

Overview: Recent Events

As a result of LSU's five-year planning effort, a campus-wide discussion about the University's future began in fall 2002. This discussion, known as the National Flagship Agenda, focused on how LSU could improve its research and educational enterprise to make it more nationally competitive.

According to the University's core values of collegiality and open dialogue, this Flagship Agenda is the culmination of discussions and debates among the faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University. A few of the signal events that unfolded during the last year are listed on the right.



Signal Events of 2002-2003

- 9/19/02 LSU Board of Supervisors Flagship Committee established.
- 9/17/02 The Chancellor met with the University Planning Council (UPC) and the Leadership Team for regional accreditation to discuss the major points of the Flagship Agenda.
- 10/15/02 Vice chancellors and the UPC responded to questions from the Board's Flagship Committee.
- 10/17/02 The UPC outlined the process to begin dialogue on the National Flagship Agenda.
- 12/5/02 Chancellor Emmert began discussions with deans, department heads, the Faculty and Staff Senates, and the Student Government officers. Break-out groups responded to questions posed by the Board's Flagship Committee and the Chancellor.
- 12/12/02 The Web site, www.lsu.edu/flagship, started posting information and hosting discussions.
- 1/15/03 The Chancellor presented key issues to an open meeting of faculty and staff.
- 2/20/03 The first draft of the Flagship Agenda was posted to the Flagship Web site. The campus commented on-line and through formal bodies, including Vice Chancellors' Council, Deans' Council, UPC, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the Flagship Committee of the Board of Supervisors.
- 2/27/03 John Lombardi, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, consulted with deans, faculty, and board members, and conducted a public lecture on the role of a national research university and how to measure its success.
- 3/17/03 Divisions, colleges, schools, and departments began dialogues about the National Flagship Agenda.
- 3/27/03 The Chancellor presented a revision of the Flagship Agenda to the Board of Supervisors' Flagship Committee.
- 5/26/03 Vice chancellors and deans began discussing Flagship Agenda plans with the Provost.
- 10/30/03 Plans were finalized and incorporated.

Overview: Our Competitors

Inside the academic marketplace, national research universities are a small, elite group of institutions, and the competition among them is fierce. Universities must vie for the best students, faculty, staff, and research funding, all resulting in greater prestige. To attract people and opportunities, universities must have a proven commitment to providing a leading education and enviable resources for scholarly work and research. Other universities are, therefore, our rivals. As we measure our own progress, we must at the same time benchmark our performance relative to theirs, our national research peers.

No university is exactly like another, but LSU administrators have identified 23 institutions that share common characteristics. Each of these universities has received the Carnegie Research-Extensive designation, each has a similar role, scope, and mission as its state's leading research university, and most also have land-grant status. The selected institutions have been separated into two groups—regional peers and national peers. By measuring its performance against two peer groups, LSU will be able to monitor its progress on both regionally and nationally competitive scales.

REGIONAL PEERS

From the 102 Carnegie Research-Extensive universities, 105 land-grant institutions, and 28 Four-Year I universities of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the following 15 universities were selected as peer institutions for LSU.

- 1 Auburn University
- 2 Clemson University
- 3 Mississippi State University
- 4 North Carolina State University
- 5 Oklahoma State University
- 6 Texas A&M University *
- 7 University of Alabama
- 8 University of Florida*
- 9 University of Georgia

- 10 University of Kentucky
- 11 University of Oklahoma
- 12 University of South Carolina
- 13 University of Tennessee
- 14 Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- 15 West Virginia University

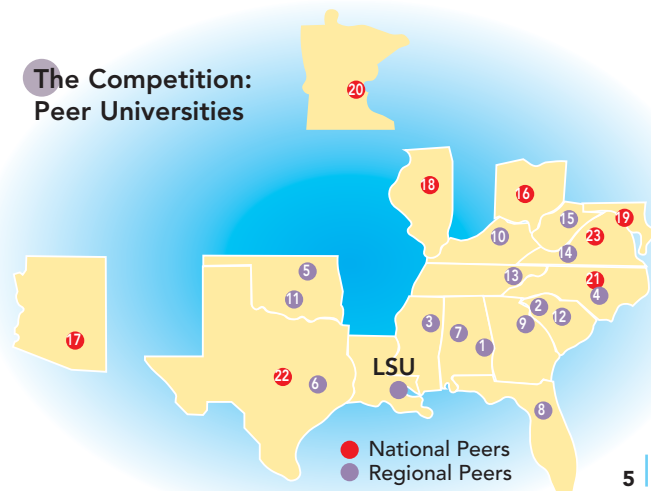
* Denotes members of the Association of American Universities.

NATIONAL PEERS

Of the 15 regional peers, only two universities are members of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). To truly reflect the nationally competitive nature of higher education, eight additional AAU universities from different regions, listed below, were designated as LSU's national peer group and will serve as the national aspiration peer group.

- 16 Ohio State University
- 17 University of Arizona
- 18 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 19 University of Maryland, College Park
- 20 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- 21 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 22 University of Texas at Austin
- 23 University of Virginia

The Competition: Peer Universities



Overview: Our Progress

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

As part of the benchmarking process, LSU will use the following performance indicators to monitor and chart the University's progress relative to our national peers.

Enrollment

- Fall enrollment (by level)
- Number and percentage of minorities (students and faculty)
- Number and percentage of nonresident students
- Number and percentage of transfer students

Graduate Education

- Number of graduate assistants
- Average graduate assistant stipend

Undergraduate Education

- Average SAT and/or ACT scores (including 25th and 75th percentiles, respectively)
- Percentage of students in top 10 percent of high school class
- Average high school grade-point average
- First-year college grade-point average

Additionally, the undergraduate student progression rate (including 5- and 6-year graduation rates) will be charted.

Faculty & Staff

- Number of faculty by rank and by average faculty salary
- Number of faculty awards

- Number of National Academy members
- Number of postdoctoral appointees
- Number and percentage of minorities
- Ratio between undergraduate students and faculty
- Ratio between graduate students and faculty

Research & Scholarship

- Number of degrees awarded (by level)
- Number of degree programs (by level)
- Total annual expenditures from externally funded projects
- Total research expenditures
- Total federal research expenditures
- Total number of patents and copyrights issued

Facilities

- Net assignable square feet of laboratory space
- Rank of libraries (according to the Association of Research Libraries)

Funding

- Appropriations provided by the state (including state appropriations per full-time equivalent student)
- Tuition and required attendance fees (average per full-time student, total, and percentage of unrestricted revenues)
- Value of endowment assets