anyway because he wanted to give back. What he brought with him was every relationship he had ever built: every conference contact, every studio, every introduction that had ever opened a door for him. He wanted to use what he had built to make opportunities for his students.

The game design program at Samford is growing quickly. Wink knows every student in it. He knows what they are working on, what they are trying to figure out, what is going well and what needs work.

That kind of attention shapes the way he teaches. Students get one-on-ones. They get invited to industry events. They get introduced to the people who built the careers they are dreaming about. When someone walks in unsure of what they want, the answer is not pressure. The answer is patience. His own career was not a straight line either, and the way he mentors makes room for the fact that becoming who you are meant to be takes some figuring out.

This is what mentorship at Samford looks like. Not a four-year transaction, but a relationship that does not end when the diploma is handed over. Wink's students are still connected and engaged years after graduation. They are still part of his network. They are still finding doors he is willing to open. They left Samford with a degree. What they kept was a mentor.

Samford Named Among the Top 35 Most Beautiful Campuses

by U.S. News & World Report (2026)



Your Home Away from Home

The best moments of university life tend to be the ones nobody could have planned. Running into a friend on the way to class. Lingering at a table long after the meal is over. Bumping into a study group and joining for a while. None of those moments survive a campus where everything is far apart. All of them flourish where everything is close together.

At the heart of Samford, quite literally the center of campus, lies the foundation of the community a student finds here. The five freshman halls—Gaston, Mann, Pittman, Vail and Smith—sit just a few steps from the University Center, where students eat, study between classes and meet up for coffee. The chapel, the Rec Center, the library and classrooms are all

a short walk in any direction. Almost everything that matters to a student is within a few minutes of where they sleep. That kind of geography is not a small thing. It shapes how a week feels. It means a free hour is enough time to actually do something. It means the friends a student is making are the same people they keep seeing.

This is what Samford has built. Not amenities for the sake of amenities, but the conditions for a kind of community most students are hoping to find. You arrive here as one person among strangers. You leave with people who know you, who have been with you through the parts of life that matter and who will become like family.



Take a sneak peek into these brand-new freshman residence halls at samford.edu/map or scan here:



A City with So Much to Offer



“Birmingham was 11 hours from where I grew up, but it didn’t take long for it to feel like home.”

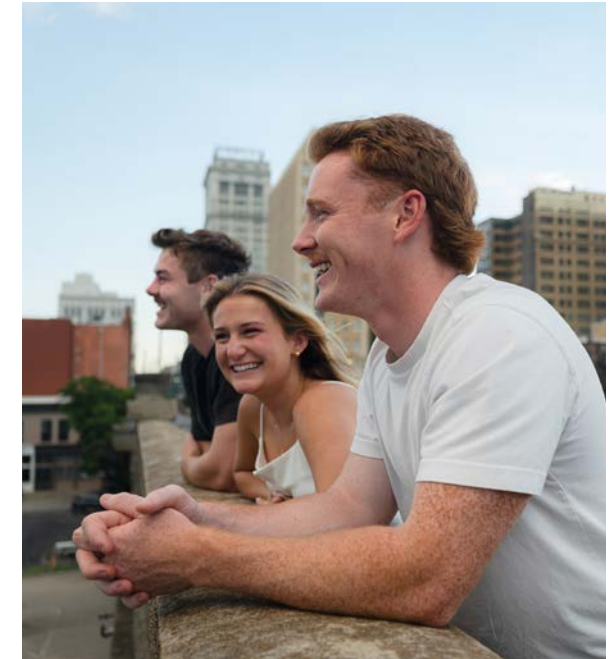
Choosing a university is more than finding the right campus. It is also deciding where you will live for the next four years, the city you will navigate when classes let out, the streets you will come to know by heart. Birmingham is the right size for that. Big enough to keep surprising you, small enough that you can actually find your place in it.

The food alone could fill a four-year tour. James Beard Award-winning chefs at the top of the scene, neighborhood spots that have been around for decades, coffee shops on nearly every corner and a Saturday morning farmers market downtown that locals plan their weekend around. One thing you don't have to worry about: Birmingham eats well.

A city this size also leaves room for a student to take their next step. Samford alumni live and work across Birmingham, eager to open doors for the next class coming up after them. Internships, mentors, first jobs, introductions, a coffee meeting that turns into something real. The network is already here, already invested and already looking for the students who are about to walk into it.

And for a student who came to Samford because faith matters, Birmingham is a city where faith is woven into the fabric of the place. Churches across every tradition, ministries doing real work in real neighborhoods, communities ready to know you and walk with you for the four years you are here.

We hope you enjoy it here as much as we do and discover why so many students end up calling this place home long after graduation.



Scan here to see what all Birmingham has to offer.

#1
top metro areas
for new graduates

(The Wall Street Journal, 2026)

1.2M
metro Birmingham
population

based on Consensus Reporter

15 min
from Samford to
Birmingham-Shuttlesworth
International Airport

A Faith That Stays with You

Samford is a Christian university. That word means something here. It is not a label on the front of the building. It is the reason the building was built. Faith is at the foundation of Samford. It's why its professors teach, why its students gather and why a degree from here is meant to do more than begin a career. The point is to send a person into the world who knows what they believe, why they believe it and how to live like they mean it.

For a student, that means a campus where faith is not slotted into one hour of the week. It shows up in the classroom, in conversations between friends, in the questions a professor is willing to take seriously. Four years here gives a student time to put down roots, to ask the hard questions in good company and to leave with a faith that has been thought about, lived in and made fully their own.

Campus Worship

A weekly rhythm of worship that brings the campus together as one community before the work of the week begins. Students show up to sing, listen, pray and share the same hour together. It is the kind of gathering that becomes a steady marker in a busy schedule.



Cadres

A few students, a few questions and a regular table that becomes a habit. Cadres are small groups where faith gets personal. They meet throughout the year to read together, talk honestly and become the kind of small community where a person can actually be known.



Outreach

Putting faith into practice across Birmingham, the country and the world. Students serve where help is needed and learn what it looks like to show up for people who are not them. The work changes the places it touches, and it changes the students doing it just as much.



130

annual Cadres (small groups)
for spiritual growth

177

spiritual life
events annually



18

Greek-letter organizations



216

undergraduate and graduate student organizations



BECOMING

A Part of Something Bigger than Yourself

A person does not grow into themselves alone. They grow alongside other people, through shared work and shared goals, in rooms where they are counted on for something. The friendships, the leadership, the late-night conversations, the wins and the losses—these are essential to becoming the person you are going to be.

That is why there is always something to join here. More than 200 student organizations, 18 Greek-letter chapters, 24 intramural sports, a student government association, club teams, ministries, performance groups. The variety is the point. A campus this size could not produce so many ways to belong unless it believed, all the way down, that belonging is where formation happens.

You learn how to show up when it is your turn. You learn how to disagree with a friend and still be a friend. You learn the difference between leading and being out in front. These lessons do not show up on a transcript, but they are evident everywhere else.

Togetherness is at the heart of what Samford does, because togetherness is what shapes a person into who they are meant to be. The proof is in who you find while you are here. The teammate who becomes a roommate. The girl from the floor below who becomes a bridesmaid. The guy in the chapter who becomes a business partner. These are the people who will know you before you know yourself, and they are the ones who walk with you into everything that comes next.



6,324

total enrollment (fall 2025)





Ajailah Ogiemwonyi
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Samford is one of 30 schools on The Princeton Review’s “Mental Health Honor Roll.”

Ajailah transferred to Samford as a nursing student and met a rigorous program that asks a lot of its students. She did what a lot of students do at first and tried to handle everything on her own. The turning point came when she finally leaned into the community around her and realized the support had been there all along.

“All it took was the courage to knock on their doors and ask for help.”

Samford is the kind of place that shows up for its students. Professors who answer when a student knocks. An academic coach who keeps showing up. A network of resources, from Samford CARES to wellness programs to small-group Cadres, designed to make sure no student has to figure it out alone.

The point is not to produce graduates who never needed help. The point is to produce graduates who learned how to seek wisdom when they needed it, so that one day they can be the ones offering it.

Samford CARES

Samford CARES is a network of resources built around one idea: that a thriving student is a supported student. From counseling to wellness programming to emergency assistance, it is how the campus shows up for the people on it.

Campus Safety

A team of trained professionals patrols campus 24 hours a day, ready to respond to anything from a locked-out student to a real emergency. They are visible across campus and never more than a call away.

THRIVE 33

THRIVE 33 is a 33-day program designed to help new students settle into life at Samford. From Connections Weekend through Family Weekend, the first month is filled with events, traditions and built-in ways to find your people early.

Join the Team



Some students come to Samford to compete. They wear the jersey, run the routes, log the early mornings and represent the school on the road. Many students do not. But every student here gets to be on a team in some way that matters.

Samford competes at the NCAA Division I level in 17 sports, with another 18 club sports and 24 intramural leagues alongside them. That means the stakes are real, the seasons are long and there is room for almost any student who wants to play, at almost any level they want to play. From the soccer player chasing another conference title to the friends on your hall putting together an intramural flag football team, athletics at Samford is built to include you.

What happens around the games turns out to matter just as much. The student section that fills in before tipoff. The road trip to the conference tournament. The group of friends who paint up for homecoming and stay loud until the final whistle. There is something formative about pulling for a team you do not play on, investing in an outcome you do not control, and being in the stands with people who care as much as you do.

Four years go by quickly here. The team you joined, whether you ever wore the colors or just wore them in the stands, will be one you're on for the rest of your life.

17

NCAA Division I
varsity sports

18

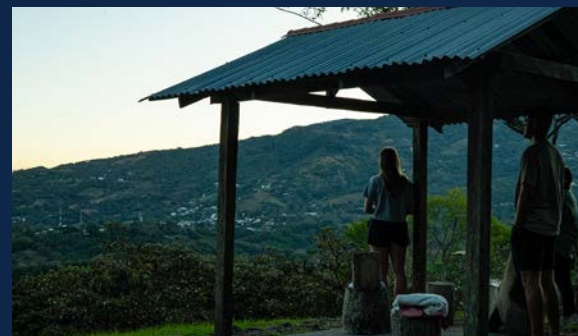
club sports

24

intramural sports



In Pursuit of *Something More*



A certain kind of learning only happens somewhere else. You have to be far enough from home that the assumptions you grew up with start to look like assumptions. You have to stay long enough in a new place that you stop comparing it to where you came from and start understanding the city on its own terms. The world is bigger than the one a student has known, and a few months of living inside that bigger world changes them in ways they cannot fully describe and will never undo.

A semester abroad at Samford is an immersion in everything a place has to offer. Students learn enough of the language to order dinner and ask directions. They take classes that engage local history and culture. They get to know a city the way only its residents do. The learning happens partly at a desk and mostly everywhere else.

What students bring home with them is a sense of how the world fits together. A clearer view of what is universal and what is not. Friendships forged on long train rides. Strangers who turned into hosts. Ordinary days in extraordinary places that they will be telling stories about for the rest of their lives.

For students who want to see more, Samford makes it accessible. More than 50 study abroad programs across thirteen countries. 43 percent of students participate before they graduate. The world is closer than it has ever been, and Samford is a good place to launch into it.

Experience an extension of
Samford in a different culture.



Finca de Samford
Near San José, Costa Rica



Daniel House
London, England

Finca de Samford sits on fourteen acres of mountain countryside near San José, Costa Rica. The Daniel House is a 5-story home in central London, a mile from Kensington Palace, where Samford students have been studying for more than 40 years. Both belong to Samford, and both give students the experience of campus life dropped into a different culture. Very few universities can offer that. Samford offers it twice.

50+
study abroad
programs

43%
of students
study abroad

Traveling Abroad with Samford

- U.K.
- Italy
- Spain
- Greece
- Israel
- France
- Costa Rica
- Hong Kong
- Jordan
- Peru
- Argentina
- Egypt
- China

To see a full list of study
abroad programs and
opportunities, visit
abroad.samford.edu or
scan the QR code



Madison Hamilton
Owner of Stitched by Madison
Marketing and Entrepreneurship, senior



Preparing for What Comes Next

Madison Hamilton came to Samford with a side hustle. She had bought an embroidery machine in high school and was making custom sweatshirts for her friends. By the end of her freshman year, that side hustle had become Stitched by Madison, a sorority apparel brand now licensed across eleven national sororities and run from her dorm room.

“Samford is the place that pushed me to become more than I thought I could be.”

What Samford gave her was a four-year runway to start building a career, not a four-year wait for one to begin. She joined the Samford Startup program and found mentorship, real funding and a community of other students growing real businesses alongside her. The classes she was taking became inputs into the business she was already running. With years of hard work, creativity and a strong community to support her, Stitched By Madison has continued to grow through the Samford Startup experience and is set up to flourish even after graduation.

Your Support System

Samford Startup is a student-led business incubator program open to all students of any major. Members have access to the Titus/UFG Innovation Lab in Cooney Hall, a collaborative space for Startup students to grow and innovate, along with funding, regular sessions with industry experts and faculty mentors and the support from other students who are building real businesses in real time. For students who already have a venture or want to start one, it is the closest thing on campus to a working studio for the thing they are trying to build.

#3
in the nation for
career preparation
(The Wall Street Journal, 2026)

#7
in the nation for strongest
learning opportunities
(The Wall Street Journal, 2026)

“Invest in your community before you invest in your career.”

The community that you cultivate can be a backbone for you in the highs and the lows.”

Tony Hale '92
Bachelor of Arts

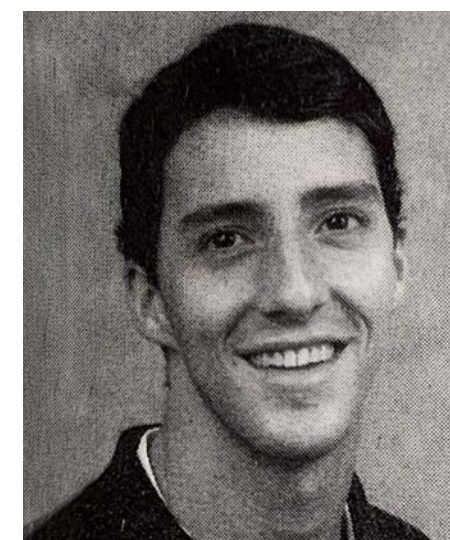


97%

of undergraduate alumni
employed or in further study
(within six months of graduation)

60,000+

alumni worldwide



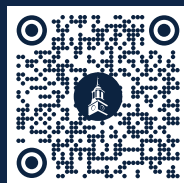
The Company You Keep

Before *Veep*. Before *Arrested Development*. Before *Toy Story 5* and *Inside Out 2*, Tony Hale '92 was a journalism and mass communication major at Samford, fumbling through Step Sing choreography with his Sigma Chi brothers and finding his footing on stage through the Word Players, the campus drama group he later called “a lifeline.” He moved to New York after graduation, waited tables, caught small parts and almost gave up in his first year. The role of Buster Bluth came years later. The Emmy wins came years after that.

He returned to Samford in 2025 to give the commencement address. The advice he gave the graduating seniors was not about ambition. It was not about talent. It was this: Invest in your community before you invest in your career. The community you build, he told them, becomes the backbone of every high and every low that follows. Tony Hale’s story is not a roadmap. It is a reminder. The person you are becoming, at Samford and beyond, is shaped by who you are surrounded by along the way.

BECOME a *Bulldog*

Learn more about the
Samford Admission Process



samford.edu/admission



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