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|  | **ASU HISTORY AND MISSION** |  |
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In the fall of 1972, Georgia State University and then Albany State College entered into a co- operative agreement to provide, at Albany State College, graduate studies leading to the Master of Education degree. By a similar cooperative agreement with Valdosta State College, Albany State began the Master of Business Administration degree program in October 1974.



In the fall of 1981, Albany State received approval from the Board of Regents to award inde- pendently both the Master of Business Administration and the Master of Education degrees. One year later in 1982, with the approval of the Board, the University offered the Master of Science de- gree in Criminal Justice. Again with the collaborative effort of the University of Georgia, Albany State offered the Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision and was later approved as a Level III Master's institution in January 1984.

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The Master of Public Administration degree and the Master of Science degree in Nursing became ef- fective in the fall of 1987 and 1988, respectively. In the fall of 1991, Albany State was granted ap- proval to offer the Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. In January 1999 Albany State University inaugurated doctoral education in the Albany area with the acceptance of the first cohort of students into the joint Ed.D. program with Valdosta State Univer- sity.

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Albany State University, a historically black institution in southwest Georgia, has been a cata- lyst for change in the region from its inception as the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute to its designation as a university. Founded in 1903 to educate African American youths, the Uni- versity proudly continues to fulfill its historic mission while also serving the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population. A progressive institution, Albany State University

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seeks to foster the growth and development of the region, state and nation through teaching, re- search, creative expression and public service. Through its collaborative efforts, the University re- sponds to the needs of all its constituents and offers educational programs and services to improve the quality of life in Southwest Georgia.

The primary mission of Albany State University is to educate students to become outstanding contributors to society. Offering bachelor's, master's and education specialist degrees and a variety of non-degree educational programs, the university emphasizes the liberal arts as the foundation for all learning by exposing students to the humanities, fine arts, social sciences and the sciences. Global learning is fostered through a broad-based curriculum, diverse university activities and the expanding use of technology.

A leader in teacher education, nursing, criminal justice, business, public administration and the sciences, Albany State provides a comprehensive educational experience with quality instruc- tion as the hallmark of all its academic programs. The University embraces the concept of "stu- dents first" as a core institutional value and is committed to "education on a personal level." The university advocates the total development of students, especially the underserved, and provides a wholesome academic environment in which students can study, learn and develop through their interaction with fellow students, faculty, staff, administrators, visiting scholars and community leaders.

Consistent with the core mission of the University System of Georgia, Albany State Univer- sity exhibits the following characteristics:

• A supportive campus climate, necessary services, and leadership and development opportunities, all to educate the whole person and meet the needs of students, faculty and staff;

• Cultural, ethnic, racial and gender diversity in the faculty, staff and student body, supported by practices and programs that embody the ideals of an open, democratic and global society;

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• Technology to advance educational purposes, including instructional technology, student support services and distance education;



• Collaborative relationships with other system institutions, state agencies, local schools and technical colleges, and business and industry, sharing physical, human, information and other resources to expand and enhance programs and services to the citizens of Georgia.

**With other state universities in the University System of Georgia, Albany State University shares:**

• A commitment to excellence and responsiveness within a scope of influence defined by the

needs of an area of the state, and by particularly outstanding programs or distinctive characteristics that have a magnet effect throughout the region or state;

• A commitment to a teaching/learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse and college-prepared student body, promotes high levels of student achievement, offers academic assistance and provides developmental studies programs for a limited student cohort;

• A high quality general education program supporting a variety of disciplinary, interdisciplinary and professional academic programming at the baccalaureate level, with selected master's and education specialist degrees, and selected associate degree

programs based on area need and/or inter-institutional collaborations;

• A commitment to public service, continuing education, technical assistance and economic development activities that address needs, improve the quality of life and raise the educational level within the university's scope of influence;

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• A commitment to scholarly and creative work to enhance instructional effectiveness and to encourage faculty scholarly pursuits, and a commitment to applied research in selected areas of institutional strength and area need.

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**While Albany State University has much in common with other state universities, it is dedicated to preparing leaders for underserved populations and is committed to the follow- ing distinct purposes:**

• Providing quality educational experiences for underserved populations in the region, state

and nation;

• Promoting and preserving the historical and culturally distinctive traditions which define

African-American culture;

• Offering a comprehensive array of programs in health care services, community development, human disabilities, cultural enhancement, business and economic development, international trade and entrepreneurship;

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• Graduating marketable students not only through technologically advanced academic programs but also through undergraduate research, studies abroad, internships, service learning and developmental pre-professional experiences;

• Improving the quality of life of African American males via the educational, research, intervention and service programs coordinated through the Center for the African American Male.

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The purpose of the Graduate School, Albany State University, is to define and promote excel- lence in graduate education and the research and scholarly activities associated with it. In concert with the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education and the College of Health Professions, the Graduate School establishes a high standard of intellectual ex- cellence and ensures the application of that standard in discussions, deliberations and decisions about faculty, students, curriculum and research direction. The Graduate School is centered on ac- ademic issues and on enhancing scholastic excellence in the recruitment, admission and matricula- tion of graduate students.



The Graduate School brings an institution-wide perspective to all post-baccalaureate endeav- ors. It establishes, through its faculty, a set of policies that defines excellence in graduate pro- grams, high quality in curriculum, exceptional student selection and rigor in faculty appointments. It defines the minimum standards acceptable for all post-baccalaureate work and ensures the ob- servance of both the campuswide and program-specific standards articulated and approved by the graduate faculty.

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Research in the Graduate School plays a central role in expanding scholarship and providing service to Southwest Georgia and the world. Characterized by a multidisciplinary and holistic ap- proach to learning, graduate research involves students, faculty and applicable stakeholders in ad- dressing policy issues and solving local, regional and global socioeconomic, political and environmental problems. Upon graduation, students possess the measurable competencies and knowledge required to contribute successfully to their organizations and communities, enhancing their own lives and improving the quality of life and opportunities for others. Publications in scholarly journals and books document the results of research and the improvements made to the quality of life of citizens living throughout Georgia and the Southeastern United States.

Quality graduate programs result only from quality faculty. Thus, the Graduate School en- sures sufficient numbers of regular, permanent faculty members who are active in scholarship and research and highly effective in creating technology-based classroom environments in which max- imum learning occurs. These faculty must be committed to promoting lifelong learning, dedicated to quality scholarship and to the intellectual enhancement of their graduate programs and of their students. Building a student-centered, pluralistic learning community is a top Graduate School pri- ority.

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The Graduate School provides institutionwide leadership and develops and implements poli- cies governing graduate education. The Graduate School dean coordinates, in collaboration with the university’s other deans, the various graduate programs offered by all of its colleges.