A Historical Timeline: 1835–2009

- **1835**: American Presbyterian missionaries establish the American School for Girls in response to a lack of available education for girls in the region.
- **1924**: The school becomes the American Junior College for Women, with a founding class of eight students.
- **1933**: The cornerstone of LAU’s oldest building, Sage Hall, is laid and the college is moved to its present location in Beirut.
- **1948–49**: The name of the college is changed to Beirut College for Women (BCW).
- **1950**: The Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York grants BCW a provisional charter, allowing it to offer the B.A., A.A. and A.A.S. degrees.
- **1956**: The Board of Regents approves the university’s new name — Lebanese American University. The charter is amended to include master’s degrees. LAU has three schools: Arts & Sciences, Business, and Engineering & Architecture. During this year, the School of Pharmacy also opens.
- **1994**: The charter is amended once again to allow LAU to grant Bachelor degrees in Engineering and Pharmacy, and Doctor of Pharmacy.
- **1996**: The Lebanese government officially recognizes the new name and status.
- **1999**: The Doctor of Pharmacy program becomes the only one outside the United States to earn accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.
- **2002**: The charter is amended to include bachelor degrees in Engineering and Pharmacy, and Doctor of Pharmacy.
1955
BCW’s charter becomes absolute and the college adds B.S. degrees.

1965
The Lebanese government recognizes BCW’s bachelor’s degrees as equivalent to the License.

1970
The college becomes co-educational and changes its name to Beirut University College (BUC).

1973
The Board of Regents in New York amends the charter to transform the college into a multi-campus institution.

1975–1990
Despite low attendance during the civil war, the college maintains operations by holding courses north and south of Beirut.

1985
The college becomes co-educational and changes its name to Beirut University College (BUC).

1991
Courses begin at the Byblos campus.

2005
LAU embarks on a five-year strategic plan based on five pillars: excellence in academic and other facets of university life, student-centeredness, increased role of alumni, promotion of LAU as a major learning center in the region, and effective use of financial resources.

2007
In September 2007, the Board of Trustees at LAU approves the establishment of the School of Nursing.

2009
In October 2009, the School of Architecture and Design opens, grouping architecture, design and fine arts programs under the same school.

2011
The Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine welcomes its first class of students.

2015
The New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC) grants LAU accreditation candidacy status.
The Lebanese American University is a leading private higher education institution in Lebanon, operating under a charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. The university was founded as a women’s college in 1924, and has expanded over the decades alongside the growing educational needs of Lebanon and the Middle East region. Today the university boasts seven schools offering a dynamic range of academic programs taught by highly skilled faculty on two campuses in Beirut and Byblos.

As a nonsectarian institution guided by a deep-rooted sense of shared ethical values, LAU provides access to a superior education attracting students from Lebanon, the Middle East and around the world.

In 2010, the university will see the completion of its five-year Strategic Plan that has focused on fostering excellence in all facets of university life, addressing the multiple needs of students, increasing outreach to alumni, promoting LAU as a major regional learning center, and using financial resources in a well-planned and effective way.

Great progress has been made throughout the university since the plan was unveiled in 2005. Notably, LAU has attained candidacy status for accreditation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, based in the United States.

LAU is governed by a 25-member Board of Trustees that has three primary functions: leadership, stewardship and audit. Consisting of up to 25 members, LAU’s Board of International Advisors acts as an advisor on university policies and provides guidance to the Board of Trustees, president and senior management.

“LAU is committed to academic excellence, student-centeredness, the advancement of scholarship, the education of the whole person and the formation of students as future leaders in a diverse world.”
Campuses

LAU’s green campuses are set on hillside locations by the Mediterranean Sea, with easy transportation access to all areas of Lebanon and the comfort of mild weather throughout the year.

Both Byblos and Beirut campuses offer the same structured programs in arts, sciences and business. The School of Nursing and School of Medicine programs, as well as junior and senior years in degrees at the School of Engineering and School of Pharmacy, are completed on the Byblos campus.

The Beirut campus benefits from an urban setting with direct access to the cultural, social, educational and recreational resources of Lebanon’s capital. It is the site of the university’s foundation and home to three schools — Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, and Business.

The Byblos campus, inaugurated in 1991, has quickly grown to become the seat of six schools — Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Medicine. Other planned additions to this campus are a new library and a civic center.

Both campuses are fitted with free wireless internet access throughout and boast impressive libraries, athletics facilities, residence halls, theaters, IT and computer facilities, laboratories and academic support services.
Academic Programs

LAU offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in various fields of study through seven schools:

- School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Architecture and Design
- School of Business
- School of Engineering
- Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine
- Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
School of Arts and Sciences

The School of Arts and Sciences is home to LAU’s oldest programs, which form the core of the university’s liberal arts tradition. The school is renowned for its expansive list of top-notch academic programs, and diverse and qualified faculty dedicated to developing students’ critical thinking and communication skills. It offers the following degrees:

**Bachelor’s Degrees**

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)** in: Communication Arts (92 credits), Education (95 credits), English (92 credits), Political Science/International Affairs (92 credits), Political Science (92 credits), Psychology (92 credits), Social Work (92 credits), Teaching English as a Foreign Language (95 credits), Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (95 credits)

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** in: Biology (96 credits), Chemistry (92 credits), Computer Science (92 credits), Mathematics Education (93 credits)

**Master’s Degrees**

**Master of Arts (M.A.)** in: Comparative Literature (33 credits), Education (30 credits), International Affairs (30 credits)

**Master of Science (M.S.)** in: Computer Science (30 credits), Molecular Biology (30 credits)

**Special Degree**

**Teaching Diploma (T.D.)** in: Elementary Level (21 credits) Intermediate and Secondary Level (21 credits)
School of Architecture and Design

Fall 2009 marks the first year that LAU has grouped all of its architecture, design and fine arts programs under a newly established School of Architecture and Design. The school is home to the following degree programs previously offered through the former School of Engineering and Architecture and the School of Arts and Sciences:

**Bachelor’s Degrees**

*Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.)* (176 credits)

*Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)* in: Fine Arts (92 credits), Interior Architecture (139 credits)

*Bachelor of Science (B.S.)* in: Interior Design (110 credits), Graphic Design (112 credits)
LAU’s School of Business has grown rapidly to boast the largest number of students of all the university’s schools. Offering undergraduate degrees across nine majors, as well as two M.B.A. programs, the school provides students with highly professional training for leadership roles. The school offers the following degrees:

**Bachelor's Degrees**

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** in: Business Studies (92 credits) with nine different specializations (Accounting, Banking and Finance, Economics, Family and Entrepreneurial Business, Hospitality Management, International Business, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing), Economics (92 credits), Hospitality and Tourism Management (94 credits).

**Master's Degrees**

**Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)** (39 credits)

**Executive Master of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.)** (36 credits)
School of Engineering

The School of Engineering provides its students with a rigorous academic education and a dynamic professional foundation that empower its graduates to lead successful careers in today’s global markets. Previously known as the School of Engineering and Architecture, it was strategically divided into two distinct schools this year, expanding the opportunities available to develop programs while giving students more individual attention. The school offers the following degrees:

**Bachelor’s Degrees**

*Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) in:* Civil Engineering (154 credits), Computer Engineering (153 credits), Electrical Engineering (150 credits), Industrial Engineering (151 credits), Mechanical Engineering (150 credits)

**Master’s Degrees**

*Master of Science (M.S.) (24–30 credits) in:* Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Management
Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine

The LAU Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine opened its doors in September 2009 to students from Lebanon and across the region offering them a medical education in accordance with the highest standards of American medicine. The school has been conceived and designed in collaboration with Partners Harvard Medical International and boasts a forward-thinking and integrated curriculum in which basic and clinical sciences are taught simultaneously throughout the four-year program, along with practical exposure right from the start. The school offers the following degree:

**Doctorate Degree:**
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
The Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010 to undergraduate students from around the world, who seek a strong education and relevant professional experience to meet the persistent need for quality health care.

The school will offer students a comprehensive and intellectually challenging curriculum that emphasizes the science of nursing, providing patient-centered care and ethical practice.

Currently, the school is undergoing a process of recruitment, scouting for the best-educated nursing professionals from around the world, in order to build a team of dedicated faculty that are not only highly qualified but, more importantly, who share our vision of providing compassionate care for the patient.

The school will offer the following degree:

**Bachelor’s Degree:**
**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** in Nursing
School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy prepares students for careers in clinical pharmacy providing them with a thorough understanding of drugs and diseases, in addition to the values intertwined with serving society as caring and ethical professionals. The school offers the following degrees:

**Bachelor’s Degree:**
Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Pharmacy (174 credits)

**Doctorate Degree:**
Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) (23 credits)

LAU’s Doctor of Pharmacy program is the only such program outside of the United States that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.
Libraries

At LAU’s libraries in Beirut and Byblos, the value of traditional resources such as books, journals and other print materials is enhanced and complemented by close to 100 state-of-the-art electronic databases. Approximately 45,000 full-text serial titles available electronically put millions of articles at the fingertips of students, faculty and staff. In addition, library users have access to 55,000 e-books.

Both libraries offer users an integrated service environment, uniting technology and experts. Users can benefit from individual instruction and orientation, to training sessions and research assistance. Through agreements with institutions abroad, the libraries secure on-demand materials that are otherwise unavailable in Lebanon.

Computer facilities include scanners, printers and 146 public computers, in addition to a comprehensive audiovisual collection, and practical teaching sources for education students.

The Beirut Riyad Nassar Library offers a number of special collections, including books and other materials on women’s studies, education, Islamic art and architecture, and the oldest children’s library in Lebanon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library*</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
<th>Print Journals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>258,214*</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byblos</td>
<td>151,700*</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>409,914*</td>
<td>1,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electronic Resources

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Databases</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Journals</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Books</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Approximate figures
With a total of 17 specialized and active centers and institutes, the opportunities for research and training at LAU are endless. These centers and institutes are headed up by renowned faculty and regularly hold conferences, workshops and seminars throughout the year, offering specialized knowledge, access to information and resources, in addition to subject-specific training to students, researchers, faculty and professionals from around the world.

Centers and Institutes

The university’s centers and institutes are:

- Center for Lebanese Heritage
- Center for Program and Learning Assessment (CPLA)
- Cisco Academy Training Center Institute
- Institute of Islamic Art and Architecture
- Institute for Banking and Finance
- Institute of Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation
- Institute of Family and Entrepreneurial Business
- Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies
- Institute for Media Training and Research
- Institute for Migration Studies
- Institute for Peace and Justice Education
- Institute for Water Resources and Environmental Technologies
- Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW)
- Software Institute
- Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC)
- Teacher Training Institute
- Urban Planning Institute

To learn more about any of LAU’s centers and institutes, visit their websites listed at: http://www.lau.edu.lb/academics/index.php.
Held twice yearly at the Beirut campus, LAU’s Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture attracts an increasingly international group of students for two intensive programs — a six-week summer program and a 15-week fall program. SINARC caters to students at all levels of Arabic, from beginner to advanced. Formal Arabic language instruction is complemented with courses on Lebanese dialect, in addition to weekly lectures on topics of current events, politics, history, society and culture, and visits to historical, cultural and tourist sites in Beirut and throughout Lebanon.

For more information, visit: http://www.lau.edu.lb/centers-institutes/sinarc/.
University Enterprise Office (UEO)

The University Enterprise Office at LAU serves the function of offering a strategic advisory and coordination role for the university’s projects throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In addition to providing advisory services to universities in the MENA region, UEO offers the following consulting services: strategy, operations, academic planning, accreditation advisory, enrollment management, and implementation and performance-monitoring services.
Established in 1973, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World is committed to leading academic research on women in the Arab world and empowering women in the region through development programs and education while serving as a catalyst for policy changes regarding women’s rights in the Arab world. An active and widely reputed institute on the study of women in the region, IWSAW facilitates networking and communication, and extends ties with international organizations and universities working on gender issues.

For more information, visit: http://www.lau.edu.lb/centers-institutes/iwsaw/index.html.
Continuing Education Program (CEP)

The Continuing Education Program office at LAU offers courses, diplomas and certificate programs that provide academic, technical and professional training for students and professionals. Through tailored courses at flexible times, the CEP’s offerings are complementary to the curriculum of degree programs at LAU. Attracting a lot of young and mid-career professionals who are interested in enhancing their skill set. CEP promotes professional practice in continuing education and responds to training needs in demand. Many courses and certificate programs are run on campus after working hours.

For more information, visit the CEP website at: http://studentaffairs.lau.edu.lb/cep.php.
LAU’s student body, characterized by diversity and community spirit, constitutes one of the university’s chief assets. More than 80 nationalities — and all of Lebanon’s confessional groups — are represented on both campuses. Student achievements continuously enhance the university’s reputation locally and internationally. At the end of the fall term of the 2008–2009 academic year, a total of 7,214 students were enrolled at LAU.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Number of Students*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>5,117</td>
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<td>Byblos</td>
<td>2,097</td>
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</table>

* End of fall 2008 figures

Students

### Students

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<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* End of fall 2008 figures

### Students by School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Beirut Campus</th>
<th>Byblos Campus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>1,741</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>2,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>3,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Architecture</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,117</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>7,214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* End of fall 2008 figures
A testament to LAU’s reputation for excellence is found within the growing numbers of international students that the university attracts. In the 2008–2009 academic year, an extraordinary 19 percent of the student population was international, representing 81 different nationalities in the fall 2008 term, and 79 different nationalities in the spring 2009 term. With the new leading schools of Medicine and Nursing as well as the renowned Pharmacy programs, this number is set to further increase considerably.
As part of its strategic plan, LAU is raising the standards of faculty qualifications. Of 217 full-time faculty members, 75 percent hold doctorates or highest degrees in their fields. Around 51 percent of Ph.D.s hold degrees from the United States, 30 percent from Western Europe, 2 percent from Australia and South Africa, and 17 percent from Lebanon and other Arab countries. The university’s faculty body is further characterized by diversity: 53 percent are Lebanese, 37 percent dual nationals and 10 percent are non-Lebanese foreigners. An impressive 40 percent of full-time faculty members are women. The approximate student to faculty ratio on both campuses is 17:1 (full-time equivalents for spring 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONALITY</th>
<th>% (SPRING 2009)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanese</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual-nationality</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender

  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 40%
LAU is one of Lebanon’s largest private employers with 471 full-time staff members working together to support the functioning of one of the fastest growing universities in the region. Through key service areas that include student enrollment management, information technology, advancement, administration, human resources and marketing and communications, the university’s staff has been growing in numbers year-on-year, attracted by a positive work environment and excellent employee benefits scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Full-Time Staff Members by Gender</th>
<th>2008-2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In its efforts to promote academic excellence, LAU provides a comprehensive financial aid program that rewards academic performance and supports financial need. Each eligible student benefits from a financial aid package corresponding to the combined rating of his/her academic and financial status. Financial aid is granted in the form of merit scholarships, work-aid, loans and grants. During the 2008–2009 academic year, 476 LAU students benefited from USAID. For the academic year 2009–10, LAU has increased its financial aid budget by five percent, to reach $14.29 million, which will be granted to around 2,000 students.

In terms of scholarships, 54 students received Merit Scholarships in the 2008–2009 academic year — a number that has almost doubled for the 2009–2010 academic year with 90 Merit Scholarships awarded in the fall of 2009. Similarly, the number of MEPI Grants has increased significantly, from six awarded in the 2008–2009 academic year to 22 awarded in the fall of 2009. In addition, 200 incoming LAU students have been awarded a new Entrance Scholarship in the fall of 2009.
Tuition

The average undergraduate tuition is $13,110 per year, and the average graduate tuition is $10,255 per year. Please note that tuition varies depending on the degree program.

Budget

The university’s operating budget for 2009–2010 is $105,304,000, a significant increase from the 2008–2009 operating budget of $99,866,000, reflecting the continued growth and expansion of LAU. Funding comes from tuition and students fees, private gifts, government grants, fundraising and endowment income.
Alumni

LAU has close to 30,000 alumni around the world. Twenty-nine vibrant and active alumni chapters maintain ties with the university and foster networking among generations of LAU graduates. Alumni are offered a number of benefits and services from LAU and are regularly invited to participate in a range of dedicated events, including reunions, homecomings, conferences, lectures, dinners, and social gatherings. Members of the university’s active Alumni Association also have access to certain LAU facilities and participate in alumni elections.

* The School of Pharmacy and the School of Engineering and Architecture have separate alumni chapters.

Alumni chapters* exist in:

- Abu Dhabi
- Aleppo
- Amman
- Athens
- Bahrain
- Beirut
- Byblos
- Damascus
- Detroit
- Dubai and Northern Emirates
- Eastern Province, KSA
- Florida
- Jeddah
- Kuwait
- London
- Los Angeles
- Montreal
- New England
- New York/New Jersey
- Northern California
- North Lebanon
- Oman
- Ottawa
- Qatar
- Riyadh
- Toronto
- Washington, D.C.
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