

# University Common

Master plan to guide development of prime property

**U**niversity-owned property between Johnston Street and Eraste Landry Road could someday be an oasis of lush landscaping that helps Lafayette and Acadiana develop as a regional technology center. • That's the conclusion of UL Lafayette's Community Design Workshop, which has

produced a master plan for a 400-acre tract that encompasses UL Lafayette athletic facilities, University Research Park, Blackham Coliseum, the Cajundome and a new Convention

Center. That area has been named University Common.

At first glance, the connection between vegetation and technology may seem tenuous. But Tom Sammons, director of the Workshop, said an emphasis on landscaping acknowledges that working and living environments have become more important, as technology enables companies and workers to conduct business "anywhere, anytime."

According to the Workshop's final report, "That translates into work in a less structured environment, where what is needed to find a solution to a problem is a good break – a vigorous walk, a short run, a burst on a bike – rather than a nose pressed harder against a grindstone."

The Community Design Workshop took on the project last summer after Sammons met informally with Dr. Linda Vincent, dean of UL Lafayette's College of Applied Life Sciences, and Gregg Gothreaux, president and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority, a University Research Park tenant. Vincent had visited several universities, research institutes

and communities as she explored ways to enhance UL Lafayette's Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Johnston Street. Gothreaux had expressed interest in the creation of a community garden.

"I thought we ought to think of this as a total piece of property," Sammons said. "The idea was to use the garden as kind of a connecting device for all of it."

Project boundaries are: south, Johnston Street; west, the parking lot

of University Medical Center on Bertrand Drive; north, Eraste Landry Road; and east, a series of residential neighborhoods. The tract is bisected by West Congress Street. Much of the area between West Congress Street and Eraste Landry Road is undeveloped.

The master plan proposes "the organization of new research, athletic and entertainment facilities around a series of garden spaces that reflect both the Prairie (south of West Congress) and the Wetlands (north of West Congress), both indigenous topographies in this area."

In the "Prairie," proposed new research and greenhouse buildings would enable the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center to expand. Other possibilities include an interpretive center that could introduce visitors to the prairie; a new LSU Extension Office; and an extensive "labyrinth garden," with fountains and trails. Intramural recreation fields would be moved to the area and a footpath added. Also proposed: a parking tower by the Cajun-



# Communities Benefit From Students' Best Work

The UL Lafayette School of Architecture's Community Design Workshop has compiled an impressive list of projects since its inception in 1994.

It's composed of fourth-year architecture students who get "real world" experience by conducting urban design projects, from start to finish. In the past, for instance, the workshop has:

- developed plans to revitalize the Oil Center in Lafayette and downtown Opelousas, La.;
- created a master plan for the town of Carencro, La.;
- proposed redevelopment of a Simcoe Street neighborhood;
- offered urban design projects for the city of Breaux Bridge, La.;

- helped Lafayette's Downtown Development Association develop an urban code;

- assisted local planning organizations draw up plans for a five-lane, north-south beltway for Lafayette Parish; and

- developed a comprehensive plan to improve Johnston Street in Lafayette.

Students follow the same process for each project. First, they set up an office in the area they will study. They then venture into the neighborhood, familiarizing themselves with their surroundings. Early on, they conduct *charettes*, which are public meetings that give people who live and work in the area a



Gateway at corner of Cajundome Boulevard and Johnston Street.

chance to express ideas and concerns. They then offer concrete, realistic recommendations, which are illustrated with computer-generated graphics. ■

dome and a pedestrian underpass that would connect the "prairie" side with the "wetlands" side.

In the "Wetlands," an additional University research complex would be developed. A special feature: a water garden with a semicircular amphitheater and pavilion. A hotel will be constructed and the proposal calls for the addition of a restaurant.

Across Cajundome Boulevard, there are

plans for "Presidential Grove, a research park with a defined central court planter with Live Oaks," the report states. "The Live Oaks are a continuation of the century-old tradition of

*continued on page 4*

## COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP "UNIVERSITY COMMON"

### Students

Scott Archer  
Tonya Baker  
Brent Baumbach  
Chris Chebul  
Douglas Gauthier  
Russ Hogan  
Bill Keeley  
Miguel Lasala  
Michael Sansovich  
Kevin Steward

### Faculty

Tom Sammons,  
Director  
Eddie Cazayoux  
Hector Lasala  
George Loli  
Jean Edwards



## Dean's Wildflower Plan May Take Root

In June, UL Lafayette will apply for grants to establish a bike path and wildflower seedbank project that would enable the university to become Louisiana's seed bank for native wildflowers.

The bike path would be on the east side of Cajundome Boulevard, from the National Wetlands Research Center to the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Johnston Street.

"There would be plots of wildflowers all along the paths," said Dr. Linda Vincent, dean of the university's College of Applied Life Sciences. "In addition to being beautiful, those plots would be, in a sense, research plots that are generating seeds for native wildflower multiplications."

The University of Northern Iowa is a model for UL Lafayette. Several years ago, Iowa's legislature mandated that state highways be lined with native wildflowers. The University of Northern Iowa became the state seed bed.

In addition to contributing to a desirable quality of life in University Common, a major wildflower project would benefit tourism, Vincent said.

"Wildflower plots attract a tremendous number of visitors," she said. In Iowa, for instance, she toured the Neal Smith Prairie Learning Center. Although the center is about 30

miles from the Interstate, it attracts about 100,000 visitors per year. A site visited in Missouri attracts about 70,000 visitors a year.

Vincent described wildflower seeds and plants as "the hottest selling souvenirs" in Iowa and Missouri.

If the wildflower project blossoms



Garden Path at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

at UL Lafayette, Vincent will seek a \$750,000 grant to renovate the former university-owned creamery - now abandoned - adjacent to Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Johnston Street. Display and retail space could be included, since Lafayette has a year-round growing season.

"We hope to sell cut wildflowers there," Vincent said. All funds generated by the sale of flowers and plants

would be plowed back into the project.

The National Wetlands Research Center already has a prairie restoration project in which native seeds are planted in areas that have been damaged. "We hope to become its seed bed, too," Vincent said.

The UL Lafayette wildflower project could attract tourists who are interested in other aspects of the environment. For example, Vincent said she was surprised to learn that bird watching has become one of the top tourism attractions in the United States. Acadiana offers plenty of great locations for bird watching, including the UL Lafayette Crawfish Center at the university's Experimental Farm in Cade, La.

"Eco-tourism" has recently received media attention. For instance, a headline in the Feb. 28, 2003, issue of *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper, stated: "Ecosystems could be tourism cash cow." It accompanied an article about a recent speech Louisiana Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco gave to business and community leaders in the Delta parishes.

"Visitors tell us all the time that they want more outdoors destinations and we have a wealth of natural resources in Louisiana to fulfill that need," Blanco said. ■



A wetlands water garden, with a semicircular amphitheater and pavilion, is proposed for a tract that's north of the Cajundome.

establishing these trees as landmarks on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus." Also proposed: a "healing garden" and another research complex organized around a "formal central court."

Gateways will help mark University Common. At the intersection of Cajundome Boulevard and West Congress Street, for instance, the plan proposes "a series of gateways to define and mark each of the corners of the intersection. In the plan, each corner element represents a quarter-circle."

Gothreaux said University Common can offer "what young, aggressive, often technology-oriented people dream about, in terms of an environment." That includes entertainment; athletic and health care facilities; and a high-tech infrastructure. Restaurants and residential areas are within walking distance.

"University Common has almost all the elements you would want in a total 'work, play, live' environment," Gothreaux said.

Sammons noted that the master plan is especially significant because University Common presents an opportunity for UL Lafayette "to visually portray itself to the public as an academic leader in the city, region and state." ■

# Dorm Demolition

'We lost a piece of history today'

**H**undreds of onlookers were on hand for the implosion of two men's dormitories that had been vacant for years. • McCullough Dorm, at the intersection of Girard Park Drive and Lewis Street, and Voorhies Dorm, on Lewis Street near Johnston Street, were leveled in a matter of minutes on the morning of Feb. 1. • Legacy Park, a 468-bed student residence facility, will be constructed on

the site where McCullough Dorm once stood.

Raymond Blanco, UL Lafayette's vice president for Student Affairs, pushed a red button to symbolically detonate 85 pounds of explosives placed in McCullough. A few seconds later, nine staccato booms split the air and the seven-story brick building dropped, beginning at the north end, in a wave-like motion. A huge ball of brown dust filled the air, then floated toward Girard Park.

Blanco was a USL football coach when McCullough Dorm was built in 1963. He has vivid memories of opening its doors for the first time. McCullough hadn't been occupied since the spring 2001 semester.

"This is a very emotional day for me," he said, a few minutes after it was demolished. "We lost a piece of history today, but at the same time, I know that this is ushering in a new stage of living on campus."

Only a few minutes after McCullough fell, Stacy Stiel, a hospitality management major from Franklin, La., detonated explosives in Voorhies Hall. She had won the chance to push the button

in a raffle sponsored by the UL Lafayette housing office.

After a series of booms, the seven-story red-brick dorm collapsed in place, producing another huge cloud of thick, brown dust.

"That's the most destruction I've ever caused in two minutes," Stiel told a *Daily Advertiser* reporter.

Voorhies had not been occupied since the spring 2000 semester.

At least four of eight units of Legacy Park are expected to be open by the Fall 2003 semester.

William Crist, director of UL Lafayette's Physical Plant Department, said weather will be a factor, but university officials are optimistic that the \$15.2 million project will stay on track.

Legacy Park will provide students with apartment-style housing and modern amenities, such as Internet and cable modem connections in each room.

Each unit will have washers and dryers and each bedroom will have a private bathroom. There will be 468 parking spaces.

The removal of McCullough Dorm rubble was delayed for a few days in February due to bad weather.

Lightning, not rain, was the culprit, Crist said. Workers customarily wet debris at demolition sites to keep dust to a minimum. "So, they don't mind working in the rain because it just simplifies their job, but as soon as the lightning would start, they would have to stop."

It took workers only a day to take down long-abandoned E. A. Martin Cafeteria, which was next to McCullough. The company used a piece of heavy equipment that Crist said resembles a mechanical dinosaur.

"It just ate the building up," he said. "It was a sight to see, almost as impressive as the implosion." ■



Seven-story Voorhies Dorm was reduced to rubble on Feb. 1.

DOUG DUGAS

# University College

'A bridge to higher education'

**A**lthough Traci Aucoin has served as director of University College for almost a year, she's still a little amazed at how easy it can be to attend UL Lafayette. • University College is a division of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette that assists nontraditional students and handles nontraditional programs. It's the place that can help people take their first steps toward a degree or continue their education. • "We try to remove barriers, so that qualified high school graduates of any

age can find a UL Lafayette course that fits their needs," she said. "We describe University College as a bridge to higher education."

For example, through special admissions, University College can sometimes waive requirements, such as transcripts and standardized test scores. That's helpful for someone who has never attended a university, wants to give it try, but is a bit apprehensive because he doesn't know what to expect.

Nontraditional students include:

- non-degree seeking graduate and undergraduate students;
- university faculty and staff;
- senior citizens;
- students enrolling under selected sponsorship by corporate or governmental agencies; and
- teachers who are pursuing certification.

Nontraditional academic programs include:

- evening courses;
- online courses;
- off-campus courses;
- contract courses;
- on-site courses;
- summer short courses;

- independent study courses; and
- courses offered under the academic department of Continuing Education.

Here's a quick look at some of the programs offered by University College.

## ENTRÉE

A graduate admission program for adult, professional, non-degree seeking students. It's designed for people who have already earned an academic degree, but would like to take classes to increase their professional expertise, earn certification in a field of professional education or just want to take a course for enjoyment. It's not, however, appropriate for anyone who wants to make progress toward a graduate degree or plans to enter a graduate degree program.

## ON SITE

If you are unable to go to campus, UL Lafayette can go to you. On site courses are taught by UL Lafayette professors and can be scheduled the same way as on-campus classes.

College-level classes are offered to high school seniors, for instance, at all

public high schools in Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia parishes. Other courses are provided at locations in New Iberia, Crowley, Breaux Bridge, Baldwin and Abbeville.

Soon, the University College On Site business program will take higher education to the workplace. Employees can earn college credit, while employers benefit from affordable high-quality training.

## ON LINE

On line courses are web-based courses rather than traditional face-to-face courses.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

Anyone who's at least 60 years old is eligible for a significant tuition discount. UL Lafayette even offers some courses at local senior centers.

## DOORS

Through its Diversified Opportunities for Older and Returning Students program, University College offers special admission to high school grads who are at least 21 years old. Applicants are admitted to the university as non-degree seeking students. A maximum of 15 semester hours of credit earned in non-remedial courses may later be applied toward a degree at UL Lafayette.

"Once someone begins taking classes at UL Lafayette, they often find they want to continue. Three hours of credit turns into six and that turns into 18 and they're on their way," Aucoin said.

For more information about what University College offers, please phone (337) 482-6729 or log on to [www.louisiana.edu/Academic/UniversityCollege](http://www.louisiana.edu/Academic/UniversityCollege) or send e-mail to [universitycollege@louisiana.edu](mailto:universitycollege@louisiana.edu) ■

CAJUN CULTURE HAS evolved to the extent that there's now a "blue collar Cajun" majority and a "white collar Cajun" minority.

That's the premise of *Blue Collar Bayou, Louisiana Cajuns in the New Economy of Ethnicity*.

It's co-authored by Jacques M. Henry, an associate professor of sociology at UL Lafayette, and Carl Bankston, an associate professor of sociology at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Cajun ethnicity may have developed from and consisted of the French-speaking, rural poor of Louisiana, but a "substantial minority" has risen to the middle class, they contend. The result is more complicated problems of adjustment and role definition. Relationships with friends and family who are still part of the working class are also affected.

Henry and Bankston introduce the concept of an "economy of ethnicity," proposing that blue collar and white collar Cajuns draw on images and ideas from a "reconstructed past" to understand current conditions and changes in their community.

*Blue Collar Bayou* was published by Praeger, a division of Greenwood Publishing Group.

ONGOING DEBATES ABOUT POPULAR weight-loss diets have left some consumers craving facts.

*The Nutritionist, Food, Nutrition and Optimal Health* can help satisfy

that hunger for information. Written by Robert E. C. Wildman, an associate professor of nutrition at UL Lafayette, it provides an overview of basic concepts related to nourishing the human body.

An organized and progressive first-person, question

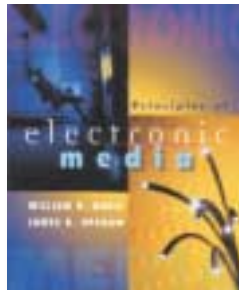


and answer format makes it easy to read. Topics include energy nutrients, vitamins, minerals, energy metabolism, body composition, exercise, heart disease, and free radicals and oxidation.

"The reader will discover significant information for personal use on how to lead a healthy lifestyle," states Denis M. Medeiros, professor and head of the Department of Human

Nutrition at Kansas State University, Manhattan, in a review of the book.

*The Nutritionist* was published by The Haworth Press, Inc.



UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY spot some familiar names in *Principles of Electronic Media*.

Co-authors William R. Davie, an assistant professor of communication at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and James R. Upshaw, KEZI Distinguished Professor of Broadcast Journalism at the University of Oregon, introduce basic concepts and present emerging changes in the field. They also present direct testimony from working professionals – including some in Acadiana – to illustrate and reinforce media principles and practices.

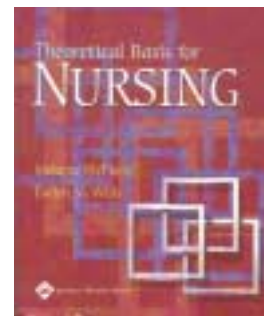
For instance, Ed Bowie, executive director of Acadiana Open Channel, Lafayette's public access cable channel, is featured. Also included are: 1994 USL alumna Heidi Constantine, now a media lawyer in Manhattan; Steve Creeden, manager of Cox Communications, Lafayette's cable television company; and Ashton Langlinais, president of WOW Technologies, a website development firm in Lafayette.

In the book's introduction, the co-

authors explain that they concentrated on key principles "not only to show how they work, but also, sometimes, to point out when they conflict with what we may reasonably expect from the media . . . ."

"Our goal is to lead students into deeper understanding of what these institutions are, who runs them, why and to what effect."

*Principles of Electronic Media* was published by Pearson Education, Inc.



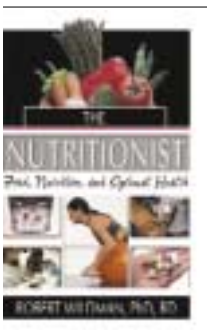
UNDERGRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION concentrates on knowledge and skill.

At the master's level, however, students learn about major nursing theorists and adopt a theoretical framework to guide their study.

"The problem with nursing is that it's such a complex discipline that it doesn't lend itself to small theories," said Evelyn Wills, a professor of nursing at UL Lafayette. As a result, some graduate students, who have focused for years on learning facts, honing critical thinking skills and becoming technically proficient, don't embrace the study of nursing theory.

So Wills and Melanie McEwen, an associate professor of nursing at Baylor University, co-authored *Theoretical Basis for Nursing*, an introductory theory book published by Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. It uses case studies, learning activities and clearly presented tables of data to help engage graduate students.

In a review, Mary Ellen Wurzbach, a professor of nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, described *Theoretical Basis for Nursing* as "an excellent summary of the entire range of nursing theory." ■



## Lab Improvements Help Prepare Future Nurses



AS TECHNOLOGY rockets ahead, UL Lafayette's College of Nursing is making sure its students aren't left behind.

It's upgrading its Learning Resource Center in Wharton Hall. Improvements dovetail with recent curriculum changes that emphasize the use of a variety of computer hardware and software.

"In the real world of nursing practice, nurses utilize technology more and more today. So, the more our students can incorporate advanced technology in their studies, the better prepared they are going to be as graduates," said Dr. Gail Poirrier, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

First-semester freshmen are introduced to technology in Nursing 101. "It gets them into PowerPoint® presentations. It gets them into all the different types of computer systems that nursing practice utilizes. Then, throughout the curriculum, they have to apply all of that knowledge within each course as they advance," she said.

The number of computers in the Learning Resource Center has grown from 25 to 60. Eight intravenous catheter simulator stations, which are based on virtual reality technology, have been added.

UL Lafayette recently purchased some highly sophisticated patient simulators. It was the first university in

Louisiana to provide that type of training.

Many of the advancements have been funded with Student Technology Enhancement Program grants totaling almost \$300,000. STEP funding is generated by a campus-wide, self-assessed student technology fee.

Poirrier said the college is committed to providing up-to-date technological resources.

"We produce some of the best graduates in the state. We will match our students against any in the country. I think they deserve the very best teaching and learning labs that we can give them."

## Lafayette Leaders To Receive Honorary Ph.D.s

THREE LAFAYETTE MEN who have made "an indelible mark" on UL Lafayette will be awarded honorary doctorates during Commencement ceremonies May 23, Dr. Ray Authement announced.

They are Clay Allen, William "Bill" Fenstermaker and Matthew "Matt" Stuller.

The Lafayette businessmen and civic leaders served as co-chairs of the university's *Investing in Our Future* Centennial Campaign, which increased the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's total gifted assets to almost \$100 million.

"Their efforts and success are most significant as we look into the future with declining state and federal support for higher education, primarily because of budget reductions nationwide," said Authement, president of UL Lafayette. "They have made it possible for us to continue to make progress in academics and research that will benefit students and the region."

Allen is a managing partner of Allen & Gooch law firm, where he specializes in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions. He is a past chairman of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and has served as a board member for numerous civic organizations and service groups.

Fenstermaker is president of

C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, a firm of professional land surveyors, civil engineers and environmental consultants. Like Allen, Fenstermaker supports the Acadiana community, serving on numerous boards for various organizations such as United Way and the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

Stuller is founder and chief executive officer of Stuller Settings, one of the largest jewelry manufacturing and distributing firms in the United States. He is an avid supporter of many service agencies in Acadiana, including Faith House, the Children's Shelter, The Well and St. Joseph's Diner.

## Building Name Expands to Honor Popular Professor



THE BUILDING that houses UL Lafayette's Honors Program has a new name.

Formerly Judice Hall, it's now Judice-Rickels Hall. The name honors the family of Alcide Judice, a Scott businessman and philanthropist, and Milton Rickels, a UL Lafayette educator and civil rights activist.

"By dedicating this building to them today, we are not only recognizing their dedication to education but we are also saying thanks for their giving natures," said Dr. Ray Authement, UL Lafayette president, during a rededication ceremony in October.

Judice-Rickels Hall was constructed in 1927 as a boys' dormitory.

Through the years, it served as apartments for married students, as a dorm for University Police student officers, and as editorial offices for *The Vermilion*, the student newspaper. It became the home of UL Lafayette's Honors Program in 2001, following extensive renovation.

The building was originally named for the family of Judice, who helped establish Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now known as UL Lafayette) in Lafayette at the turn of the century, and his son, Louis Leo Judice, president of the Lafayette Parish School Board from 1923 to 1941.

Rickels, a professor of English, taught classes in world literature, American humor, American realism, Mark Twain, comparative literature and American poetry from 1957 to 1986. He died in 1998.

Rickels' wife, Patricia, is director of UL Lafayette's Honors Program.

"I am particularly pleased for Milton's contributions to be recognized. I may be prejudiced, but I believe he was the finest scholar-teacher the university ever had. He gave so much and never let it show what it cost him to do so," she said.

## New Teachers Backed By Guarantees



**H**OW MUCH CONFIDENCE does UL Lafayette have in teachers that its College of Education produces?

Enough to offer a three-year warranty for teacher education graduates who are hired by schools in eight Acadiana parishes: Lafayette, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion and Acadia, begin-

ning with the 2002-03 academic year.

"We believe our graduates are prepared to teach – and teach well," said Dr. Jeanette Parker, PK-16+ Coordinator in UL Lafayette's College of Education.

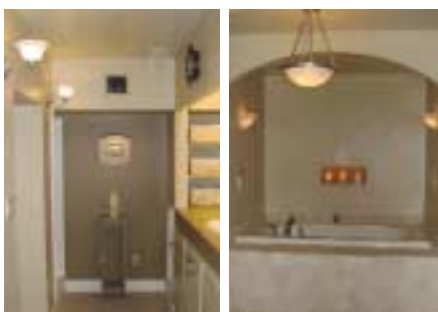
If a new teacher has difficulty meeting state assessment standards within her or his first three years of teaching, UL Lafayette will provide remediation assistance at its own expense, in accordance with contracts it has with area school systems.

"If it means putting that person back in class, we will," Parker said.

She added that the College of Education can offer the guarantee because it doesn't expect any of its graduates to fail to measure up.

The warranty is just one part of UL Lafayette's extensive teacher education redesign. Other changes include increasing the number of hours of classroom experience a student must have before she or he can "student teach" and strengthening the subject-area backgrounds of education majors.

## Interior Design Nabs Top Award In National Contest



**A** RESIDENTIAL "spa and retreat" that features a soaking tub, original art and an oversize steam shower earned a UL Lafayette faculty member a national design award.

Paulette R. Hebert, coordinator of UL Lafayette's School of Architecture's Interior Design Program, placed first in the 2002 Design Educators National Exhibition. She is also director of the university's new Facility Design and Management Studio.

Hebert's design was intended to

create an environment of intimacy, tranquility and permanence. It achieved that by creating vignettes, organization of space and providing privacy. The 445-square-foot "spa and retreat" incorporates candle niches; antique furniture; specialty storage; marble, limestone and alabaster finishes and fixtures; a comprehensive lighting/dimming system; and garden access.

The area features seven framed watercolors painted by Dr. George Loli, an associate professor in UL Lafayette's School of Architecture and Design.

## Math Faculty May Have Solved Algebra Problem

**U**L LAFAYETTE'S math faculty have found a way to help students conquer "Math 105, College Algebra": teach it Monday through Friday.

So they're offering a new course, beginning Fall 2003. "Math 100" is equivalent to Math 105, but students go to class five times a week instead of three times a week.

Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of UL Lafayette's College of Sciences and a math professor, said faculty have already experimented with the extended format. "The success rate for students with weaker backgrounds in math was over 20 percent higher in these experimental sections than in the standard three-hour course," he said. "Similar results have also been achieved by Louisiana Tech in an independent initiative."

A student who has an ACT math score of 21 or higher can take Math 105.

But a student who has a minimum ACT math score of 18, takes a departmental placement exam, or has earned a grade of C or better in Math 92, is eligible to take Math 100.

No one can take both Math 100 and Math 105 for credit. ■

