THE UNIVERSITY

Baker University was established in 1858 as the first senior college in the state of Kansas. With more than 100 years of tradition, Baker has an unusual blend of innovation and tradition, quality and community. The University is affiliated with the United Methodist Church but welcomes students from all backgrounds. It is dedicated to excellence in liberal and professional education, to the integration of learning with values, and to the personal development of each community member.

The campus in Baldwin City has twenty-one buildings on twenty-six acres. The buildings are located around the perimeter of the campus, leaving the interior for lawns, winding walks, a tiered stream and pond, and beautiful old trees. The older buildings on campus have been renovated and the library in particular has been expanded and renovated. The newest building at the University is the George F. Collins Jr. Sports and Convention Center, which provides an outstanding facility for student and community athletics.

The undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences and School of Education at the Baldwin City campus has an enrollment of approximately 900 men and women. Students come from eighteen states and five other countries. International students make up about one percent of the undergraduate enrollment. The University attracts the serious student who expects to encounter challenges in the classroom but also enjoys participating in many extracurricular activities — including sports, forensics, radio, newspaper, music, and departmental and special interest organizations.

Baker University also has campuses in Overland Park, KS; Wichita, KS; Lee’s Summit, MO; and Topeka, the capital of Kansas. The School of Professional and Graduate Studies and School of Education near Kansas City enrolls more than 2,900 students. It offers degree programs at convenient times to professional people who are working. The School of Nursing in Topeka offers the third and fourth years of study leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Nearly 150 students are enrolled there.

Baker University is accredited at the bachelor’s and master’s degree levels by the North Central Association and is a member of the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing; the Teacher Education program by the Kansas State Board of Education and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education; music programs by the National Association of Schools of Music; and business programs by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.
LOCATION

The main campus is in Baldwin City, a community of 3,800 people. Kansas City, a major metropolitan area, is located 35 miles to the northeast. Lawrence, a city of 72,000 people and the home of a major state university, is only a 15-minute drive north. Baker students enjoy the safe, quiet college community in which they live but also take advantage of the many cultural and social attractions of nearby cities.

WEATHER

Kansas enjoys four seasons. Summer is usually very warm and humid and lasts from about June through early September. The fall is cooler and very pleasant. Winter weather begins in November and lasts until about March. The weather can vary during this time from very cold to rather pleasant. It usually snows several times during the winter but heavy snow is unusual. A warm coat, hat, gloves, and boots are necessary but can be bought inexpensively in Lawrence or Kansas City. The spring is pleasantly warm and comfortable.

MAJORS AND DEGREES

Baker's College of Arts and Sciences and School of Education offers the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Music Education degrees. Majors include accounting, art education, art history, biology, business, chemistry, communication, computer information systems, computer science, economics, elementary education, English, exercise science, French, German, history, health/physical education (teacher certification), international business, international studies, internet science and technology, mass media, mathematics, middle-level English education, middle-level mathematics, molecular bioscience, music, music education, nursing (School of Nursing), philosophy, philosophy/religion, physical education (non-teacher certification), physics, political science, pre-professional (engineering, forestry), psychology, religion, secondary education, sociology, spanish, sports administration, studio art, theatre, wildlife biology.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The College of Arts and Sciences operates on a two-semester system with two five-week sessions of summer school. The month of January is set aside for Interterm, a three-week period when students enroll in only one class. Interterm classes take place on campus or in other countries, and many internships are available. Baker emphasizes the liberal arts tradition through a general education program that develops fundamental intellectual skills and provides experiences and ideas that will assist the students in making informed decisions as members of society. The general education program includes requirements in the areas of the Liberal Arts Core Program, Perspectives in Faith and Values, Historical Perspectives, Non-Western Perspectives, Aesthetic Perspectives, Scientific Perspectives, Fitness and Well-Being, and proficiencies in written communication, mathematics, and oral communication. In addition to general education requirements, students must take a specific number of hours in their major field.

To complete a bachelor's degree at Baker, a student must successfully complete 132 semester hours with a Baker grade point average of at least 2.0 (C).

FACULTY

The student-faculty ratio in the College of Arts and Sciences is 12:1. The average class size is about twenty students. Baker's faculty is dedicated primarily to teaching, and no graduate students serve as instructors. More than two-thirds of the faculty have terminal degrees (usually a Ph.D.) in their field. Professors are readily available outside of class to assist students. In keeping with a residential community, faculty and student participation in extracurricular activities is extensive.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

The Student Academic Services office provides individual tutoring in all subjects, including help with writing papers. The services are free and are available to all students.

COMPUTER FACILITIES

There are several computer labs on campus and a computer room in each residence hall. There is no charge for the use of these computers. In addition, students may obtain wireless Internet access in their own rooms for a fee but must provide their own computers. Faculty at Baker University (and most American universities) require that all papers be word processed, not handwritten.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/SPORTS

The University offers many activities and sports in which students can participate. Students may join one or more of the clubs offered by the University. In addition, there are many clubs related to academic majors. Many students participate in sports. Some are members of University teams such as football, basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, or volleyball, which compete with other universities. Other students play sports on teams which compete against each other at the University. A Fitness Center with exercise equipment is available to all students at no charge.
HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

The University has an active host family program for international students who would like to develop a relationship with an American family. Students who request host families are matched with a family in the local community. Host families invite students to their homes for dinners and provide an introduction to activities in the local community and nearby cities. The University sponsors several events during the year for the students and their host families.

HOUSING AND CAFETERIA FACILITIES

Living facilities are provided in four residence halls and a student apartment complex on campus. All students under 22 years old must live on campus unless they have applied for and received special permission to live off campus. Among the finest University housing in the nation, the student apartments each house four students with private bedrooms. Each apartment has two bathrooms and a large living area.

Most residence hall rooms accommodate two students but private rooms (at an additional cost) can be requested. In three of the residence halls, bathrooms are shared by two rooms (four people). In the fourth hall, each room has a bathroom. International students may request an American roommate. The residence halls provide an important opportunity for international students to meet, talk, and become good friends with American students. The residence halls remain open for students who want to stay in Baldwin City during vacation and holiday periods.

All meals are served in the Harter Union dining hall. Each lunch and dinner meal includes two entrees, vegetables, salads, sandwiches, potatoes, coffee, tea, milk, soda pop, desserts, fresh fruit, and many choices of ice cream. Breakfast includes both hot and cold choices. Special meals each month include Steak and Shrimp Night, Birthday Night, holiday dinners and ethnic meals, and late night study breaks. Nineteen meals are served each week school is in session: three on weekdays and two on Saturdays and Sundays. The cafeteria is not open during holiday and vacation periods.

HEALTH SERVICES

Basic health care is available in the Student Health Center, which is on campus. A nurse is in the office on weekdays and can be called on weekends and in the evenings. A doctor is available twice a week and for emergencies. The Health Center can provide some medical tests and some medicine.

All services not available from the Health Center are the financial responsibility of the student. Medical care in the United States is very expensive. Most insurance policies issued in other countries will not cover normal costs in the U.S. Therefore, international students are required to purchase a health insurance policy through the University.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are allowed to have cars, and adequate parking space is provided near the residence halls. However, all campus facilities are within easy walking distance.

Students who have cars use them to go to places such as Kansas City or Lawrence on the weekends. International students with an international driver’s license can drive in Kansas for three months before they must get a Kansas driver’s license. The University provides transportation to and from the Kansas City International Airport for a reasonable charge.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University’s admission committee considers carefully each applicant’s grade point average, class rank, counselor’s or principal’s recommendation, and type of courses taken in high school. Baker University uses the services of Educational Credential Evaluators to evaluate transcripts from non-US institutions. Directions for this process are sent with the application form. International students must have a TOEFL score of at least 525 on the paper and pencil test, 195 on the computer based test, or 70 on the IBT test to be admitted to the University. As soon as an international student is admitted to a degree program, the University will send an I-20 form to obtain a visa for entry to the United States.

COSTS

Tuition and fees for the 2007-2008 academic year for undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences are $18,750. Room (double occupancy) and board (14 meals per week) for the year are $6,180. Full-time undergraduates should plan to spend up to $500 per semester for books and supplies. Summer school charges are in addition to the amounts listed above. International students are required to have health insurance. The cost this year is $600.
**Financial Aid**

The Financial Aid Application is part of the International Student Application for Admission. International students are eligible to apply for four types of financial aid from the University:

- **Foundation Academic Scholarships** are merit-based scholarships ranging from $6000-$8000 per year. Students must submit official academic transcripts plus TOEFL or SAT/ACT assessment scores to be considered for the scholarship.

- **Academic Leadership Scholarship** $1,000. Students must write an essay and also must interview with the Vice-President for Enrollment Management and Financial Aid.

- Students with exceptional ability in sports, music, forensics, journalism, theater, radio/TV, or art are eligible to audition for a Participation Award. Participation Awards are competitive and are awarded by the activity sponsor.

- Once the student is attending classes as a full-time student. Availability of campus jobs are not guaranteed for all international students.

In addition to University assistance, the Baldwin City Rotary Club awards a total of $1,000 each year to international students studying at Baker. Students apply for this after they are enrolled at the University.

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**Arrangements to Pay Fees**

Tuition and fees must be paid within the first week of classes. The best way to do this is to bring travelers’ checks in U.S. dollars. Another possibility is to open a checking account at a bank upon arriving in Baldwin City and have money wired to that account from the student’s bank in his or her home country. It is strongly recommended that students carry no more than $200-$300 in cash with them when traveling to the United States. All other money should be in the form of travelers’ checks.