General Information

Accreditation

Lamar State College Port Arthur is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award degrees at the associate level. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500, at http://www.sacs.org for questions about the accreditation of Lamar State College Port Arthur.

The College is approved by the Texas Education Agency for training veterans under all classifications. The College is also a member of or approved by the American Bar Association, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the Texas Board of Nursing, the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), the U.S. Department of Education and the Veterans Administration.

Government

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

History

John W. Gates of New York City, one of the founders of Texaco, established Port Arthur Business College in 1909, to train people for the petrochemical industry, then in its infancy. The College became Port Arthur Collegiate Institute in 1911, when the school was presented to the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church North, a forerunner of the present United Methodist Temple.

The church operated the growing campus until 1918, when it was turned over to a non-profit Texas corporation, which had no capital stock and was overseen by a self-perpetuating board of trustees. The name of the school was changed back to Port Arthur Business College and finally, in 1932, to Port Arthur College.

Another milestone in the school's history was reached July 31, 1974, when W. Sam Monroe, President of Port Arthur College and a Lamar University regent, presented a resolution to merge the College into Lamar University. The 21 trustees agreed that a merger would be in the best interests of both institutions and their constituencies.

John Gates

The 64th Texas Legislature authorized the merger and appropriated $600,000 for creation of the Lamar University Center at Port Arthur. On Aug. 21, 1975, the trustees presented the deed for Port Arthur College to the Lamar University Board of Regents. Classes began on the Port Arthur campus on Aug. 28, 1975.

In the years following the merger, enrollment increased from 151 students to a peak of more than 3,000 and the curriculum expanded to more than 50 areas of study.

In 1977, the 65th Legislature approved House Bill 1134 renaming the school Lamar University-Port Arthur and dropping the "Extension Center" designation.

In 1983, the 68th Legislature passed three bills that directly affected the College:

1. Senate Bill 409 deleted the restrictive language of HB 130 (passed in 1971 by the 63rd Legislature), making Lamar University-Port Arthur eligible, on an equal basis with other state institutions, for state funds to be used to buy land and/or buildings.
2. Senate Bill 410 provided Lamar University regents with the authority to levy a fixed student fee and the authority to bond against said fee for construction of a Student Center on the Port Arthur campus. This legislation was validated by a majority vote of the Lamar University-Port Arthur student body in November 1983.
3. Senate Bill 620 created the Lamar University System. Lamar University-Port Arthur thus became a component institution of that system on Aug. 29, 1983.

In 1985, two bills affected the school:

1. Senate Bill 578 in 1985 provided that Lamar University-Port Arthur be a beneficiary institution and receive money from the Higher Education Assistance Fund.

2. The General Appropriations Act of 1985 directed that a formula be developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide operational funding to Lamar University-Port Arthur on the same basis as other state-supported institutions of higher education.

Senate Bill 78 in 1989 removed restrictions imposed by earlier legislation on the acquisition of real estate and the construction of facilities on campus.

Senate Bill 843 in 1991 clarified the degree-granting authority by allowing Lamar University-Port Arthur to issue associate degrees in its own name.

On Sept. 1, 1995, the Texas Legislature dissolved the Lamar University System, and Lamar University-Port Arthur and its three sister institutions, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar University, and Lamar State College-Orange joined The Texas State University System, which is headquartered in Austin and also includes Sam Houston State University, Texas State University and Sul Ross State University.

House Bill 1997, signed June 1999, changed the name of the school to Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

Location

Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) is a two-year, state-supported institution located in Port Arthur, an industrial and cultural center of southeast Texas. The College offers freshman and sophomore level work in numerous academic and technical disciplines. The campus is located near downtown Port Arthur and sits adjacent and parallel to the Intercoastal Canal.

Port Arthur has modern public schools, churches, shopping districts and recreation areas serving a community of approximately 60,000 persons. Principal industries in the area are oil refining, chemical production, shipping and shipbuilding.

The metropolitan area, known as the Golden Triangle, includes Port Arthur and the cities of Beaumont, Bridge City, Groves, Orange, Port Neches, Nederland and Vidor, all of which are located within 25 miles of Port Arthur and form the heart of the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

Vision and Mission

Vision

Lamar State College Port Arthur strives to enhance lives by expanding opportunities through quality education.

Mission

Lamar State College Port Arthur provides learning experiences that prepare students to continue their education or enter the workforce.

Goals

- Provide educational opportunities flexible in scheduling, location, delivery method and content.
- Offer freshman and sophomore general education/core curriculum courses, which will transfer to traditional baccalaureate degree programs.
- Provide opportunities to acquire information literacy skills, common to all disciplines.
- Provide instruction and/or support services to improve the potential for employment and/or occupational advancement.
- Provide students with personal attention in a broad range of student service activities, educational support services for instructional programs, and provide responsible oversight of the College's physical and financial resources
- Enhance institutional advancement efforts targeted toward the needs of local communities, economic development and community partnerships, and provide cultural enrichment opportunities, both on and off campus.

Core Values

- Shared commitment by faculty, staff and administration to a mission characterized by student learning, diversity, and community involvement.
- General education/core curriculum that develops the values and concepts that allow the student to make a meaningful contribution in the workplace or community.
- Academic and technical programs designed to fulfill our commitment to accommodate students with diverse goals and backgrounds,

using a variety of delivery methods, on and off campus.

- Technical education programs that provide for the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and behavior necessary for initial and continued employment.
- Student achievement characterized by attainment of individual goals and measured by successful accomplishments and completion of curriculum.
- Co-curricular opportunities that develop social, financial and civic acuity.

Principles

Lamar State College Port Arthur operates in the belief that all individuals should be:

- Treated with dignity and respect;
- Afforded equal opportunity to acquire a complete educational experience;
- Given an opportunity to discover and develop their special aptitudes and insights; and,
- Provided an opportunity to equip themselves for a fulfilling life and responsible citizenship in a world characterized by change.

Facilities

The Lamar State College Port Arthur campus contains 28 buildings situated on approximately 40 acres. Most of these facilities were donated for the creation of the institution, including contributions from Port Arthur College, the City of Port Arthur, the Port Arthur College Foundation, Southern Union Gas, the First United Methodist Church of Port Arthur and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Gates Memorial Library

The Gates Memorial Library is one of the most attractive academic library buildings in Texas. The two-story Classical Revival building was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

After a major $2.1 million addition and renovation completed in 2004, the library now includes a 50-station open student computer lab, a quiet study carrel area, group study areas, a periodical reading room, extensive stack areas, individual audio-visual rooms, a multi-purpose conference room and expanded reference and access services areas. Plenty of soft seating inside the library complements an idyllic outside fountain garden surrounded by year-around patio seating.

The online public access catalog is available 24 hours a day on or off campus and is part of a system that automates the major library components.

The library is open five days per week for a total of 58 hours during regular semesters.

Collections are developed in support of all of the college's educational programs.

Materials are accessible in many formats, including paper, DVDs, CD-ROMs, videotapes and online. Through password authentication, students and

faculty have continuous access to the library's electronic holdings, from anywhere on or off campus.

The total volume count numbers more than 55,000. An e-book collection provides an additional 29,000 titles. The total periodical count numbers more than 38,000 subscriptions in both paper and electronic formats. Special areas feature a law collection, a textbook collection, a career collection, a children's collection, a Texana collection, a rare book collection and a best-seller collection.

The Gates Library is a member of the AMIGOS Bibliographic Council, which provides inter-library loan services to more than 400 libraries statewide and 20,000 libraries worldwide. Other affiliations include the Consortium of Academic Libraries and Learning.

Resources and TexShare, which provides on-site borrowing services for LSCPA students and faculty at most academic libraries statewide.

Students use their student ID to check out materials

at Lamar University, Lamar State College-Orange and the Port Arthur Public Library.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides help for students needing assistance with study skills or remediation in the areas of math, English and reading. Computer-aided tutorial programs and teacher certified tutors are available to students. The Student Success Center houses a testing center and administers approved tests for TSI purposes and other diagnostic tests.

Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center supports economic development in Port Arthur, Groves, Nederland and Port Neches by providing counseling, training and technical assistance to owners and managers of new and existing small businesses.

The center offers confidential consulting on a variety of topics, including business plan preparation, finance sources, marketing, personnel actions, taxes and regulations. The center's library provides additional information about many business fields.

Since its inception, the SBDC has created 2,340 jobs, assisted in obtaining more than $81 million in loans/equity, helped start 307 new business, held 505 business training classes and assisted 3,440 clients.

The SBDC, 1401 Procter St., works in association with Lamar State College-Port Arthur, the University of Houston and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Port Arthur Higher Education Foundation

Far sighted leaders formed the Port Arthur Higher Education Foundation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1973. Its purpose is to promote the arts, sciences and programs of Port Arthur College, which later became Lamar State College Port Arthur.

The Foundation's early role included assisting the College in acquiring property surrounding the campus and in making special contributions, such as providing $125,000 to purchase books for the Gates Memorial Library after city voters donated the library to the College.

The Foundation's current primary purpose is to administer more than five million dollars in permanently endowed scholarships for Lamar State College Port Arthur students. The awards bear the names of longtime community members, celebrities and local social and civic clubs, including Robert Rauschenberg, H.S. and Bernice B. Anderson, Lloyd and Joe Hayes, Sydalise Fredeman, G.W. Bailey and the Port Arthur Rotary Club.Lamar State College Port Arthur receives applications for the foundation's scholarships, which may be awarded based on academic merit, financial need or both.

Admissions

Lamar State College Port Arthur welcomes students interested in education and personal improvement. The Admission Office provides complete admissions assistance for entering students. Professionally trained personnel assist prospective students in assembling all admission credentials so that a transition into the college environment can be as smooth and problem free as possible. Correspondence pertaining to admissions should be addressed to the Admissions Office, Lamar State College Port Arthur, P.O. Box 310, Port Arthur, TX 77641.

Lamar State College Port Arthur, a two-year college in The Texas State University System, offers educational opportunities through an open admissions policy which admits students who can benefit from post-secondary education. Lamar State College Port Arthur admits students without regard to race, color, creed, gender, age, national origin or disabilities. Lamar State College Port Arthur does reserve the right to verify the citizenship and residency of any prospective student.

A student may be admitted to Lamar State College Port Arthur based on one of the following criteria: