Type of University: Independent, four-year, co-educational, residential, career-oriented Liberal Arts University affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

History: Founded in 1869, Claflin University is the oldest historically black college or university in South Carolina. It is also the first institution of higher education to welcome all students regardless of race or gender.

Location: Claflin University’s historic 46-acre campus is located in Orangeburg, S. C., which is about 40 miles south of the state’s capital city of Columbia.

Faculty: The University has 109 full-time faculty with 77 percent holding terminal degrees.

Student/Faculty Ratio: 14:1.

Academic Year: Consists of fall and spring semesters and one summer session.

Enrollment: While enrollment varies slightly annually, the University consistently has a population exceeding 1,900 undergraduate and graduate students ranging from 60 percent female to 40 percent male.

Academic Programs: The University offers a broad-based education in liberal arts and sciences combined with internships and other career focused programs. The School of Education, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Business and School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics comprise the undergraduate programs. The University also provides educational opportunities for adult learners through its Professional and Continuing Studies and Graduate Programs. The University also offers master’s degrees in Business Administration (MBA), Biotechnology and Education.


Financial Aid: Ninety-six percent of full-time students attending Claflin receive some form of financial aid. Need-based scholarships, grants, loans and work study programs are available based on eligibility.

Student Services: The University provides a comprehensive program in health, career, counseling and placement.

Housing: Ten residence halls, including 8 for women and 2 for men, accommodating about 1,003 students (334 males and 669 females.)

ROTC: Through the School of Education, Claflin University offers Air Force and Army ROTC programs through a cross enrollment agreement with South Carolina State University and the University of South Carolina, respectively. Students graduate with the rank of second lieutenant.

Intercollegiate Athletics: The University holds membership in NCAA Division II and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Men’s teams include basketball, baseball, track and field and cross country; women’s teams include basketball, softball, volleyball, track and field and cross country.

A Sample of National Recognitions

- Ranked in the top tier among national liberal arts colleges and universities by U.S. News and World Report
- Named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
- Ranked #10 among baccalaureate colleges and universities in the South by Washington Monthly
- Ranked the #8 HBCU in the nation by The Atlanta Post
- Ranked #5 in the nation by Forbes.com
- Ranked #1 in Annual Alumni Giving among HBCUs