



EIGHT UNIVERSITIES STRONG: With over 80,000 students, the University of Louisiana System is the largest higher education system in the state and produces about half of all undergraduate degrees.

University of Louisiana System

Institutions of higher learning have a direct impact on the economic success of a state and region, and there is a direct correlation between higher education and the positive outcomes on quality of life measures.

In essence, higher education pays.

College graduates earn more and spend more than those without a college degree. The taxes paid by college graduates are greater and are used for the public good, including repaying the cost of a college education several times over.

The state's investment in higher education is an investment in the future of Louisiana as college graduates are productive members of society, paying taxes, volunteering, voting and raising families with similar goals of attaining a college degree.

With over 80,000 students, the University of Louisiana System is the state's largest higher education system. Consisting of eight four-year universities strategically located across the state, the economic and quality of life impacts of the UL System enrich each of the state's 64 parishes.

As evidenced in the comprehensive study of the economic and community impacts of the eight universities in the University of Louisiana System, investments in higher education have a ripple effect on the economic vitality of the entire state and the quality of life of its citizens.

Our universities provide jobs, train future workforces, incubate businesses, create and bolster new industries, enrich the lives of residents through the arts and humanities, and sustain the financial stability of communities where they are located.

The combined impacts of Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the University of Louisiana at Monroe are in the billions of dollars.

That's the power of **EIGHT UNIVERSITIES STRONG.**

Spending

The UL System's statewide annual economic impact is \$3.4 billion and supports 34,800 non-university jobs.

This includes:

- \$101 million from affiliated organizations,
- \$148 million in health insurance payments,
- \$131 million impact of retiree spending,
- \$334 million in university operations,
- \$222 million in construction and capital outlay,
- \$487 million from visitors,
- \$661 million in faculty and staff expenditures, and
- \$1.3 billion impact from student spending.

Teaching

UL System graduates have added \$6.5 billion to Louisiana's economy over the last 10 years. Bachelor's degree holders have generated \$5.6 billion, master's degree holders \$728 million, and associate's degree holders \$143 million.

UL System schools produced 455,669 degrees over the last 50 years with 122,974 graduates between 1998 and 2007.

In the past 10 years the UL System generated the majority of bachelor's degrees in the fields of criminal justice, family and consumer sciences and human sciences, health and fitness studies, public administration and social work, health professions and clinical sciences, education, visual and performing arts, computer and information sciences, and business, management and marketing.

Research & Service

UL System campuses are bolstering opportunities for new industry growth and enhancing established industries in Louisiana through innovative research and development and by providing strategic planning and professional services.

This study captured 188 research and service programs in the UL System.

They include:

- 28 in economic development,
- 23 in engineering and technology,
- 27 in cultural development,
- 24 in environmental and natural sciences, and
- 86 in education, health and human services.

Quality of Life

The UL System enhances life experiences of its students, employees and community members by creating unique learning and cultural opportunities.

On average, there are 100 events taking place every day at UL System campuses. Last year, campus events attracted 3.7 million people, 45 percent of those being off-campus visitors.

Additionally, UL System faculty and staff volunteered 567,000 hours last year, and students logged 1.9 million hours in their communities.