



Institutional Information for Self-Study Development: Specialized Accreditation (College or Program)

As part of its institutional responsibility, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditation agencies with which it holds accreditation. Moreover, LSU and its programs provide to each accrediting agency consistent descriptions regarding the university's purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents. To ensure this consistency, programs seeking specialized (re)accreditation should refer to the institutional information contained herein when developing their self-study materials.

Regional Accreditation (SACSCOC)

LSU is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC): www.sacscoc.org. Since 1913, the university has continuously maintained its SACSCOC accreditation, which was most recently reaffirmed in December 2024. An [official letter](#) verifying the university's SACSCOC accreditation is often required as part of the self-study materials that programs must provide to their respective discipline-specific accrediting agencies. LSU has continued to provide reports as necessary to maintain SACSCOC accreditation.

For accreditation purposes, LSU is a Level VI, Track B institution. Level VI institutions are distinguished as such based on the number of doctoral programs offered by the institution. Title IV institutions are accredited to award doctoral degrees in four or more academic or professional disciplines. Track B institutions offer undergraduate and graduate degrees or graduate degrees only.

As required by SACSCOC, the university's **official statement of accreditation** must appear exactly as follows:

Louisiana State University and A&M College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Louisiana State University and A&M College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Louisiana State University and A&M College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

LSU Mission Statement

LSU's [mission statement](#) is provided below.

Mission Statement approved February 2023

Designated as a Land, Sea, and Space Grant institution, LSU secures, elevates, and advances Louisiana and the world through the generation, preservation, dissemination, and application of knowledge and cultivation of the arts and develops students who are prepared, confident, and inspired to achieve lifelong success.

Carnegie Designation

LSU holds a Carnegie Classification of Research Active/Very High, reflective of the university's dedication to research.

LSU's History/Background

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College originated in grants of land made by the U.S. government beginning in 1806. In 1853, the Louisiana General Assembly established the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy near Pineville, Louisiana. The institution opened January 2, 1860, with General William Tecumseh Sherman as superintendent. Because of the Civil War, the school closed June 30, 1861, and reopened on April 1, 1862, with Col. William Linfield as acting superintendent. He was succeeded in 1863 by Professor William A. Seay. Because of the invasion of the Red River Valley by the Federal Army, the institution was closed again on April 23, 1863.

The Seminary reopened October 2, 1865, with Col. David F. Boyd as superintendent. It was destroyed by fire on October 15, 1869, and reopened on November 1, 1869, in Baton Rouge, where it has remained. In 1870, the name of the institution was changed to Louisiana State University.

The Louisiana State Agricultural & Mechanical College, established by an Act of the Legislature in 1874, opened in New Orleans on June 1, 1874, where it remained until merging with Louisiana State University on January 2, 1877. That same year, the university was designated as a land-grant college. The two state institutions began their first joint session on October 5, 1877, under the name Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College.

Governance

The governing body of the university is the LSU Board of Supervisors, composed of 15 members appointed by the governor to staggered, six-year terms and one student member elected to a one-year term by fellow university student government leaders. Updated information pertaining to the Board of Supervisors and the University Administration are available on the LSU website (About Us/Our Leadership).

Frequently use resources, include:

- University Organizational Chart: <https://www.lsu.edu/administration/orgchart.php>
- University Bylaws & Regulations: <https://www.lsu.edu/bos/bylaws/index.php>

Programs/Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates

A complete list of the university's programs, degrees, diplomas, and certificates is available in the General Catalog via the Office of the University Registrar: <https://catalog.lsu.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=2661>.

Trend Data

Trend data for general information (e.g., housing; library; and tuition and fees), students (e.g., admissions and entering; enrollment and student attributes; and degrees), finances, and personnel (e.g., faculty headcounts and salary) are available via the Office of Data & Strategic Analytics: <https://www.lsu.edu/data/index.php>

Finances

LSU receives most of its operating funds from legislative appropriations. LSU's current operating budget and fee schedules are available via the Office of Budget & Planning: https://www.lsu.edu/bgtplan/Budget_Information/Operating-Budget.php
<https://www.lsu.edu/bgtplan/Tuition-Fees/fee-schedules.php>

Related SACSCOC Policies

SACSCOC Policy Statement "Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies"
<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/07/AccredDecisionsOthers.pdf>

SACSCOC Policy Statement "Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure"
<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/InstitutionalObligationsPublicDisclosure.pdf>

SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation—14.4 "Representation to Other Agencies"
<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2024/02/2024-POA-Resource-Manual.pdf>