

University of Tennessee Facts

The University of Tennessee is the state's oldest and largest public university and was founded in 1794 as Blount College.

After several name changes, the college was chosen as the official state university in 1879 and was named the University of Tennessee.

The University of Tennessee's student enrollment is 24,798.

The University of Tennessee has more than 270,000 alumni.

UT graduates include:

- Two Nobel Laureates
- Seven Rhodes Scholars
- Six Pulitzer Prize winners
- Eleven Astronauts

The University of Tennessee boasts some of the nation's top athletic programs and facilities:

Neyland Stadium,

home of the 1951 and 1998 National Champion Tennessee Volunteers, is the third largest college football stadium in the country and the largest in the South. It has a seating capacity of 104,079 and was ranked by The Sporting News as the nation's number one college football stadium in the spring of 2001.

Thompson-Boling Arena,

widely recognized as one of the nation's premier basketball facilities, is the second largest campus basketball arena in the country. It has a seating capacity of 24,535 and is home to the six time National Champion Tennessee Lady Vols.

Lindsey Nelson Stadium,

one of the finest collegiate ballparks in the nation, has a seating capacity of 4,000.

UT's Student Aquatic Center

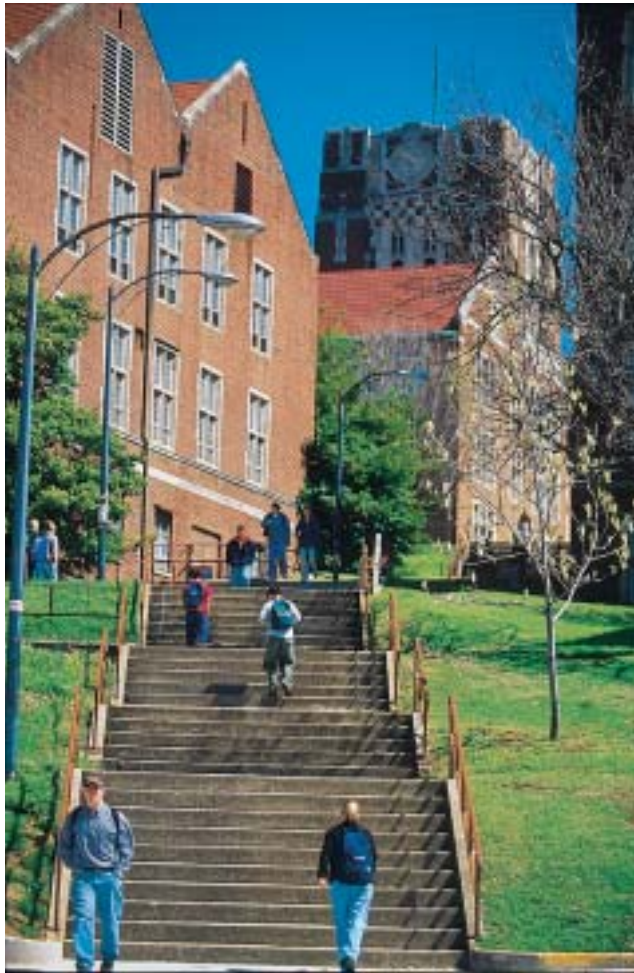
has gained a reputation as one of the nation's most comprehensive training facilities. The SAC housed U.S. Olympic training in 1972, 1980 and 1996 and the outdoor facility hosted the 1976 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials.

Tom Black Track

has seen competition among some of sport's most elite athletes by hosting the 1969 and 1995 NCAA Championships.

UT Traditions

The Hill



This is the oldest part of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus. The first building on The Hill was built in 1872 and one of the most recognizable landmarks of the University of Tennessee campus is located on The Hill, Ayres Hall. Ayres Hall was built in 1919 and the design of the brick at the top provided the inspiration for UT's famous checkerboard end zones.

Nickname: "Volunteers"

The University of Tennessee received its nickname from the name associated with the State of Tennessee, which is "The Volunteer State." Tennessee acquired the name "Volunteer State" during the War of 1812 because so many residents of the state volunteered to fight in the war. The name became even more prominent when the Governor of Tennessee asked for 2,800 men to go to battle in the Mexican War. More than 30,000 Tennesseans volunteered. Also, there were more National Guard soldiers deployed from Tennessee for the Gulf War than any other state. The term "Volunteer State" recognizes the tendency of Tennesseans to go above and beyond the call of duty when the country needs help. The name "Volunteers" is often shortened to "Vols" when describing UT's athletic teams.

Smokey

The mascot for the University of Tennessee is Smokey, a blue-tick coonhound and native breed of the State of Tennessee. Smokey was selected during a Pep Club contest in 1953. Dogs were lined up and when Smokey's name was called, he barked and howled. The students cheered as Smokey barked, and they selected him as the mascot for the university. Smokey is most famous for leading the football team onto the field for each home game through a giant "T".



School colors

The official school colors of the University of Tennessee are orange and white. A member of UT's first football team in 1891 chose these colors because they were the colors of the American daisy that grew on The Hill. UT's football team first wore the now famous orange and white jerseys in the opening game of 1922.

The Torchbearer



The official symbol of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is The Torchbearer. Located at the entrance of Circle Park, The Torchbearer was first designed in 1932. The torch in the statue's right hand represents the maxim, "One that beareth a torch standeth in shadow to give light to others." On the left side, the statue has a "sword of protection". In the left hand is the Goddess of Winged Victory, which symbolizes success and is placed on top of a globe, symbolizing victory over the challenges of the world.

Ghost Stories...Friends of UT

Believe it or not, staff and students alike have had unsettling encounters with ghosts all across campus. Luckily for those who have experienced such run-ins, the ghosts, which the university has collected in its 208 years, are friendly to staff and students alike. Here are some of the popular ghost stories that have been handed down from staff and students:

Strong Hall: The residents of Strong Hall are said to be protected by the spirit of Sophronia Strong, for whom the hall is named. Sophie, who died in 1867 at the age of 50, lived in an age when proper courtships between men and women were expected. Thus, Sophie is said to watch over residents and lead them in a path of proper living. Sophie appears when residents are bickering or acting improperly.

Hoskins Library: The spirit of Evening Primrose, which is as harmless as Sophie, is often blamed for unexplained footsteps, elevators going up and down, and falling books and bookshelves after library hours. In the 1970s, two detectives from UT security searched for a speedy shadow they caught a glimpse of in a frosted glass panel. The detectives were unable to catch the ghost.

The Hill: The Hill, which was the site of a hospital during the Civil War, is said to be haunted by veterans who roam the premises.

Agriculture Campus: An Indian burial mound used to be located on the Ag Campus. Indian spirits reportedly haunt this portion of campus.

McClung Museum: McClung Museum sits on an Indian cave. Although reportedly the cave has been sealed, spirits may still lurk about the museum.

Tyson Alumni House: UT is the legal guardian of a grave, which is located behind the Tyson Alumni House. The previous owners, Lawrence D. and Betty Tyson, sold their house to UT in 1954 on the condition that their dog's grave would never be disturbed. The dog, named Benita, will remain behind the Tyson Alumni House forever.

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