History of LSU

LSU had its origin in several land grants made by the U.S. government in 1806, 1811 and 1827 for use as a seminary of learning. The school closed on June 30, 1861, with the start of the [American Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). On November 1, 1869, the institution resumed its exercises in Baton Rouge, where it has since remained. In 1870, the name of the institution was officially changed to Louisiana State University.

On April 30, 1926, the present LSU campus was formally dedicated, following the school's history at the federal garrison grounds, where it had been located since 1886 and is now the site of the state capitol. Prior to this, LSU utilized the quarters of the Institute for the Deaf, Mute and Blind. Land for the present campus was purchased in 1918, construction started in 1922 and the move began in 1925; however, it was not until 1932 that the move was finally completed. After some years of enrollment fluctuation, student numbers began a steady increase, new programs were added, curricula and faculty expanded and a true state university emerged.

The current LSU campus is located on 2,000 acres just south of downtown Baton Rouge. A majority of the university's 250 buildings, most of which were built between 1925 and 1940, occupy a 650-acre plateau on the banks of the [Mississippi River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River).

The [Olmsted Brothers Firm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olmsted_Brothers) of Brookline, Massachusetts, designed the current campus around 1921 when LSU was planning to move its campus from downtown Baton Rouge. The design of Hill Memorial Library was loosely based on that of the Boston Public Library, which was the first public library in the U.S. The flanking academic buildings that formed the rest of the Quad represented the major disciplines at the university, and their placement was modeled after that of buildings on the University of Virginia's campus, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson.

The campus is known for the 1,200 [live oak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_oak) trees that shade the ground of the university. During the 1930s, landscape artist Steele Burden planted many of live oaks and [magnolia trees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnolia_tree), which are now valued at over $50 million. Fifty-seven buildings on the LSU campus are listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places).