

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

# Presidential Leadership Profile

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

Founded in 1894, Louisiana Tech University is one of Louisiana's longstanding public institutions, with a history shaped by academic rigor, applied learning, and service to the state. Located in Ruston, Louisiana Tech has evolved over more than 130 years from an industrial institute created to meet the educational and economic needs of a developing state into a comprehensive public university with a broad academic mission and an established record of preparing graduates for leadership, professional practice, research, and public service.

The University was established by the Louisiana General Assembly as the Industrial Institute and College of Louisiana and opened in September 1895. Its original charge reflected an approach that would remain central to the institution's identity: connecting the arts and sciences with practical preparation for the professions and industries of the time. As Louisiana Tech expanded in scope and stature, its name changed to the Louisiana Industrial Institute in 1898, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1921, and Louisiana Tech University in 1970.

Each stage of that evolution reflected a broader institutional mission, but the University's commitment to the integration of knowledge and application has remained consistent. That foundation has helped shape Louisiana Tech into an institution recognized for the strength of its academic programs, the quality of its graduates, and its contributions to Louisiana and beyond.

Louisiana Tech's history is marked by both continuity and progress. The University has grown alongside the state it serves, adapting to changing educational, workforce, and economic needs while maintaining a clear focus on student achievement and institutional excellence. Today, Louisiana Tech stands on a strong foundation built across generations and enters its next chapter with the opportunity to build upon that legacy while continuing to advance its role as a leading public university.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Louisiana Tech University is classified as a Research 2: High Research Spending and Doctorate Production institution, with established strengths in engineering, science, technology, cybersecurity, advanced materials, health and wellness, and other emerging areas of research and innovation. The University offers more than 135 degree and certificate programs, including 12 doctoral degrees, 24 master's degrees, 56 bachelor's degrees, and 2 associate degrees, as well as 21 graduate certificates, 2 post-baccalaureate certificates, and 21 undergraduate certificates. With a longstanding reputation for academic excellence and innovation, Louisiana Tech prepares graduates to contribute to Louisiana, the nation, and the world.

- College of Applied & Natural Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Education & Human Sciences
- College of Engineering and Science
- College of Liberal Arts
- Honors College

# OPERATING BUDGET

Louisiana Tech University's FY27 operating budget is $155,757,104, with 77% allocated to the University's core mission – student instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, and scholarships. The remaining 23% supports institutional services, plant operations, and agency transfers.

### Funding Sources

72% from tuition and fees (self-generated)
28% from state funds

| | |
|---|---|
| State Appropriations (budgeted) | $ 43,667,318 |
| Self-Generated | $ 112,089,786 |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** | **$ 155,757,104** |

*Total reflects all sources of revenue, including restricted and unrestricted.

### Budget Allocation Breakdown

Instruction: 34%
Research: 9%
Academic Support: 9%
Student Services: 3%
Institutional Services: 9%
Scholarships/Fellowships: 22%
Plant Operations/Maintenance: 9%
Athletics: 5%

### Additional Budgets

Auxiliary Services: $40,424,930 (Student Union, Recreation, Food Services, Bookstore, etc.)
Athletics: $28,957,362 (Salaries, Scholarships, Travel, Equipment, Operations, etc.)

### Annual Undergraduate Tuition & Costs

Tuition Only:
In state: $8,522
Out of state: $15,263

Total Cost (Tuition, Fees, Room & Board):
In State: $25,277
Out of state: $32,018

### Endowment

Louisiana Tech's endowment exceeds: $88,664,204.

## RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

Louisiana Tech University is recognized as an R2: High Research Spending and Doctorate Production institution in the 2025 Carnegie Research Classification, a reflection of the University's growing impact in research and innovation.

Research at Louisiana Tech is guided by strategic vision to create excellence in scholarship, foster innovation, and build meaningful public and private partnerships that drive regional and global impact. Students and faculty across disciplines pursue high-impact research supported by federal, state, and private funding, including agencies such as the National Science Foundation and Louisiana Board of Regents.

Notable initiatives include Dr. Lee Sawyer's collaboration with the ATLAS experiment at CERN, exploring the fundamental particles of the universe; Dr. Julie Rutledge's work in early childhood development and family dynamics through applied research at the ENRICH Center; and Dr. Yan Xiao's sustainable energy research in the Institute for Micromanufacturing, transforming methane and biomass into cleaner fuels and valuable chemicals.

These efforts, along with other numerous faculty and student research, reflect Louisiana Tech's commitment to advancing knowledge, preparing students through hands-on discovery, and addressing real-world challenges.

FY25 research expenditures (not yet published by the NSF) are $34,148,000.

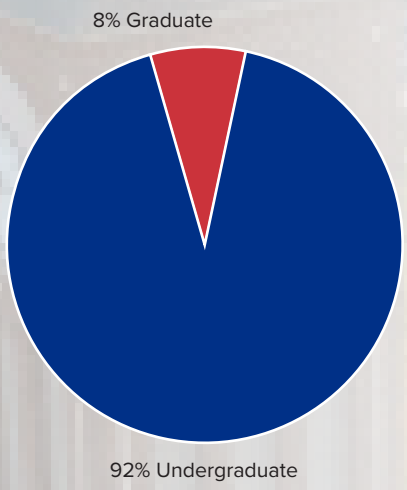
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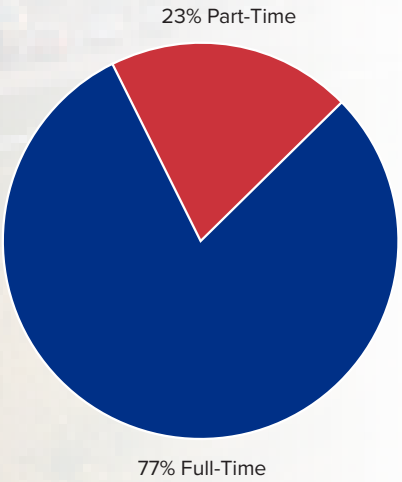
- Learn more about LaTech's Research at: latech.edu/research
- Explore research journal publications: 1894.latech.edu/2026/02/05/research-journals-winter-2026/

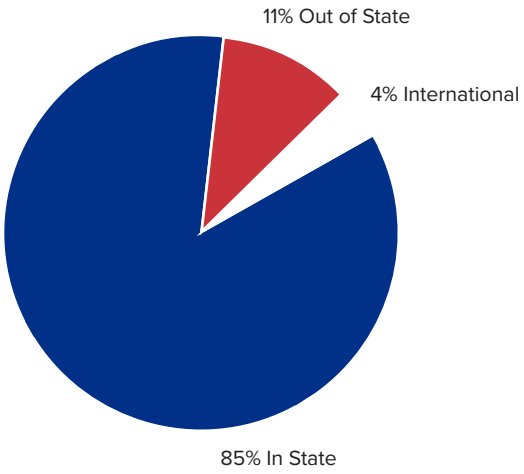
## ENROLLMENT

Over the last five years, Louisiana Tech has seen a 9.7% increase in total enrollment, growing from 11,088 students in Fall 2020 to 12,160 students in Fall 2025. Louisiana Tech University reported a 75% first-time, full-time retention rate for the fall 2025.

**12,160 Fall 2025 End-of-Term Enrollment**




## EMPLOYEE DATA

The institution employs 236 full-time and 154 part-time faculty members, excluding graduate assistants. Additionally, the staff includes 333 full-time and 8 part-time employees, also excluding graduate assistants.

## ATHLETICS

With more than 300 student-athletes competing across 16 NCAA Division I men's and women's programs, Louisiana Tech Athletics is a proud member of Sun Belt Conference, offering high-level competition and excellence on and off the field. Based in the vibrant college town of Ruston in North Louisiana, Louisiana Tech University has an enrollment of over 12,000 students and a proud alumni base of more than 110,000 Ever Loyal Be graduates.

### Bulldogs & Lady Techsters

Louisiana Tech University's Bulldogs and Lady Techsters compete at the NCAA Division I level as members of the Sun Belt Conference. Louisiana Tech Athletics carries a proud tradition of success, highlighted by six national championships and a distinguished legacy of athletes who have gone on to achieve the highest honors in professional sports. The University's national championships include three consecutive football titles in 1972, 1973, and 1974, along with three women's basketball championships in 1981, 1982, and 1988. Louisiana Tech is also home to seven members of major professional sports halls of fame, including Pro Football Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw, Fred Dean, and Willie Roaf, as well as Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famers Leon Barmore, Karl Malone, Kim Mulkey, and Teresa Weatherspoon.

As part of a Top Tier National University, Louisiana Tech student-athletes consistently excel both academically and athletically. During the 2025-26 academic year, student-athletes achieved a record-setting 3.42 GPA during the Spring 2026 quarter and a 3.37 overall GPA for the academic year, with 699 selections to the Athletics Director's Honor Roll. The department also achieved its highest-ever Graduation Success Rate at 87 percent. In addition, 71 student-athletes earned the conference Academic Medal and 239 were named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll for 2025-26.

Louisiana Tech rejoined the Sun Belt Conference on July 1, 2026. With 14 member institutions, the Sun Belt has established itself as a premier non-autonomy conference and a multi-bid league across multiple sports. Strong fan bases, regional rivalries, and a commitment to competitive excellence have helped establish the conference as a stable, respected, and successful league within the evolving landscape of college athletics. Louisiana Tech enters the Sun Belt with a strong record of competitive success across its athletic programs, including:

- Baseball: Three conference championships and three NCAA Regional appearances in the past six seasons
- Men's Basketball: Eight 20-win seasons and three regular-season conference championships in the last 10 years
- Football: Nine bowl appearances and seven bowl victories, including the 2025 Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl
- Bowling: Six consecutive NCAA Regional appearances from 2021 through 2026
- Softball: Four conference championships in the last 12 years
- Women's Basketball: Four postseason appearances in the last five years, including a 2025 WNIT Great 8 appearance, the 2025-26 regular-season conference championship, and a WBIT berth

Louisiana Tech Athletics is positioned to build on this tradition of excellence as it returns to the Sun Belt Conference, bringing a history of championships, academic achievement, passionate fan support, and sustained competitive success.

## PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL QUALITIES

### Professional Qualifications

The next president of Louisiana Tech University should possess:

- **Understanding of Louisiana Tech's Role and Mission:** A clear appreciation for Louisiana Tech's identity as a nationally recognized research university known for innovation, entrepreneurship, STEM excellence, and its central role in the economic, cultural, and workforce development of North Louisiana and the broader region.
- **Academic and Executive Leadership:** An earned doctorate from an accredited institution (preferred) and a demonstrated record of effective senior leadership in higher education or related sectors, with the academic credentials and experience necessary to earn the confidence of faculty, students, staff, and external stakeholders.
- **Strategic and Financial Stewardship:** Proven ability to manage complex budgets, advance resource development, and guide institutional planning to ensure long-term financial sustainability and strategic growth consistent with Louisiana Tech's mission.
- **Commitment to Academic and Research Excellence:** A deep understanding of academic enterprises, especially research, innovation, and graduate education and a strong commitment to supporting faculty achievement, student learning, scholarly productivity, and interdisciplinary growth aligned with Louisiana Tech's focus on expanding its research, innovation, and scholarly creative activity.
- **Student Success and Access:** A demonstrated commitment to student access, retention, and completion, with a focus on creating a supportive environment for diverse student populations across undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.
- **External Engagement and Advocacy:** The capacity to effectively represent Louisiana Tech at the state, regional, and national levels, cultivating strong relationships with the University of Louisiana System, elected officials, alumni, donors, and business and industry leaders throughout North Louisiana and beyond.
- **Athletics and Institutional Mission:** An understanding of the role of Division I athletics within a comprehensive research university and the ability to promote its alignment with academic values, student development, and institutional visibility.
- **Philanthropy and Fundraising:** A proven record of securing external funding through philanthropy, corporate partnerships, research development, and public-private collaborations to advance institutional priorities and expand opportunities for students and faculty.
- **Collaborative and Regional Partnership Building:** A strong history of fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, campus unity, and regional alliances that expand educational access, research capacity, and economic development, including partnerships with industry, military, government, and community organizations.

## Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will exhibit:

- **Visionary and Innovative Thinking:** A bold, future-focused, and entrepreneurial approach to leadership, with the foresight to guide Louisiana Tech University through an evolving higher education landscape and strengthen its position as a national leader in research, innovation, and student success.
- **Collaborative Leadership:** An authentic, transparent, and highly engaged leadership style that builds trust, advances shared governance, and values  perspectives across the University community.
- **Transparent and Effective Communication:** Exceptional communication skills—listening as well as speaking—and a strong commitment to openness, accountability, and integrity in all decisions and interactions.
- **Cultural Appreciation and Regional Engagement:** A genuine respect for the history, values, and cultures of North Louisiana and a deep appreciation for Louisiana Tech's role in supporting the region through education, research, innovation, service, and a strong partnership with local communities, industry, government, and the military.
- **Dedication to Community and Civic Impact:** A passion for amplifying the University's impact across Ruston, North Louisiana, the state, and beyond through collaboration, outreach, workforce development, and regional economic growth.
- **Stability and Resilience:** A steady, principled, and long-term commitment to Louisiana Tech's success, with the resilience to navigate challenges, lead with clarity, and inspire confidence in times of rapid change.

## PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. For best consideration, candidate materials should be received by **November 6, 2026.**

Application materials should be submitted to:
**LATechPresidentialSearch@ulsystem.edu**

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:
**Erica Calais, Ed.D., LATechPresidentialSearch@ulsystem.edu**

## LEARN MORE ABOUT LOUISIANA TECH

Candidates are encouraged to explore the following resources to become familiar with Louisiana Tech's history, mission, academic enterprise, current priorities, opportunities, and broader University community.

**Institutional Overview and Direction**

- About Louisiana Tech — Overview of the University and its institutional identity.
- University History — Louisiana Tech's official history and institutional development.
- Vision and Mission — The University's formal vision, mission, and institutional commitments.
- Strategic Framework — Louisiana Tech's strategic direction through 2030.
- Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning — Institutional data, planning, assessment, and student achievement resources.

**Academic Enterprise and Student Reach**

- Academics — Overview of Louisiana Tech's academic enterprise.
- Degrees and Programs — Undergraduate, graduate, certificate, and online academic offerings.
- Tech Online — Louisiana Tech's online learning platform, programs, and services for distance learners.
- Tech Online Programs — Current online degree and certificate portfolio.
- Graduate School — Graduate education and related opportunities.
- Admissions — Undergraduate recruitment, access, financial aid, and the prospective student experience.
- Student Life — Student engagement, support, organizations, housing, and campus life.
- Career Center — Career development, employer engagement, experiential learning, internships, and workforce connections.

**Research, Innovation, and Economic Development**

- Division of Research — Louisiana Tech's research enterprise, centers, sponsored activity, and areas of focus.
- Louisiana Tech Research Institute — Louisiana Tech's research and education partnerships in national security, technology, and related fields.
- Innovation and Advancement — The University's integrated approach to innovation, philanthropy, partnerships, applied research, and institutional growth.
- Innovation Enterprise and Tech Pointe I & II — Louisiana Tech's model for connecting corporate partners, start-ups, government, faculty, and students through on-campus innovation and economic development.
- Innovation Enterprise Partners — Current partnerships and the opportunities created through the Tech Pointe ecosystem.
- Louisiana Tech University Foundation and Advancement — An overview of philanthropy, donor engagement, resource development, and the Foundation's role in supporting institutional growth.

**University and Community Life**

- University News — Current developments, accomplishments, partnerships, research, and campus activity.
- University Events Calendar — Academic, cultural, student, community, and athletic events across the University.
- Louisiana Tech Athletics — Official home of Bulldog and Lady Techster athletics.
- Louisiana Tech Alumni — Alumni engagement and the University's broader network of graduates and supporters.
- Ruston and Lincoln Parish — An introduction to the community Louisiana Tech calls home.
- 1894: The Louisiana Tech Alumni Magazine — Features highlighting Louisiana Tech's people, programs, partnerships, research, and evolving institutional story.