

operating funds, the law stipulated that local authorities would need to finance capital construction. In response to local support, the Dougherty County School Board authorized a bond issue of 1.6 million dollars with which to finance the purchase and development of 100 acres of land and the construction of the first five buildings of the college.

In 1965, the Board of Regents appointed Dr. B. R. Tilley to serve as the college's first president, and he would remain in the office until 1989. When doors officially opened in 1966, 620 students enrolled in the new Albany Junior College.

In the following years, the College grew quickly and succeeded in serving both of its primary student populations. Students transferring to four-year institutions typically saw an *increase* in their grade point averages, and career-program students required to take a licensing exam consistently earned among the highest pass rates in the state.

In 1987, the USG removed the word *junior* from all of its two-year institutions. A committee made up of people from the faculty, staff, student body, and community drew upon an Old English word meaning "town by the water" and created the new name, Darton College.

Continuity forms an important part of Darton's history. In 1989, the USG appointed Dr. Peter Sireno to replace the retiring Dr. Tilley. Like his predecessor, Dr. Sireno served the institution for more than twenty years, overseeing a period of intense growth.

As part of its mission to serve its students and the region, Darton College committed to expanding its programs in nursing and the health sciences, expanding to 13 programs. As a result of this and other initiatives, such as the expansion of online programs, enrollment more than doubled after the year 2000. In this period, the campus facilities also grew, including the addition of a 427-seat theater and a massive physical education complex, among other improvements.

In the last decades, Darton developed a thriving campus culture. In response to increased enrollment and interest, the College broke ground on two residence halls. Sports played a major role in student life, drawing students from across the country and around the globe. Between 1998 and 2016, Darton won 48 regional and nine national championships.

In its first 50 years, Darton College evolved to support the needs of a community that was changing in its demography and in its values. The college's first class, in 1966, included no minorities. In its last decade as Darton College, approximately half of the more than 6,000 graduates was minority.

In 2012, upon USG approval of the College's first four-year program, in nursing, the institution's name was again changed, to Darton State College.

## **The New Albany State University**

In the years before the two institutions consolidated, the missions of Albany State University and Darton State College had converged.

Both campuses committed to delivering world-class education with investments in faculty and instructional technology. Each reached out to students local and distant through the creation of online learning platforms. Both emphasized nursing and the health sciences in response to the needs of the population of southwest Georgia. Both schools recognized the needs of non-traditional students and responded with expanded programs and flexible course schedules at the graduate, bachelor, associate, and certificate level. And each campus engaged in the community, creating student learning opportunities off campus and building partnerships with schools, local businesses, and national corporations.

The new Albany State University is committed to sustaining the missions of both of its predecessors, honoring its legacy of service to the African American community and providing access to any citizen seeking a path to education, career enhancement, or personal enrichment.

## **Vision Statement**

Albany State University will be a world-class comprehensive university and a powerful catalyst for the economic growth and development of Southwest Georgia. ASU will be recognized for its innovative and creative delivery of excellent educational programs, broad-based community engagement and public service, and creative scholarship and applied research, all of which enrich the lives of the diverse constituencies served by the University.

## **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.*

## **A. DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES**

Albany State University awards Certificates, the Associate of Arts degree (A.A.), the Associate of Science degree (A.S.), the Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.), the Bachelor of Arts degree (BA), the Bachelor of Science degree (BS), Masters Degrees, and the Education Specialist Degree.

Students who complete the requirements for one of the college transfer programs are awarded either an A.A. or an A.S. degree depending upon their particular program of study. The A.S. degree is also awarded to students who complete a career program in certain health areas. The A.A.S. degree is awarded to students who complete other two-year career programs. Certificates are awarded to students who complete certain planned objectives or programs requiring less than two years of work.

## **Institution Accreditations**

Albany State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Education Specialist Degrees. Contact SACSCOC at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404- 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Albany State University. In addition, Albany State University offers a number of Certifications.

Albany State University is also accredited by:

- Council for Accreditation of Educator Practice (CAEP)
- Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC)
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP)
- Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- Georgia Board of Nursing (GBN)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- American Chemical Society (ACS)
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (FEPAC)
- Network of Schools of Public Policy Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)

\*\*\*Individual colleges and departments also hold memberships in the regional and national professional organizations associated with the respective discipline.\*\*\*

### **Specific programs of study and their accreditors follow:**

**Nursing Programs** – Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 Phone (404) 975-5000 FAX (404)-975-5020. <http://www.acenursing.org/>

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing** - A candidate for accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, Phone: 404-975-5000, Fax: 975-5020