



**VALDOSTA**  
**S T A T E**  
**UNIVERSITY**™

2013-2014  
Undergraduate Catalog

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## FALL 2013 THROUGH SUMMER 2014

### FALL 2013

Mon, Aug 12	First Class Day
Mon, Sep 2	Labor Day Holiday
Thurs, Oct 3	Midterm
Mon-Fri, Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Dec 2	Last Class Day
Tues, Dec 3	Examination Preparation Day
Wed-Fri, Dec 4-6	Semester Final Examinations
Friday, Dec 6	Graduate School Graduation
Sat, Dec 7	Undergraduate Graduation

### SPRING 2014

Mon, Jan 13	First Class Day
Mon, Jan 20	MLK, Jr. Holiday
Thurs, Mar 6	Midterm
March 17-21	Spring Break
Mon, May 5	Last Class Day
Tues, May 6	Examination Preparation Day
Wed-Fri, May 7-May 9	Semester Final Examinations
Fri, May 9	Graduate School Graduation
Sat, May 10	Undergraduate Graduation

### SUMMER 2014

#### Maymester (Summer I)

Thurs, May 15	First Class Day – Maymester
Mon, May 26	Memorial Day-Holiday
Tues, May 27	Midterm
Thurs, Jun 5	Last Class day
Fri, Jun 6	Final Examinations

#### Summer II (full term)

Wed, Jun 11	First class day
Thurs, Jul 3	Midterm
Fri, Jul 4	Holiday; No Classes Meet
Mon, Jul 28	Last Class Day
Wed-Thurs, Jul 30-31	Final Examinations
Sat, Jul 27	Graduation

#### Summer III

Wed, Jun 11	First class day
Fri, Jun 20	Midterm
Wed, Jul 2	Last class day
Thurs, Jul 3	Final Examinations

#### Summer IV

Mon, Jul 8	First class day
Fri, Jul 17	Midterm
Tues, Jul 29	Last class day
Wed, Jul 30	Final Examinations
Sat, Aug 2	Graduation

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## **MISSION STATEMENT VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Since 1913, Valdosta State University has been a major provider of educational services for south Georgia. The beauty and consistency of its Spanish Colonial style of architecture are indicative of its dedication to serving the region's heritage while developing programs and services to enhance its future.

Within the context of the University System's mission and vision, Valdosta State University possesses the core characteristics of a regional university. The core characteristics include:

- A commitment to excellence and responsiveness within a scope of influence defined by the needs of a specific region of the state, and by particularly outstanding programs or distinctive characteristics that have a magnet effect even beyond the region;
- A campus-wide commitment to a technologically-enhanced learning community that promotes student success, sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse and well-prepared student body, offers academic assistance, and provides enrichment for all students;
- A range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary academic programming at the baccalaureate and master's levels, as well as a range of professional programs at the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels, including a limited number of professionally oriented doctoral-level programs;
- A commitment to public service, continuing education, technical assistance, and economic development activities that address the needs, improve the quality of life, and raise the educational level within the university's scope of influence;
- A commitment to scholarly and creative work to enhance instructional effectiveness and to encourage faculty scholarly pursuits and a commitment to research in selected areas of institutional strength and focused on regional need.

As a regional university in south Georgia, Valdosta State cooperates with other University System institutions to ensure that the region receives the services it needs. To expand its programmatic outreach, it develops and offers programs by distance learning and at off-campus locations throughout the region. It will continue to exercise a leadership role in meeting the needs of the region, particularly in providing access to professionally oriented doctoral programs, primarily in education, and to applied research.

VSU prides itself on offering nationally accredited programs in Art, Business, Music, Nursing, Athletic Training, Communication Disorders, School Psychology, Theatre, Public Administration, Social Work, and Teacher Education, which have a magnet effect beyond the institution's primary setting. In its academic credit programming, VSU will place a priority on developing existing programs that aid the educational, economic, cultural, and social advancement of its region and new programs in health-related professions and public administration. The programs will continue to be supported by strong preparatory courses and majors in the humanities, sciences, and social studies. VSU also remains committed to pre-professional programs preparing its undergraduate students for medical, legal, technical, and other professional study.

In its service to students, VSU concentrates on those from the region, including a large number of older, nontraditional students who live and work off-campus and many who transfer from other institutions. To serve its region and to attain maximum educational benefits, the university promotes an atmosphere that attracts a diversified student body, of which a representative proportion will be minority students.

VSU promotes a successful learning experience by maintaining services for minority, disabled, veteran, international, and other students with special needs. To aid in developing the whole student, it provides counseling, health services, academic advising, special assistance, honors programs, international programs, career planning, and many co-curricular activities.

VSU is committed to providing life-long learning and to the economic and cultural development of its region. It offers various non-credit programs and services through the South Georgia Institute, ArtSouth, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, the Music Society, and other organizations. Community relations are enhanced through alumni services and VSU-TV and Radio. Community service and technical assistance are offered by faculty and staff in a variety of forms.

Research, scholarship, and creative endeavors exist primarily to meet the regional needs of schools, businesses, and other organizations and to promote faculty development and instructional improvement.

VSU aspires to improve continuously the quality and effectiveness of its programs, scholarship, and student services. Assessment of programs, the raising of standards, and the refinement of learning technologies will improve the university. To aid in obtaining this objective, institutional research and planning, external funding, and collaborative relationships with other institutions will be promoted. To a great extent, VSU will continue to develop as a regional university serving its south Georgia constituency by implementing programs that meet student needs and providing the maximum opportunity for faculty development.

Approved by the Institutional Planning Committee November 18, 1999; Approved by the Faculty Senate February 17, 2000; the revision was approved February 2002. Subsequent revisions approved by the VSU Faculty in January 2007 and approved by the USG Board of Regents in June 2007.

## **HOW TO USE THIS CATALOG**

The statements set forth in this catalog are for informational purposes only and should not be constructed as the basis of a contract between a student and the institution.

While the provisions of this catalog will ordinarily be applied as stated, Valdosta State University reserves the right to change any provision listed in this catalog, including but not limited to academic requirements for graduation, without actual notice to individual students. Every effort will be made to keep students advised of any such changes. Information on changes will be available in the Office of the Registrar. It is especially important that all students note that it is their individual and personal responsibility to keep themselves apprised of current graduation requirements for their particular degree program.

## ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Valdosta State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of VSU.

Numerous academic programs have attained accreditation from national professional organizations. Valdosta State University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and of the National Association of Schools of Theatre. Also in the College of the Arts, programs in music are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Public Relations emphasis within the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a major in speech communications has been awarded Certification in Education for Public Relations by the Public Relations Society of America.

The Bachelor of Science degree program in chemistry has been approved by the Committee on Professional Training of the American Chemical Society. Students who complete the approved program are eligible to have their degree certified by the American Chemical Society.

Both the undergraduate Applied and Clinical Sociology program and the graduate Applied Sociology program are accredited by the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology. The Marriage and Family Therapy Master's Program at Valdosta State University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Training and Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, 112 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-838-9808.

Both the bachelor's degree (BSN) and the master's degree (MSN) programs in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education [One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: 202-887-6791 Fax: -202-887-8476]. The Athletic Training Education Program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

All of the programs housed within the James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education and Human Services, as well as the Art Education and Music Education programs, are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

The Dewar College of Education and Human Services maintains accreditation with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and all of its individual teacher preparation programs, including programs in Art Education and Music Education from the College of the Arts and Spanish Education and French Education from the College of Arts and Sciences, are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Specific questions concerning teacher certification should be directed to the appropriate department.

The College of Education and Human Services includes the following undergraduate programs that are nationally recognized by specialized professional associations:

- Early Childhood Education (Association for Childhood Education International),
- Middle Grades Education (Association on Middle Level Education)
- French Education and Spanish Education from the College of Arts and Sciences (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)

The master's degree program in Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The Master of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The Master of Public Administration program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

AACSB International–The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accredits the programs in the Harley Langdale, Jr. College of Business Administration.

The Master of Library and Information Science Program is accredited by the American Library Association.

## **HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY**

A special act of the Georgia Legislature established an institution of higher learning in Valdosta, Georgia, in 1906. However, no appropriation was made for buildings or maintenance until the summer of 1911, when the State appropriated \$30,000 for a building and equipment.

With a community enthusiasm that has continued to the present day, the City of Valdosta first donated 60 acres of land and \$50,000 to be used toward establishing the college. The first building, Converse Hall, was erected and furnished at a cost of \$55,000.

In 1912, the Legislature granted an adequate annual appropriation for maintenance, and the future of the institution was assured. The college, called the South Georgia State Normal College, opened to “young ladies” on January 2, 1913, and offered two years of college work.

An act of the Legislature in 1922 changed the institution’s name to Georgia State Woman’s College at Valdosta and authorized a four-year program leading to the bachelor’s degree. The Board of Regents made the school coeducational in 1950 and changed the name to Valdosta State College.

In 1993, Valdosta State College was named a Regional University. In fall 1998, Valdosta State University adopted the semester system, along with other units of the University System of Georgia.

The institution has been led by 10 presidents: Richard Holmes Powell (1913-1933), Jere Madison Pound (1933-1935), Frank Robertson Reade (1935-1948), James Ralph Thaxton (1948-1966), Sidney Walter Martin (1966-1978), Hugh Coleman Bailey (1978-2001), Ronald Zaccari (2002-08), Patrick Schloss (2008-11), Interim President Louis H. Levy (2011-2012), and William McKinney (2012- ).

Valdosta State University offers undergraduate work leading to the following degrees: the Associate of Applied Science, the Associate of Arts, the Bachelor of Arts in 14 major programs, the Bachelor of Science in 11 major programs, the Bachelor of Science in Education in 9 major programs, the Bachelor of Business Administration in 6 major programs, the Bachelor of Fine Arts in 7 major programs, the Bachelor of Music in 2 major programs, the Bachelor of General Studies, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology, the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training, and the Bachelor of Applied Science.

Graduate degrees offered include the Master of Education in 23 major programs, the Master of Arts in 2 major programs, the Master of Science in 5 major programs, the Master of Arts in Teaching in 5 major programs, the Master of Public Administration, the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Accountancy, the Master of Science in Nursing, the Master of Music Education, the Master of Social Work, the Master of Library and Information Science, the Education Specialist in 5 major programs, the Master of Arts in Communication, the Doctor of Public Administration, and the Doctor of Education in 3 major programs. New baccalaureate and graduate degree programs are added from time to time to meet the needs of the population served by the University.

## LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University is located in Valdosta, a city of approximately 55,000 in south-central Georgia. It can easily be reached from three exits of I-75 and is convenient to shopping areas, a variety of restaurants, and movie theaters. The Valdosta area is served by the Valdosta Municipal Airport and by the airports in Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Florida. The campuses, located less than a mile apart, include more than 368 acres of land.

The 96-acre Main Campus faces North Patterson Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares. Approximately 10 blocks north is the North Campus, and approximately 4 blocks south is the South Campus. Other units of the University are located in satellite facilities adjacent to the campus and along Patterson Street. The campuses and principal satellite buildings are connected by the University bus service, operating regularly throughout each class day.

The campuses of Valdosta State are widely recognized for their exceptional beauty. Flowering plants include a variety of camellias, azaleas, redbud, and dogwood located amid tall pines, palms, and oaks spaced throughout the landscaped grounds.

The Jewel Whitehead Camellia Trail is believed to be the only such trail on a university campus in the nation. Located in the northwest area of the Main Campus, more than 1100 camellias of many varieties form a winding trail through the towering pines. The trail was a 1944 Christmas gift to the University from the late Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead of Valdosta.

## FACILITIES

More than 60 air-conditioned buildings house the varied activities of Valdosta State University. Main Campus buildings are of Spanish Colonial architecture, while those on North Campus are a red brick modified form of Georgian architecture.

## MAIN CAMPUS

As the University grows, it must increase its building space, making room for increases in the number of students, faculty members, staff, and visitors, as well as for classrooms, laboratories, and office space for academic programs. Therefore, certain programs are located in recently acquired buildings adjacent or very near the campus, but the following list describes the traditional principal buildings:

**West Hall**, long known as the symbol of Valdosta State University, has undergone renovation and expansion. It houses the administrative offices of the President, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Legal Affairs, and the Departments of English, Political Science, and Modern and Classical Languages. In addition, this building houses the graduate programs in Public Administration, the language laboratory, and electronic classrooms.

**The Hugh C. Bailey Science Center**, completed in 2001 and named in 2005 in honor of former President Bailey, who served the University with distinction for 23 years, provides offices, classrooms, and laboratories for the Departments of Biology and Chemistry as well as offices for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. An addition was completed in 2012.

**Nevins Hall** houses offices, classrooms, and laboratories of the Departments of Physics, Astronomy, and Geoscience; Mathematics and Computer Science; Communication Arts; and the African American Studies Program. This building is named in honor of the late Dr. Beatrice I. Nevins, head of the Department of Biology for many years.

**Odum Library** contains the general and research library collections of the University. The building was dedicated in 1972 and named in 1990 for the late Gertrude Gilmer Odum, Professor



Emerita of English. In 2004, an addition to the library doubled its size, offering an Internet café, a computer lab, an electronic classroom, a Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO) Technology Center, a 100-seat auditorium, and expanded study space, reading rooms, and book stacks. In 2011, a three-phase renovation of the original library building was completed. The library is designed to facilitate research and study. Students can get research assistance from the Reference Services department in a number of different ways, including e-mail, chat, and in-person research consultations. The collection contains over 500,000 bound volumes and over a million volumes in microforms, as well as current issues of over 2,000 magazines, journals, and newspapers. In addition to printed materials, the library has extensive collections of audiovisual, graphic, and machine-readable materials. Odum Library is a Selective Depository of U. S. Government documents and maintains the Archives of Contemporary South Georgia History and a Southern History Collection. Odum Library Media Center is a service-oriented office providing assistance in media content development and media presentations. It provides access to a wide variety of traditional and new media equipment and software. The Informational Technology Help Desk is also located in Odum Library.

**Pine Hall**, located southwest of Odum Library, provides offices for the Department of Social Work and the Offices of Information Technology.

**Powell Hall**, named for Richard H. Powell, the first president of the institution, houses the offices of Career Services, Co-op Education, Testing, Housing, the Counseling Center, and Alcohol and Other Drug Education.

**Ashley Hall**, renovated in 2011, is occupied by the Department of History and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

**The Psychology Building**, next door, was built in 2011 and houses classrooms and offices of the Department of Psychology and Counseling. The offices for the Graduate School and the Office of Grants and Contracts are also in the building.

**Old Farber Hall**, originally the Student Infirmary, now provides space for the Access Office for Students with Disabilities

**Dr. Marian E. Farber Student Health Center**, across Georgia Avenue from Powell Hall, is named for the University's first physician and was completed in 2008.

**The Admissions Office** is located at 1413 North Patterson Street.

**The Center for International Programs** is located at 204 Georgia Avenue.

**The Honors College House** is located at 210 Georgia Avenue.

**The Women's and Gender Studies Center** is in Carswell Hall, 1526 North Oak Street.

**The Student Union**, completed in 2010, was built on the site of the University Union (1966). It houses offices of the Dean of Students, the University Union Board, the Student Government Association, the Bookstore, the Tech Shop, a student lounge, a game room, and a theatre.

**The University Center**, renovated in 1995 from a mall, houses a theater, offices, meeting rooms, a computer lab, and a dining area in the north section. The central section has offices for the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Registrar, Human Resources, Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs, University Business Services, and University Financial Services as well as art and dance studios and faculty offices. The south section houses the South Georgia Consortium; Internal Auditors; the Office of Academic Student Instructional Support (OASIS); the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice; and art and interior design studios.

**S. Walter Martin Hall**, acquired in 1985, is located on Patterson Street across from the University Center. This facility houses the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; the name honors the University's fifth president.

**The Communication Disorders Building**, located on the corner of Brookwood Drive and Patterson Street, houses the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology, as well as the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

**The Mass Media Program House** was renovated in 2010 and provides audio and video studios, offices, labs, classroom, and workshops.

**The Office of Equal Opportunity and Multicultural Affairs**, at 1208 North Patterson Street, is adjacent to S. Walter Martin Hall, opposite the University Center.

**The Bursary**, on the corner of Anne and Patterson Streets, houses the Bursar, university cashiers, offices for short-term loans, the collection officer, and the contract officer. Students make their fee payments in this building.

**The Education Center**, dedicated in 1973, houses several departments of the Dewar College of Education and Human Services and provides the most modern facilities for training teachers, school administrators, and other specialists in education. An addition, Jennett Hall, contains two large lecture halls seating 350 students each and was completed in 2010.

**The Physical Education Complex** was completed in 1982. This facility seats 5,500 people for basketball and 6,000 for graduations and concerts. The building of 100,000 square feet contains the offices of the Kinesiology and Physical Education faculty and all athletic offices except football. Classrooms, a Health Fitness Center, an athletic training room, varsity dressing rooms for men and women, and a Human Performance Laboratory are also included.

**The Student Recreation Center** was opened in 2002. It contains an indoor swimming pool, basketball and racquetball courts, a weight-lifting area, a climbing wall, and other recreational facilities for student use.

**The Fine Arts Building** houses the Department of Art and the Department of Music, as well as classrooms, laboratories, offices for faculty, and studios for art, music, dance, communication arts, and mass media.

**University residence halls** include Converse Hall, named in honor of W. L. Converse (the original Converse Hall burned in 1978, and its replacement was completed in 1981); Reade Hall, named in honor of Frank R. Reade, third president of the University and remodeled in 2009; Anne Powe Hopper Hall, named in honor of the University's first dean of women, replaced in 2008; Brown Hall, named in honor of Joseph M. Brown, governor of Georgia when the University opened its doors in 1913; Lowndes Hall, named in appreciation of the county in which the University is located and in honor of William Jones Lowndes, southern educator and statesman; the reconstructed Georgia Hall, completed in 2009; John W. Langdale Hall, named for one of south Georgia's pioneer developers and leading citizens; Patterson Hall, named for the street on which the building is located; and Centennial Halls East and West, opened in 2005 on Sustella Avenue.

**The Oak Street Parking Deck**, constructed in 2008, provides 922 parking spaces, temporary offices for the Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, offices for University Policy, and for Auxiliary Services.

**The Sustella Parking Deck**, constructed in 2008, provides 1,322 parking spaces, a University Police Substation, offices for Parking and Transportation, and a rental shop for Campus Recreation.

The Athletic Training **Facility**, near the junction of Sustella Avenue and West Anne Street, was constructed in 2008 and provides offices and training facilities for the football program and for the Athletic Department's strength and conditioning center and flagship sports medicine center.

**The Palms Dining Center** seats 1,000 diners. Featuring cafeteria-style service, the facility is under the direct supervision of a trained dietitian, and all employees are required to have periodic physical examinations.

## NORTH CAMPUS

**Barrow Hall** on the North Campus, named for David C. Barrow, Chancellor of the University System when South Georgia Normal College opened in 1913, was remodeled in 1971 to house the Division of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC).

**Pound Hall**, built in 1926 and completely renovated in 1991-1992, was named for Dr. Jere M. Pound, the second president of the University. It houses offices and classrooms for the Langdale College of Business Administration.

**Thaxton Hall**, built in 1926 and completely renovated in 1982, was named for Dr. J. Ralph Thaxton, VSU's fourth president. It provides facilities for the Langdale College of Business Administration.

The north half of North Campus—containing **Billy Grant Field**, the **Baseball Fieldhouse**, **Steel's Diamond**, and the **Softball Fieldhouse**—provides office, training, and playing facilities for VSU's winning sports teams.

## SOUTH CAMPUS

**The Continuing Education** building, built in 1965 and remodeled in 1993, is located at 901 North Patterson Street and houses offices of the Division of University Advancement and the Department of Regional and Continuing Education.

**The Psychology Classroom** building, built in 1998, is adjacent to Continuing Education and provides classrooms for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

**The Old Georgia Power** building, also adjacent to Continuing Education and remodeled in 2012, contains the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy and the Web Development group.

## COMPUTING AND DATA NETWORKING FACILITIES

The university operates secure and accessible, state-of-the-art computing and networking facilities to support the mission of instruction, research, and service and associated activities. The facilities include a 1,700 square foot, raised floor data center, constructed in 2008 with the support of the Division of Auxiliary Services, housing over 200 servers for high-performance computing, server clusters, and storage array networks with redundant 140kVA enterprise class uninterruptible power supplies a backup 300kVA electrical power generator, redundant cooling in four 15-ton air conditioning units, a redundant high-speed campus network core connecting all buildings by gigabit fiber optic cabling and gigabit copper cabling to the desktop for the majority of buildings.

This infrastructure services 1,225 student computers in 61 computer labs, 2,275 faculty and staff desktop and notebook computers, and over 200 smart classrooms utilized in instruction, research, and administration. Internet service to the campus is provided by the University System of Georgia's PeachNet network, providing primary and secondary links with a total of 157mbps of bandwidth, 100mbps of which is dedicated to the public Internet and 50mbps dedicated to internal PeachNet traffic, such as for Galileo and GIL library resources. Video conferencing is supported by 5 mbps of prioritized, reserved bandwidth and three dedicated classrooms and several portable units. A separate PeachNet link at 110mbps provides dedicated bandwidth to users of the campus wireless network located in residence halls and academic areas.

A number of core services are supported by the systems server and network infrastructure. The student information system is comprised of the Banner Student Information and Financial Aid modules supporting admissions, registration, and financial aid functions. A recent

component, Degree Works, has been added to better support advising and degree audit functions with self-service capabilities for students. The Live@VSTATE system hosted by Microsoft Windows Live@edu services provides email, calendars, document storage, and online office applications for all students, faculty, and staff. The University utilizes a University System of Georgia-hosted version of Desire2Learn (D2L), known as BlazeVIEW, as its learning management system with online classroom resources available for every class. Wimba web conferencing services are integrated into the D2L system to provide real time audio, video, chat, and whiteboard conferencing for these classes. Additional services integrated into the D2L system include Turnitin plagiarism detection and Turning Technologies student response systems (i.e., clickers).

Finally, an updated and secured Apache web server system provides the public web site, utilizing the Adobe Contribute content management system to allow programs and departments to maintain updated information using a simple workflow for administrative approval and publishing without the need for technical support or specialized knowledge of web authoring.

Employee training for these resources is provided by the Division of Information Technology in coordination with the department Human Resources and Employee Development. Additional Vista and Wimba training is provided to faculty by the eLearning department utilizing the collaborative HUB teaching cooperative facilities located in the Odum Library. Since 2005, a special, proactive focus has been applied to information security and awareness with the application of dedicated resources and programs to eliminate the use of social security numbers where appropriate and scanning and monitoring of systems and network resources to discover vulnerabilities and correct them. Regular audits of information security and information technology operations ensure continued progress toward these goals.

## **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

The Division of University Advancement, located at 901 North Patterson Street, is charged with engaging alumni and friends and securing private gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations to support the mission of the University. All gifts are received and managed by the Valdosta State University Foundation, Inc., an institutionally related 501(c)3 non-profit foundation. University Advancement is also responsible for the support of all University events through the efforts of the Office of Event Services. The Office of Alumni Relations plans and executes activities and programs that encourage alumni to engage in a life-long relationship with the University. University Advancement also provides information and advocates the University's position on a variety of issues to public officials and policy makers at the local, state, and national levels of government.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent Executive Orders as well as Title IX, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Auditing Student.** A student who enrolls in and pays fees for a course or courses, but earns no university credit for that course or courses.
- College.** A major academic unit of the University, comprised of several departments, offering degrees on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Core Curriculum.** A wide selection of general education courses required of all students.
- Elective.** A course that is not specifically required for a particular degree. An elective may or may not be used to satisfy requirements for a degree.
- Exemption Test.** A test which exempts a student from taking certain courses. No academic credit is awarded for an exemption test.
- Full-time Student.** An undergraduate student who takes 12 or more semester hours of credit. A graduate student who takes 6 or more semester hours of graduate credit.
- Grade Point Average.** A student's grade point average is calculated by dividing the number of quality points earned by the number of hours of course work in which he or she is enrolled over any given period.
- Honors Program.** A program which encourages superior students to enroll in special honors sections of lower-division courses, thereby gaining an enriched academic experience and the opportunity to work for an Honors Certificate.
- Institutional Credit.** A unit of credit included in a student's total hour load for fee calculation. Institutional credit does not apply toward the total number of hours required for graduation, nor is it transferable to another institution.
- Major.** The academic area consisting of 30 semester hours or more of upper-division courses in which a student specializes. New students may choose a major at once or be classified as "Liberal Arts Students" until they decide upon the major they desire. Liberal Arts students are considered to be enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. A grade of "C" or higher is required in each course applicable to the major.
- Minor.** An optional program of study in a field other than the student's major. Minors consist of 15-18 hours, with at least 9 semester hours of upper-division courses (3000-4000 level), as specified by the department awarding the minor. A grade of "C" or higher is required in each course applicable to the minor.
- Non-resident Student.** One who does not have legally defined permanent residence in the state in which the University is located; an out-of-state student.
- Prerequisite.** Certain courses which must be completed before others may be attempted. Such first courses are said to be prerequisites for subsequent courses in the same or similar areas. It is the student's responsibility to take the needed prerequisites.
- Quality Points.** Points given for attainment of a certain letter grade. (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, WF=0, F=0).
- Resident Student.** A student who has legally defined permanent residence in the state in which the University is located; an in-state student.
- Transcript of Credit.** A certified copy of credits which a student has earned in high school or in other colleges attended. The submission of a transcript of credit is a prerequisite for admission to the University.
- Semester Hour Credit.** The semester hour is a unit of academic credit. The number of hours earned in a given semester is the measure of a student's academic load. A typical academic load is 12-15 semester hours of credit.