

Narrative Description:

The University of Kansas (KU) is a major public research and teaching university that serves to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world. Established in 1865, the university has five principal locations -- the main campus in Lawrence; the Medical Center campus in Kansas City; School of Medicine branch campuses in Wichita and Salina; and the Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Of the total Fall 2025 university enrollment of 31,169 students, 24,376 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 3,694 faculty and offers 152 bachelor, 41 undergraduate certificate, 64 graduate certificate, 124 master/specialist, and 93 research doctorate/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. Five 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. KU has won 12 NCAA team championships, with the men's basketball team earning the school's most recent championship in 2022. The most popular and successful athletics team at KU is the men's basketball team with six national championships, 15 NCAA final four appearances, 63 regular season conference championships, and 15 conference tournament championships. In addition to varsity sports, KU students participate in intercollegiate club sports and academic competitions. The KU debate team has won the National Debate Tournament six times and qualified for the NDT final four 22 times, including runner-up finishes in 2024 and 2025. KU engineering graduate students have also had success at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics design competition, taking first place in team aircraft design in 2020-21 and individual aircraft design in 2022-23 as well as finishing in second place in individual aircraft design in 2023-24.

The University provides a wide range of services for students. On-campus housing options include residence halls, scholarship halls, and apartments. 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, academic advising centers, health center, honors program, on campus housing office, international student office, legal services office, money management services, student engagement center, new student orientation office, study abroad office, tutoring services, veterans services office, writing center, and two student unions. Recreation Services sponsors intramural programs. 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 events throughout the year. The Student Engagement Center provides information and works with over 500 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 about 97,000, 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*