



2025
2026

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

Don Roe,
droe@usjbruins.org

Associate Head of School

Jim Hardegree,
jhardegree@usjbruins.org

Upper School Director

Dr. Shane Jacobs,
sjacobs@usjbruins.org

Director of College Advising

Carol Ryan,
cryan@usjbruins.org

Assistant Director of College Advising

Shannon Whisenant,
swhisenant@usjbruins.org

College Advising Assistant

Lori Howell,
lhowell@usjbruins.org

Grades Infant-12th Grade

Total Enrollment 1,129

Upper School (9-12) 284

Class of 2024 80

Class of 2025 61

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 two 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.

21 Advanced Placement Courses

English Language, English Literature, PreCalculus, Calculus (AB/BC), Research, Seminar, 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, Spanish I, French I, Spanish II, French II, Spanish III, French III, Spanish IV, French IV, Biology, Chemistry, 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 2025

Total Number of AP Students
111

Total Number of AP Exams taken
275

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	Total
2025	13/3.36	10/3.62	22/4.08	45/3.84
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

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 AP 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
- Band or Honors Band
- Book Study Seminar
- Choir
- Communications
- Creative Writing
- Criminal Justice
- AP European History
- Forensic Science
- Graphic Design
- Girlhood in Film
- Guitar
- Health & Wellness
- History in Film
- Intro to Theater/Advanced Theater
- AP Human Geography
- Journalism
- AP Music Theory
- Personal Finance
- AP Psychology
- Speech
- STEM/STEM II
- 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 2025

ACT (100% tested)		Quintiles	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
33-36	20%	GPA	4.90	4.41	4.18	3.68	3.55
28-32	21%	ACT	34	30	26	24	20
24-27	34%						
20-23	16%						
<20	8%						

Student averages in Class of 2025

>4.5 = 20-33%

>4.0-4.49 = 20-33%

3.99-3.5 = 11-18%

3.49-3.0 = 10-16%

2.99-2.5 = 0

2.49 ≥ 0

National Merit Competition

Class of	Finalist	Commended	Class Size
2025	-	-	61
2024	-	1	80
2023	1	-	71
2022	-	1	44
2021	1	1	66

College Acceptance Summary for Classes of 2021-2025

The colleges listed below have accepted a USJ student from the Classes of 2021-2025.

An asterisk indicates that a USJ graduate from the Classes of 2021-2025 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

*Baylor University

*Belmont University

Bellarmino University

Berry College

*Boston College

Boston University

*Brescia University

*Brown

Butler University

*Carson Newman University

Case Western University

*Centre College

Charleston Southern University

*Christian Brothers University

*Citadel

Clemson University

*College of Charleston

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

Emory University

Emory-Riddle University

Florida Atlantic University

*Florida International University

*Florida State University

Fordham University

Freed-Hardeman University

Furman University

*Georgia State University

Grinnell College

Harding University

*Harvard University

Hendrix College

High Point University

*Howard University

Illinois Wesleyan University

*Itawamba Community College

*Jackson State Community College

Kent State University

Kentucky State University

*Lindsey Wilson College

*Lipscomb University

*Louisiana State University

*Loyola- New Orleans

Lyon College

Mercer University

*Middle Tennessee State University

*Mississippi College

*Mississippi State University

Molloy College

*Murray State University

New York University-Shanghai

Northeastern University

*Northwestern University

Ohio Northern University

Oklahoma State University

Pace University

Pennsylvania State

Pennsylvania State-Harrisburg

Pomona College

*Purdue University

Randolph-Macon College

*Rhodes College

Rice University

Ripon College

Rockhurst University

Rutgers-Camden

Rutgers-New Brunswick

*Samford University

*Savannah College of Art

Seton Hall University

*Sewanee: University of the South

*Southeast Missouri State University

*Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Southern Methodist University

St. John's College

St. Louis University

Tennessee State University

*Tennessee Technological University

*Texas A&M University

*Texas Christian University

The New School

*Trine

Tufts University

*Tulane University

Tuskegee University

*Union University

*United States Naval Academy

University of ...

*Alabama

*Alabama-Birmingham

Alabama-Huntsville

*Arkansas

Arkansas-Little Rock

California

California - Davis

*California - Los Angeles

California - Santa Barbara

Central Florida

Cincinnati

Evansville

Florida

*Georgia

Illinois

Kentucky

*Memphis

*Michigan

*Mississippi

Missouri

*North Alabama

North Carolina-Ashville

North Carolina-Chapel Hill

North Carolina-Charlotte

North Carolina

*Oklahoma

*Oregon

*Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh

Richmond

Rochester

South Carolina

*Tennessee-Chattanooga

*Tennessee-Knoxville

*Tennessee-Martin

Texas

West Florida

Vanderbilt University

Virginia Tech

*Volunteer State Community College

Wake Forest University

*Washington University in St. Louis

*Western Kentucky University

Wheaton College

Xavier University

*Yale University