

Mission Statement
Last Approved: 1-2006; THECB, January
24, 2002

LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

Lamar University is a comprehensive public institution educating a diverse student body, preparing students for leadership and lifelong learning in a multicultural world, and enhancing the future of Southeast Texas, the state, the nation and the world through teaching, research and creative activity, and service.

CORE VALUES

To provide a learning environment of the highest quality and integrity, Lamar University values...

Our STUDENTS, including their curricular and extracurricular activities;

Our FACULTY and STAFF, high quality employees who are committed to educating and serving our students;

Our commitment to DIVERSITY in ideas, people, and access;

Our collegial ENVIRONMENT with contemporary, functional and pleasing facilities, a safe campus, and responsible fiscal management;

Our bonds with SOUTHEAST TEXAS, the STATE, the NATION, and the WORLD, including our alumni and friends, through economic and educational development, research and creative activity, service, and outreach.

History Statement Last Approved: Dec. 2004

HISTORY OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Lamar University originated on March 8, 1923, when the South Park School District in Beaumont authorized its superintendent to proceed with plans to open a *Junior College of the first class*. On September 17, South Park Junior College opened with 125 students and a faculty of fourteen. Located on the third floor of the South Park High School building, the college shared the library and athletic facilities with the high school. In 1932, separate facilities were provided and the name of the institution was changed to Lamar College, to honor Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas and the *father of education* in Texas.

On June 8, 1942, as a result of a public campaign, a new campus was purchased and classes were held for the first time on the present day campus in Beaumont. After World War II, the college grew to 1,079, and a bill to make Lamar University a state-supported senior college was introduced in the House of Representatives. The legislature approved the Lamar bill (House Bill-52) on June 4, 1949, creating Lamar State College of Technology effective September 1, 1951. Lamar was the first junior college in Texas to become a four-year, state-supported college. Lamar continued to grow, building strong programs in engineering, sciences, business, and education.

In 1962, a graduate school was established offering master's degrees in several fields. The Doctorate in Engineering was established in 1971. In the same year, House Bill-590 became law changing the institution's status from college to university. Lamar State College of Technology, with an enrollment of 10,874, officially became Lamar University on August 23, 1971.

In 1969, an extension center was opened in Orange, and in 1975 the long-standing, private two-year Port Arthur College became Lamar University at Port Arthur. The Lamar University System, of which Lamar University-Beaumont was the primary component, was established by the 68th Session of the Texas Legislature with the passage of SB-620, which took effect in August 1983.

In 1990, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommended that all two-year programs at Lamar University be combined into the Lamar University Institute of Technology. The programs in the former College of Technical Arts, along with Allied Health programs, Office Technology and Restaurant/Institutional Food Management were placed in the new Institute. In 1993, the Doctorate of Education in Deaf Education was established at Lamar University, and doctoral programs in audiology (Au.D. in 2004), education (Ed.D. in 2004) and chemical engineering (Ph.D. in 2006) have been added more recently.

Lamar's commitment to quality higher education has been steady and progressive, anticipating the evolving needs of its students. To facilitate this commitment, the Texas Legislature approved House Bill-2313 to merge the Lamar University System with The Texas State University System (TSUS). Effective September 1, 1995, Lamar University joined sister institutions Angelo State University, Sam Houston State University, Texas State University (formerly, Southwest Texas State University), and Sul Ross University. In 1999, the State Legislature renamed Lamar University at Port Arthur, Lamar University at Orange, and the Lamar University Institute of Technology. Today, these TSUS institutions are known as Lamar State College at Port Arthur, Lamar State College at Orange, and the Lamar Institute of Technology.

Accreditation Last Approved: Dec. 2004

LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

Lamar University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the Associate, Bachelors, Master's and Doctoral levels. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Lamar University.

The staff, faculty, and administration of Lamar University recognize the importance and public trust that accompany regional accreditation, and the national and international acceptance accorded degrees granted by accredited institutions. In carrying out the university's mission, Lamar is committed to adhering to the principles and requirements set forth and refined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, including those referred to in SACS literature under the heading of Institutional Effectiveness, a term which encompasses the systematic and documented processes of planning, assessment, and improvement.

It is incumbent upon the faculty to be familiar with and to abide by the requirements contained in the SACS *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* booklet, housed in all departmental and college offices, and to participate in the institutional self-studies and *Quality Enhancement Plans* required by SACS for each application for reaffirmation of accreditation.