

# Chapter 1 - University Overview

## History

Tech's formal name is Louisiana Tech University, but, when it was founded in 1894, it was named Industrial Institute and College of Louisiana. Act 68 of the General Assembly called for a "first-class" school to be located in Ruston designed to educate citizens in the arts and sciences and in "the practical industries of the age." The school was located on 20 acres of land and in a single building, both donated by the city of Ruston. By September 1895, with its president and faculty of six in residence, Tech opened its door to 202 students.

The first degree offered, the Bachelor of Industry, was granted in fields as diverse as music and telegraphy. The first student to receive the degree was Harry Howard, Class of 1897. Mr. Howard was not required to go through a formal graduation program. After his qualifications were examined, Col. A.T. Prescott, the first president, awarded the degree. The first graduation exercises were not held until the following year, 1898, when ten degrees were awarded in a ceremony at the Ruston Opera House.

During the first few decades, the institution's name, purpose, and functions were modified to meet the needs of the people it served. In 1921, the school's name was changed to Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. The Bachelor of Industry degree was discarded, and the degrees standard to American education were granted. As the college increased its enrollment and offerings, continual changes were made to meet those additional responsibilities. In 1970, the name was changed to Louisiana Tech University.

Today, the University continues to prosper with an enrollment of 9,392 undergraduates from all 50 states and 28 foreign countries and 1,888 graduate students. The faculty-to-student ratio is 1:22.

The physical plant has grown to more than 130 buildings. There are approximately 260 acres on the main campus, 472 acres at the demonstration farm, 94 acres of forest land in Webster parish, 200 acres of forest land in Winn Parish, about 170 acres a few miles west of Ruston, and 43.7 acres two miles west of the main campus. In addition, Tech has 149.77 acres of farm and pasture land for the animal production units.

The focal point of the campus is the Quadrangle, the center of which is a granite fountain named "The Lady of the Mist." Prescott Memorial Library (named for the University's first president), Wylly Tower of Learning, and George T. Madison Hall are at the north end of the Quadrangle. Keeny Hall (after the University's sixth president) is at the east side; Howard Center for the Performing Arts (for Tech's first graduate) is at the south side.

The Centennial Plaza was constructed in 1995. The Plaza's alumni walkway bears approximately 72,000 engraved bricks representing all Tech graduates.

The Student Center and Tolliver Hall border the west side of the Quadrangle. The newly-completed Tolliver Hall renovation provides a spacious, contemporary gathering spot for students replete with a convenience store, cyber café, student association offices, and the Spirit of Tech wall, a 120-foot art mural showcasing Tech's past and present.

Hale Hall, built in 1898, has been reconstructed to its original architectural grandeur. This building houses the School of Architecture, Interior Design and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

## Mission Statements

### Louisiana Board of Regents' Mission Statement for Louisiana Tech University

Louisiana Tech University recognizes its three-fold obligations to advance the state of knowledge, to disseminate knowledge, and, to provide strong outreach and service programs and activities.

To fulfill its obligation to advance the state of knowledge, the University will maintain a strong research and creative environment. It will fulfill its obligation to disseminate knowledge by maintaining an intellectual environment that encourages the development and application of that knowledge. Recognizing that service is an important function of every university, Louisiana Tech will continue to provide outreach programs and activities to meet the needs of the region and the state.

Graduate study and research are integral to the University's purpose. Doctoral programs will continue to focus on fields of study in which Louisiana Tech has the ability to achieve national competitiveness or to respond to specific state or regional needs.

Louisiana Tech is categorized as an SREB Four-Year 3 institution, as a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University-Intensive, and as a COC / SACS Level VI institution. Louisiana Tech is committed to graduate education through the doctorate. It will conduct research appropriate to the level of academic programs offered and will have a defined ratio of undergraduate to graduate enrollment. Louisiana Tech will not offer associate degree programs. At a minimum, the University will implement Selective II admissions criteria. Louisiana Tech is located in Region VII.

Source: Board of Regents, State of Louisiana, Master Plan for Postsecondary Education 2001.

### Mission – Louisiana Tech University

Louisiana Tech University is a comprehensive public university committed to quality in teaching, research, creative activity, public service, and economic development. A selective admissions university, it offers a broad range of fully accredited undergraduate degrees to qualified students in Louisiana, as well as from the region, the nation, and foreign countries. Integral to the purpose of the University is its expanding commitment to graduate-level and interdisciplinary education in its areas of strength. Louisiana Tech offers master's degrees in a variety of areas and doctoral programs in areas of specified expertise.

Louisiana Tech maintains, as its highest priority, the education of its students. To that end, it recruits a faculty committed to teaching and advising, a student-oriented faculty dedicated to preparing students to achieve their goals in a rapidly changing economic and civic environment. The University provides, in a challenging, yet safe and supportive environment, extracurricular and athletic programs that foster and enrich the development of its students. In addition, it provides opportunities for interaction between students and the larger business and civic community. The University encourages its students to regard learning as a lifelong process.

Recognizing that research and service are fundamental to its mission, Louisiana Tech recruits and retains a faculty who see research and teaching as intertwined, complementary, and interdisciplinary and who, through both theoretical and applied research and creative activities, contribute to the development of new knowledge, new art, and new technology.

Louisiana Tech understands its community and civic obligations. Through on-campus learning, through its off-campus presence, through outreach programs and continuing education, the University will continue to enhance the quality of life and the economic development of the region, state and nation.

As a University with a rich engineering heritage, Louisiana Tech has a special responsibility to integrate advanced technology into teaching and learning. At Tech, advanced technology supports quality teaching, research, administration, and service. The University is committed to providing its students with the advanced technological skills that will help to ensure their success both in the internal environment of the University and in the wider surrounding community.

## **Intercollegiate Athletics Statement of Purpose (Mission Statement)**

Louisiana Tech University is committed to an intercollegiate athletics program that embodies academic, athletic, and financial integrity. This constancy must be manifested primarily in an athletics program which is always in concert with the overall mission of the University and complements the values and goals of higher education. As part of the total educational process at Louisiana Tech, the intercollegiate athletics program should bring pride, admiration, and loyalty to the University. In this context, the Louisiana Tech intercollegiate athletics program will benefit the student body, alumni, faculty, staff and the local community through the development of *esprit de corps*. The soundness of the athletics program must also be evident in a commitment to enhance the educational growth and development of student-athletes and to abide by the letter and spirit of the rules and regulations set forth by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Western Athletic Conference.

Specific goals of the Louisiana Tech University intercollegiate athletics program include the following:

1. To conduct the athletics program in harmony with the educational goals, values, practices, and mission of Louisiana Tech.
2. To look to the President of the University for authority and direction in the administration of the athletics program.
3. To seek intellectual and vocational development of student-athletes, and to enable them to meet the demands of academic competition successfully with the assistance of an academic support program.
4. To provide all student-athletes, male and female, equal opportunity to pursue academic and athletic excellence.
5. To recruit student-athletes who have demonstrated the academic ability to be successful in college.
6. To allow student-athletes to participate in athletics only when they are able to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward a degree as outlined in the standards set forth by the NCAA and University academic policies.
7. To provide student-athletes the assurance that their education is of the utmost importance and to confirm that unsatisfactory academic achievement shall be neither accepted nor excused.
8. To strive for success at the conference, regional, and national levels in all athletics programs whenever possible.
9. To maintain a diverse coaching staff who represent the best in athletic instruction and who possess the ability to motivate and inspire the student-athletes in their charge.

10. To conduct the business of intercollegiate athletics always in such a manner as to reflect pride and integrity for the University, alumni, and community, and to ensure that intercollegiate athletics will be an honorable tradition at Louisiana Tech University and in North Louisiana.
11. To increase external funding, improve graduation rates for all student-athletes, increase life-skills educational opportunities for all student-athletes, and continue programs designed to achieve gender equity.

## **Strategic Plan 2006 - 2015**

Louisiana Tech University's strategic and long-term planning process is an integral part of the University's Management Plan. The following are Tech's overarching goals which direct the University's current strategic and long-term planning activities.

**Theme 1: Recruiting and retaining a model student body and university community.**

**Theme 2: Integrating learning, discovery, and development for an unparalleled education.**

**Theme 3: Elevating our research and graduate program to national prominence and expanding our engine for economic growth.**

## **Equal Opportunity Policies**

Louisiana Tech University adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal civil rights laws and regulations that are applicable to this agency. Therefore, no one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), sex (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended); the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 in the pursuit of educational goals and objectives and in the administration of personnel policies and procedures.

### **Admissions**

Louisiana Tech University assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons regardless of race, creed, sex, color, religion, physical or mental handicap, national origin, age, marital status, or veteran's status in admission to the University.

### **Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services (Keeny Hall 333) coordinates campus-wide efforts to provide information and services to Louisiana Tech students with disabilities. Inquiries concerning services for students with disabilities should be directed to the Office of Disability Services, or the Admissions Office. Services are available to students who provide appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) requesting classroom accommodations should contact the instructor(s) and the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of each quarter. ([www.latech.edu/ods](http://www.latech.edu/ods)).

## Employment

Louisiana Tech University is committed to the principle of providing the opportunity for learning and development of all qualified citizens without regard to race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran's status for admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the University sponsors or operates. The President of the University has established the policy that all employment practices will be continually monitored to ensure that all University administrators, deans, directors, department heads, and other budget unit heads take positive action in complying with the goals of equal employment opportunity.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The following statement is issued in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974:

Louisiana Tech University is responsible for effectively supervising any access to and/or release of official information about its students. Certain items of information about individual students are fundamental to the educational process and must be recorded. This recorded information concerning students must be used only for clearly defined purposes, must be safeguarded and controlled to avoid violations of personal privacy, and must be appropriately disposed of when the justification for its retention no longer exists. In this regard, Louisiana Tech is committed to protecting to the maximum extent possible the right of privacy of all the individuals about whom it holds information, records, and files. Access to and release of such records is restricted to the student concerned, to others with the student's written consent, to officials within the University, to a court of competent jurisdiction, and otherwise pursuant to law.

## Student Representation in University Activities

Louisiana Tech University is committed to providing a quality educational experience for students both within and outside the classroom. A high degree of interaction among students, faculty, and the University community is desired. The student presence found in numerous University committees demonstrates the importance of a student voice in key University decision making. Some committees having student representation include: Administrative and Planning Council, Administrative Review Board, Athletics Council, Behavioral Standards Committee, College/Department Curriculum Committees, DNA/Biohazards/Radioactive Institutional Review Committee, Fee Committee, Graduate Council, Instructional Policies Committee, Library Advisory Committee, Parking and Traffic Committee, Research Council, Student Organizations Committee, University Multicultural Committee, and University Tour Committee.

Louisiana Tech University is required by accrediting agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of its academic programs and student services. Student participation is required through opinion surveys and standardized tests such as the student opinion survey, alumni survey, standardized test for general education, and standardized test for major field evaluation.

## Emergency Announcements from the University through the Media

Louisiana Tech is in session in accordance with the published academic calendar, schedule of classes, and Catalogs unless otherwise announced through the news media as authorized by the President or his designee. In the event of severe weather or any other problem, the News Bureau will release one of the following authorized announcements:

*"Louisiana Tech University is closed."* This means that no classes are being held and only certain designated Building and Grounds maintenance staff are on duty.

*"Classes are dismissed. All offices are open."* This means all employees other than nine-month faculty are on duty.

Announcements about closures will be made on Tech's Web site ([www.latech.edu](http://www.latech.edu)) and on media as follows:

### Ruston

KXKZ- FM 107.5

### Monroe

KNOE-TV (Channel 8)  
KTVE-TV (Channel 10)

### Shreveport

KTBS-TV (Channel 3)  
KSLA-TV (Channel 12)

If you have not heard or seen an announcement about the University's status, use your best judgement. Don't put yourself in danger.