

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



American Presbyterian missionary Sara L. Smith establishes the first school for girls in the Ottoman empire.

1835



Sarah L. Smith's pioneering efforts pave the way toward instituting the American School for Girls.

1904



The Lebanese government grants LAU a license to operate a medical school and a nursing school.

1999

The Pharm.D. program becomes the only one outside the United States to earn accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

2002



The American Junior College for Women (AJCW) is founded with a class of eight students.

1924



The cornerstone of LAU's oldest building, Sage Hall, is laid.

1933



The name of the college is changed to Beirut College for Women (BCW).

1948-1949



After extensive renovations funded by the Safadi Foundation, the Safadi Fine Arts Building in Beirut campus is re-dedicated.

2004



LAU acquires majority holdings of Hôpital Rizk, and begins developing the Lebanese American University Medical Center-Rizk Hospital.

2009

LAU is granted full accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).



The Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine welcomes its first class of students.



The Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York grants BCW a provisional charter.



New buildings are completed and named in honor of early leaders: Frances Irwin, Winifred Shannon and James Nicol.

1950

2010

The School of Engineering's undergraduate programs and the School of Arts & Sciences' B.S. in Computer Science receive accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (www.abet.org).



The Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing welcomes its first class.





The Lebanese government recognizes BCW's bachelor's degrees as equivalent to the French bachelor's degree or License.

1970

The dormitory building is named in honor of BCW presidents Rhoda Orme and Frances Gray.

1965



BCW is granted an absolute charter.



The college becomes co-educational and changes its name to Beirut University College (BUC).

1955

2011-2012

The Frem Civic Center is inaugurated on the Byblos campus.



LAU embarks on Strategic Plan 2011-2016, focused on taking the university to the next level of academic excellence.

LAU acquires Gezairi Transport's former headquarters to host the School of Architecture and Design.



1973

2013

LAU New York is inaugurated in midtown Manhattan.



The B.S. in Nursing is accredited by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE).



The LAU Executive Center@Solidere opens in downtown Beirut.



The board of Regents in New York amends the charter to transform the college into a multi-campus institution.

1985

2014

The Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury Health Sciences Center is inaugurated to host the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing.



Classes begin at the Byblos campus.

1991

2016

The newly named Adnan Kassar School of Business receives accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).



The Board of Regents approves the university's new name of Lebanese American University. The charter is amended to include master's degrees. LAU has four schools: Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering & Architecture, and the School of Pharmacy which is inaugurated this year.

1994

2017

A groundbreaking ceremony kicks off the construction of the Antoun Nabil Sehnaoui - SGBL Athletics Center.



The B.A. in Fashion Design in collaboration with ELIE SAAB celebrates its first graduating class with an acclaimed fashion show.



LAU embarks on Strategic Plan 2017-2022, meant to foster intellectual capital, pedagogical innovation and to position LAU as an entrepreneurial university.