The primary purpose of the University of West Alabama is to meet the educational needs of its students. Above all, the University’s foremost commitment is to providing opportunities for self-fulfillment. It considers among its clientele high quality teaching and strong partnerships with business and industry (2011). The University of West Alabama’s mission is to provide a comprehensive, student-centered learning environment that prepares students for personal integrity and character in order to realize their quests for a philosophy of life and for self-fulfillment.

It views higher education as a life-long process of continuous learning, and students, the University, and agencies in order to more comprehensively prepare students for work in their chosen fields.

The University of West Alabama’s campus is a living history program. Legislation proposed by Senators Shelby and Sessions and Representative Sewell to designate the area as a National Heritage Area.

Accreditation Reaffirmation
- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs
- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

8 Honors and Awards
- Over 400 copies of the Journal of Alabama Archeology are printed biannually, since 2010. Dr. Ashley Dumas, Assistant Professor, has been the editor since 2009.
- Awarded the Alabama Review in June 2011, with the first UWA issue printed in 2012. Dr. Rob Riser, Associate Professor, is the current editor.
- Phi Kappa Phi Awards:
  - 2010-11 and 2011-12 Chapter of Excellence Award (Dr. Mark Davis, Associate Professor, President)
  - 2008-09 Chapter of Merit Award
  - Dr. Janie Gregg, Associate Professor, was awarded several Literacy Grants
  - 2011-12 Dr. Mustafa Morsy, Assistant Professor, and Ms. Jessica Smith, Assistant Professor, were awarded Love of Learning grants
- Online Programs received the America’s Best Graduate School, Largest Online Graduate Programs Award from U.S. News and World Report (2009).
- UWA is recognized as a Military Friendly School, ranking it in the top 15% of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide (2013)
- College of Business earned prestigious Alabama Quality Award in recognition of quality teaching and strong partnerships with business and industry (2011)
- The Chronicle of Higher Education recognized the University as one of the fastest growing institutions between 2000 and 2010 (2012)
- The University was the first institution of higher learning in the nation to earn the Integrity Excellence Certification in recognition of the quality and integrity of its online courses offered.

Career Services
- 2008:
  - Hosted first Majors to Careers Event where faculty of each college were available to share information about majors and related occupational information.
- 2010:
  - Held first Fall Career Expo (incorporated Majors to Careers event)
  - Joined the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation for business contacts.
- 2011: 410 students participated in on-campus recruiting events.
- 2012:
  - Recruiting events; number of employers visiting campus increased by 65% over previous year.

Office of Sponsored Programs
- Established Office of Sponsored Programs in 2008
- Established OSP Professional Development Center as a state-of-art technology center
- Since 2008 OSP submitted 209 grant applications and received $11.2 million in grant funding and $165,000 in equipment and services

Other Activities
- Initiated Faculty Leadership Development Program (2008)
- UWA became managing partner of the Demopolis Higher Education Center (2009)
- Established the Undergraduate Research Symposium (2012)
- Livingston Press published 52 books between 2008-2013

Division of Educational Outreach (DEO)
- Formed in 2008, the Division of Educational Outreach houses bby Publications at UWA, Black Belt Museum, and the Center for the Study of the Black Belt and Continuing Education.
- From 2007-2013, DEO received $2,546,891 in grant funding and an additional $925,427 through the Capital Campaign.
- The Center for the Study of the Black Belt (CSBB) established a 19-county region known as the Black Belt Heritage Area. Legislation proposed by Senators Shelby and Sessions and Representative Sewell to designate the area as a National Heritage Area.
- The Black Belt Museum established in 2009 presented programs to more than 47,000 individuals in the past two years.
- In 2011, the Fort Tombecke archaeological site expanded from two acres to 32 acres.
- A biannual archeological field school at the site was established, as well as a living history program.
- bby Publications, established in 2009, provided supplemental math materials for Pre-K through 6th grade, and offered more than 564 professional development workshops in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Ohio, Mississippi and Wyoming.
- Since 2008, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation’s state offices have been housed on UWA campus.

“There’s something about this place.”