

2005  
FACILITIES INVENTORY  
AND UTILIZATION STUDY

LOUISIANA PUBLIC HIGHER  
EDUCATION FACILITIES

Prepared For  
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by  
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# INTRODUCTION\*

The main objective of the Board of Regents' Facilities System is to develop and then maintain, on an annual basis, facilities and inventory utilization data as a resource for the boards and institutions of higher education in assessing facility requirements and for institutional administrators in making managerial decisions. The intent is to coordinate a variety of personnel, financial, physical plant, and equipment resource data in order to determine facility requirements to accomplish selected goals and objectives and to provide the means for estimating costs to meet these requirements.

The Facilities System is largely based upon electronic data processing systems developed nationally. It employs a standard set of definitions and formats for data collection, thus allowing individual institutions to compare themselves with other institutions.

College and university buildings are a highly visible resource. An institution's image is strongly influenced by architectural quality, building usage, and usage of capital. The suitability of the facilities for the use to which they are being put directly affects the quality of institutional programs. The amount of available building space is directly related to the activities to which the institutions may commit itself.

The importance of the facilities data on financial decisions cannot be over-emphasized. Physical facilities absorb most of an institutions' capital dollars as well as a large portion of its operating dollars. The financial resources of an institution may be drained by inappropriate or inefficient facilities. The decision to construct or purchase new facilities represents a major commitment by an institution, and may define or influence its program offerings and educational environment.

The building inventory of the Facilities System is an index and description of all buildings and rooms at an institution. Building and room data are essential for allocating resources and analyzing use of these resources. The data are also useful for assigning available space as well as planning for future needed space. A current tabulation of information such as gross square feet, assignable areas, building conditions, etc. is the heart of an inventory system. It provides administrative planners with indicators of the general condition of higher education facilities. However, a word of caution: the data reflected in the inventory represents only one point in time—in this study it represents November 2005. Immediately following a utilization study, the data change; new or renovated space may be put into use or other space may be determined to be unusable. Thus, an institution's utilization status is constantly being altered.

The institutions directly impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Delgado Community College, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, LTC - Sidney Collier, LTC-Slidell, LTC - Jefferson, LTC - West Jefferson, Nunez Community College, Southern University New Orleans, SOWELA Technical Community College and University of New Orleans) are excused from the fall facilities reporting requirements.

*\*The LSU Law Center and the Agriculture Sciences Administration data are included in the LSU Baton Rouge statistics. Agriculture experiment station data are not included unless otherwise indicated.*

Notes:

1) Institutions impacted by the Hurricanes\*:

Due to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, the following institutions were either closed, relocated, or significantly curtailed their operations for the fall 2005 semester:

- Delgado Community College
- Louisiana Technical College - 5 campuses: Jefferson, Sidney Collier, Slidell, Sullivan, and West Jefferson
- Nunez Community College
- Southern University New Orleans
- SOWELA Technical Community College
- University of New Orleans

\*Although impacted, since they were successful in reopening and offering a full fall term, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans and McNeese State University were able to participate in the reporting requirements.

2) Fall 2005 reporting requirements:

These impacted institutions were excused from the following Board of Regents fall 2005 reporting requirements:

- Preliminary Enrollment Survey
- Student Credit Hour Reporting System
- Statewide Student Profile System
- Facilities Inventory and Utilization System

3) Caution to users of Regents' published reports:

Data from the impacted institutions will be excluded in the production reports developed from data reported in these reporting systems and published on the Board of Regents' website. Users of these reports are cautioned that totals reported at system, two-year or four-year, and state levels will not include these impacted institutions, and should, therefore, not be used to compare historical data at those same levels. Caution should also be used when comparing fall data reported by: 1) the two institutions impacted by the Hurricanes but able to report fall data - LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans and McNeese State University and 2) the non-impacted institutions that enrolled displaced students (approximately 10,000 statewide).

4) Long-range impacts of Fall 2005-06 reporting cycle:

The effects of the Hurricanes will have a multi-year impact on the ability of the Board of Regents to produce analysis and reports using data submitted for Fall 2005-06. Notices will be posted to subsequent published reports explaining how the data will be reported and cautioning users to be careful when comparing historical data.