



## **Institutional Information Guide for Self-Study Reports**

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**

LSU is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC): [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org). Since 1913, the university has continuously maintained its SACSCOC accreditation, which was most recently [reaffirmed in December 2014](#). 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 (see attached). The university's next SACSCOC review will occur in March 2020 with the submission of the [SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report](#), and its next reaffirmation of accreditation is scheduled to occur in 2024.

For accreditation purposes, LSU is a Level VI, Track B institution. Level VI 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 Associate of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 407-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Louisiana State University and A&M College.*

### **Mission Statement**

LSU's mission statement is listed below and is also available at the following link: <https://www.lsu.edu/about/mission.php>.

(Mission Statement approved December 20016; reaffirmed October 2012.)

*As the Flagship institution of the state, the vision of Louisiana State University is to be a leading research-extensive university, challenging undergraduate and graduate students to achieve the highest levels of intellectual and personal development. Designated as a Land, Sea, and Space Grant institution, the mission of Louisiana State University is the generation, preservation, dissemination, and application of knowledge and cultivation of the arts.*

*In implementing its mission, LSU is committed to:*

- *offering a broad array of undergraduate degree programs and extensive graduate research opportunities designed to attract and educate highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students;*
- *employing faculty who are excellent teacher-scholars, nationally competitive in research and creative activities, and who contribute to a world-class knowledge base that is transferable to educational, professional, cultural, and economic enterprises; and*
- *using its extensive resources to solve economic, environmental, and social challenges.*

### **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.

LSU is designated as a land-, sea-, and space-grant institution. In addition, the Carnegie Foundation has designated LSU as a Doctoral University of Highest Research Activity, reflective of the university's dedication to research.

Source: *LSU General Catalog*: <https://www.lsu.edu/academics/catalogs.php>

## **Governance**

The governing body of the university is the 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. Chief administrative officers of the University are the President, Executive Vice President and Provost, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Agriculture, the Interim Vice President for Strategic Communications, and the Director of Athletics.

Source: *LSU General Catalog*: <https://www.lsu.edu/academics/catalogs.php>

Other related governance information:

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

## **Programs/Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates**

A complete list of the university's programs, degrees, diplomas, and certificates is available in the curriculum table via the Office of the University Registrar: <https://www.lsu.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/curriculum-table.php>.

## **Personnel**

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 Budget & Planning: <https://www.lsu.edu/bgtplan/trend/trend-data.php>.

## **Finances**

LSU receives most of its 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 Policies**

SACSCOC Policy Statement “Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies”

<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/AccredDecisionsOthers.pdf>

SACSCOC Policy Statement “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure”

<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/InstitutionalObligationsPublicDisclosure.pdf>

SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation—14.4 “Representation to Other Agencies”

<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2018PrinciplesOfAcrcditation.pdf>

# SACS COC

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS  
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

May 8, 2014

Dr. F. King Alexander  
President and Chancellor  
Louisiana State University and A&M College  
University Administration  
3810 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Dr. Alexander:

This letter will verify that Louisiana State University and A&M College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Bachelor's, Master's, Educational Specialist, and Doctoral degrees. The English as a Second Language Program is included in that accreditation.

Sincerely,



Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/SLA:efk

cc: Dr. T. Gilmour Reeve, Vice Provost for Academics Program, Planning, and Review  
Dr. Barry D. Goldstein