

P.O. Box 370  
Collegedale, Tennessee 37315  
1.800.SOUTHERN  
[southern.edu](http://southern.edu)

## Exam Schedule Winter 2026

Time	Monday May 4	Tuesday, May 5	Wednesday May 6	Thursday May 7
8 to 9:50 a.m.	ENGL100, 101, 102, 103	8 a.m. T Th 8:30 a.m. T Th	12 p.m. T Th 12:30 p.m. T Th	8 a.m. M W F 8:30 a.m. M T W Th F
10 to 11:50 a.m.	1 p.m. T Th 1 p.m. M T Th F	10 a.m. M W F	9:30 a.m. T Th 10 a.m. T Th	9 a.m. M W F 9 a.m. T Th
12 to 1:50 p.m.	4 p.m. T Th 5 p.m. T Th 5 p.m. M W	11 a.m. T	12 p.m. M W F	11 a.m. M W F
2 to 3:50 p.m.	2 p.m. M W F 2 p.m. M W	2 p.m. T Th 2:30 p.m. T Th	1 p.m. M W F	
4 to 5:50 p.m.	Speech	3 p.m. M W F 3:30 p.m. M W F 4 p.m. M	3 p.m. T Th 3:30 p.m. T Th	

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## Upcoming Events

### March

- 25-28 Wind Symphony Tour
- 26-27 Spring PreviewSouthern

### April

- 4 SonRise Resurrection Pageant
- 6-15 F26 Pre-registration for returning students by class standing
- 8-9 Giving Day
- 11 423 Night Market
- 12 Wind Symphony Concert
- 16 Campus Research Day
- 16-18 Symphony Orchestra Tour
- 18-19 Gym-Masters Home Shows
- 20 F26 Registration open for new and transfer students
- 20 Southern Steel Concert
- 25 Asian Cultural Night
- 26 Symphony Orchestra Concert

### May

- 2 School of Music Choir Concert
- 2 Jazz Ensemble Concert
- 4-7 Semester Exams
- 10 Commencement
- 11 S26 Sessions Begin

Visit [southern.edu/calendar](http://southern.edu/calendar) to see more upcoming events.



# PANORAMA

parent newsletter | Spring 2026



Power for Mind & Soul

## Student Success That Shows

When Southern students graduate, their achievements extend far beyond receiving diplomas. They leave equipped to impact their chosen fields. Whether in hospitals, boardrooms, or research labs, Southern graduates consistently stand out for their knowledge, skill, and commitment to excellence.

Last school year, students studying biology, business, and physics scored above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on comprehensive Major Field Tests (MFTs), which assess the effectiveness of education programs across the country by measuring students' critical knowledge, performance, and problem-solving skills. Southern's nursing graduates also excelled, with the 2024 graduating class achieving a 99% pass rate for associate degrees and a 95% pass rate for bachelor's on the National Council Licensure Examination, well above national averages.

The results don't happen by chance. For instance, in the Biology and Allied Health Department, faculty analyze test results to guide course improvements and students' MFT scores, which have risen in the past five years, to place Southern in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile nationwide.

"This field test helps us evaluate ourselves," explains Keith Snyder, PhD, chair of the Biology and Allied Health Department. "We use the scores to guide



*Southern's academic excellence, with a focus on real-world application of skills and professional connections, equips students to thrive as they share their skills with the world beyond graduation.*

improvements in our courses to better cover knowledge gaps."

Strong results extend beyond test scores. Over the past four years, campus-wide rates of discipline-related employment and graduate school acceptance have remained strong at 95%. For business and nursing majors, the numbers rise to 98% and 99%, respectively.

Holly Gadd, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing, credits strong nursing employment rates to the program's excellent reputation and its partnerships with healthcare

organizations. Students are exposed to many potential employers through recruitment events and clinical rotations at local hospitals in the greater Chattanooga area.

"Healthcare partners, including AdventHealth and Kettering Health, regularly come to our campus, meet with students, and discuss residency programs and employment benefits," Gadd explains, noting that networking opportunities often translate directly into jobs in the region as well as beyond.

- Chehalis Eno, senior English major

**"Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written."**

John 21:25, NLT

*A favorite Bible verse of Don Martin, digital resources librarian*



## Mission Moment

### Touhing Lives in the 10/40 Window

A group of 34 volunteers from Southern Adventist University journeyed to an Asian nation in the 10/40 window, a region known for limited access to the gospel, for a two-week mission trip last May. They worked alongside the local Seventh-day Adventist mission to serve communities in need—and received a presidential thank-you in the process.

The group traveled to remote villages each day, where the dental team performed 550 procedures and the medical team assisted with more than 30 surgeries. Attendance at Vacation Bible School more than tripled by the end of the second week. Volunteers also helped add a roof, walls, and windows to a school building where English instruction is a key part of outreach.

Their efforts even drew the attention of the nation's president, who invited the group to his palace in recognition of their service and praised their initiative and commitment to supporting the health of the local people.

Sophomore nursing major Carol Zamora recalls how simple moments, like bonding with local girls despite language barriers, left a deep impression. "The saddest part for me was having to leave," she says. "We made such meaningful connections."

"These visits mean so much to our members," the mission president shares, his voice breaking with emotion. "They provide encouragement that other parts of the world care about God's work here."

Read more and find photos at [southern.edu/panorama](http://southern.edu/panorama).

- Isabele Barreto Freitas, sophomore nursing major



## Meet Kaylie Ackerman

Student Employment Coordinator

**Q: What does your role encompass?**

**A:** I serve as the bridge between student employees, supervisors, and institutional policy, ensuring that student employment runs smoothly, legally, and meaningfully for everyone involved. This includes creating opportunities for students to find on-campus employment, supporting supervisors in the hiring process, and making sure students are accurately paid for the hours they work.



**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** One of the things I enjoy most is meeting students who come to my office looking for a job. I love connecting with students from so many different backgrounds and learning about where they're from and why they chose Southern. Those conversations are some of the most rewarding parts of my days.

**Q: How do you hope to make a difference for students?**

**A:** I hope students who work on campus feel connected and supported. Employment can be a meaningful way for students to build relationships, find mentors in their supervisors, and develop transferable skills such as communication, time management, and problem-solving. My hope is that each on-campus job becomes more than just work, but also a place where the student feels encouraged and equipped for life beyond college.

**Q: How has God guided you in this role?**

**A:** I feel called to serve God through my daily work, striving to do everything with excellence and integrity, based on Colossians 3:23 (NLT): "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." At times, God's guidance is as simple as being fully present—listening attentively when a student shares concerns—trusting that creating space to feel seen and heard is itself meaningful work.



## Did You Know?

### Student Support Services Is Here to Help

Southern wants students to have a positive college experience, and Student Support Services is available to help. Located in the Bietz Center for Student Life, the staff provides an encouraging environment to assist students in developing and achieving their educational and personal goals.

**Counseling Services:** If your student would benefit from talking with a counselor, individual counseling services offer opportunities to increase knowledge and develop greater self-awareness, understanding, and independence. The staff of professionally trained counselors is available to provide students with short-term counseling in a supportive, caring, and confidential environment. Appointments with Counseling Services are free to all currently enrolled undergraduate students.

**Disability Support Services:** Disability Support Services facilitates equal access to Southern's learning community for students who have documented disabilities or suspected learning differences. The staff promotes student responsibility and self-advocacy and provides relevant information to faculty with Christlike support and compassion.

**Life Calling and Career Services:** Is your student undecided about his or her major? Does he need assistance with a resume or cover letter? Would she want help preparing for a job interview? Has your student questioned how interests, skills, and personality influence career choice? If so, Life Calling and Career Services is ready and waiting to provide information, thoughtful dialogue, and assistance narrowing down the variety of paths to one's workplace.

To learn more ways that Student Support Services can assist your student, visit [southern.edu/studentsupport](http://southern.edu/studentsupport).



## Student Life

### Student-Managed Investment Fund Surpasses \$1 Million

In October, the Student Managed Asset Risk and Return Training (SMARRT) Fund in the School of Business hit a major milestone of \$1 million in stocks. The initial \$500,000 investment, entrusted to a group of business students in 2019, is part of the university's endowment. Earnings are used to continually support scholarships and student programs across the campus.

Last school year, the student team switched from investing in exchange-traded funds to single-equity stocks. This led to an immediate increase in returns, accumulating a \$272,000 profit in just one year. Students also achieved a top investment goal—to outperform the S&P 500. With nearly double the benchmark's return rate, the SMARRT Fund also outperformed several major hedge funds.

Jonathan Amarandei, president of the SMARRT Fund team, says, "I'm beyond blessed to have had the privilege of being a part of such a talented group of individuals."

Business professor Joelle Akiki, DBA, faculty sponsor, highlights the hard work and dedication of Amarandei, Glenn Grakov, and Alicia Garver, senior finance majors; Kylie Mastrapa and Adrian Helm, junior finance majors; and Eric Barnuevo, senior accounting major.

"I've been blessed with amazing students who value what they're doing," Akiki reports. "The financial world can be very aggressive, but I've witnessed these student volunteers always keeping their focus on God while managing the fund as part of their class requirements."

In addition to growing the fund, students learn invaluable lessons in managing assets. Enrolled in the SMARRT Fund course, they earn Bloomberg Terminal certification in the Bloomberg Finance Lab and develop responsible trading practices alongside leadership skills. The program will be housed in the new Ruth McKee School of Business building, slated to open in Fall 2026.

"We need to be good stewards of the money we've been entrusted with," Akiki adds. "It's not about doubling or tripling money but rather using it for God's glory."

- Isabella Dixon, sophomore English major

