

**Section A 2. General Information (concluded)**  
**2008-2009**  
**University of Kansas**

**Narrative Description:**

The University of Kansas (KU) is a major comprehensive research and teaching university that serves as a center for learning, scholarship, and creative endeavor. Established in 1866, the University has four principal locations -- the main campus, Lawrence; the Medical Center campus, Kansas City; the School of Medicine Clinical Campus, Wichita; and the Edwards Campus, Overland Park, Kansas.

Of the total Fall 2008 University enrollment of 30,102 students, 26,999 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, and stretches across 1,100 acres with over 29,000 trees and 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 campus-wide bus system, which stops at major buildings along Jayhawk Boulevard, other areas of the campus, and also travels to several areas of the city. The University has over 2,450 faculty. Offering over 90 undergraduate degree programs and extensive graduate programs, the University has the only state-supported schools of Law, Pharmacy, and Medicine.

The library system has 12 facilities with over 4 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. Four campus buildings are 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. Football and basketball games are popular events. "Late Night in the Phog" kicks off the basketball season and packs Allen Field House with students, faculty, and townspeople. In 1992-93, KU became the first university ever to send teams to a major football bowl, basketball's Final Four, and baseball's College World Series all in the same academic year. In 2008, the KU football team won the FedEx Orange Bowl and the men's basketball team won the NCAA championship. KU is only the second university to win major events in both sports in the same academic year.

The University provides a wide range of services for students. On-campus housing options include residence halls, scholarship halls, single and married student apartments. All on-campus housing is wired for high speed internet access and there are many wireless sites. Many students opt for off-campus housing, which is widely available. Student services include an academic assistance center, career and employment center, counseling center, day care center, disabled student services, financial aid office, freshman-sophomore advising center, health center, housing office, international student office, legal aid office, multicultural affairs office and resource center, new student orientation office, thematic learning communities, women's resource center, writing center, and two student unions. Recreation Services sponsors intramural programs and there are many sport clubs on campus. Campus student recreation facilities have aerobic/martial arts studios, free weight/cardiovascular exercise areas, suspended jogging track, indoor climbing wall, tennis courts, soccer and rugby playing fields, basketball, racquetball, squash, and volleyball courts, swimming pool, bowling alley, and multiple gyms. Student Union Activities sponsors many recreational outings, lectures, concerts, a low cost film series, as well as several free films throughout the year. The Student Involvement and Leadership Center provides information and works with over 550 university-related 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 over 88,000, 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 Reservoir, 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: Office of Institutional Research and Planning*