

Created under Act 51, 1884, of the Louisiana State Legislature, Northwestern State University of Louisiana has operated under four names: Louisiana State Normal School (1885-1921); Louisiana State Normal College (1921-1944); Northwestern State College of Louisiana (1944-1970); and Northwestern State University of Louisiana (1970-present).

Northwestern State University of Louisiana earned initial accreditation in 1923, and the University has maintained accreditation since that date. Northwestern State University of Louisiana is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, master, and specialist degrees. The University is categorized as an SREB Four-Year 4 Institution, as a Carnegie Master/Large University, and as a COC/SACS Level V Institution.

Northwestern State University seeks reaffirmation of its accreditation through an honest and open presentation of the programs and services available at the institution. The President and the Accreditation Liaison endorse the Compliance Certification Report as a true representation of the policies, processes, procedures, and decisions of the University and of the integrity of the individuals who participated in the preparation of the Report.

Further, the University is committed to the development and implementation of a Quality Enhancement Plan that will enhance the University's environment for learning, teaching, public service, research, and economic development. Northwestern State University of Louisiana engages in ongoing strategic planning to ensure that the University and its constituents continue to improve and to seek excellence in all endeavors.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana adheres to the fundamental principles of accreditation as stipulated by the Commission on Colleges:

- Northwestern State University of Louisiana participates in the accreditation process voluntarily and acknowledges that accreditation is an earned and renewable status.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana recognizes the accreditation requirements developed, amended, and approved by member institutions.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana believes that the process of accreditation is representative, responsive, and appropriate to the types of institutions accredited.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana supports the process of accreditation as a self-regulatory analysis of the institution's vision, mission and performance.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana is committed to student learning and achievement.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana exercises its prerogative to articulate its mission within the recognized context of higher education and accepts its responsibility to show that it is accomplishing its mission.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana has developed a balanced internal governing structure and operates within System-level and State-level governing structures that are designed to promote institutional autonomy and flexibility of operation.
- Northwestern State University of Louisiana ensures that its programs are complemented by support structures and resources that allow for the total growth and development of its students.