The Baton Rouge Community College Campus.

Higher education

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Southern University is the center of the Southern University system, which includes three campuses and a law school.

Southern enrolled 9,413 students last fall, and offers a wide range of bachelor's and master's degrees.

The school offers doctoral degrees in special education, math and science education, and public policy.

Tuition and fees for full-time undergraduates total $1,143 per semester.

In the past decade, Our Lady of the Lake College has moved from a hospital-based nursing program to a full-spectrum of eight bachelor's degrees and seven associate degrees.

Although nursing continues as the hallmark of OLOL's mission, the school also offers programs in the health sciences, the humanities, and the liberal arts.

The only Catholic college in the state outside New Orleans, OLOL had 960 students this year, and officials expect registration to top 1,000 this fall.

Tuition at OLOL is roughly $2,200 per semester.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 50 miles west of Baton Rouge, has a growing academic and research reputation that rivals LSU's in many fields.

ULL offers a variety of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to more than 16,000 students.

At ULL, Louisiana residents who are full-time students pay $1,007 per semester in tuition and fees.

Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, 40 miles east of Baton Rouge, enrolled 15,199 students last fall.

SLU offers 59 different degree programs, and draws heavily from nearby parishes. Full-time students from Louisiana pay $1,015 a semester.