GENERAL INFORMATION
ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

History and Location
Founded as a women's college in 1924, the Lebanese American University is a not-for-profit private institution of higher education in Lebanon rooted in the tradition of exemplary education. Since it was granted absolute charter by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1955 (the sole entity authorized by the State of New York to incorporate institutions of higher education and authorize them to confer degrees), the charter has been amended several times in response to the institution’s growth. The University currently boasts two campuses: its historic home in Beirut and a new campus in Blat, overlooking the historic city of Byblos. The two campuses together house seven schools. The emergence within the past three years of three new schools—the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing and the School of Architecture and Design — along with the transformation of the newly acquired University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital (UMC–RH) into a state-of-the art teaching and research facility, attest to the institution’s continued commitment to growth and excellence.

Accreditation
LAU was accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (CIHE-NEASC) in November 2009.

Academic Schools and Colleges
The University comprises seven schools: Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy.

Academic Programs and Degrees Conferred
Academic offerings include 45 degree programs in 42 different major fields: 32 bachelor’s degree programs, 10 master’s degree programs, 2 doctoral-professional practice degree programs and 1 postbachelor’s certificate.

During the academic year 2011-2012, the university awarded 35 associate degrees, 1496 bachelor’s degrees, 246 master’s degrees, 26 doctoral-professional practice degrees and 32 postbachelor’s certificates.

Faculty
Full-time faculty for fall 2012 totaled 298, of whom 35 hold the rank of professor, 76 the rank of associate professor and 105 the rank of assistant professor. 65 percent of full-time faculty are tenured or tenure-track and 75 percent hold a doctorate or other terminal degree.

Enrollment
With 7,457 undergraduates, 509 graduates and 172 students in doctoral – professional practice degree programs, enrollments in fall 2012 totaled 8,138. Of the 7,208 full-time students, 96 percent are undergraduates and 4 percent are graduate students and students enrolled in doctoral – professional practice degree programs. The undergraduate student body is 51 percent male. Of the total number of students enrolled, 1,676 are from 77 foreign countries.

Admissions / Retention
1,536 first-time students enrolled for the fall 2012. 78 percent of all first-time students were accepted and 51 percent of all first-time applicants enrolled. 2,516 or 83 percent of accepted first-time students attended schools within Lebanon. 2,485 or 82 percent of accepted first-time students attended private Lebanese schools. On average, 90 percent of first-time students return for the fall of the next academic year. 141 or 38 percent of all undergraduate transfer applicants were accepted and 59 percent enrolled in fall 2012. 103 or 40 percent of new graduate students were accepted and 78 percent enrolled in fall 2012. Of the students in doctoral – professional practice degree programs, 106 or 39 percent were accepted and 73 percent enrolled in fall 2012.

Finance
LAU’s operating budget for 2011-2012 was $123,138,475, a 10 percent increase from the 2010-2011 budget, reflecting the university’s continued growth and expansion. 14 percent of this was earmarked for student financial aid.

Physical Facilities
LAU campuses occupy 186,924 square meters of space, of which the Beirut campus represents 27,500 square meters, the Byblos campus 159,424 square meters. In addition, LAU rents off-campus locations of 3,850 square meters in Beirut and 2,296 square meters in Byblos. The university is also a major shareholder in the University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital (UMC-RH).
THE MISSION, VALUES AND VISION OF THE LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Mission
The Lebanese American University is committed to academic excellence, student centeredness, civic engagement, the advancement of scholarship, the education of the whole person, and the formation of leaders in a diverse world.

Values
In both planning for its future and conducting its daily activities, LAU seeks to act in a manner that is guided by a deeply rooted sense of shared ethical values and aspirations. Built upon this foundation, the university is able to draw its fundamental inspiration from the devotion of its Presbyterian Founders to always seek the truth, respect human dignity, promote gender equality and be inclusive. It also provides educational opportunities as one university with multiple campuses, each with distinctive gifts and attributes. As such, LAU is committed to:

• Providing academic and service excellence throughout the institution;
• Demonstrating dignity and respect for and from, the Board, faculty, staff and students, in both word and deed;
• Celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of all the members of the LAU community;
• Succeeding because its people take ownership of, take pride in, and are held accountable for their actions;
• Working together as an extended family community that reflects the highest ethical and moral standards;
• Enabling individuals to find their own spiritual and personal fulfillment, while remaining sensitive to the changing global village in which they live;
• Promoting social connectedness of the students to the country of Lebanon, and encouraging their commitment to social justice and democracy.

Vision
The vision of LAU is driven by its mission and values, and is carried out by:

• Providing access to a superior education for diverse undergraduate and graduate students and lifelong learners;
• Attracting and retaining distinguished faculty who excel in teaching, research and community service;
• Enrolling and retaining academically qualified and diverse students;
• Embracing liberal arts in all curricula;
• Creating opportunities for rigorous research and the dissemination of knowledge;
• Developing a close-knit community that excels academically, is intellectually stimulating, and is religiously, ethnically and socio-economically diverse;
• Attracting and retaining a highly qualified staff committed to excellence in service;
• Fostering collaboration across the university in teaching, learning, research and service;
• Providing state-of-the-art infrastructure and support services that enrich the student, faculty and staff experience;
• Developing world citizens with a deep sense of civic engagement;
• Promoting the values of peace, democracy, and justice.
The Lebanese American University Strategic Plan

The 2005-2010 Strategic Plan laid the groundwork for the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan, which focuses on academic goals and the integration of unit-level plans within the overall institutional plan. Its fundamental aspiration is to take LAU to a higher level of academic excellence.

The 2011-2016 Strategic Plan is built on six pillars, each consisting of a number of goals. The pillars and their corresponding goals are:

**Pillar 1 - Education**

*Engage students in an intellectually challenging and diverse learning environment that integrates rich Liberal Arts education with strong goal driven Sciences and Humanities majors and career oriented programs.*

**Goals**

1. Foster the development of program and learning assessment culture across all programs;
2. Establish a uniform approach to academic honesty and issues of integrity in the institution;
3. Set up a new academic organizational structure that will provide all preparatory English language teaching;
4. Establish an English Writing Unit and develop peer learning centers (currently called co-op) to provide assistance to students in more majors;
5. Build on and extend learning outcomes of the Liberal Arts Curriculum in the learning outcomes of programs;
6. Set up a new academic organizational unit that will manage the Freshman Program;
7. Pursue US/International accreditation of academic programs when applicable and renew NEASC accreditation;
8. Strengthen action learning and experiential learning in all programs, and grant students credit for such learning when applicable;
9. Intensify the involvement of libraries and IT in the learning process and encourage faculty to collaborate with the Librarians and IT support staff for instructional purposes;
10. Establish Honors programs in select majors offered by the University;
11. Provide support for teaching development of faculty to enhance use of pedagogy that engages students in learning;
12. Strengthen/Establish Assessment Culture throughout University.

**Pillar 2 - Students**

*Recruit, retain, and graduate diverse students, who will be effective members of their disciplines, professions and communities.*

**Goals**

1. Target top students from all segments of Lebanese society and abroad to meet program enrollment numbers;
2. Provide more effective Orientation, Advising and Registration services for incoming and continuing students;
3. Empower students through governance, athletics, internships, clubs and leadership opportunities;
4. Provide more targeted career and placement services.

**Pillar 3 - Faculty**

*Recruit, retain, and foster the development of distinguished educators and scholars*

**Goals**

1. Recruit faculty to achieve 70% full time faculty ratio or school specific appropriate targets;
2. Develop University and school structures to expand research capacity and scholarly activities;
3. Establish school based faculty workload;
4. Implement school specific faculty governance and management structures that will foster a collegiate atmosphere and effective operations;
5. Subscribe to a high impact performance reward system;
6. Establish school based faculty salary structure.
Pillar 4 - Outreach
Extend LAU’s academic, professional and social services beyond the confines of its campuses and provide opportunities for students and faculty to expand their university experience to the community and abroad.

Goals
1. Establish and strengthen full services for student study abroad and international exchange agreements;
2. Make LAU a destination for foreign students;
3. Encourage academic programming and support faculty who include social responsibility and civic engagement in courses;
4. Provide LAU students with civic engagement opportunities to enhance their sense of social responsibility;
5. Expand Continuing Education courses off-campus and across Lebanon;
6. Ensure that LAU Institutes fulfill their Outreach mandates.

Pillar 5 - Areas of Focus
Identify and target substantive areas of University strength that correspond to national and regional needs and nurture initiatives that are responsive to those needs.

Goals
1. Develop academic majors, minors and areas of concentration that are responsive to workforce needs in the health services sector, particularly in supportive fields such as business, engineering and information technology, architecture, and natural and social sciences;
2. Commit to introduce Green curricula in relevant majors and adopt a University culture that contributes to environmental sustainability;
3. Strengthen the design, creative and performing arts programs at LAU to ensure that they are distinctive in Lebanon;
4. Strengthen the gender perspective in all disciplines and programs in line with LAU’s distinctive heritage;
5. Capitalize on our leadership role in Lebanon on conflict resolution, mediation and peace studies.

Pillar 6 - Graduate Studies & Research
Develop, sustain and enhance University graduate programs and research capacity.

Goals
1. Develop a Strategic Plan for Graduate Studies & Research.