

began offering graduate degrees designed and delivered solely by faculty and staff of the college.

In 1994, the school earned its nickname, “unsinkable.” Tropical storm Alberto, which had submerged almost a half million acres of Georgia farmland, raised the Flint River to 44 feet, flooding most of the college. Under the leadership of president Billy C. Black, students and faculty banded together to carry on the college’s mission, and, with the support of Governor Zell Miller and a \$153 million recovery fund, rebuilt, renovated, and expanded the campus. During the rebuilding process, on the strength of the school’s growing graduate programs, the Board of Regents in 1996 approved the renaming of the institution: Albany State University. In the following two decades, the university added residence halls, a student center, a stadium, and a fine arts center.

On November 10, 2015, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted unanimously to begin the process of consolidating Albany State University and Darton State College. The new Albany State University unifies the distinction, values, and missions of the two institutions. To lead the two institutions through the complex process of consolidating, the USG appointed Dr. Arthur N. Dunning as the ninth president of Albany State University and Dr. Richard Carvajal as the interim president of Darton State College.

The new Albany State University continues a combined legacy of more than 100 years of providing leadership in southwest Georgia in access to education, academic excellence, social change, and economic impact. A nationally top-ranked HBCU, it serves an increasingly diverse student body and community by offering the region a uniquely comprehensive array of programs, from associate to graduate degrees.

In the 21st century, Albany State University continued to strengthen its mission, attracting nationally renowned scholars and researchers to its faculty and preparing students for leadership in the region and beyond. Between 2000 and 2016, the University produced over 7,500 undergraduates and over 2,700 students with master’s and educational specialist degrees and received almost 160 million dollars in research grants. Albany State College was granted university status in July 1996, and the name of the Institution was changed to Albany State University. During this impressive growth and development, the University has been guided by the following presidents:

Joseph Winthrop Holley, D.D., LL.D (1903-1943)
Aaron Brown, Ph.D., LL.D., Ed.D. (1943-1953)
William H. Dennis, LL.D. (1953-1965)
Thomas Miller Jenkins, J.D., LL.D. (1965-1969)
Charles L. Hayes, Ed.D. (1969-1980)
Billy C. Black, Ph.D. (1980-1996)
Portia Holmes Shields, Ph.D. (1996-2005)
Everette J. Freeman, Ed.D. (2005-2013)
Arthur N. Dunning, Ph.D. (2013-present)

History of Albany State University's Graduate Programs

In the fall of 1972, Georgia State University and then Albany State College entered into a cooperative agreement to provide, at Albany State College, graduate studies leading to the Master of Education degree. By a similar cooperative agreement with Valdosta State College, Albany State began the Master of Business Administration degree program in October 1974.

In the fall of 1981, Albany State received approval from the Board of Regents to award independently both the Master of Business Administration and the Master of Education degrees. One year later in 1982, with the approval of the Board, the University offered the Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Again with the collaborative effort of the University of Georgia, Albany State offered the Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision and was later approved as a Level II Master’s institution in January 1984.

The Master of Public Administration degree and the Master of Science degree in Nursing became effective in the fall of 1987 and 1988, respectively. In the fall of 1991, Albany State was granted approval to offer the Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. In January 1999 Albany State University inaugurated doctoral education in the Albany area with the acceptance of the first cohort of students into the joint Ed.D. program with Valdosta State University.

In August 2011, the Graduate School was decentralized and the admission process was transferred to ASU's Admissions Office. All other functions of the Graduate Programs were handled by the departments and colleges.

In the fall of 2014, the Graduate School was re-centralized as a functioning department. During this time, the Master of Business Administration degree program added Supply Chains and Logistics Management as a concentration.

Albany State University's Mission Statement

Albany State University, a proud member institution of the University System of Georgia, elevates its community and region by offering a broad array of graduate, baccalaureate, associate, and certificate programs at its main campuses in Albany as well as at strategically-placed branch sites and online. Committed to excellence in teaching and learning, the University prepares students to be effective contributors to a globally diverse society, where knowledge and technology create opportunities for personal and professional success. ASU respects and

builds on the historical roots of its institutional predecessors with its commitment to access and a strong liberal arts heritage that respects diversity in all its forms and gives all students the foundation they need to succeed. Through creative scholarship, research, and public service, the University's faculty, staff, students, and administrators form strategic alliances internally and externally to promote community and economic development, resulting in an improved quality of life for the citizens of southwest Georgia and beyond.

Guiding Principles
Aspire to Excellence

Albany State University will aspire toward excellence in teaching and learning, thus becoming the first-choice institution for students from southwest Georgia and garnering recognition as a premier southern regional university.

Embrace Diversity

As a historically black institution and led by a highly-diverse faculty and staff, Albany State University will embrace diversity in all its forms – including age, gender identity, race and ethnicity, country of origin, religion, ability level, sexual orientation, and veteran status – and seek to foster a similar acceptance and celebration of that diversity.

Expand Access to Higher Education

As an access institution, Albany State University will promote student success for all by welcoming students from varying levels of academic preparation, keeping costs low, offering flexible class times and instructional modalities, and pairing high student expectations with exceptional mentoring, advising, and tutoring.

Elevate Historically Underserved Populations

Albany State University will recognize and address the many challenges that face African Americans and other students of color, adult learners, first generation students, students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and others from underserved populations, and form strong partnerships with K-12, government agencies, and community outreach organizations to increase access and success rates.

Promote Economic Development

As part of its commitment to teaching and learning, Albany State University will promote economic development in Albany and throughout southwest Georgia by engaging in applied research, aligning its resources in support of identified needs, developing and enhancing academic programs to meet evolving needs, forming broad strategic partnerships, supplying a trained workforce, and fostering a sense of entrepreneurship.

Albany State University's Graduate School Mission

The purpose of the Graduate School at Albany State University is to define and promote excellence in graduate education and the research and scholarly activities associated with it. In concert with the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education and the College of Health Professions, the Graduate School establishes a high standard of intellectual excellence and ensures the application of that standard in discussions, deliberations and decisions about faculty, students, curriculum and research direction. The Graduate School is centered on academic issues and on enhancing scholastic excellence in the recruitment, admission and matriculation of graduate students.

The Graduate School brings an institution-wide perspective to all post-baccalaureate endeavors. It establishes, through its faculty, a set of policies that define excellence in graduate programs, high quality in curriculum, exceptional student selection and rigor in faculty appointments. It defines the minimum standards acceptable for all post baccalaureate work and ensures the observance of both the campus-wide and program- specific standards articulated and approved by the graduate faculty.

Research in the Graduate School plays a central role in expanding scholarship and providing service to Southwest Georgia and the world. Characterized by a multi- disciplinary and holistic approach to learning, graduate research involves students, faculty and applicable stakeholders in addressing policy issues and solving local, regional and global socioeconomic, political and environmental problems. Upon graduation, students will possess the measurable competencies and knowledge required to contribute successfully to their organizations and communities, enhancing their own lives and improving the quality of life and opportunities for others. Publications in scholarly journals and books document the results of research and the improvements made to the quality of life of citizens living throughout Georgia and the Southeastern United States.