

General University Information

Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097) as a comprehensive public institution of higher education and is a member of the Texas A&M University System. It is a land-grant university authorized under the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The main campus is located in Waller County approximately 40 miles northwest of Houston and one mile north of Texas Highway 290 on Farm Road 1098. A College of Nursing branch facility is located at 6436 Fannin Street in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

The University offers a broad range of academic programs through the following administrative units:

The College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
The School of Architecture
The College of Arts and Sciences
The College of Business
The College of Education
The College of Engineering
The School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology
The College of Nursing
The Graduate School

Though the University's service area has generally extended throughout Texas and the world, the University's target service area includes the Texas Gulf Coast Region, i.e., Waller, Harris, Montgomery, Washington, Grimes, Fort Bend, Galveston, Jefferson, Chambers, Liberty, Colorado, Wharton, Brazoria, and Austin Counties; the rapidly growing residential and commercial area known as the Northwest Houston Corridor as noted in the original Texas Plan; and urban Texas centers likely to benefit from Prairie View A&M University's specialized programs and services in juvenile justice, architecture, teacher education, social work, and the food, agricultural and natural resource sciences. Prairie View A&M University is authorized to offer a number of undergraduate and graduate degree programs at distant sites.

In addition to Prairie View A&M University, the Texas A&M University System consists of Texas A&M University at College Station with a Galveston campus as part of the College of Geosciences and Maritime Studies; Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi; Texas A&M International University; Texas A&M University - Kingsville; West Texas A&M University; Tarleton State University; Texas A&M University - Commerce; Texas A&M University - Texarkana; Baylor College of Dentistry; Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; Texas Cooperative Extension Service; Texas Engineering Experiment Station; the Texas Engineering Extension Service; Texas Animal Damage Control Service; Texas Forest Service; Texas Transportation Institute; and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

History

Prairie View A&M University, the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas, originated in the Texas Constitution of 1876. On August 14, 1876, the Texas Legislature established the "Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youths" and placed responsibility for its management with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan. The A&M College of Texas for Colored Youths opened at Prairie View, Texas on March 11, 1878.

The University's original curriculum was designated by the Texas Legislature in 1879 to be that of a "Normal School" for the preparation and training of teachers. This curriculum was expanded to include the arts and sciences, home economics, agriculture, mechanical arts, and nursing after the University was established as a branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station (Hatch Act, 1887) and as a Land Grant College (Morrill Act, 1890). Thus began the tradition of agricultural research and community service, which continues today.

In 1919, the four-year senior college program was begun and, in 1937, a division of graduate studies was added, offering master's degrees in agricultural economics, rural education, agricultural education, school administration and supervision, and rural sociology.

In 1945, the name of the institution was changed from Prairie View Normal and Industrial College to Prairie View University, and the school was authorized to offer, "as need arises," all courses offered at the University of Texas. In 1947, the Texas Legislature changed the name to Prairie View A&M College of Texas and provided that "courses be offered in agriculture, the mechanics arts, engineering, and the natural sciences connected therewith, together with any other courses authorized at Prairie View at the time of passage of this act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at Bryan." On August 27, 1973, the name of the institution was changed to Prairie View A&M University, and its status as an independent unit of the Texas A&M University System was confirmed.

In 1981, the Texas Legislature acknowledged the University's rich tradition of service and identified various statewide needs which the University should address including the assistance of students of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to realize their full potential, and assistance of small and medium-sized communities and businesses in their growth and development.

In 1983, the Texas Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to restructure the Permanent University Fund to include Prairie View A&M University as a beneficiary of its proceeds. The Permanent University Fund is a perpetual endowment fund originally established in the Constitution of 1876 for the sole benefit of Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. The 1983 amendment also dedicated the University to enhancement as an "institution of the first class" under the governing board of the Texas A&M University System. The constitutional amendment was approved by the voters on November 6, 1984.

In January 1985, the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System responded to the 1984 Constitutional Amendment by stating its intention that Prairie View A&M University become "an institution nationally recognized in its areas of education and research." The Board also resolved that the University receive its share of the Available University Fund, as previously agreed to by Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

In October 2000, the Governor of Texas signed the Priority Plan, an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights to make Prairie View A&M University an educational asset accessible by all Texans. The Priority Plan mandates creation of many new educational programs and facilities. It also requires removing language from the Institutional Mission Statement which might give the impression of excluding any Texan from attending Prairie View A&M University.

The University's enrollment now exceeds 6,700 including over 1,300 graduate students. Students come from throughout the United States as well as many foreign countries. Over 5,200 academic degrees have been awarded in the last five years, including over 1,800 graduate degrees.

Administrative Organization

A current organizational chart for Prairie View A&M University is available in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Analysis and in the Office of the Chancellor, Texas A&M University System.

Mission

Prairie View A&M University is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service. It is committed to achieving relevance in each component of its mission by addressing issues and proposing solutions through programs and services designed to respond to the needs and aspirations of individuals, families, organizations, agencies, schools, and communities--both rural and urban. Prairie View A&M University is a state-assisted institution by legislative designation, serving a diverse ethnic and socioeconomic population. Having been designated by the Texas constitution as one of the three "institutions of the first

class” (1984), the University is committed to preparing undergraduates in a range of careers including but not limited to engineering, computer science, natural sciences, architecture, business technology, criminal justice, the humanities, education, agricultural sciences, nursing, mathematics, and the social sciences. It is committed to advanced education through the master’s degree in education, engineering, natural sciences, nursing, selected social sciences, agriculture, business, and human sciences. It is committed to expanding its advanced educational offerings to include multiple doctoral programs.

Though the University’s service area has generally extended throughout Texas and the world, the University’s target service area for offering undergraduate and graduate programs of study includes the Texas Gulf Coast Region; the rapidly growing residential and commercial area known as the Northwest Houston Corridor; and urban Texas centers likely to benefit from Prairie View A&M University’s specialized programs and initiatives in nursing, juvenile justice, architecture, education, and social work. The University’s public service programs offered primarily through the Cooperative Extension Program targets the State of Texas, both rural and urban counties. The University’s research foci include extending knowledge in all disciplines offered and incorporating research-based experiences in both undergraduate and graduate students’ academic development.

Rules and Procedures on Discrimination, Harassment, and Privacy

Prairie View A&M University is a member of the Texas A&M University System, and, as such, complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations on discrimination, harassment and privacy. These laws and regulations include Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. For more details, please consult the Prairie View A&M University web site (www.pvamu.edu).

Equal Opportunity Policy Statement

Prairie View A&M University is fully committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action in all aspects of its employment and employee relations. Each employee and all applicants for employment are to be treated fairly and equitably and with human dignity. No employee, student, or representative of the University shall be subjected to sexual harassment, racial or sexual denigration, or any other form of illegal discrimination.

Policy Against Discrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by The Texas A&M University System or any of its component institutions on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including (but not limited to) race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

Title IX of The Education Amendment Act of 1972

Prairie View A&M University does not discriminate against persons on the basis of sex. Individuals will not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination on the basis of sex under any educational program, service or activity offered by the University.

Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

In compliance with Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Sections 501, 502, 503, and 504, Prairie View A&M University prohibits the imposition of rules or restrictions that have the effect of limiting participation of students with disabilities in educational programs or activities. Appropriate academic accommodations and reasonable modifications to policies and practices are made to assure that students with disabilities have the same opportunities as other students to be successful on the basis of their intellectual abilities and academic achievements.

Right to Privacy

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 contained in Public Law 93-380 of the Educational Amendments of 1974, is designed to protect the rights and privacy of students.

Official records are not opened to the public and will not be divulged without the consent of the student. Minors (those under 18 years of age) attending the university have the same right to privacy of their records as adult students.

The Buckley Amendment provides that certain directory-type information may be made public on all students unless individual students state in writing (within the first twelve class days) to the Office of the Registrar that they do not wish that information to be released. Such directory-type information may include (but is not limited to) name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major, participation in activities, dates of attendance, and degrees and awards received.

Academic information is confidential. However, in order for the University to serve students, academic information is shared with University administrative offices and academic advisers for the purpose of providing services to the student.