

# **★ Chapter 7**

## **The Community and Lee College**

# The Community & Lee College

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

To provide quality education to service area residents, Lee College offers educational services for students who find it difficult to attend classes on the main campus. Instructors are selected from full-time faculty, outstanding area educators, and other professional specialists. Classes are held on the main campus and at off-site locations including the following:

### Lee College at Crosby

Students may enroll in credit and continuing education classes at this up-to-date facility. A state-of-the-art cosmetology facility is available for students and patrons. For more information on this program, call (281) 328-5757. Refer to the class schedules for current offerings.

Lee College at Crosby also provides a full-service wellness/fitness center with certified exercise specialists. Memberships are available for individuals who want to regularly exercise or maintain a fitness program.

Lee College at Crosby is located at 14045 FM 2100, Suite 300 in the Crosby Plaza Shopping Center. Hours are 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. For more information call (281) 328-1111.

### Lee College Huntsville Center

Lee College provides degrees and certificates through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division.

### Lee College at San Jacinto Mall

Lee College offers credit and non-credit classes at the San Jacinto Mall, I-10 and Garth Road, in Baytown. Students who find this location convenient to home or work may enroll in many classes that meet the requirements for their degree plans. Classes are scheduled at convenient times, including early morning, evenings, and weekends. Refer to the class schedules for current offerings or call 281-421-1853.

### Neighborhood College

Classes are scheduled at various locations throughout the Lee College service area, based on the needs of each location, available equipment, and enrollment.

Refer to the current class schedule for a list of available classes.

### Individualized Instruction & Distance Learning

Distance learning provides quality instruction for students along with the convenience of individual scheduling. Many of these classes combine home study with on-campus testing. Lee College offers several options for students who are self-motivated and prefer independent learning.

Distance learning courses offered through the Baytown campus require an orientation with the instructor, either personally or on-line; face-to-face instruction may be required during the first week to acquaint students with instructional software. Except for self-paced sections, courses are completed during a single term with deadlines set by instructors for course assignments and exams.

**Flexible:** The lab portion of the beginning and experienced exercise classes allow students to work out in the Wellness Center at times convenient to their school and work schedules. Students meet with their instructor periodically to review their progress.

**Individualized Instruction:** Two means of individual instruction are provided. (1) Students work independently to study assigned materials, meeting with the instructor periodically. (2) Self-paced sections are available for those students taking computer-assisted developmental math. Like a

regular class, students meet in the computer classroom on a scheduled basis to receive individual instruction from faculty but are able to work at their own pace to meet the course objectives. Those who have completed a sufficient amount of work yet not finished by the end of the term, receive an in-progress grade ("R") and enroll in the course again.

**On-line:** Students generally complete assignments on-line although proctored testing may be required. Instructors and students converse via e-mail on the Internet or by phone. Students may use personal computers or those available on campus. An e-mail address is required.

**Videotape:** Students may view videotapes at the library or rent tapes for personal use. Textbooks and other sources may supplement the video information. Instructors outline procedures and deadlines for assignment completion and testing.

**Virtual College of Texas (VCT):** Through a cooperative agreement, Texas community colleges share on-line, video, and televised offerings. Students register through Lee College and are supported by local counseling, library, tutoring and testing services while they take classes from remote sites. Enrollment procedures are outlined in the class schedule. Testing is provided through the Counseling Center in Moler Hall on the Baytown campus. The VCT Internet site may be accessed at <http://www.vct.org>.

## Lee College Web Page

[www.lee.edu](http://www.lee.edu)

## Weekend College

Lee College offers classes on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for students who, because of professional or family obligations, find those days more convenient. Refer to the current class schedule for locations.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

In keeping with the stated purpose of Lee College, Continuing Education meets the non-credit educational needs of individuals residing in the service area. Public community colleges are mandated by the Texas Education Code, section 130.003(e) to provide "continuing adult education programs for occupational or cultural upgrading." Lee College complies with this requirement by offering about 500 courses each semester that respond to public and community needs and provide learning opportunities without leading to a college degree. These classes are designed to address changing needs of the community whether vocational, avocational, or recreational and may be as short as one session or may continue for a full semester. Courses are designed to begin throughout the year and are conducted at a variety of times and locations. Continuing Education offerings are open to most interested adults regardless of educational background or eligibility for admission to college credit programs. A few of the programs have eligibility requirements. While courses do not apply toward a degree, continuing education units (CEUs) are available for vocational courses.

Continuous registration is available weekdays in the Continuing Education office. Because these programs are self-supporting, course costs to students depend on material and instructor fees. Students desiring courses not presently offered should contact the division at 281-425-6311 to discuss their needs. Schedules of classes are published three times a year and made available to the public.

Continuing Education offerings can generally be categorized in the following areas:

- Adult Education Program
- Business/Professional Development
- Mandatory Continuing Education
- Conference/Teleconference
- Small Business Development
- Community Service/Leisure Learning
- Kids at College Summer Program
- Senior Adult Program

## **Adult Education Program**

As a public service, adult education courses are offered to assist adults in acquiring needed basic skills. The areas of study include English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and General Educational Development (GED). English as a Second Language (ESL) is for adults whose primary language is not English. Adult Basic Education (ABE) is for those adults requiring basic skills in reading, writing and math on the first through eighth grade levels. Adult Secondary Education (ASE), formerly GED, courses are for those who did not receive a high school diploma and need assistance in preparing to take the test to earn a certificate of high school equivalency. Classes in these areas are regularly scheduled throughout the year.

There is a nominal tuition charge for ASE classes per semester but no tuition charge for ESL and ABE classes. For information about class schedules and times, call the Adult Learning Center at (281) 425-6536. Information about GED testing can be obtained from the Lee College Counseling Center at (281) 425-6384.

## **Business/Professional Development Industrial and Contract Training**

Continuing Education places special emphasis on offering training programs which meet the needs of the industrial and professional community. Classes range from introductory courses to software applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and database to desktop publishing, web page design, keyboarding, and bookkeeping. Professional development programs assist both individuals and public agencies in conducting training classes to upgrade management, supervisory, and administrative support staff skills. Contract training is available for business and industries either on-site or at the college campus. Instruction can be provided by Lee College faculty or by experts from a wide variety of sources.

## **Mandatory Continuing Education**

Many professions and state licenses require continuing education units (CEUs) by the license holders prior to re-licensure. Lee College Continuing Education is a provider of such courses as nursing, emergency medical, child care, electricians, and cosmetologists.

## **Small Business Development Center**

The Small Business Development Center at Lee College offers assistance to new and existing businesses at no charge. Clients receive individual consultation on such topics as marketing, sales, accounting, e-commerce, loan preparation, patents and copyrights. Monthly workshops are open to the public for a nominal fee.

The second Wednesday of each month, the SBDC hosts a networking business breakfast at various locations. The SBDC office is located on West Sterling Avenue and has satellite offices in Liberty, Dayton, Winnie, and Crosby. For information on the breakfast or other services of the SBDC, call (281) 425-6309.

## **Community Service/Leisure Learning**

Based upon the philosophy that adults continue to develop intellectually, socially and aesthetically throughout their lives, Lee College provides opportunities for adults to enhance the quality of their lives through avocational activities. Courses are offered in personal development, arts and crafts, home improvement, music, physical fitness, and recreation. These courses are continually being developed and tailored to meet expressed or identified community needs and interests.

## **Kids at College Summer Program**

Each summer Lee College offers special programming for school age children from elementary to high school level. These programs are designed to provide learning opportunities in a casual and fun campus setting. The Kids at College program includes classroom, outdoor and field trip experiences with an emphasis on enjoying the learning process.

## **Summer Camps**

The Continuing Education department holds summer athletic camps for students from K-12 grades in volleyball, basketball, and tennis. Contact the Continuing Education department for schedules.

## **Senior Adult Program**

The Senior Adult Program offers bi-monthly (September through May) programs of interest to senior citizens in the Baytown/Highlands/Mont Belvieu/Crosby area. In addition, there are day trips to cultural, historical and fascinating attractions in the Houston and surrounding area. This department also co-sponsors the week long annual Baytown Area Senior Olympics, holiday parties and out-of-state travel. Participation in any of these activities is open to anyone over the age of 50.

A newsletter, The Senior Citizen *FOCUS*, is made available several times a year. Call (281) 425-6416 for more information.

The College also extends to senior adults in the district, 65 or older, the opportunity to attend college functions, use the Library, and enroll in credit classes on a space available basis at no charge.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Career & Transfer Center (CTC)**

The Career and Transfer Center, located in the Counseling Center in Moler Hall, offers services in four major areas: career exploration; career aptitude assessment; job search preparation; and college transfer.

Additional career resources include job placement services for students and graduates, career counseling, and a variety of workshops.

### **Minority Access Committees**

Since 1986, two volunteer organizations, the Hispanic and the Black Educational Access Committees (HEAC and BEAC) have worked under the leadership of Lee College to coordinate programs which encourage Hispanics, African-Americans and other under-represented groups to pursue an education. These committees, comprised of about fifty members each, have received national recognition. The general mission of each committee is to provide services and activities that encourage educational access to anyone and conduct programs which preserve the heritage of each culture.

Events and programs have included bilingual college planning seminars, financial aid workshops, receptions honoring educators, graduation programs for Hispanic and African-American high school seniors, cooperative programs with other service area organizations and churches, fundraising and scholarship activities, elementary and junior school tutoring and motivational programs, writing and poster contests, and observance and celebrations of respective holidays.

### **Wellness Centers**

The Baytown Wellness Center is located in the Wellness Center and Sports Complex building on the Lee College campus.

### **Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center**

Short-term Lee College Continuing Education courses are offered throughout the year at the Wetlands Center. Some examples are canoeing, water and boat safety, flyfishing, and dancing—country and western, line, and jitterbug.

Located on the banks of Goose Creek across from Robert E. Lee High School on Market Street in Baytown, the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center is operated by the City of Baytown, Lee College and the Goose Creek School District. The center features 5,000 square feet of meeting rooms and laboratory space, as well as 9,000 square feet of open space for the growing of fish and plants and the building of environmental projects. Meeting rooms and the laboratory feature an eight-station computer lab and a teachers' library.

### **Job Placement Services**

Job placement services are offered to current and former students. See page 28 for more information.

# About Lee College

Lee College was established in 1934, and when registration was completed for that first semester, 177 students had enrolled in the inaugural session of Lee Junior College of Goose Creek, Texas. The Board of Trustees of the Goose Creek Independent School District had agreed as early as 1931 that a junior college should be established to provide educational opportunity to students who could not otherwise afford it.

The first graduation was on May 24, 1935, with four women receiving diplomas: Juanita Barrington (Mrs. David Holm), Byrtis Avey (Mrs. Elmer Brinkley), La Del Payne (Mrs. Barney Hillard) and Hudnall Spence (Mrs. Robert Southwick). A 33 percent increase in the fall of 1935 boosted enrollment to 236.

The founders of the college were interested in providing a strong academic curriculum and a comprehensive technical/vocational curriculum. In 1936, the vocational program was initiated. Later, it became known as the Robert E. Lee Institute, Vocational Division of Lee Junior College. No college credit was given for work in the institute until 1941, and it did not become an integral part of the college until 1945, following a two-year period when no technical/vocational courses were offered.

By the mid-1940s, the administration and faculty of the college had become increasingly aware that the college needed its own governing board. In 1945, Walter Rundell, one of the original faculty members, became Dean of Lee College. Dean Rundell became the guiding force behind major developments for the two decades which followed. In 1948, the name was changed to Lee College. In the same year, Lee College gained accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The association urged Lee College to develop a campus facility separate from the high school.

A successful bond election in 1949 led to the completion of the first two buildings, the administration building and the gymnasium. The college moved to the new campus in 1951. Following the move to a separate campus, the growth of the college exceeded the expectations of the leaders, and plans for additional buildings had to be accelerated. A Liberal Arts Building, now Social Sciences, was added in 1958. By 1961, the campus had doubled in size. The library was completed and the gymnasium expanded in 1962. Moler Hall, Technical Vocational Building One, and Bonner Hall followed.

Under the leadership of Dean Rundell, Lee College successfully separated from the local public school district in 1965. On August 18, 1965, Lee College's first Board of Regents, appointed by the public school board, assumed governance of the college.

A significant event in the history of Lee College occurred in 1966, when the college, under the leadership of Dean Rundell and George Beto, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Corrections, began a program of courses in the state's prison system. This program has grown from 182 students that first year to a current enrollment which exceeds 1000 students.

In 1966, Dr. Richard Strahan became the first full-time president of Lee College. Since the separation from the local public school district, the college has had seven presidents: Dr. Strahan, 1966-71; Dr. Raymond Cleveland, 1971-73; Dr. Jim Sturgeon, 1973-76; Dr. Robert Cloud, 1976-86; Dr. Vivian B. Blevins, 1986-1991; Dr. Jackson N. Sasser, 1992-2001, and Dr. Martha M. Ellis, current president.

In 1969, Lee College, in cooperation with two Liberty County school districts, began offering courses at Liberty and Dayton. Another milestone in the history of Lee College was the offering of continuing education courses in 1972. These community-oriented, short-term courses have experienced a dramatic growth in popularity and are further evidence of the flexibility of the community college concept. The College also established a program for senior adults in 1972.

In 1986, Lee College began two new programs to serve not only Lee College's district constituents, but also interested citizens outside the college's service area. The San Jacinto Mall site was the result of cooperation between the mall and the College.

Coordination with local groups led to the formation of the Hispanic Educational Access Committee and the Black Educational Access Committee in the fall of 1986. The work of these committees has received favorable national recognition and has served to encourage educational access to these underrepresented groups.

The Lee College Foundation, established in 1968 to provide scholarships to deserving Lee College students, today has assets of more than \$3.5 million and provides more than 275 scholarships each year.

In order to provide funds and volunteers to support educational programs, the Friends of Lee College was founded in late fall of 1986. This group of community volunteers, under the leadership of John B. Tucker, has raised more than \$2 million to support College programs and has had a major impact on facilities and programs.

A focus on economic development resulted in the Small Business Development Center being opened in 1987. In response to needs of local industries, Lee College began to institute new industrial programs and to revise existing ones.

Obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing became possible through an agreement with the University of Texas School of Nursing at Galveston in 1987 for registered nurses in the area.

A successful bond election in 1988 enabled the college to initiate a construction program which featured a new science building, a lecture hall, and major renovations to several campus facilities.

The 711 West Texas property, acquired in 1990, was renovated to house a performing and fine arts complex in addition to an allied health suite named the McNulty-Haddick Complex in honor of Alma Haddick and her husband Luther.

In February 2000, local voters passed a \$20 million bond election to build a new advanced technology center/library, a completely renovated gymnasium and newly constructed sports/wellness complex. Other renovations and additional parking were also included.

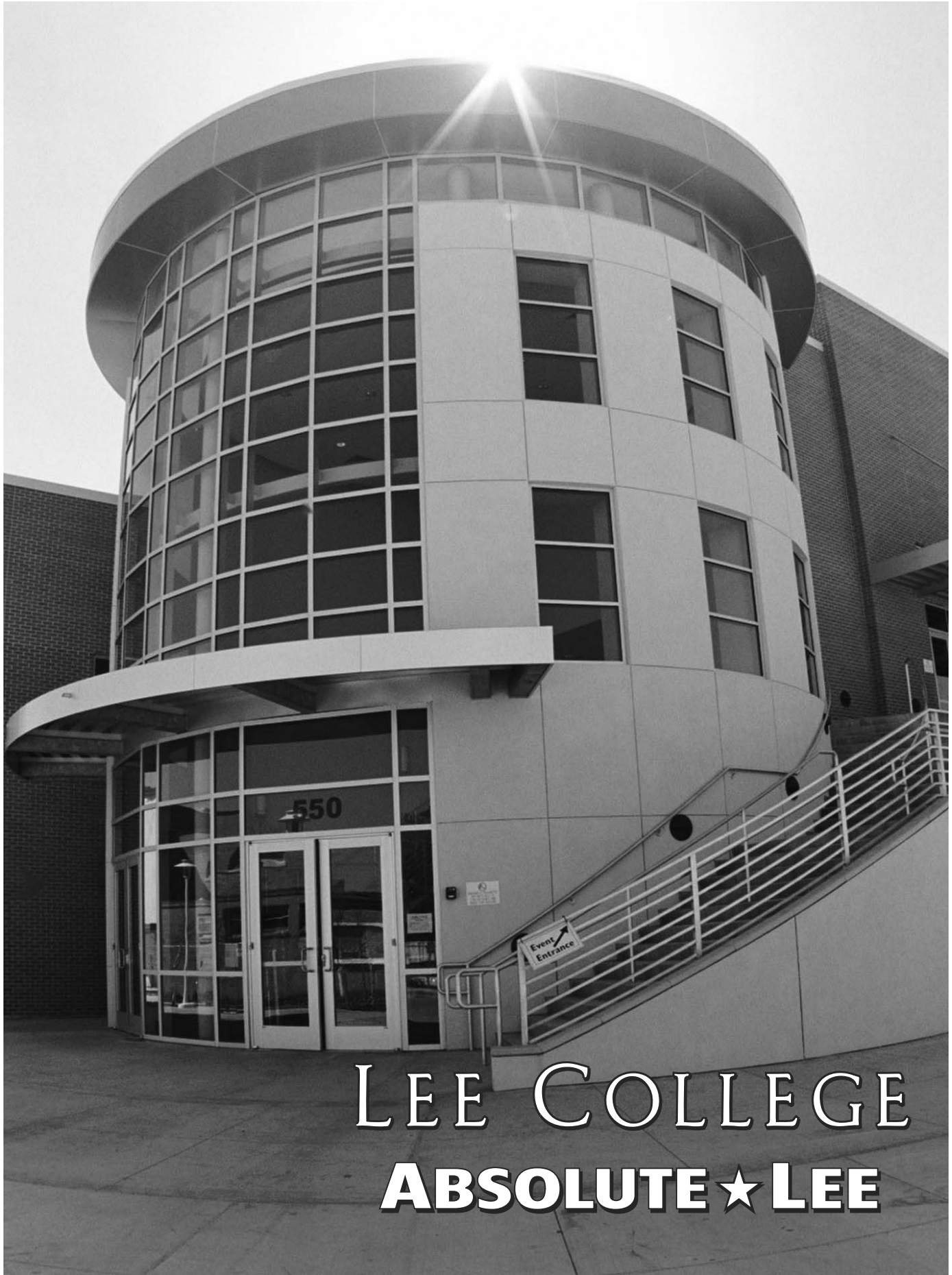
Today over 9,000 Lee College students are enrolled in academic, technical education, and non-credit continuing education programs each semester. Basic education is available for those seeking to improve skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and language in addition to a regionally acclaimed honors curriculum.



## Lee College Setting and Facilities

Lee College is a public community college, located in Baytown, approximately thirty miles east of Houston.

The College is situated on an attractive 40 acre campus. The buildings are complemented by lighted tennis courts, a Sports Complex including an arena and a multigenerational wellness center, with racquet ball courts and a heated swimming pool, and a newly completed Advanced Technology Center and Library. Moler Hall, at the campus center, also houses the admissions office, counseling center, college bookstore, and snack bar. A 25,000 square foot newly renovated Student Center provides meeting space for student organizations, recreational and study areas as well as a cyber cafe with gourmet coffee and Internet access.



LEE COLLEGE

**ABSOLUTE ★ LEE**

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