



# General Information

## ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Valdosta State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. In addition, numerous academic programs have attained accreditation from national professional organizations.

In the College of the Arts, programs in Art are accredited by the National Association of Art and Design, programs in Music by the National Association of Schools of Music, and programs in Theater by the National Association of Schools of Theater.

Both the bachelor's degree (BSN) and the master's degree (MSN) programs in the College of Nursing are accredited by the National League for Nursing.

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education has accredited all teacher education programs. The Sports Medicine program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and the masters program in Speech-Language Pathology/Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The graduate program in School Psychology is accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists.

The AACSB - International Assessment for Management Education has accredited the programs of the College of Business Administration.

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

## LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University is located in Valdosta, a city of 48,000 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 two campuses, located less than a mile apart, include more than 168 acres of land.

The 85-acre Main Campus faces North Patterson Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares. Approximately 10 blocks north is the North 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 50 air-conditioned buildings house the varied activities of Valdosta State University. Main Campus buildings are of Spanish Mission 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, and staff, 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 shows the traditional principal buildings:

**West Hall**, long known as the symbol of Valdosta State University, has undergone renovation and expansion. It now houses the Administrative offices of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences. The Departments of English, Political Science, and Modern and Classical Languages are located in West Hall. In addition, this building houses the Master's of Public Administration Program, the Foreign Language/International Culture Center, the language laboratory, an electronic classroom, the General Studies Program Office, and the Campus Writing Center.

**Nevins Hall** houses the science faculty, classrooms, and laboratories, offices of the Vice President for Business and Finance, Registrar, Women's Studies Program, the African American Studies Program, and computer facilities. Dedicated in 1966, this building is named in honor of the late Dr. Beatrice I. Nevins, head of the biology department for many years.

**The Admissions Office** is located across the street from Nevins Hall in the former Panhellenic House, renovated in 1997. Behind the Admissions Office is the **Honors House**, a former residence that provides space for the Honors Program.

**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. The library is designed to facilitate research and study with open stacks and continuously available assistance from reference librarians. The collection contains over 390,000 bound volumes and over a million volumes in microfilms, as well as current issues of more than 3,000 magazines, journals, and newspapers. In addition to printed materials, the library has extensive collections of audio-visual, graphic, and machine-readable materials. The Library is a Selective Depository of U.S. Government documents and maintains the Archives of Contemporary South Georgia History and a Southern History Collection. In addition, it maintains the Fine Arts Materials Center in the Fine Arts building and the Instructional Materials Center in the Education Center. The Media Center in the Odum Library maintains and services a wide variety of audio-visual equipment.

**Powell Hall**, named for Richard H. Powell, the first president of the institution, houses the Offices of the Vice President for Student Affairs; Financial Aid; and Office of Student Development, which has facilities for counseling, career guidance, and testing.

**Ashley Hall** is occupied by the Personnel Department, the faculty offices of the Department of History, other faculty offices, and the Division of Information Technology, including the heavily visited computer Help Desk.

**Carswell Hall** on Oak Street provides facilities for the Office of International Programs. The Department of Philosophy occupies **Campbell Hall** on Patterson Street.

**The Regional Center for Continuing Education**, located at 901 North Patterson Street, houses the Office of Public Services, which includes Continuing Education, Distance Education, the Off-Campus Credit Program, and the Evening Program. The Office of the Graduate School, the Division of Social Work, and the Office of Grants and Contracts are also located in the Center.

**University Union**, dedicated in 1966 and expanded in 1976, contains the University snack bar, radio station WVVS, the University Bookstore, and mail services and is built around a swimming pool which is used for recreation and physical education. Recreational facilities, the offices of the University Union Board, Student Government Association and other student organizations, and the yearbook and newspaper editorial offices are located in the University Union.

**University Center**, completed in 1995, contains a commodious Student Recreation Center Union, study rooms, a computer lab, and a dining area. It also houses the Learning Skills Center and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. Upon completion of additional renovation, it will provide facilities for the Art Department, the Dance Program, the Child Care Center, and the Speech and Language Pathology Program.

**S. Walter Martin Hall**, acquired in 1985, is located on Patterson Street across from University Center. This modern facility houses the College of Nursing.

**The Offices of Equal Opportunity and Multicultural Affairs** are located in a house opposite University Union, adjacent to S. Walter Martin Hall.

The **Education Center**, dedicated in 1973, houses the College of Education, excluding the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. The Education Center provides the most modern facilities for training teachers, school administrators, and other specialists in education.

The **Physical Education Complex** was completed in the Spring of 1982 at a cost of approximately six million dollars. This modern facility, one of the finest in the South, seats 5,500 people for basketball and 6,000 for graduations and concerts. The 100,000 square feet building contains the offices of the Physical Education faculty and all Athletic offices except football. Classrooms, a Health Fitness Center, Athletic Training room, varsity and physical education dressing rooms for men and women, and a Human Performance Laboratory are also included.

The **Fine Arts Building**, opened in 1969, houses the College of the Arts, which is composed of art, music, and communication arts. In addition to classrooms, laboratories, offices, and many specialized areas, the building contains a fine concert pipe organ, another gift to the institution by the late Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead of Valdosta. In appreciation of this generosity, the auditorium is named in memory of his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Q. Whitehead of Emanuel County, Georgia. Sawyer Theater is named after Louise Sawyer, former head of the Communication Arts Department.

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**, remodeled in 1987 and named in honor of Frank R. Reade, third president of the University; **Anne Powe Hopper Hall**, named in honor of the University's first dean of women; **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; **Georgia Hall**, named for the State and for the avenue on which the building is located; **John W. Langdale Hall**, named for one of south Georgia's pioneer developers and leading citizens; and **Patterson Hall**, named for the street on which the building is located.

The **President's Home**, acquired for the University in 1948, is the scene of numerous receptions and other functions throughout the year. Located at the northwest corner of Main Campus on Georgia Avenue, the residence was first occupied by the institution's fourth president, J. Ralph Thaxton.

Adjacent to the President's home on Georgia Avenue is the **Co-operative Education House**. Along the same street are found the **Parking and Transportation Office**, the Office of **Residence Life**, and the **University Foundation**.

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

The **Old College Gymnasium** has undergone extensive renovation. The first floor contains all the offices of the football staff, varsity football locker rooms, a weight room, and a training room. The second floor contains the dance studio and auxiliary gymnasium.

## **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). The other two buildings on the North Campus are **Pound Hall**, named for Dr. Jere M. Pound, the second president of the University, and **Thaxton Hall**, named for Dr. J. Ralph Thaxton, VSU's fourth president. Pound Hall, completely renovated in 1991-1992, and Thaxton Hall, remodeled in 1982, provide facilities for the College of Business Administration. The **Office of Institutional Research**, **Billy Grant Field**, and various recreational fields are also found on the North Campus. The University's bus service connects the two campuses.

## COMPUTING AND DATA NETWORKING FACILITIES

The university operates a variety of sophisticated, state-of-the art computing and networking facilities to support its academic, research, and administrative activities. The facilities include several powerful UNIX-based central servers, many distributed file servers running Novell Netware, 2,400 microcomputers and 50+ high-end workstations, all of which are interconnected via a high-speed data network.

Located in the Computer Center in Nevins Hall, three (3) Hewlett-Packard (HP) 9000 large-scale business servers, Models G50, G70 and K460, support all student and financial related processing, as well various other applications software systems. To meet VSU's fast growth, these three computers together comprise a total systems environment that provides one of the largest and most modern centers in the University System. As one of the first schools selected by the Board of Regents to receive the fourth-generation Banner Student Information and Financial Aid Systems, VSU has fully implemented those systems to greatly enhance student support operations such as admissions, registration, advising, and financial aid processing. A new state-of-the-art Business and Financial Software System will be installed by VSU in FY 1998.

Housed in the Data Communications Center in Ashley Hall, one Sun SparcServer 1000E provides electronic mail services for the students, faculty, and staff and access to the state-wide PeachNet and other national and international networks. A second Sun SparcServer 1000E provides Gopher, Listserv, Usenet and other similar services. A third Sun SparcServer 1000 provides World Wide Web service and operates as a specialized applications server for several academic departments with software products such as AutoCad, MathLab, GIS, C++, LISP and others. A fourth Sun SparcServer 1000 performs as the name server for the campus, allowing VSU to be 'registered' with Internet and utilize the short address of *valdosta.edu*.

A very extensive and sophisticated fiber-optic based data network, with its central hub of bridges and routers located in the Library, provides Ethernet protocol (10/100 Mbps) communications between all servers and microcomputers. The 18 miles of fiber and 58 miles of copper wire connect the main campus buildings, as well as two on North Campus, the VSU Regional Center for Continuing Education, and 12 buildings adjacent to the main campus. Other sites utilize dedicated modems to connect to the network. Additional remote dial-in modem access and outside access via PeachNet to other national and international networks are supported by the system.

Microcomputers are provided to every faculty member and all staff in administrative offices. A total of 600 microcomputers are available to students in 25 labs, with 10 to 50 machines each, located throughout the campus. Two labs are installed at Kings Bay Naval Base to support VSU operations at that location. All machines have

the campus standard software installed – Microsoft Office Pro (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access) and all communications products (Netscape, Eudora, and other). Various microcomputer servers, Sun and Silicon Graphics high-end workstations, local networks and other facilities are located in the colleges and administrative offices to provide additional support to students, faculty, and staff. The Library operates a DEC 4200 minicomputer, Sun SparcServer 1000, a student micro lab, 20+ Galileo workstations and 30+ terminals to support their operations.

Information Technology offices are located in Ashley Hall, Second Floor, South.

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The Alumni House, 1603 N. Patterson Street, serves as the headquarters for both the VSU Alumni Association, Inc. and the Student Alumni Association (Ambassadors). The Association, founded in 1917, seeks to promote the welfare of the University and more than 28,000 of its alumni, providing them an opportunity to maintain a lifelong association with their alma mater. All alumni receive the quarterly *VSU Alumni Bulletin*, which provides information on faculty, classmates, and campus activities. Other mailings inform alumni of special events, such as reunions, receptions, and Homecoming. The work of the Association is governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually at the general membership meeting.

## **UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

The University Relations office, located in the south end of the University Center, conducts a public information program to make the citizens of Georgia and the region aware of the University's various programs and accomplishments. Special efforts are made to publicize the achievements of faculty, students, and alumni. In addition, this office conducts a publications program which serves all offices and departments.

## **UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Office of University Development, located at 102 Georgia Avenue, conducts the University's drives to secure private support to enhance its various programs and facilities. Key to this effort is the VSU Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt charitable corporation organized by community leaders in 1963. The Foundation is governed by a 35-member Board of Trustees comprised of leading alumni and friends of the University.

## **ADVANCEMENT SERVICES**

Located in the Alumni House, the Office of Advancement Services is responsible for maintaining current records on all alumni of the University and records of the gift support which the University and Foundation receive from alumni, parents, friends, corporations, foundations, and other organizations.

## 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 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 at least 12 semester hours of upper-division courses (3000-4000 level) as specified by the department awarding the minor. A grade of C 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.

**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.

**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.