

## History of Wake Forest University

Wake Forest Institute was founded in 1834 by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The school opened its doors on February 3 with Samuel Wait as principal. Classes were first held in a farmhouse on the Calvin Jones plantation in Wake County, North Carolina, near which the village of Wake Forest later developed.

Rechartered in 1838 as Wake Forest College, Wake Forest is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the state. The School of Law was established in 1894, followed by a two-year medical school in 1902. Wake Forest was exclusively a college for men until World War II, when women were admitted for the first time.

In 1941, the medical school moved to Winston-Salem to become affiliated with North Carolina Baptist Hospital and was renamed the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. In 1946, the trustees of Wake Forest and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina accepted a proposal by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to relocate the College to Winston-Salem. The late Charles and Mary Reynolds Babcock donated much of the R.J. Reynolds family estate as the site for the campus and building funds were received from many sources. From 1952 to 1956, the first fourteen buildings were constructed in Georgian style on the new campus. The move to Winston-Salem took place in the summer of 1956; the original, or "old" campus, is now home to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following the move, Wake Forest grew considerably in enrollment, programs, and stature and became a University in 1967. The School of Business Administration, first established in 1948, was named the Charles H. Babcock School of Business Administration in 1969 and admitted its first graduate students in 1971. In 1972, the school enrolled only graduate students and the name was changed to the Babcock Graduate School of Management; departments of business and accountancy and economics were established in the College. In 1980, the Department of Business and Accountancy was reconstituted as the School of Business and Accountancy; the name was changed to the Wayne Calloway School of Business and Accountancy in 1995. The Calloway and Babcock schools were integrated as the Wake Forest University School of Business in 2009, combining the faculties of the business schools to serve undergraduate and graduate students.

The Division of Graduate Studies, established in 1961, is now organized as the Graduate School and encompasses advanced work in the arts and sciences on both the Reynolda and Bowman Gray campuses. In 1997, the medical school was renamed the Wake Forest University School of Medicine; its campus is now known as the Bowman Gray Campus. The School of Divinity was established in 1999.

The Wake Forest University Charlotte Center is located in 30,000 square feet of space in the former International Trade Center Building at 200 North College Street in Charlotte. Residing near some of the city's most influential businesses and corporations, steps away from the diverse shopping and dining options of vibrant uptown Charlotte, the Center provides urban convenience and state-of-the-art technology to the busy working professionals enrolled in certificate and degree programs, as well as high school students enrolled in pre-college programs.

In January 2017, Wake Forest opened Wake Downtown and extended the exceptional faculty-student engagement that is a hallmark of the Reynolda Campus to Winston-Salem's fast-growing urban district called Innovation Quarter. Located four miles from the Reynolda Campus in a rehabilitated former R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company building, the 115,000 square-foot downtown space is home to new academic programs in biomedical sciences and engineering. A variety of undergraduate courses are taught there.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wake Forest moved all classes online for the first time in the University's history in March of 2020. Classes were taught remotely for the remainder of the spring semester. Following public health guidance, the Reynolda campus reopened in the fall of 2020 with a combination of in-person, blended and online courses and the University implemented safety measures including masks, social distancing and other precautions.

In the fall of 2020, Atrium Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health and Wake Forest School of Medicine officially joined together to create a next-generation health system for North Carolina.

Wake Forest honors its Baptist heritage in word and deed. The University will fulfill the opportunities for service arising out of that heritage. Governance is by an independent Board of Trustees; there are advisory boards of visitors for the College and each professional school. A joint board of University trustees and trustees of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital is responsible for Wake Forest University Baptist medical Center, which includes the hospital and the medical school.

## Statement of Mission and Purpose

Wake Forest is a university dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the liberal arts and in graduate and professional education. Its distinctiveness in its pursuit of its mission derives from its private, coeducational, and residential character; its size and location; and its Baptist heritage. Each of these factors constitutes a significant aspect of the unique character of the institution.

The University is now comprised of six constituent parts: Wake Forest College; the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of Business and the School of Divinity. It seeks to honor the ideals of liberal learning, which entail commitment to transmission of cultural heritages; teaching the modes of learning in the basic disciplines of human knowledge; developing critical appreciation of moral, aesthetic and religious values; advancing the frontiers of knowledge through in-depth study and research; and applying and using knowledge in the service of humanity.

Wake Forest has been dedicated to the liberal arts for over a century and a half; this means education in the fundamental fields of human knowledge and achievement, as distinguished from education that is technical or narrowly vocational. It seeks to encourage habits of mind that ask "why," that evaluate evidence, that are open to new ideas, that attempt to understand and appreciate the perspectives of others, that accept complexity and grapple with it, that admit error, and that pursue truth. Wake Forest College has by

far the largest student body in the University, and its function is central to the University's larger life. The College and the Graduate School are most singularly focused on learning for its own sake; they, therefore, serve as exemplars of specific academic values in the life of the University.

Beginning as early as 1894, Wake Forest accepted an obligation to provide professional training in a number of fields, as a complement to its primary mission of liberal arts education. This responsibility is fulfilled in the conviction that the humane values embodied in the liberal arts are also centrally relevant to the professions. Professional education at Wake Forest is characterized by a commitment to ethical and other professional ideals that transcend technical skills. Like the Graduate School, the professional schools are dedicated to the advancement of learning in their fields. In addition, they are specifically committed to the application of knowledge to solving concrete problems of human beings. They are strengthened by values and goals which they share with the College and Graduate School, and the professional schools enhance the work of these schools and the University as a whole by serving as models of service to humanity.

Wake Forest was founded by private initiative, and ultimate decision-making authority lies in a privately appointed Board of Trustees rather than in a public body. Funded to a large extent from private sources of support, it is determined to chart its own course in the pursuit of its goals. As a co-educational institution, it seeks to "educate together" persons of both sexes and from a wide range of backgrounds --- racial, ethnic, religious, geographical, socioeconomic, and cultural. Its residential features are conducive to learning and the pursuit of a wide range of co-curricular activities. It has made a conscious choice to remain small in overall size; it takes pride in being able to function as a community rather than a conglomerate. Its location in the Piedmont area of North Carolina engenders an ethos that is distinctively Southern, and more specifically North Carolinian. As it seeks further to broaden its constituency and to receive national recognition, it is also finding ways to maintain the ethos associated with its regional roots.

Wake Forest is proud of its Baptist and Christian heritage. For more than a century and a half, it has provided the University an indispensable basis for its mission and purpose, enabling Wake Forest to educate thousands of ministers and lay people for enlightened leadership in their churches and communities. Far from being exclusive and parochial, this religious tradition gives the University roots that ensure its lasting identity and branches that provide a supportive environment for a wide variety of faiths. The Baptist insistence on both separation of church and state and local autonomy has helped to protect the University from interference and domination by outside interests, whether these be commercial, governmental, or ecclesiastical. The Baptist stress upon an uncoerced conscience in matters of religious belief has been translated into a concern for academic freedom. The Baptist emphasis upon revealed truth enables a strong religious critique of human reason, even as the claims of revelation are put under the scrutiny of reason. The character of intellectual life at Wake Forest encourages open and frank dialogue and provides assurance that the University will be ecumenical and not provincial in scope, and that it must encompass perspectives other than the Christian. Wake Forest thus seeks to maintain and invigorate what is noblest in its religious heritage.

## **Anti-Discrimination Statement**

Wake Forest University is committed to diversity, inclusion and the spirit of Pro Humanitate. In adherence with applicable laws and as provided by University policies, the University prohibits discrimination in its employment practices and its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability and veteran status. Additionally, the University promotes the full realization of equal employment opportunity for women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans through its affirmative action program.

## **Chronological History of Wake Forest University**

1834	Founded in Wake County, N.C., as Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute in cooperation with the N.C. Baptist Convention
1838	Named Wake Forest College
1894	School of Law established
1902	School of Medicine founded
1921	First Summer Session
1936	Approval of the School of Law by the American Bar Association
1941	Relocation of the School of Medicine to Winston-Salem and eventual change of name to Bowman Gray School of Medicine and association with the North Carolina Baptist Hospital
1942	Women admitted as undergraduate students
1948	School of Business Administration established
1956	Move to Winston-Salem in response to an endowment from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
1961	Division of Graduate Studies established
1967	Became Wake Forest University
1969	School of Business Administration renamed Charles H. Babcock School of Business Administration
1972	Charles H. Babcock Graduate School of Management enrolled first graduate students. Department of Business and Accountancy and a Department of Economics established in the College.
1980	Department of Business and Accountancy renamed School of Business and Accountancy
1986	Redefined the relationship with the N.C. Baptist State Convention
1995	School of Business and Accountancy changed name to Wayne Calloway School of Business and Accountancy
1997	Change of name to Wake Forest University School of Medicine
1999	Opening of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity

2002	Incorporation of Wake Forest University Health Science
2008	Wake Forest adopts a test-optional admissions policy for undergraduates
2011	Opening of new Porter Byrum Admissions and Welcome Center
2012	Opening of The Charlotte Center
2016	Wake Forest School of Medicine moved to Innovation Quarter in Downtown Winston-Salem
2017	First undergraduate classes taught at Wake Downtown
2020	Atrium Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health and Wake Forest School of Medicine officially joined together to create a next-generation health system for North Carolina

## Accreditation

### Wake Forest University is a Member of or Accredited by:

AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business  
 American Bar Association  
 American Chemical Society  
 American Council on Education  
 Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant of the American Medical Association  
 Association of American Colleges  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Association of American Medical Colleges  
 Association of Theological Schools  
 Board of Law Examiners  
 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
 Council of Graduate Schools  
 Council of Southern Graduate Schools  
 Council of the North Carolina State Bar  
 Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association  
 Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs  
 Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges  
 National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
 National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
 National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education  
 North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities  
 North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities  
 North Carolina Conference of Graduate Schools  
 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
 Oak Ridge Associated Universities  
 Section on Medical Schools of the American Medical Association  
 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
 Southern Universities Conference