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Valdosta State University

**2003-2004
Graduate Catalog**

**A Regional University
of the University System of Georgia**

June 2003

The Graduate School
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA 31698
Telephone 229 333 5694

Academic Calendar

Fall 2003

Registration	Friday, August 15
First Day of Classes	Monday, August 18
Labor Day Holiday	Monday, September 1
Midterm	Friday, October 10
Thanksgiving Break	Monday-Friday, November 24-28
Last Day of Classes	Monday, December 8 (Tues., Dec. 9: Exam Preparation Day)
Final Exams	Wednesday-Friday, December 10-12
Commencement	Saturday, December 13

Spring 2004

Registration	Friday, January 9
First Day of Classes	Monday, January 12
Martin Luther King Holiday	Monday, January 19
Midterm	Friday, March 5
Spring Break	Monday-Friday, April 5-9
Last Day of Classes	Monday, May 3 (Tuesday, May 4: Exam Preparation Day)
Final Exams	Wednesday-Friday, May 5-7
Commencement	Saturday, May 8

Summer 2004

Summer I

Registration	Wednesday, May 12
First Day of Classes	Thursday, May 13
Midterm	Tuesday, May 25
Memorial Day Holiday	Monday, May 31
Last Day of Classes	Thursday, June 3
Final Exams	Friday, June 4

Summer II

Registration	Tuesday-Wednesday, June 8-9
First Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 9
Independence Day Holiday	Monday, July 5
Midterm	Wednesday, July 7
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 27
Final Exams	Wednesday-Friday, July 28-30
Commencement	Saturday, July 31

Summer III

Registration	Tuesday, June 8
First Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 9
Midterm	Friday, June 18
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 30
Final Exams	Thursday, July 1
Commencement	Saturday, July 31

Summer IV

Registration	Tuesday, June 8
First Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 6
Midterm	Friday, July 16
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 27
Final Exams	Wednesday, July 28
Commencement	Saturday, July 31.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Academic Calendar	2
Campus Map	4-5
Mission Statement	6-7
Accreditation and Memberships	8
The Graduate School	9
Application Procedures	9
International Student Admissions	11
Admission and Readmission	12
Graduate Student Classifications	12
Enrollment by Undergraduates	13
Academic Standards and Regulations	13
General Requirements for Graduate Degrees	16
Graduate Degree Programs	
College of Arts and Sciences	19
College of Education	42
College of Business Administration	102
College of the Arts	108
College of Nursing	115
Division of Social Work	118
Library and Information Science Program	121
Courses of Instruction	123
Financial Information	212
Fee Schedules	212
Public Safety	217
Student Affairs	218
Equal Opportunity Programs and Special Services	222
Student Records	223
Computing Facilities	225
Financial Aid	227
Auxiliary Services	234
Public Services and Continuing Education	238
University Guidelines and Procedures	241
VSU Administration	245
Graduate Faculty	250
University System of Georgia	264
Index	267

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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 Mission 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:

- 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 commitment to a teaching/learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse and well-prepared student body, promotes high levels of student achievement, offers academic assistance, and provides developmental studies programs for a limited student cohort;
- 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, Sports Medicine, Speech and Language Pathology, School Psychology, 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, non-traditional 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 which 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 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.

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 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.

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 bachelor's degree (BSN) and the master's degree (MSN) programs in the College of Nursing are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission [61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, Phone 212-363-5555, Ext 153] and also 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 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 master's degree 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 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 Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.