Truman State University is Missouri’s only state-wide public liberal arts and sciences university and the only public university designated highly selective by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Founded in 1867 as a normal school, Truman State University became the official name of Missouri’s liberal arts and sciences university on July 1, 1996. Formerly known as Northeast Missouri State University, the change in name coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Missouri Legislature’s action which changed the University’s mission from that of a regional comprehensive university to the statewide liberal arts and sciences university. The new name complements the mission and honors the only Missourian to serve as president of the United States.

Now a nationally recognized university, Truman is a leader in its undaunting commitment to assessment and accountability. Truman’s program of assessment allows the University to measure the results of the teaching-learning process and gather critical information on student growth and development to ensure that graduates are prepared for future success.

The University is consistently recognized as one of the nation’s best educational values. Truman is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the number one public regional university in the Midwest and it was selected as one of the top 100 best college buys by America’s 100 Best College Buys 2000. Truman is also profiled in Fiske Guide to Colleges and USA Today’s College Guide, as well as numerous other guides.

Truman’s curriculum provides each student, regardless of intended specialization, with a foundation of knowledge appropriate to a traditional liberal arts and sciences education. It also requires major field specialization, providing each student with in-depth knowledge and mastery of a discipline. This exemplary undergraduate education provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful upon graduation. Approximately 40 percent of Truman’s graduates enter graduate programs and professional schools in the two years following their graduation.

Truman’s 6,300 students pursue degrees in 42 undergraduate and nine graduate areas of study in eight academic divisions.

Truman’s students consistently rank among the highest in their high school graduating class. For example, the fall 2001 class has an average ACT score of 27, the 91st percentile nationally, while the high school grade-point was a 3.72 on a 4.00 scale. In addition to their academic ability, more than 99 percent had leadership roles in high school.

Truman State University is committed to the advancement of knowledge, to freedom of thought and inquiry, and to the personal, social and intellectual growth of each of its students. The University strives to maintain a recognized standard of excellence in all of its educational endeavors and a responsible stewardship of the resources provided by the people of Missouri.

Truman is headed by a Board of Governors appointed by the Governor of Missouri. Seven are voting members from throughout the state. In addition, there are two out-of-state members and a student representative who do not vote.

Current members include John W. Briscoe, president; Thomas R. Jayne, vice president; Michael Schwend, secretary; Matthew C. Barnes; Sarah B. Burkermer; Peter T. Ewell, Ph.D.; Ruth Mach, Ed.D.; Wilma Maddox; Randa Rawlins; and Micah McKay, student representative.

About Truman

What’s In A Nickname

Why was the nickname, Bulldogs, selected for Truman State University? O.C. Bell in 1908 referred to his performers as Bulldogs, but it wasn’t an official designation. So far as is known, this term wasn’t used again until the spring of 1915.

At the time, a committee of students, including the late President Emeritus Walter H. Ryle, recommended the adoption of the “Bulldog” as the official emblem because of the beast’s tenacity and ability to hold on and fight desperately to the end.

The spirit of the Bulldog has been evident since the name was selected 87 years ago. It’s not unique though, as at least 16 NCAA schools have adopted the “Bulldog”. 
In 1971, six new courts were constructed two blocks southeast of Pershing Building. Before that, the tennis teams played on two courts located adjacent to Pershing Building on the west side. Those courts were built in 1968, but are no longer in use.

Lights were added in 1976 to the new courts in order to allow the tennis teams to play night matches. The six courts were resurfaced in 1979 with rubber, while two additional courts were added to the east end of the complex. In 1982, the courts were reinforced and fences were built.

No action was taken on the courts for the next 15 years. Then in the summer of 1997, a total renovation took place costing approximately $100,000. The courts, which had been used for the last 18 years, were topped with two inches of asphalt and a new surface. Fencing, nets and posts were also replaced at that time.