

programs at more levels than others. Yet quality is not defined by size, nor is excellence a mere function of the number and levels of programs offered. Although Louisiana's institutions collectively should provide a wide range of programs for the state's system, each institution must also identify its particular strengths in serving the higher education needs of the region and the state.

Traditionally, the basic functions of all institutions of postsecondary education have been identified as instruction, research, and public service. Differences among institutions exist in the level of participation in these functions. From the Board of Regents' statewide perspective, the components of a balanced system of higher education can be simply categorized as (1) comprehensive research universities, (2) specialized units, (3) statewide universities (4) regional universities, and (5) community and technical colleges

A comprehensive research university offers a wide range of programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, but does not usually offer programs below the baccalaureate level. Research is generally directed to the solution of societal problems and the advancement of knowledge. Public service is far-reaching and varietal in nature. Typically, selective admissions and higher tuition characterize the comprehensive research university.

Specialized units often offer academic and community education programs, conduct research, and provide services in a particular field such as agriculture, law or health sciences. Like the comprehensive research university, specialized units which enroll students are typically characterized by selective admissions and higher tuition.

Statewide universities offer a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and masters' levels, with selective offerings at the doctoral level. Research is selective in nature, focusing in those areas of graduate expertise. Typically, moderately selective admissions and higher tuition characterize the state university.

Regional universities offer a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and selected graduate offerings, primarily below the doctoral level. Research is typically related to the institution's instructional mission and is directed to the support of that mission. Public service activities generally emphasize services to the citizens, government agencies, business, and industry located in the region served by the institution. Typically, regional universities use a traditional admission process based on courses completed, GPA, and standardized test scores and are less selective than statewide and flagship universities.