



**Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

**INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY FORM  
PREPARED FOR COMMISSION REVIEWS**

**Name of Institution:** Northwestern State University of Louisiana

**Name, Title, Phone number, and email address of Accreditation Liaison**  
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**Educational Programs**

1. Level of offerings (Check all that apply)

- Diploma or certificate program(s) requiring less than one year beyond Grade 12
- Diploma or certificate program(s) of at least two but fewer than four years of work beyond Grade 12
- Associate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 60 semester hours or the equivalent designed for transfer to a baccalaureate institution
- Associate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 60 semester hours or the equivalent not designed for transfer
- Four or five-year baccalaureate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 120 semester hours or the equivalent
- Professional degree program(s)
- Master's degree program(s)
- Work beyond the master's level but not at the doctoral level (such as Specialist in Education)
- Doctoral degree program(s)
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Undergraduate Programs (Check all that apply)

- Occupational certificate or diploma program(s)
- Occupational degree program(s)
- Two-year programs designed for transfer to a baccalaureate institution
- Liberal Arts and General
- Teacher Preparatory
- Professional
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## ***History and Characteristics***

Northwestern State University was founded in 1884 as Louisiana State Normal School. Baccalaureate programs were added in 1921 and the name was changed to Louisiana State Normal College. In 1944, due to its increased resources and curricula, the name was changed to Northwestern State College. In 1954, Northwestern became the first college under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Education to offer the Master's degree. The Educational Specialist degree was first offered in 1966. In 1970, the name was once again changed to Northwestern State University of Louisiana. More detailed aspects of NSU's history can be found in the University Catalog as well as other publications.

The current mission is as follows: Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its student to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

NSU primarily serves the central region of Louisiana. As such, NSU has a diverse student population. NSU's student body is approximately 61% white, 35% minority, and 4% unknown. Approximately 11% of the student population is graduate students. Approximately 1/3 of the student body is 25 or older.

While NSU has traditionally been an open admissions institution, new selective admissions went into effect in Fall 2005. For more information regarding the new admission standards, please see the University Catalog.

NSU has several distinctive features, including an emphasis on distance education. NSU is a leader in distance education and the number of students involved in distance learning reflects that fact. With campuses in Natchitoches as well as Shreveport, Leesville, and Alexandria as well as sites in most other central Louisiana parishes, NSU caters to non-traditional students.

## List of Degrees

### Educational Programs

1. Level of Offerings
  - i. Associate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 60 semester hours or the equivalent not designed for transfer
  - ii. Four or five-year baccalaureate degree program(s) requiring a minimum of 120 semester hours or the equivalent
  - iii. Master's degree program(s)
  - iv. Work beyond the master's level but not at the doctoral level (such as Specialist in Education)
  
2. Types of Undergraduate Programs
  - i. Occupational Degree program(s)
  - ii. Liberal Arts and General
  - iii. Teacher Preparatory
  - iv. *List of Degrees (As of 03/29/06) – Concentrations in Italics*

### Associate

#### Associate of Arts

Criminal Justice

#### Associate Degree

Business Administration  
Electronics Technology  
Office Administration  
*Computer Information Systems*  
Veterinary Technology

#### Associate of General Studies

General Studies  
*Aviation Science*  
*Child Development*

#### Associate of Science in Nursing

Nursing  
*LPN to ASN*

### Baccalaureate

#### Bachelor of Arts

Anthropology  
Criminal Justice  
English  
*Literature*  
*Professional Writing*

English Education Grades 6 – 12  
Heritage Resources  
    *Anthropology*  
    *Geography*  
    *Historic Preservation*  
History  
Journalism  
    *Broadcast*  
    *News-Editorial*  
    *Public Relations*  
Liberal Arts  
    *Fine and Performing Arts*  
    *Foreign Language*  
    *History and Philosophy of Science*  
    *Humanities and Social Thought*  
    *Scientific Inquiry*  
Political Science  
Social Studies Education Grades 6 – 12  
Sociology

Bachelor of Fine Arts  
    Fine and Graphic Arts  
        *Studio Art*  
        *Graphic Communication*

Bachelor of General Studies  
    General Studies  
        *Aviation Science*  
        *Computer and Natural Sciences*  
        *Defense Leadership Studies*  
        *Humanities*  
        *Non-Profit Leadership*  
        *Professional Studies*  
        *Social Sciences*  
        *Speech Communication*

Bachelor of Music  
    Music  
        *Performance*  
        *Sacred Music*

Bachelor of Music Education  
    Instrumental Music Education  
    Vocal Music Education  
    Vocal & Instrumental Music Education

Bachelor of Science  
    Accounting

Addiction Studies  
Biology  
    *Biomedical*  
    *Natural Science*  
    *Applied Biology*  
Biology Education Grades 6 - 12  
Business Administration  
    *Economics*  
    *Finance*  
    *Management*  
    *Marketing*  
Business Education Grades 6 – 12  
Chemistry  
    *Biochemistry*  
    *Chemical Physics*  
    *Forensics*  
    *Professional*  
    *Technology & Management*  
Chemistry Education Grades 6 - 12  
Computer Information Systems  
Early Childhood Education Grades PK – 3  
Electronic Engineering Technology  
Elementary Education Grades 1 – 5  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
    *Fashion Merchandising*  
    *Housing & Interiors*  
    *Consumer Services*  
    *Nutrition and Food Systems Management*  
    *Child Development and Family Relations*  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education Grades 6 – 12  
Health and Human Performance  
    *Health and Exercise Science*  
    *Health and Physical Education*  
Hospitality Management and Tourism  
    *Culinary Arts*  
    *Hospitality Services*  
    *Recreation Administration*  
    *Travel and Tourism*  
Industrial Engineering Technology  
Mathematics  
Mathematics Education Grades 6 - 12  
Middle School Education Grades 4 – 8  
Physics  
    *Biophysics*  
    *Chemical Physics*  
    *Engineering Physics*  
    *Mathematical Physics*  
    *Space Science*

Physics Education Grades 6 – 12  
Psychology  
    *Substance Abuse  
    Prevention Specialist*  
Radiologic Technology  
    *RT to BSRT*  
Speech Education Grades 6 – 12  
Theatre  
    *Dance/Performance  
    Design/Technology  
    Musical Theatre Performance  
    Performance/Directing*

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Nursing  
    *LPN to BSN  
    RN to BSN*

Bachelor of Social Work  
Social Work

## **Masters**

Master of Arts  
Adult Education  
Art  
English  
    *Folklife/Southern Culture  
    Literature  
    Writing/Linguistics*  
Heritage Resources  
Student Personnel Services

Master of Arts in Teaching  
Elementary Education Grades 1 – 5  
    *Preparing Responsive Educators Program  
    Professional Studies*  
Middle School Education Grades 4 – 8  
    *Preparing Responsive Educators Program  
    Professional Studies*  
Secondary Education Grades 6 – 12  
    *Preparing Responsive Educators Program  
    Professional Studies*

Master of Education  
Education  
    *Business and Distributive Education  
    Counseling*

*Early Childhood Education*  
*Educational Leadership*  
*Elementary Teaching*  
*English Education*  
*Family and Consumer Sciences Education*  
*Health and Human Performance*  
*Mathematics Education*  
*Reading*  
*Science Education*  
*Secondary Teaching Education*  
*Social Sciences Education*  
*Special Education, Gifted Education*  
*Special Education, General*  
*Special Education, Mild/Moderate Certification*  
*Educational Technology*

Master of Music  
Music

Master of Science  
Clinical Psychology  
*Substance Abuse*  
*Prevention Specialist*  
Health and Human Performance  
*Sports Administration*  
*Health Promotion*  
*Physical Education Teaching*

Master of Science in Nursing  
Nursing  
*Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*  
*Adult Nursing*  
*Critical Care Nursing of the Adult*  
*Maternal Child and Family Nursing*  
*Mental Health/Psychiatric*  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*  
*Neonatal Nurse Practitioner*  
*Pediatric Nurse Practitioner*  
*Women's Health Nurse Practitioner*

## **Specialist**

Educational Specialist  
Educational Leadership and Instruction  
*Counseling*  
*Elementary Teaching*  
*Reading*  
*Secondary Teaching*

*Special Education*  
*Educational Technology*  
*Educational Leadership*

## **Locations and Distance Education**

NSU has four campuses where you can complete more than 50% of the coursework toward a degree. The Natchitoches campus is the main campus at which you can complete all the course work for every degree, except Nursing and Radiologic Technology. At the Alexandria campus, you can obtain baccalaureate degree in Criminal Justice, Nursing, Radiologic Technology, English Education, Social Sciences Education, and Social Work as well as graduate degrees in Educational Leadership, Nursing, Counseling, and Social Work. At the Shreveport campus, you can obtain associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees in Nursing as well as the baccalaureate degree in Radiologic Technology. Finally, at the Leesville campus one can obtain associate degrees in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, General Studies, Nursing, and Office Administration. Baccalaureate degrees offered include Business Administration, Criminal Justice, General Studies, History, and Psychology and graduate degrees offered include Masters of Education in Educational Leadership, Counseling, and Educational Technology as well as the graduate degree in Adult Education.

While NSU has many off-campus sites, one cannot complete 50% of a degree at these sites. Several degrees are available through electronic means (specifically the Internet). They include associate degrees in Criminal Justice and General Studies; baccalaureate degrees in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Nursing (RN to BSN), and Radiologic Technology (RT to BSRT); and graduate degrees in Adult Education, Health and Human Performance, Master of Education in Educational Technology, and the Specialist in Educational Leadership and Instruction. As these degrees are offered over the Internet, the student can be located anywhere with Internet access.

## **Accreditation**

<b>Accrediting Agency</b>	<b>Date of Site Visit</b>	<b>Date of Award</b>
Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology	Fall 2000	Fall 2001
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism & Mass Communication	Fall 2002	Spring 2003
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business	Fall 2004	Spring 2005
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	Fall 1997	Spring 1998
American Chemical Society	Spring 1970*	Fall 1971*
American Veterinary Medical Association	Spring 2003	Spring 2004
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Education Programs	Spring 2003	Spring 2004
Council on Social Work Education	Fall 1999	Spring 2000
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology	Fall 1999	Spring 2000
Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council	Spring 2002	Spring 2002
National Association of Schools of Art & Design	Spring 1999	Fall 1999
National Association of Schools of Music	Spring 1998	Fall 1998
National Association of Schools of Theater	Spring 2006	Pending (Spring 2007)
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	Fall 2005	Spring 2006
National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission	Fall 1998	Spring 1999

\*The American Chemical Society (ACS) does not conduct site visits, aside from the original visit, unless problems are found in the annual reports and/or five-year reports. The last five-year report submitted by the Department of Chemistry was in Fall 2005 (December) and annual report in Fall 2006 (August).

## ***Relationship to the U.S. Department of Education***

Not Applicable