

ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

HISTORY AND LOCATION

The Lebanese American University (LAU), a leading private higher education institution in Lebanon, operates under a charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. LAU is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

LAU is a nonsectarian institution guided by a deeply rooted sense of shared ethical values. The university began as a women's college in 1924, with roots extending back to 1835, when the Ottoman Empire's first school for girls was founded. LAU expanded over the decades, catering to the growing educational needs of Lebanon, the Middle East and around the world. Today LAU boasts seven schools, along with 19 centers and institutes. Dynamic and distinguished faculty members research and teach in a wide range of academic disciplines.

LAU's two main campuses are located on leafy hillsides by the Mediterranean Sea, around 35 kilometers apart, putting LAU within easy reach of all areas of Lebanon. The Byblos and Beirut campuses offer similarly structured programs in the arts, sciences and business. Programs in nursing and medicine, as well as junior and senior-year courses in engineering and pharmacy, are offered exclusively in Byblos.

LAU still continues to expand today. With the establishment of its New York Headquarters and Academic Center and a new executive center in Beirut Central District, LAU continues its journey of perpetual improvement and progression.

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. In 2014 LAU underwent a comprehensive evaluation and was re-accreditation for a ten-year period.

ACADEMIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The University comprises eight schools: Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Graduate Studies & Research.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEGREES CONFERRED

Academic offerings include 59 degree programs in 56 different major fields: 38 bachelor's degree programs, 18 master's degree programs, 2 professional degree programs and 1 postbachelor's certificate. During the academic year 2014-2015, the university awarded 12 associate degrees, 1,691 bachelor's degrees, 178 master's degrees, 69 doctoral-professional practice degrees and 40 postbachelor's certificates.

General Information

FACULTY

Full-time faculty for fall 2015 totaled 308, of whom 30 hold the rank of professor, 88 the rank of associate professor and 123 the rank of assistant professor. 27% percent of full-time faculty are tenured and 76% hold a doctorate or other terminal degree.

ENROLLMENT

With 7,553 undergraduates, 565 graduates and 230 students in doctoral – professional practice degree programs, enrollments in fall 2015 totaled 8,348. Of the 7,432 full-time students, 95 percent are undergraduates and 5 percent are graduate students and students enrolled in doctoral – professional practice degree programs. The undergraduate student body is 54 percent male. Of the total number of students enrolled, 1,553 are from 78 foreign countries.

FINANCE

LAU's operating budget for 2014-2015 was \$160,221,916, a 7 percent increase from the 2013-2014 budget, reflecting the university's continued growth and expansion. 16 percent of this was earmarked for student financial aid.

ADMISSIONS / RETENTION

1,808 first-time students enrolled for the fall 2015. 89 percent of all first-time students were accepted and 48 percent of all first-time applicants enrolled. 3,102 or 87 percent of accepted first-time students attended schools within Lebanon. 3,237 or 86 percent of accepted first-time students attended private Lebanese schools. On average, 89 percent of first-time students return for the fall of the next academic year. 142 or 52 percent of all undergraduate transfer applicants were accepted and 63 percent enrolled in fall 2015. 248 or 72 percent of new graduate students were accepted and 69 percent enrolled in fall 2015. Of the students in doctoral – professional practice degree programs, 115 or 84 percent were accepted and 51 percent enrolled in the academic year 2015-2016.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

LAU campuses occupy 343,763 square meters of space, of which the Beirut campus represents 27,500 square meters, the Byblos campus 316,263 square meters. The university is also a major shareholder in the Lebanese American University Medical Center – Rizk Hospital (LAUMC-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 student learning support mechanisms;
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.