

# General Information

## Location

The Lamar University campus is located in Beaumont, Texas. With a population of more than 115,000, Beaumont is a diversified city, home not only to the University but also to businesses and industry stemming from a strong petrochemical and agricultural base. World-renowned companies are located in Beaumont to take advantage of the area's resources and its educated workforce.

A host of cultural attractions offer a variety of leisure options from world-class museums and symphony presentations to shopping districts and many spring and fall festivals. A civic center, convention center, entertainment complex and coliseum draw professional entertainers and a wide variety of business, social and professional groups to the city. Beaumont is convenient to lake, river and ocean recreation, located only a few miles from the balmy Gulf Coast and little more than an hour from the Big Thicket National Preserve, large lakes and piney woods.

The campus is home to the stately Mary and John Gray Library, Montagne Center coliseum, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, Gladys City Boomtown, several residence halls and state-of-the-art computing and engineering facilities. Lamar University welcomes visitors. Information regarding tours may be obtained from the Office of Admission Services, P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas 77710, phone (409) 880-8316.

## History

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 Sept. 17, 1923, 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 the Honorable Jack Brooks introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to make Lamar University a state-supported senior college. The Legislature approved House Bill-52 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, education and the arts.

In 1962, a graduate school was established offering master's degrees in several fields. In 1969, an extension center was opened in Orange. The Doctor of Engineering degree 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 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 in 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,

Office Technology and Restaurant/Institutional Food Management were placed in the new Institute. The Doctor of Education in Deaf Studies/Deaf Education was established in 1993, the Doctor of Audiology in 2003, the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in 2004, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering in 2005.

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, Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University-San Marcos) and Sul Ross State University. On June 19, 1999, the Texas Legislature approved House Bill- 1297 to rename 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.

As a comprehensive university granting bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, Lamar University continues to enhance its instructional, service and research missions. Lamar's growth has produced an economic impact that exceeds \$200 million annually, but even more influential is the impact realized by Lamar graduates, who are more than 71,000 strong.

## Government

A board of nine regents, appointed by the Governor and approved by the State Senate for terms of six years, governs The Texas State University System. The Board of Regents delegates the direction of university affairs to the presidents, campus administrative officers and faculty.

## 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.

## Accreditation and Approval

Lamar University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097;

Telephone number (404) 679-4501; web site [www.sacsoc.org](http://www.sacsoc.org)) to award degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's and Doctoral levels. In addition, Lamar is approved by the Texas Education Agency. The College of Graduate Studies is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools and the Texas Association of Graduate Schools.

Programs in the College of Engineering are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Computer science is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. In the College of Business, the undergraduate and graduate programs are accredited by the International Association for Management Education. Lamar's teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Other accreditations include Nursing by the Texas Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, phone (404) 975-5000, fax (404) 975-5020); Chemistry by the American Chemical Society; Geology by the American Institute of Professional Geologists; Music by the National Association of Schools of Music; the Dietetics program by the American Dietetic Association; Social Work by the Council on Social Work Education; programs in Speech-Language Pathology and in Audiology by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and in Deaf Education by the National Council for Education of the Deaf and the Texas Education Agency. The University is also a member of a number of academic councils, societies and associations.

## **Policy Regarding Review of Institutional Accreditation Documentation**

Persons wishing to review documentation regarding the institution's accreditation, approval or licensing may do so by contacting the Office of the Provost, Room 101 in the Plummer Building, (409) 880-8398.

## **Teacher Certification**

All teacher education programs of the University are approved by the Texas Education Agency, the State Board of Educator Certification and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Specific information concerning certification may be found in the College of Education and Human Development section of this catalog or may be obtained from the Director of the Division of Professional Services in the College of Education and Human Development, (409) 880-8902.

## **The Library**

The Mary and John Gray Library is centrally located on campus. Its collection exceeds 1 million volume equivalents, including microforms and state and federal documents. The library subscribes to almost 2,000 current periodicals and provides access to many full-text databases covering more than 3,000 periodicals.

Students, faculty and staff of Lamar University can use PCs to locate electronic books in the online catalog, access indexes and journals electronically, and locate selected information through the Internet. A service-oriented library staff provides assistance in the use of reference materials, documents, special collections, reserve materials and instructional media. The ID card serves as an individual's library card.

The library provides rooms for group study, and the fifth floor is a designated quiet study floor. Coin-operated copy machines for both print and microforms are available. An open-access PC lab is located on the library's seventh floor in the Media Services department. Assistance in using the PCs, software and the Internet is available from trained staff.

Additionally, students have access to the collections of 51 other publicly funded colleges and universities through the TexShare program. Library hours are posted on the library's web site at <http://library.lamar.edu> and are available in a recorded message at (409) 880-8117.

## **Research Office**

The Research Office is administered by the Associate Provost for Research, who chairs the Research Council. This office promotes and funds internal research; oversees sponsored programs and technology transfer as well as patent, copyright and intellectual property policies; establishes liaison between the university and state and national funding sources; and assures that proposed projects comply with institutional and governmental regulations. This office also provides assistance to faculty in the development and submission of grant/project proposals by locating funding sources and reviewing proposals for compliance with funding guidelines.

## **Information Technologies (Central Computing)**

The Information Technologies Division is responsible for managing information resources required by the academic, administrative and research communities of Lamar University. Information Technology Services is located in the Cherry Engineering Building. The division established and maintains onsite and offsite disaster recovery contingency facilities in the event of a disaster. The facilities house the equipment for the administrative systems. All computer systems are connected to the University's fiber optic backbone.

A student entering Lamar University is given a computer account. Accounts remain active as long as a student is enrolled or a faculty member is employed, unless the Computer Use Policy is violated. More information is available at <http://cc.lamar.edu>.

## **Early Childhood Development Center**

The Lamar University Early Childhood Development Center is located at 950 East Florida. The Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and provides high-quality extended child care services and preschool/pre-kindergarten programs designed for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years. The Center is home to a special program called "Super Kids." The science-based, interactive program for first- through third-graders is taught in one-week sessions during the summer months.

## **Career Center**

Located in 102 Galloway Business Building the Career Center's professional staff assist students with all facets of career preparation, beginning with university entrance and special placement exams, major course of study selection, career choice and planning, part-time employment, resume preparation, interviewing preparation, goal planning and full-time employment after graduation. Students have access to on-line Internet job search and computerized guidance assessment programs.

LamarWork\$, the student employment service located in the Career Center, assists students in locating part-time jobs, internships, and on-campus work-study and student assistant opportunities. All services are free to the student. Additional information is available from the LamarWork\$ desk by calling (409) 880-1853.

The center has a full-time career counselor on staff to provide personalized assistance. In order to best serve as many students as possible, problems of a long-term, therapeutic

nature cannot be addressed; however, initial consultation and, when feasible, referral to campus and community resources is available.

Job fairs are organized annually for the benefit of Lamar University students. The Career Expos and Educator Fairs are held each semester. These opportunities allow students to make initial contact with recruiting firms and school districts that may result in interviews on the Lamar campus or at the recruiter's headquarters during the spring and fall. Each spring, Lamar University also participates in the Texas Job Fair. Employers recruiting with the Career Center generally plan to fill permanent entry-level jobs, summer jobs, co-ops and internships.

The Career Center's Testing Office offers a full range of testing services for aptitude, achievement and career interest. The center also coordinates testing required by the University; provides individual interest, aptitude and personality assessment; and as a national and state test center administers the following:

- SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) for undergraduate admission. The SAT II Subject Area Tests are also given for students who wish to receive college credit.
- ACT (American College Testing Program) may be used instead of the SAT for undergraduate admission.
- THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment) is required of all students for advisement and registration (unless exempted)
- CLEP (College Level Examination Program) may be used to get credit by examination. See detailed description of CLEP elsewhere in this catalog.
- GRE (Graduate Record Exam) subject tests are administered.
- LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
- MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- MAT (Miller Analogies Test) required for admission to some graduate programs
- Correspondence Exams

Information and registration forms are available in 102 Galloway Building, (409) 880-8444. Although the GRE general test and GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) are administered elsewhere, registration information is available in 102 Galloway. Additional information regarding career and testing services is available at [www.lamar.edu/career](http://www.lamar.edu/career).

## Health Center

The Student Health Center offers various medical services to currently enrolled students. A physician and/or nurse practitioner is available to treat students for minor illnesses or injuries not requiring constant supervision. Students with chronic and/or serious conditions will require treatment off campus by their own family physician. Most health center services are available on a *walk-in* basis, and most of the medications prescribed are available in the health center pharmacy at a reduced cost. Students are charged only for medications, lab tests, and supplies, not for the office visit. All charges incurred are entered on the student account, thus no payment is required at the time of service.

Gynecological services and family planning are provided by female nurse practitioners at a reduced charge. There is a lab charge for most gynecological services. Licensed staff, in collaboration with student peer educators, offer health education to organizations, residence halls, classes, or individuals on a variety of health-related issues pertinent to the university population. The health center is also staffed with licensed counselors offering short-term psychological counseling, individual and group therapy, and mental health workshops at no charge. After hours, on weekends and when the university is not in session, healthcare becomes the individual student's responsibility. Any expenses incurred for ambulance service or off-campus medical needs are also the responsibility of the student. Students are encouraged to maintain some form of health insurance to

cover these expenses, as they can be quite costly. Detailed information regarding health center services is available at <http://dept.lamar.edu/healthcenter/>.

## Health Insurance

Health and accident insurance is required of all international students, residence hall occupants, and participants in intramural sports. Any registered student taking six or more credit hours (three hours during the summer sessions) is eligible for enrollment in an affordable insurance plan offered by an independent insurance company. This supplemental policy covers a portion of the costs for inpatient and outpatient medical services not available at the health center. Except in emergency situations, students are required to seek treatment at the health center first, where off-campus referrals will be issued if deemed necessary. Students enrolled in the plan may also insure their dependents; however, non-student dependents are not eligible to use the health center.

Premiums are due at the time of enrollment and are available per semester or on an annual basis. Detailed information and enrollment forms are available through the Student Health Center, the offices of Student Affairs or Residence Life, L.I.T. Student Services, or through the health center web site at <http://dept.lamar.edu/healthcenter/>.

## Veterans Education

A Veterans Affairs Office is maintained in the Winberly Students Services Building to aid veterans in obtaining their educational benefits. It also provides academic assistance and counseling. Veterans are encouraged to complete admissions and testing requirements 90 to 120 days prior to the period for which they wish to enroll.

## Loan Funds and Scholarships

Financial assistance in the form of loans, grants and scholarships is available for qualified students. Details may be obtained on request from the Director of Financial Aid, P.O. Box 10042, Beaumont, TX 77710.

## Graduate Assistantships

Teaching and research assistantships are available in the various graduate departments. Additional information may be obtained either from the department chair or from the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Assistantships are awarded *only* to those individuals who meet all requirements for admission to a graduate degree program.

Graduate assistantships at the master's and doctoral levels are available in a number of academic departments. All assistantships are intended to be of direct educational benefit to appointees. In order to be approved by the Graduate Dean, an assistantship appointment must relate to the student's academic objective and be supervised by Lamar University faculty.

Graduate assistants are Lamar University employees who are also graduate students. They are employed by a department or college to instruct in classrooms and labs, advise undergraduate students, proctor exams, supervise practica, assist in research and creative activity, or perform other teaching research and creative duties.

Under specified conditions Texas law permits the waiver of out-of-state tuition status for some classifications of graduate assistants. When these conditions are met, graduate assistants may be allowed to pay tuition at the less expensive in-state or Texas resident rate. Contact the Graduate Office for a copy of applicable regulations.