

# **Paul Tulane College**

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## **HISTORY**

The Paul Tulane College, Tulane's liberal arts and sciences college for men, is one of the University's three original academic divisions and its historic undergraduate college. Of the University's six undergraduate divisions, Tulane College alone dates from the very beginnings of the University. For a century and a half, the College has been educating its students in the arts and pure sciences, those core academic disciplines that challenge students to consider the most fundamental questions of human experience, understand the natural world, and appreciate something about the human condition; to develop the ability to write and speak well, understand foreign languages and cultures, and master complex quantitative material. The arts and pure sciences are, and always have been, superb preparation for any and all careers.

In 1847 the state of Louisiana enacted the legislation that founded the College. The University of Louisiana was founded that year by the Louisiana state assembly. The already existing Medical College of Louisiana, which had been founded 13 years earlier as an independent institution, became the Medical Department of the University; the other two departments provided for in the act of founding were law, which today is the Tulane Law School, and letters and natural sciences, which today is Tulane College.

Four years after its founding, in 1851, the College formally opened as the University's "Collegiate Department," with 12 freshmen and two sophomores and a faculty of seven, who taught such subjects as chemistry and mineralogy, classical languages and literature, commerce, French language and literature, geology, Hebrew and Oriental languages, and mathematics and natural philosophy. The College awarded its first Bachelor of Arts and Science degrees in 1857. The University's campus was located at that time on Common Street in downtown New Orleans and consisted of a central, Grecian-style building, which housed the Medical Department, and matching east and west wings, which housed the Collegiate and Law Departments.

The College was closed during the 1860s and '70s as a result of the dislocations caused by the American Civil War. When it reopened in 1878, it was relocated from the complex of buildings on Common Street to the Mechanics Institute Building on Dryades Street (now University Place), around the corner from the main campus.

In 1884, as a result of the gift of millionaire philanthropist Paul Tulane, the administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund assumed responsibility for the University of Louisiana, which was privately endowed at that time and named "The Tulane University of Louisiana." At the same time, the College was named Tulane College, and the Mechanics Institute Building was named Tulane Hall. The faculty of the old Collegiate Department of the

University of Louisiana continued as the faculty of Tulane College, and in October of 1884, 73 students registered in the newly named College. With the naming came important changes in the academic program as well. Students were permitted to elect a particular course (classical, commercial, literary, mathematical, mechanical, or natural scientific), but within each course the requirements were fixed. The classes were divided into the familiar freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior designations, and the undergraduate program was set at four years.

In meetings of the Board of Administrators throughout the late 1880s, the inadequacy of the Common Street campus was regularly discussed, and in 1891 and '93, the Administrators began the purchase of the property that today is the uptown campus along St. Charles Avenue. At the same time, the Administrators resolved to reorganize Tulane College. Courses in engineering and applied science were removed from the curriculum of the College, and a separate College of Technology, now the School of Engineering, was established; concurrently, Tulane College was renamed the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1894 the College was relocated from the downtown campus on Dryades Street to Gibson Hall, originally the Arts and Sciences Building, which had been constructed specifically for the College and is now the University's main administration building.

In the early twentieth century, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Technology were consolidated for a brief period into the Academical Colleges; in 1911 they were again separated into independent divisions.

In 1988 the separate faculties and curricula of the College of Arts and Sciences and the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College — the University’s liberal arts and sciences college for women, which had been founded toward the end of the nineteenth century — were merged, and the Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) was created. Men and women now attend class together and are taught a common course of study by a single faculty. In 1989 the College’s administrative offices were relocated from Gibson Hall to the Social Sciences Building, one of the oldest buildings on the uptown campus, constructed in 1901 as the original refectory, or commons. In 1993 the Administrators voted to restore the College’s late-nineteenth-century name and change its formal name to “The Paul Tulane College.”

In the 150 years since its founding, the College has continued to subscribe to a few basic principles: above all, a conviction about the enduring value of the liberal arts and sciences curriculum and a justifiable pride in the College’s distinction, long and celebrated history, and the accomplishments of its students and alumni.

### **TULANE COLLEGE TODAY**

Today Tulane College enrolls some 1,600 men pursuing the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Science. The College is served by the Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), which numbers 300 and teaches in both Tulane and Newcomb Colleges; students may major in any of more than 40 fields of concentration. Students in the two liberal arts colleges attend class together, are taught a common curriculum, and live, if they choose to, in coeducational dormitories; their everyday experiences are coeducational ones. Yet, precisely because Tulane and Newcomb Colleges remain administratively independent from each other, each retains a sense of its own history and traditions. Tulane College students therefore benefit from belonging to two communities simultaneously: a small college that maintains its own distinctive identity and provides close personal attention, and the larger university community. Moreover, Tulane College is only one of 11 divisions that make up Tulane University. In addition to the two liberal arts and sciences colleges, there are, at the undergraduate level, schools of architecture, business, and engineering. As undergraduates, Tulane College students may take a number of courses in the other undergraduate divisions and may minor in architecture, business, or engineering while majoring in a liberal arts discipline; in that way, their curriculum is supplemented and enriched by the offerings of the other undergraduate schools and colleges.

The College is organized into the Office of the Dean, the Office of the Associate Dean, and the Office of Student and Alumni Programs.

## OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF TULANE COLLEGE

Tulane College offers a wide range of services designed to complement the formal academic programs offered by the LAS Faculty and the other faculties of the University. The Office of the Associate Dean provides an extensive array of student academic support services. The Associate Dean and academic advisers are regularly available to talk with Tulane College students about their scholastic standing and offer advice on matters of an academic or personal nature. They monitor students' progress toward the degree, audit transcripts routinely to ensure that students in the College are selecting the appropriate courses and fulfilling academic requirements, and assist students in anticipating potential academic problems and determining reasonable solutions. The Office of the Associate Dean also coordinates the faculty advising program.

The Office of the Associate Dean provides administrative support for the Tulane College Honor Board, which is responsible for ensuring that the College's principles of academic integrity are upheld. The Honor Board, which consists of representatives of each of the four classes, hears the cases of Tulane College students charged with violating the College's Honor Code. The chairman and vice-chairman of the Honor Board have the particularly important responsibility of chairing the hearings.

## OFFICE OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI PROGRAMS

Tulane College Student and Alumni Programs complement both the formal curricular offerings of the Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College's academic advising services. The programs have two principal objectives: to provide for student-student, student-faculty, and student-alumni interactions in informal settings; and to afford opportunities to apply and exercise the intellectual skills acquired in the classroom, and thereby demonstrate the virtues and benefits of a liberal arts education.

Tulane College cocurricular academic programs extend the boundaries of the classroom and provide opportunities for experiential learning. Programs include: **The David Cameron Taylor Memorial Summer Travel and Enrichment Program**, established by J. Edward Taylor '42, M.D., offering undergraduates the opportunity to travel to consult scholarly materials or undertake unusual and enriching intellectual experiences; **The Dean's Coffees**, offering students in the College the opportunity to meet with faculty representatives from the various academic departments to explore the liberal arts and sciences disciplines; **The Katharine and Robert M. Devlin '64 Internship Program**, offering undergraduates the opportunity to intern with alumni of the College or in a liberal arts-related field; and **The Tulane College Summer Scholars Program**, offering undergraduates the opportunity to undertake research projects under the direction of a faculty mentor.

Tulane College communications and publications programs apprise members of the College's constituencies of important activities and developments at the College and beyond. Publications include: *Tulane College: A Guide for Parents and Families*, an introduction to the College for members of the College's parent body; and *The Tulane Collegian*, a semi-annual newsletter on the College and College events, including profiles of distinguished alumni and accomplished students.

Tulane College student and alumni activities and programs celebrate the College's history, its students and student leaders, and its alumni. Programs include: **The John J. Witmeyer III '68 Dean's Colloquium**, a semi-annual occasion when distinguished Tulane College alumni return to campus, hold formal "master classes," and meet with students in an informal setting and converse with them about careers and professions; **Tulane College Homecoming**, annual events for Tulane College students and graduates, including alumni panel discussions and networking receptions that provide students an opportunity to meet graduates in a variety of professions; **The Tulane College Leadership Caucus**, an organization of the presidents of the College's own student organizations and Tulane College students serving in leadership positions in University-wide organizations; and **The Tulane College Senior Banquets**, occasions for students in the College to meet members of the College administration and share observations about their experiences at Tulane.

A complete inventory and full description of programs is available from the Office of Student and Alumni Programs.

There is a wide range of extracurricular organizations open to Tulane College students, both within the College and in the larger University community. Those specific to Tulane College are supported by the Office of Student and Alumni Programs. **The Tulane College Senate** is the College's own student government organization. Each year it offers a forum on choosing a major; organizes pre-game festivities for athletic events; publishes a College newsletter; undertakes worthwhile community service projects; recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding local, national, and international figures with the Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts and Sciences; and honors members of the Tulane University faculty with a series of prizes. The senate also represents student opinion to the College administration.

Each of the four classes within the College also has its own officers. The class president and vice president are members of the College senate. They play an important ceremonial role at the College's spring commencement ceremony and are featured speakers at the ceremony.

Tulane College students are active in a remarkable array of extracurricular activities beyond the College. Recently, for example, Tulane College students have served as president of the Associated Student Body, the University-wide student government organization, and as president and vice-president of the Undergraduate Student Government. All had earlier served in the Tulane College Senate, and the experience gained within the College thus enabled them to move on to positions of greater responsibility within the larger University community. Similarly, a number of members of the University's football team have been Tulane College students, and Tulane College students have served on the editorial board of *The Tulane Hullabaloo*, the University-wide student newspaper, and in many other University-wide organizations.

## **YOUR FUTURE**

Tulane College alumni number more than 19,000, the largest number of any of the University's eleven schools and colleges. Many Tulane College graduates are interested in pursuing advanced degrees at the University's own graduate and professional schools. For example, at the Tulane Medical School, widely regarded as one of the nation's finest, almost one-fifth of the entering class is made up of alumni of Tulane's undergraduate divisions, who outnumber graduates of all other colleges and universities.

The combination of rigorous academic training in basic intellectual skills and extracurricular opportunities that permit our students to acquire leadership experience enables our graduates to fare extremely well in a remarkable range of careers and professions. The College's alumni body includes some of the nation's most distinguished figures in such fields as business, professional sports, the creative and performing arts, television and film, government and public life, higher education and scholarship, journalism and publishing, and medicine. Among Tulane College alumni are the late Hale Boggs '35, United States Congressman (Democrat, Louisiana) (1941–43 and 1947–73), House Majority Whip (1962–71), and House Majority Leader (1971–73); Dr. Michael DeBakey '30, Chancellor *Emeritus*, Professor of Surgery, and Chairman of the Department of Surgery (retired) at Baylor College of Medicine and one of the most distinguished heart surgeons in the world; the late Marion J. Epley, Jr. '29, President and Chairman of the Board of Texaco (retired); distinguished senior faculty members at Princeton University and the Universities of Chicago and California at Berkeley; Thomas N. James '46, M.D., Director of the World Health Organization Cardiovascular Center; Will E. Leonard, Jr. '56, Chairman (1975–76) of the International Trade Commission; United States Congressman G. Eugene Taylor '76 (Democrat, Mississippi); Henry A. Millon '47 '49, Dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and Director (1974–77) of the American Academy in Rome; three winners of the Pulitzer Prize; William B. Monroe '42, Moderator and Executive Producer (retired) of *Meet the Press*; the late Bruce Paltrow '65, Emmy Award nominee and television and film producer, writer, and director, whose credits include *The White Shadow* and *St. Elsewhere*; Timothy J. Robbie '77, former President of the Miami Dolphins; Muhamed Sacirbey '78, former Ambassador to the United Nations from Bosnia and Herzegovina; the late Howard K. Smith, Jr. '36, Co-anchorman of *The ABC Evening News* and moderator of the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon debate and the 1980 Carter-Reagan "Great Debate"; and Robert O. Zeleny '52, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief (retired) of *The World Book Encyclopaedia* and allied products. In them, the College takes great pride.

## **FACILITIES SERVING TULANE COLLEGE**

The building housing the College's administrative offices was renovated so that the College could better address the needs of its students. In addition to providing study space and increased space for informal gatherings of Tulane College students and LAS Faculty

members, the renovation enables the College to undertake programmatic initiatives. Among such initiatives are expanded internship/externship opportunities that provide Tulane College students with practical work experience prior to graduation. Such experience facilitates their search for full-time professional employment when they graduate. In addition, the renovation permits the College's two principal student organizations, the College Senate and Honor Board, to maintain offices within the College building. Finally, the renovated building contains an electronic classroom that allows Tulane College students and students in other divisions of the University to make greater use of the revolutionary new electronic-information technologies that are transforming higher education.

Encircling the College's administrative offices on Tulane's historic front campus are many of the academic and administrative facilities that serve the students of Tulane College. Toward Freret Street, at the end of the quadrangle that is the University's original uptown campus, is Alcée Fortier Hall whose name honors Alcée Fortier, D.Litt., one of the College's most eminent faculty members of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With the renovation and expansion of adjoining Percival Stern Hall, Fortier became part of the University's state-of-the-art environmental sciences complex. Percival Stern currently houses the LAS Departments of Astronomy, Cell and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Psychology.

On the opposite side of the quadrangle from the College's administrative offices are the Mechanical Engineering Building, which houses Educational Resources and Counseling and Financial Aid, and the Richardson Building, which houses the University's computing services.

At the end of the quadrangle toward St. Charles Avenue are Dinwiddie Hall, whose name honors Albert Bledsoe Dinwiddie, AM., Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the College from 1910–18 and subsequently President of the University; it houses the LAS Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Geology; Gibson Hall, which was constructed specifically for the College in 1893–94 and now houses the LAS Department of Mathematics and the Offices of Admission, Tulane Summer School, and the University Registrar, as well as other University administrative offices; and Tilton Memorial Hall, which houses the LAS Department of Economics and the Murphy Institute of Political Economy.

Adjoining the College's administrative offices toward St. Charles Avenue are the Norman Mayer Building, which houses the LAS Departments of English and Political Science and the Tulane Honors Program, and F. Edward Hébert Hall, which houses the LAS Department of History.

### **HONOR SOCIETIES**

The University has chapters of many honor societies. Phi Eta Sigma honors freshmen in all divisions of the University. Omicron Delta Kappa is a junior-senior honor society for students with exceptional abilities in scholarship and leadership. The Society of Sigma Xi is an honor society that stimulates scientific research. Phi Beta Kappa recognizes outstanding scholarship among graduating seniors. There are also honor societies for students with special academic and professional interests.

### **TULANE COLLEGE AWARDS**

Through a number of awards and prizes, Tulane College recognizes students who, by achieving academic excellence, embody the highest goals of the institution. Prizes are awarded by the appropriate departmental and College committees and are presented at a special award ceremony at commencement time.

**The William Wallace Peery Medal for Academic Excellence** was established in 1964 by Mrs. Peery in memory of her husband, the late Dr. William Wallace Peery, Professor of English and Dean of the College from 1955–64. It is awarded annually to the graduating senior in a four-year program who, in the judgment of the Committee on the College, has achieved the most distinguished scholastic record. In selecting the recipient of this medal, the committee takes into consideration not only grades but also selection of courses. Preference is given to records exemplifying the educational philosophy of the College, which stresses breadth as well as depth of learning and encourages the student to work at the level of his greatest capacity.

**The Buchanan Award** is awarded to the outstanding sophomore in mathematics.

**The Louis Bush Medal** was established in 1882 by Louis Bush and is awarded for the best essay in French.

**The Economics Department Senior Award** is presented to an outstanding graduate of the College.

**The Alcée Fortier Memorial Prize** was established in 1923 by the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association. It is awarded for excellence in French.

**The Gerald S. Gussack '75, M.D., Award** was established in 1997 by Professor Joan W. Bennett. It is awarded to the most outstanding Tulane College senior in cell and molecular biology.

**The Aaron Hartman Medal in Psychology** was established in 1930 by request of Mrs. Rosa Chan Hartman in memory of her husband. It is awarded for excellence in psychology.



**The Henry Award** was established in 1992 and is offered to a sophomore major or minor who has demonstrated excellence in and enthusiasm for the study of French.

**The Joseph J. Kyame Physics Award**, established in 1990 by the physics faculty, is awarded to a senior for excellence in physics.

**The Charles Oscar Maas Prize in French and Italian** is awarded for the best essay in French.

**The Montgomery History Prize**, established in 1922 by Mr. Richard Montgomery, Jr., is awarded to a senior for excellence in history.

**The Robert Wauchope Award** was established in 1981 in memory of Robert Wauchope, a professor of anthropology. It is awarded for excellence in anthropology.

In addition, Tulane College shares a large number of awards and prizes with Newcomb College; they are listed in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Policies and Programs section.