

UNIVERSITY ROLE, SCOPE, MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Description

Texas A&M University-Texarkana, formerly East Texas State University at Texarkana, was established by the Texas Legislature in 1971 as an upper-level, operationally separate unit of the East Texas State University complex. The University is authorized to offer courses and programs at the junior, senior, and masters levels. In 1993, House Bill 1666 gave the institution authority to award degrees in its own name. In September 1996, the university became a member of The Texas A&M University System and is governed by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Like other Texas public colleges and universities, A&M-Texarkana also operates under the jurisdiction of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

By legislative mandate and Coordinating Board policy, A&M-Texarkana offers a career-oriented curriculum to students residing in a limited geographic area of Northeast Texas. Currently, a non-residential institution, the university shares a campus and library facility with Texarkana College (TC).

In 2003, the 78th Legislature passed House Bill 1566 which will allow the university to expand downward to become a four-year university by adding freshmen and sophomore level courses. As a part of the expansion, the university will develop a new campus and relocate to provide greatly expanded services and academic opportunities for our students.

Role and Scope

A&M-Texarkana is authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer degree and certificate programs various areas of Arts & Sciences and Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, and Business.

Mission

The mission of Texas A&M University-Texarkana is to provide residents of Northeast Texas with the broadest possible access to quality educational opportunities, and services. Within the scope of its legislative mandate as an upper-level regional university, A&M-Texarkana offers a broad array of undergraduate and an increasing number of master's level programs and is committed to meeting the educational needs of its students.

The university serves the broadest possible spectrum of its constituency including both the traditional students transferring from a community college and the non-traditional adult student returning to update or complete his or her education. It is our belief that higher education should be accessible for all qualified students emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity in the learning environment.

A cornerstone of university philosophy is the belief that education should form a foundation for continuing intellectual development or lifelong learning while preparing individuals for gainful employment. Thus, A&M-Texarkana stresses the values of creative and critical thinking, the development of interpersonal skills that will enhance work and personal relations, and the abilities to think and communicate effectively with others. Because the work-place of the future will require higher level skills, A&M-Texarkana prepares students for a knowledge-based, technology-oriented economy and society.

The university also emphasizes its community service role by encouraging active participation of faculty and staff in providing services to area civic, governmental and business organizations and by providing professional development to serve the entire community and region.

In both its teaching and community service roles, the institution seeks to be responsive to the needs of both the public and private sectors of our region as well as to those of the larger society. The university responds to regional needs by conducting applied research that is directly relevant or beneficial to our constituency.

Vision Statement

Texas A&M University-Texarkana is committed to becoming a distinguished comprehensive regional university.

Goals

1. Increase the student enrollment to 2800 within 6 years.
2. Become a comprehensive university within 6 years.
3. Increase overall funding and diversify the revenue stream in order to reduce the level of dependence on state funding
4. Obtain national accreditation in Business, Education, Nursing, Counseling and Engineering within the next 5 to 10 years
5. Increase scholarly activity and research productivity in the next 6 years.
6. Enhance the university's role as a center for life-long learning and cultural enrichment.