



Valdosta State University

2004-2005
Undergraduate Catalog

A Regional University of the
University System of Georgia

Academic Calendar

Fall 2004

Registration	Friday, August 13
First Day of Classes	Monday, August 16
Labor Day Holiday	Monday, September 6
Midterm	Friday, October 8
Thanksgiving Break	M-F, November 22-26
Last Day of Classes	Monday, December 6
Exam Preparation Day	Tuesday, December 7
Final Exams	December 8-10
Commencement	Saturday, December 11

Spring 2005

Registration	Friday, January 7
First Day of Classes	Monday, January 10
Martin Luther King Holiday	Monday, January 17
Midterm	Friday, March 4
Spring Break	March 28-April 1
Last Day of Classes	Monday, May 2
Exam Preparation Day	Tuesday, May 3
Final Exams	May 4-6
Commencement	Saturday, May 7

Summer I, 2005

Registration	Wednesday, May 11
First Day of Classes	Thursday, May 12
Midterm	Tuesday, May 24
Memorial Day Holiday	Monday, May 30
Last Day of Class	Thursday, June 2
Final Exams	Friday, June 3

Summer II, 2005

Registration	Tuesday, June 7, Wednesday, June 8
First Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 8
Independence Day Holiday	Monday, July 4
Midterm	Wednesday, July 6
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 26
Final Exams	July 27-29
Commencement	Saturday, July 30

Summer III, 2005

Registration	Tuesday, June 7
First Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 8
Midterm	Friday, June 17
Last Day of Classes	Wednesday, June 29
Final Exams	Thursday, June 30

Summer IV, 2005

Registration	Tuesday, June 7
First Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 5
Midterm	Friday, July 15
Last Day of Classes	Tuesday, July 26
Final Exams	Wednesday, July 27
Commencement	Saturday, July 30

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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:

- ◆ a 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 college-wide commitment to a technologically enhanced learning community that promotes student success, sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse and well-prepared student body, offers academic assistance, and provides enrichment for all students;
- ◆ 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 insure 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/Athletic Training, Speech and Language Pathology, School Psychology, Theatre, Public Administration, Social Work, 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 that 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 and effectiveness 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.

HOW TO USE THIS CATALOG

The Valdosta State University *Catalog* provides much information on the University. To help find this information quickly and efficiently, a table of contents and an index are included. The Academic Calendar in the front of the *Catalog* lists important dates you should keep in mind. A glossary of commonly used terms defines those words with which you may not be familiar.

The statements set forth in this catalog are for informational purposes only and should not be constructed as the basis of a contract between a student and the institution.

While the provisions of this catalog will ordinarily be applied as stated, Valdosta State University reserves the right to change any provision listed in this catalog, including but not limited to academic requirements for graduation, without actual notice to individual students. Every effort will be made to keep students advised of any such changes. Information on changes will be available in the Office of the Registrar. It is especially important that all students note that it is their individual and personal responsibility to keep themselves apprised of current graduation requirements for their particular degree program.



History of the University

A special act of the Georgia Legislature established an institution of higher learning in Valdosta, Georgia, in 1906. However, no appropriation was made for buildings or maintenance until the summer of 1911, when the State appropriated \$30,000 for a building and equipment.

With a community enthusiasm that has continued to the present day, the City of Valdosta first donated 60 acres of land and \$50,000 to be used toward establishing the college. The first building, Converse Hall, was erected and furnished at a cost of \$55,000.

In 1912, the Legislature granted an adequate annual appropriation for maintenance, and the future of the institution was assured. The college, called the South Georgia State Normal College, opened to “young ladies” on January 2, 1913, and offered two years of college work.

An act of the Legislature in 1922 changed the institution’s name to Georgia State Woman’s College at Valdosta and authorized a four-year program leading to the bachelor’s degree.

The Board of Regents made the school coeducational in 1950 and changed the name to Valdosta State College.

In 1993, Valdosta State College was named a Regional University. In fall 1998, Valdosta State University adopted the semester system, along with other units of the University System of Georgia.

The institution has been led by seven presidents: Richard Holmes Powell (1913-1933), Jere Madison Pound (1933-1935), Frank Robertson Reade (1935-1948), James Ralph Thaxton (1948-1966), Sidney Walter Martin (1966-1978), Hugh Coleman Bailey (1978-2001), and Ronald M. Zaccari, who assumed the leadership of the university in January, 2002.

Valdosta State University offers undergraduate work leading to the following degrees: Associate of Applied Science, the Associate of Arts, the Bachelor of Arts in 14 major programs, the Bachelor of Science in 11 major programs, the Bachelor of Science in Education in 11 major programs, the Bachelor of Business Administration in 5 major programs, the Bachelor of Fine Arts in 6 major programs, the Bachelor of Music in 2 major programs, the Bachelor of General Studies, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and the Bachelor of Applied Science.

Graduate degrees offered include the Master of Education in 14 major programs, the Master of Arts in 2 major programs, the Master of Science in 5 major programs, Master of Public Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Art Education, Master of Music Education, Master of Social Work, Master of Library and Information Science, the Education Specialist in 10 major programs, and the Doctor of Education in 3 major programs. New baccalaureate and graduate degree programs are added from time to time to meet the needs of the population served by the University.

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.

The Applied and Clinical Sociology Program is accredited by the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology.

Both the bachelor's degree (BSN) and the master's degree (MSN) programs in the College of Nursing are accredited 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/Athletic Training program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and the master's degree program in 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.

LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University is located in Valdosta, a city of approximately 50,000 in south-central Georgia. It can easily be reached from three exits of I-75 and is convenient to shopping areas, a variety of restaurants, and movie theaters. The Valdosta area is served by the Valdosta Municipal Airport and by the airports in Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Florida. The two campuses, located less than a mile apart, include more than 168 acres of land.

The 85-acre Main Campus faces North Patterson Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares. Approximately 10 blocks north is the North Campus. Other units of the University are located in satellite facilities adjacent to the campus and along Patterson Street. The campuses and principal satellite buildings are connected by the University bus service, operating regularly throughout each class day.

The campuses of Valdosta State are widely recognized for their exceptional beauty. Flowering plants include a variety of camellias, azaleas, redbud, and dogwood located amid tall pines, palms, and oaks spaced throughout the landscaped grounds.

The Jewel Whitehead Camellia Trail is believed to be the only such trail on a university campus in the nation. Located in the northwest area of the Main Campus, more than 1100 camellias of many varieties form a winding trail through the towering pines. The trail was a 1944 Christmas gift to the University from the late Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead of Valdosta.

FACILITIES

More than 60 air-conditioned buildings house the varied activities of Valdosta State University. Main Campus buildings are of Spanish Mission architecture, while those on North Campus are a red brick modified form of Georgian architecture.

MAIN CAMPUS

As the University grows, it must increase its building space, making room for increases in the number of students, faculty members, and staff, as well as for classrooms, laboratories, and office space for academic programs. Therefore, certain programs are located in recently acquired buildings adjacent or very near the campus, but the following list shows the traditional principal buildings:

West Hall, long known as the symbol of Valdosta State University, has undergone renovation and expansion. It now houses the administrative offices of the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Chief Planning Officer. The Departments of English, Political Science, Modern and Classical Languages. In addition, this building houses the Master's of Public Administration Program, the Foreign Language/International Culture Center, the language laboratory, an electronic classroom, and the Campus Writing Center.

The Chemistry/Biology Building, completed in 2001, provides offices, classrooms, and laboratories for the Department of Biology and the Department of Chemistry as well as offices for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Nevins Hall houses the offices of the Vice President for Student affairs; offices, classrooms, and laboratories of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences; the African American Studies Program; and computer facilities. Dedicated in 1966, this

building is named in honor of the late Dr. Beatrice I. Nevins, head of the biology department for many years.

Odum Library contains the general and research library collections of the University. The building was dedicated in 1972 and named in 1990 for the late Gertrude Gilmer Odum, Professor Emerita of English. In 2004 a new addition opened, doubling the size of the library and adding an Internet Café, an auditorium, additional computer labs, classrooms, and a new archives section. The library is designed to facilitate research and study with open stacks and continuously available assistance from reference librarians. The collection contains over 453,757 bound volumes and over a million volumes in microforms, as well as current issues of nearly 2,833 magazines, journals, and newspapers. In addition to printed materials, the library has extensive collections of audio-visual, graphic, and machine-readable materials. The Odum Library is a Selective Depository of U.S. Government documents and maintains the Archives of Contemporary South Georgia History and a Southern History Collection. The Media Center in the Odum Library maintains and services a wide variety of audio-visual equipment.

Pine Hall, located southwest of Odum Library, provides offices for the Division of Social Work and the Office of Public Safety.

Powell Hall, named for Richard H. Powell, the first president of the institution, houses the offices of Career Services, Co-op Education, Testing, Housing, the Counseling Center, and Alcohol and Other Drug Education.

Ashley Hall is occupied by the Department of History and the Department of Philosophy, other faculty offices, and the Division of Information Technology, including the heavily visited Computer Help Desk.

The Admissions Office is located across the street from Nevins Hall in the former Panhellenic House, renovated in 1997. Behind the Admissions Office is the **Honors House**, a former residence that provides space for the Honors Program.

The Center for International Programs is located at 204 Georgia Avenue.

The Women's Studies Center is in Carswell Hall, 1526 North Oak Street.

The Regional Center for Continuing Education, located at 901 North Patterson Street, houses the Office of Public Services, which includes Continuing Education, Distance Education, the Off-Campus Credit Program, and the Evening Program. The Office of the Graduate School and the Office of Grants and Contracts are also located in the Center.

The Psychology Classroom Building is adjacent to the Regional Center for Continuing Education.

University Union, dedicated in 1966 and expanded in 1976, contains the Loop Pizza Grill, radio station WVVS, and mail services and is built around a swimming pool used for recreation and physical education. The offices of the University Union Board, Student Government Association and other student organizations, and the yearbook and newspaper editorial offices are located in the University Union.

University Center, completed in 1995, contains the commodious University Center and its study rooms, computer lab, and dining area in the north section. The central section has offices for the Vice President for Business and Finance, Registrar, Human Resources, Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs, University Business Services, University Financial Services, art and dance studios, and faculty offices. The south section houses the South Georgia Consortium; Internal Auditors; Office of Academic Student

Instructional Support; the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice; the Credit Union.

S. Walter Martin Hall, acquired in 1985, is located on Patterson Street across from University Center. This modern facility houses the College of Nursing.

The **Special Education and Communication Disorders Building**, located on the corner of Brookwood Drive and Patterson Street, houses the academic department of the name and also the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

The **University Bookstore** is between S. Walter Martin Hall and the Special Education and Communication Disorders Building.

The **Office of Equal Opportunity and Multicultural Affairs** is located in a house opposite University Union, adjacent to S. Walter Martin Hall.

The **Bursary**, on the corner of Anne and Patterson Streets, houses the Bursar, university cashiers, offices for short-term loans, collection officer, and contract officer. Students make their fee payments in this building.

The **Education Center**, dedicated in 1973, houses several departments of the College of Education and provides the most modern facilities for training teachers, school administrators, and other specialists in education.

The **Physical Education Complex** was completed in the Spring of 1982. This modern facility, one of the finest in the South, seats 5,500 people for basketball and 6,000 for graduations and concerts. The building of 100,000 square feet contains the offices of the Physical Education faculty and all Athletic offices except football. Classrooms, a Health Fitness Center, athletic training room, varsity and physical education dressing rooms for men and women, and a Human Performance Laboratory are also included.

The **Student Recreation Center** was opened in 2002. It contains an indoor swimming pool, basketball and racquetball courts, a weight-lifting area, a climbing wall, and other recreational facilities for student use.

The **Fine Arts Building**, opened in 1969, houses the College of the Arts, which is composed of art, music, and communication arts. In addition to classrooms, laboratories, offices, and many specialized areas, the building contains a fine concert pipe organ, another gift to the institution by the late Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead of Valdosta. In appreciation of this generosity, the auditorium is named in memory of his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Q. Whitehead of Emanuel County, Georgia. Sawyer Theater is named after Louise Sawyer, former head of the Communication Arts Department.

University residence halls include **Converse Hall**, named in honor of W. L. Converse (The original Converse Hall burned in 1978, and its replacement was completed in 1981); **Reade Hall**, remodeled in 1987 and named in honor of Frank R. Reade, third president of the University; **Anne Powe Hopper Hall**, named in honor of the University's first dean of women; **Brown Hall**, named in honor of Joseph M. Brown, governor of Georgia when the University opened its doors in 1913; **Lowndes Hall**, named in appreciation of the county in which the University is located and in honor of William Jones Lowndes, southern educator and statesman; **Georgia Hall**, named for the State and for the avenue on which the building is located; **John W. Langdale Hall**, named for one of south Georgia's pioneer developers and leading citizens; and **Patterson Hall**, named for the street on which the building is located.

The **Parking and Transportation Office** and the **University Foundation** are in individual houses on Georgia Avenue.

The **Palms Dining Center** seats 1,000 diners. Featuring cafeteria-style serving, the facility is under direct supervision of a trained dietitian, and all employees are required to have periodic physical examinations.

The **Old College Gymnasium** has undergone extensive renovation. The first floor contains all the offices of the football staff, varsity football locker rooms, a weight room, and a training room. The second floor contains the dance studio and auxiliary gymnasium.

NORTH CAMPUS

Barrow Hall on the North Campus, named for David C. Barrow, Chancellor of the University System when South Georgia Normal College opened in 1913, was remodeled in 1971 to house the Division of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC). The other two buildings on the North Campus are **Pound Hall**, named for Dr. Jere M. Pound, the second president of the University, and **Thaxton Hall**, named for Dr. J. Ralph Thaxton, VSU's fourth president. Pound Hall, completely renovated in 1991-1992, and Thaxton Hall, remodeled in 1982, provide facilities for the College of Business Administration. The **Office of Institutional Research**, **Billy Grant Field**, and various recreational fields are also found on the North Campus. The University's bus service connects the two campuses.

COMPUTING AND DATA NETWORKING FACILITIES

VSU was recognized nationally in October 2001 by *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine as one of the "Top 100 Most Wired" campuses in the United States and is known in the University System of Georgia as a technology leader. The following briefly describes this robust computing environment.

The university operates a variety of sophisticated, state-of-the-art computing and data networking facilities to support its academic, research, and administrative activities. The facilities include several powerful UNIX-based central servers, 2,800 microcomputers, 65 high-end workstations and 40-45 distributed file servers, all of which are interconnected via a high-speed data network.

Located in the Computer Center in Nevins Hall, three Hewlett-Packard 9000 large-scale business servers support all student- and finance-related processing as well as various other applications software systems. These three computers together comprise a total systems environment that provides one of the largest and most modern centers in the University System. VSU has a complete implementation of the SCT Banner Student Information and Financial Aid Systems, which greatly enhance student support operations such as admissions, registration, advising, and financial aid processing. Student registration and general access can be easily accomplished via the Web, the Campus Pipeline "portal," Touchnet kiosks, or the EPOS Integrated Voice Response system. Business and Financial computing operations are supported with software from the PeopleSoft Corporation. All systems utilize the Oracle database product.

The Data Communications Center in Ashley Hall operates:

- 1 Sun Ultra Enterprise 3000 providing electronic mail services for the students, faculty, and staff and DS1/DS3 circuit access to the state-wide PeachNet and other national and international networks.
- 2 Sun 450 servers, one for the Campus Pipeline web "portal" product and one for video streaming.

- 3 Sun 420R servers: one supports VSU's popular and heavily utilized World Wide Web site and its thousands of pages; a second acts as the WebCT online course server; the third provides additional live and archived video streaming, to include interface with VSU-TV.
- 1 Sun Ultra Sparc 10 provides mailing list services.
- 1 Sun SparcServer 1000 performs DHCP and acts as the main name server for the campus, allowing VSU to be "registered" with Internet and utilize the short address of <valdosta.edu>.
- 2 Sun E220R servers provide secondary support services for DNS, Mail, Web, and WebCT.
- 1 Compaq Proliant 2500 NT server supports web page development.

A very extensive and sophisticated fiber-optic based data network provides Ethernet/Fast Ethernet (10/100 Mbps), Gigabit Ethernet, and ATM communications between all servers and microcomputers. The 20 miles of fiber and 62 miles of copper wire connect all main campus buildings, as well as three on North Campus, the VSU Regional Center for Continuing Education, Plant Operations, and 12 buildings adjacent to the main campus. Additional remote dial-in modem access is supported, as well as outside access via Georgia's PeachNet to the Internet.

In addition to the "hard-wired" network described, VSU has also implemented an impressive wireless data network. Over 80 wireless access points have been installed in 17 buildings around the campus to create an "umbrella" of coverage unrivaled by any school in the University System. All 1,800 students in the eight residence halls have wireless capability; seven academic buildings and the Library are supported, as well as three student "hang-out" locations. To increase utilization, 10 roll-around carts with 20 wireless laptops have been provided to various academic departments for student check-out to use in classes.

Microcomputers are provided to every faculty member and all staff in administrative offices. A total of 800 microcomputers are available to students in 29 labs, with 10-50 machines each, located throughout the campus. A special-purpose AutoCAD Lab for VSU's pre-engineering program is in Nevins Hall. The College of the Arts also runs AutoCAD products in support of its Interior Design program and specialized software in the computerized Music lab. Three labs are installed at Kings Bay Naval Base to support VSU operations at that location. All machines have the campus standard software installed:—Microsoft Office Pro or XP (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access), communications/e-mail products (Netscape, Internet Explorer, Eudora, and others) and Virus protection software. Various microcomputer servers, Sun and Silicon Graphics high-end workstations, local networks, and other facilities are located in the various colleges and administrative offices to provide additional support to students, faculty, and staff.

VSU's Odum Library operates two student computer labs with 20 PCs each, has 50 more PCs in student-friendly locations throughout the building, and has 35 Galileo workstations. In January 2001, the Library implemented a new web catalog, called GIL (Galileo Interconnected Libraries), which is now used by all University System schools. GIL provides not only a web-interfaced catalog but also the Georgia State Union Catalog, making it possible to place electronic requests for books held by other USG libraries.

Specific information on the above can be obtained at the Information Technology division offices located in Ashley Hall, Second Floor (South) or at its HELP-Desk in Ashley Hall, Room 114.

Institutional Advancement, University Relations, and Alumni Association

The Office of Institutional Advancement, located at 102 Georgia Avenue, conducts the University's drives to secure private support to enhance its various programs and facilities. Key to this effort is the VSU Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt charitable corporation organized by community leaders in 1963. The Foundation is governed by a 35-member Board of Trustees comprised of leading alumni and friends of the University.

The University Relations Office conducts a public information program to make the citizens of Georgia and the region aware of the University's various programs and accomplishments. Special efforts are made to publicize the achievements of faculty, students, and alumni. In addition, this office conducts a publications program which serves all offices and departments.

The Alumni House, 1603 N. Patterson Street, serves as the headquarters for the VSU Alumni Association, Inc., founded in 1917, which seeks to promote the welfare of the University and its alumni, providing them an opportunity to maintain a lifelong association with their alma mater. All alumni receive the *VSU Voice* and other mailings, which provide information on faculty, classmates, campus activities and special events.

Equal Opportunity Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as Title XI in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Auditing Student. A student who enrolls in and pays fees for a course or courses, but earns no university credit for that course or courses.

College. A major academic unit of the University, comprised of several departments, offering degrees on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Core Curriculum. A wide selection of general education courses required of all students.

Elective. A course that is not specifically required for a particular degree. An elective may or may not be used to satisfy requirements for a degree.

Exemption Test. A test which exempts a student from taking certain courses. No academic credit is awarded for an exemption test.

Full-time Student. An undergraduate student who takes 12 or more semester hours of credit. A graduate student who takes 6 or more semester hours of graduate credit.

Grade Point Average. A student's grade point average is calculated by dividing the number of quality points earned by the number of hours of course work in which he or she is enrolled over any given period.

Honors Program. A program which encourages superior students to enroll in special honors sections of lower-division courses, thereby gaining an enriched academic experience and the opportunity to work for an Honors Certificate.

- Institutional Credit** A unit of credit included in a student's total hour load for fee calculation. Institutional credit does not apply toward the total number of hours required for graduation, nor is it transferable to another institution.
- Major.** The academic area consisting of 30 semester hours or more of upper-division courses in which a student specializes. New students may choose a major at once or be classified as "Liberal Arts Students" until they decide upon the major they desire. Liberal Arts students are considered to be enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. A grade of "C" is required in each course applicable to the major.
- Minor.** An optional program of study in a field other than the student's major. Minors consist of 15-18 hours, with at least 9 semester hours of upper-division courses (3000-4000 level), as specified by the department awarding the minor. A grade of "C" is required in each course applicable to the minor.
- Non-resident Student.** One who does not have legally defined permanent residence in the state in which the University is located; an out-of-state student.
- Prerequisite.** Certain courses which must be completed before others may be attempted. Such first courses are said to be prerequisites for subsequent courses in the same or similar areas. It is the student's responsibility to take the needed prerequisites.
- Quality Points.** Points given for attainment of a certain letter grade. (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, WF=0, F=0).
- Resident Student.** A student who has legally defined permanent residence in the state in which the University is located; an in-state student.
- Transcript of Credit.** A certified copy of credits which a student has earned in high school or in other colleges attended. The submission of a transcript of credit is a prerequisite for admission to the University.
- Semester Hour Credit.** The semester hour is a unit of academic credit. The number of hours earned in a given semester is the measure of a student's academic load. A typical academic load is 12-15 semester hours of credit.