LAC Campus History

University of Southern Maine Lewiston-Auburn College was created in response to the concern and insistence of local community leaders who stressed the importance of having a public university located in Maine’s second-largest metropolitan area. What started out as “a project designed to provide an increased educational presence in the Lewiston area” (Board of Trustees, 1983) led to the opening of Lewiston-Auburn College in 1988. It then became one of the seven major academic units of the University of Southern Maine, and has evolved into a campus with a reputation for strong interdisciplinary programs and a student-centered environment. From its very inception, the College has been integrally linked to the needs and aspirations of the greater Lewiston-Auburn region.

A unique feature of Lewiston-Auburn College is its interdisciplinary undergraduate majors: Arts & Humanities, Leadership & Organizational Studies, Natural & Applied Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. In response to community needs, the College added Master’s Degree programs in Occupational Therapy and Leadership Studies. Also in response to local demand, a Nursing program from USM College of Nursing and Health Professions and a Literacy Education major from the College of Education & Human Development has been “imported” to the campus.

The Franco-American Collection (an archive of materials dedicated to preserving the local Franco-American history and culture) and the Atrium Gallery (an art exhibit area in the main entrance area that showcases at least five major art exhibits each year) are also housed in the building.

Commons @ LAC History

In 2008, the wall between the library and the adjacent computer lab was removed to create an inviting space for students to study, research, or use computers in a wireless environment. Group study spaces, new computers and furniture, a centralized help desk, and a computer classroom for library instruction now make up the new Commons @ LAC.