

GENERAL INFORMATION

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, a public institution of higher education, awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Situated on a coastal island, the University's modern campus serves a diverse population of approximately 10,000 students. The University is a member of The Texas A&M University System.

INSTITUTIONAL VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

Vision

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to becoming one of the leading centers of higher education in the Gulf of Mexico region while serving the intellectual, cultural, social, environmental and economic needs of South Texas. As a result, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi will invigorate and strengthen the region and state through its educational programs, research initiatives and outreach efforts.

Mission

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is an expanding, doctoral-granting institution committed to preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service. Our supportive, multicultural learning community provides undergraduate and graduate students with a challenging educational experience. The university's federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) provides a foundation for closing educational gaps, while its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America provides a basis for gaining national and international prominence.

Institutional Principles

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to the realization of its vision, the accomplishment of its mission, and the attainment of its goals by:

- recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse highly qualified student body, faculty and staff.
- establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility.
- fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment, and expression.
- ensuring respectful, fair, and equitable treatment of all individuals.
- fostering an open, shared, and participatory decision making process.
- promoting efficient and effective use of time, resources and technology.
- providing an active campus life that extends teaching and learning beyond the classroom.
- providing a safe and secure campus environment for students, faculty, and staff.
- involving the university community, alumni, civic and government leaders, and other friends of the university in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi vision and mission.

INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

The island campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been a setting for higher education since 1947. That year, Ward Island became the home of the University of Corpus Christi (UCC), an institution affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The UCC campus was developed on land previously used by the U.S. Navy as a radar training facility.

In 1970, Hurricane Celia severely damaged the college campus. The following year, UCC and the Baptist General Convention took steps to end their affiliation. Concerned about higher education in Corpus Christi, a coalition of civic leaders sought local support as well as state legislation to convert the campus of UCC to a state-supported institution with an expanded curriculum.

In 1971, the 62nd session of the Texas Legislature authorized the creation of a state-supported institution of higher education in Corpus Christi. The Board of Directors of the Texas A&I University System was authorized to establish an upper-level university and to prescribe courses for the new institution at the junior, senior, and graduate levels leading to both bachelor's and master's degrees.

Funding was approved by the legislature to initiate planning for the university. The citizens of Corpus Christi approved a bond issue to purchase the campus of the University of Corpus Christi on Ward Island. Subsequently, the campus was given to the State of Texas as a site for the new state-supported university. Civic leaders in Corpus Christi also launched a successful public fund raising campaign to provide local financial support for the fledgling university. On September 4, 1973, several months after UCC completed its final classes, Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi opened its doors with an initial enrollment of 969 students.

In 1977, the legislature changed the name of the institution to Corpus Christi State University. The name of the University System, which also included Laredo State University and Texas A&I University, was changed the same year to the University System of South Texas (USST).

In 1989, the Texas Legislature abolished the University System of South Texas and merged Corpus Christi State University and the other two USST universities into The Texas A&M University System. In the same year, the legislature approved the expansion of Corpus Christi State University to a four-year comprehensive university, with enrollment of freshmen and sophomores to begin in fall 1994. In 1992, the role of the institution was expanded further when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board authorized the University to offer its first doctoral degree program. Another milestone occurred in 1993 when The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents renamed the institution Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The arrival of freshman and sophomore students in 1994 marked the transformation of the institution to a four-year university. Since then, student enrollment, facilities, and program offerings for both undergraduate and graduate students have continued to expand. In 2008, the City of Corpus Christi donated approximately 137 acres of land near the island campus to ensure adequate space for future growth.