

Narrative Description:

The University of Kansas (KU) is a major public research and teaching university that serves as a center for learning, scholarship, and creative endeavor. Established in 1865, the University has five principal locations -- the main campus, Lawrence; the Medical Center campus, Kansas City; School of Medicine branch campuses in Wichita and Salina; and the Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Of the total Fall 2020 University enrollment of 27,619 students, 22,578 are enrolled at the main campus in Lawrence. The Lawrence campus is located in the heart of the city on a ridge called Mount Oread with more than 150 major buildings. *National Geographic* named KU's main campus one of the nation's most attractive. Jayhawk Boulevard, KU's central thoroughfare, is closed to drive-through traffic during the week; walking and bicycling are favored modes of transportation. Many students also take advantage of the city/campus bus system, which stops at major campus buildings, downtown, and many areas of the city. The University has 2,914 faculty and offers 149 bachelor programs, 67 undergraduate/graduate certificate programs, 130 master/specialist, and 98 doctorate research/professional degree programs. KU has the only state-supported schools of Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy in Kansas.

The library system has 12 facilities with over 5 million volumes. Special libraries include art and architecture, engineering, science, law, medicine, music, rare books and manuscripts, and regional collections. The Lied Center for the Performing Arts hosts various theatrical productions throughout the year in its 2,020 seat auditorium. Internationally known orchestras, dance troupes, singers, speakers, and Broadway productions have all been part of past event calendars. The oldest portions of the KU Lawrence campus were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013 and 2014. Four campus buildings are also on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museums of Art and Natural History and the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics are major attractions.

With its world-famous mascot, the Jayhawk, KU belongs to the Big 12 athletic conference and sponsors 16 varsity sports. Football and basketball games are popular events. "Late Night in the Phog" kicks off the basketball season and packs Allen Fieldhouse with students, faculty, and townspeople. KU has won 11 NCAA team championships with the most recent championship earned by the women's outdoor track and field team in 2013, the first championship for a women's program in school history. In the 2019-20 academic year, the women's soccer team won the Big 12 tournament for the first time and advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the second time in program history. The men's basketball team also won their 61st conference championship and were ranked number one in the country when the postseason was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The University provides a wide range of services for students. On-campus housing options include residence halls, scholarship halls, and apartments. All on-campus housing is wired for high speed internet access and Wi-Fi; most campus buildings have Wi-Fi. Many students opt for off-campus housing, which is widely available. On campus services available to students include academic language resource center, a CEA accredited Applied English Center, career and employment centers, counseling and psychological center, day care center, disabled student services, financial aid/scholarship office, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences advising center, health center, Honors Program, on campus housing office, international student office, legal services office, money management services, multicultural affairs office and resource center, new student orientation office, Study Abroad office, tutoring services, undergraduate advising center, veterans services office, women's resource center, writing center, and two student unions. Recreation Services sponsors intramural programs and there are many sport clubs. Campus student recreation facilities have aerobic/martial arts studios, cardiovascular and resistance training equipment areas, suspended walking/jogging track, indoor climbing wall, indoor golf simulator, outdoor challenge course, tennis and sand volleyball courts, soccer and rugby playing fields, basketball, racquetball, and volleyball courts, two indoor swimming pools, and multiple gyms. Student Union Activities sponsors many recreational outings, lectures, concerts, a low cost film series, as well as several free films throughout the year. The Student Involvement and Leadership Center provides information and works with about 600 registered student organizations -- including academic, arts, cultural/ethnic, environmental, honorary, housing, political (campus and partisan), recreation, religious, service, social, special interest, sports clubs, student government, fraternity and sorority organizations.

With a population of over 98,000, the beautiful city of Lawrence offers a wide range of services including downtown shopping within walking distance of campus, theaters, restaurants, coffee shops, art galleries, recreational facilities, city parks and churches. Clinton Lake, 1 mile west of town, provides water sports opportunities. Topeka, the state capital, is 30 miles to the west. Kansas City is 40 miles to the east with many more shopping areas, restaurants, museums, theaters, sporting events, and an international airport.

Source: Analytics, Institutional Research, & Effectiveness