


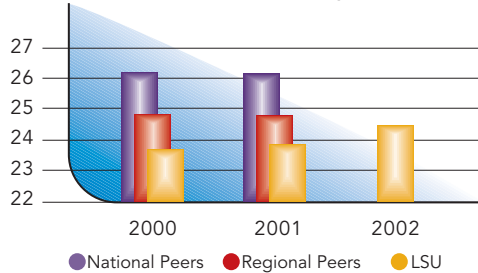
# Students: Undergraduate Programs



Because of its role as Louisiana's flagship university, it is LSU's responsibility to provide nationally competitive undergraduate programs and experiences to ensure that no Louisiana student must leave the state to find better opportunities. To that end, LSU has steadily raised its expectations for undergraduate preparation and performance. The result of these increased expectations has created a ripple effect throughout high schools within the state, resulting in more-rigorous high school curricula.

LSU's goal is to continue to invest in and promote nationally ranked programs that prepare students for the best possible postgraduate opportunities, and, in turn, provide a competitively educated workforce capable of attracting high-growth industries. In order to fulfill this role, LSU will take the following actions.

Comparison of Average ACT Scores Among LSU and Peer Universities, 2000-2002



## ACTIONS

- Increase undergraduate admission standards and move to a more competitive and holistic admissions model; LSU will endeavor to recruit and retain top students.
- Increase recruitment, orientation, and retention efforts for transfer students.
- Provide a broad array of nationally competitive undergraduate degree programs through systematic review and targeted investments.
- Provide innovative learning experiences that complement and enhance academic programs, including international, multicultural, and interdisciplinary programs.

## OUTCOMES

- The LSU student population will continue to be highly competitive in comparison with peer institutions (freshman profile of 3.6 overall high school grade-point average and average 26 ACT/1200 SAT; freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 88–90 percent; five-year graduation rate of 55 percent; six-year graduation rate of 64 percent).
- The percentage of enrolled transfer students will double.
- Students will be highly competitive in the job market or be admitted to top graduate programs.
- Students will satisfy key learning outcomes of being able to communicate ideas and information; plan, organize, and evaluate projects; work in teams and with diverse populations and constituencies; apply mathematical concepts and problem-solving techniques; and use technology appropriate to their fields.

## Updates

- Freshman admissions standards were raised twice in the last three years.
- Student success continued to improve at LSU. The six-year graduation rate increased from 50 percent in 1998 to 58 percent in 2002. The average composite ACT score for new freshmen, at 24.4, was the highest in the fall of 2002 that it has ever been.
- Three living-learning environments, called residential colleges, have greatly reduced class sizes in key lower division courses.
- The percentage of courses with fewer than 20 students increased from one-in-six sections in 1999 to one-in-three sections in 2002.
- African American enrollment increased by 11.5 percent, which outpaced total student enrollment growth of 5.7 percent.
- The Student Technology Fee, a student body initiative, was designed to upgrade on-campus technology that serves students. The projects selected for improvement are determined by a student panel.
- LSU offers baccalaureate degrees in 71 major fields.



In 2003, political science major Allen Richey was named LSU's first Harry S. Truman Scholarship winner, providing scholarships for his senior year and for graduate study at any institution of his choosing.