PLAYING AROUND IN COLLEGE

+ PLUS

Higher Destinations
TWO YEARS AT LEE PROPELS STUDENTS TO HIGHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEARNING

What Can I Do with Math?

START HERE. STAY HERE.
NOW YOU CAN EARN A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE AND NEVER LEAVE BAYTOWN
Trent Loria watched the fly ball head toward deep left field. It was an easy catch for the veteran outfielder. In his peripheral, he noticed the runner on third tag up and start moving. It was the moment his team had been waiting for.

Loria took aim at catcher Buck Trice; his throw was dead-on accurate. The umpire clenched his fist and yelled, “OUT!” It was over. Lee College’s Club Baseball team had closed out a three-game series against the University of Houston, crushing the Cougars, 17-3.

“That series was a slugfest,” Loria said. “We hit four homeruns in one game. Everything just came together.”

“The UH series was a turning point for us,” added third baseman Chance Smith. “We had just come off a bad loss to Tulane, and we knew we had to do something different. So we started going to the batting cages and running drills on our own, outside regular practice. After we started doing that, we swept UH. We knew things were beginning to click.”

Indeed they were. As the one of three community colleges represented in the National Club Baseball Association’s (NCBA) District VII, the team held their own against four-year universities including the University of Texas-San Antonio, Texas A&M Galveston, and Texas Christian, among others. They finished 10-7 overall and 8-4 in division play—just one win shy of advancing to conference playoffs.

Although the final 1-0 loss to Rice University would devastate the team, players admit the opportunity was one they never saw coming.

“I’ve loved this sport since t-ball,” said Trice. “I played all through high school. But because I was starting at a community college, I thought I was going to have to give it up. I was really excited to find out about the Club Sports program.”

“Lee College’s Club Sports program was established in 2011, largely in response to student requests,” explained Student Activities Director Mike Spletter.

“As the cost of attending college continues to rise, more and more students are realizing the value of community colleges like Lee. At the same time, they still want to have the four-year experience. They want to watch competitive sports, and if they’re athletes who hope to walk on somewhere, they want the chance to keep their skills fresh. So we created a program to address those needs.”

Spletter describes Club Sports as “a program for athletic students who want a greater challenge than intramurals with a smaller time commitment than intercollegiate sports.” On average, participants practice twice weekly, dedicating approximately six to eight hours per week to their sport. In comparison, NCAA Division I athletes dedicate approximately 20 hours per week to their sport.

Additionally, he says, the program’s structure mimics that of intercollegiate sports. Teams hold try-outs each semester, and compete against other teams from both two- and four-year colleges in their conference. All players are required to meet eligibility requirements, which include maintaining a minimum 2.0 grade-point-average and enrolling in at least six credit hours each semester.

For some students, such as Club Basketball team member Jukeen Prentice, these requirements provide a “motivation to study. You’ve got to keep your grades up or you can’t play.”

For others, like Teri Thompson, one of the students who initially approached Spletter about the possibility of organizing a women’s basketball team, the program helps her maintain...
Club Sports Teams

Lee College adds new club sports when students express an interest. Here’s a list of teams bringing home the gold now:

- Baseball
- Basketball (Co-ed)
- Flag Football
- Soccer (Co-ed)
- Tennis (Co-ed)
- Volleyball (Co-ed)

Intramurals Too!

Designed for the everyday athlete, intramural sports provide Lee College students with fun, recreational on-campus sports activities that emphasize group spirit and the enjoyment of sports in a less competitive environment. Through the intramurals program students are able to participate in a number of sports including:

- Flag Football
- Basketball
- Racquetball
- Indoor Soccer
- Volleyball
- Tennis

A Sports Day competition, during which Lee College teams compete against intramural teams from twelve other local community colleges, is offered once per semester.

For more information, visit www.lee.edu.

“What’s great about Lee’s program is that it helps students develop a sense of camaraderie similar to what you would find playing at a larger, four-year school.”

skills in the sport she loves. “I grew up playing sports. I was captain of my basketball team in high school. Since I’m starting at Lee and then transferring to a university, I want to stay close to my sport.”

Then, of course, there is the competitive aspect of the program. More than 10 local community colleges and universities, including Lee, compete against rivals in the Lone Star Sports Club Conference, Houston Sports Club Conference and Houston Club Sport Basketball Conference. Meanwhile, approximately 93 teams compete in NCBA Division II.

At Lee, the list of available sports is growing. “When we started the program in the fall of 2011, we had about 50 students playing on basketball, baseball, tennis, and flag football teams,” Spletter explained. “The following semester, interest in the program had increased so much we added men’s and women’s soccer and golf teams, as well as a women’s volleyball team. We also hired Jared Eikhoff as our Club Sports Coordinator.”

A Baytown native and Lee College graduate, Eikhoff has participated in organized and recreational sports since childhood and says the benefits of programs such as Lee’s are far-reaching. “Speaking from personal experience I can tell you the old clichés are true: Playing sports helps students build self-confidence and develop team skills,” he said. “But what’s great about Lee’s program is that it helps students develop a sense of camaraderie similar to what you would find playing at a larger, four-year school.”

As he looks back on the 2012 Club Baseball season, Trent Loria says that sense of camaraderie still stands out. “I think we definitely approached this first season with a chip on our shoulder,” he said. “We were a small team representing a small school. Some of our guys had been playing ball all their lives; others had played sports before. So we had something to prove. We were fighting for our school, and we loved it.”
Lee Competes Nationally, Too

In addition to a thriving club sports program, Lee College is also home to the Region XIV NJCAA Runnin’ Rebels Basketball and Lady Rebels Volleyball teams.

Home games are played in the Lee College Sports Arena, a state-of-the-art facility built to accommodate more than 1,500 screaming Rebel fans, and admission is free for students donating two or more canned food items to the department’s annual canned food drive.

And future Rebels take note, Lee College athletes have successfully transferred to Division I schools including Missouri, the University of Alabama, Indiana University, and others.

Rooty the Rebel

Sporting a cowboy hat, a nod to his Texas roots, Rooty is here to fire up the crowd. Fans can spy the familiar mascot at games, elementary schools, and recruiting events. When people spot Rooty, they know Lee College is there.

The year was 1998 and Lee College needed a mascot. “We wanted simply to have a fun caricature,” said Roy Champagne, athletic director at Lee College. Together, students and faculty worked to create an image to represent the school and settled on that of an exaggerated cowboy. Rooty has been mascot ever since.

The easily recognizable character enlivens games. “He’s very animated, a great dancer,” said Champagne.

Wherever and whenever Rooty appears, he encourages fans to root for the home team.
The headlines are alarming. Tuition at most public, four-year colleges and universities has increased an average of eight percent this year. Approximately two-thirds of recent college graduates borrowed money to pay for their bachelor’s degrees and graduated with an estimated $25,000 in debt. Nationally, student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt and is expected to cross the $1 trillion mark this year.

After hearing these statistics, you may wonder: Can I really afford a college education?

“The reality is a student can’t afford not to have a college education,” said Sharon Mullins, Lee College director of financial aid. “The unemployment rate for high school graduates who do not attend college is nearly double that of college graduates.

“Research has shown that an individual’s earning potential increases with education,” she continued. “A high school graduate will earn about $700,000 over a 40-year career. With an associate’s degree an individual will earn at least $1 million over that same time period; with a bachelor’s degree, earnings increase to $1.4 million, double the annual earnings of a high school graduate.”

Lee College sophomore Samantha McDonald says these statistics are what first prompted her to look into college.

“I have always understood the value of education,” the Baytown native said. “But given the current economy, and my family situation, I knew that I couldn’t afford to start at a four-year school. After doing some research, I realized that Lee College would provide the best value for my money, so I decided to begin here.”

McDonald’s decision isn’t unique. More than 6,000 students enrolled in Lee College for the fall 2011 semester, and community colleges across the country are reporting near capacity enrollments.

Why? Cost for one. Tuition for a full class load of 12 credit hours, or four courses, at Lee College costs $504 per semester. The same course load costs $2,986 per semester at Sam Houston State University and $4,896 at the University of Texas in Austin.

The average Lee College student receives $1,593 in financial aid per semester, with those who wish to borrow incurring $6,516 of student loan debt over a two-year period. In comparison, students who begin their education at a four-year college amass an average $6,000 of student loan debt per year.

Then there is the quality of a Lee College education.

Recognized as one of the best community colleges in the country, Lee College programs and services can lead students directly to the workplace or a four-year university.

“Thanks to the academic rigor of our programs many of our students are able to secure scholarships to four-year colleges and universities,” said Mullins.

And how do those students do once they get there? According to research, students who begin their education at a community college do just as well, if not better, than students who began at a four-year university.

So what’s the bottom line?

“College can be affordable,” said McDonald. “You just have to do your research and select the option that best suits your academic goals and financial needs. And for me, that was Lee College.”
A Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Aid

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE; JUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS.

STEP ONE: FIND A SCHOOL THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU
Ask yourself: what am I looking for in a college experience? Identify your academic and work goals and see if they are aligned with the programs and services offered at the college of your interest.

Tips and Tricks: Check out college websites, and when possible, visit the campus or talk to current students.

STEP TWO: COMPLETE THE FAFFSA
The financial aid process begins with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The application is made available in January of each year. In order to complete it, a student must provide the most recent income tax information for themselves, their spouses and if a student is under age 24, their parents. The process takes about 30 minutes and can be done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Tips and tricks: Because you need tax information to complete the form, consider working with your parents to complete the form shortly after you’ve completed your income tax forms.

Remember, you must be accepted for admission or enrolled in an eligible program in order to receive financial aid to the college of your choice. So consider submitting your admissions application and FAFSA at the same time.

STEP THREE: KEEP AN EYE ON DEADLINES AND COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS
Students applying for financial aid will encounter different deadlines at the federal and state levels.

Many colleges and scholarship programs also have their own deadlines, and some may require students provide additional documentation or attend financial aid orientation sessions.

At Lee College, priority deadlines for summer and fall financial aid requests are March 1 and April 15, respectively, and all students receiving financial aid must attend a financial aid orientation session prior to the start of the semester.

Tips and Tricks: Do your research. Contact the college’s financial aid office and ask about deadlines and requirements. Track this information in a notebook or calendar. If necessary, ask a friend or family member to help you stay on top things.

STEP FOUR: APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
Although scholarships fall under the category of “free money,” many believe this assistance is reserved for straight-A students.

In reality, scholarship donors have certain characteristics and penchant they want to recognize. Additionally, some companies offer scholarships to the public or employees or dependants and many non-profit groups offer scholarships in the community.

Tips and tricks: To match your passions and interests with scholarship opportunities visit www.fastweb.com and www.collegeboard.com.

Also, consider contacting your college of interest to learn more about scholarship packages offered through the school. The Lee College Foundation offers a number of scholarship programs including tuition and textbook scholarships, and other programs provide financial assistance for things like transportation and childcare.

Explore your options at www.lee.edu/financialaid.

STEP FIVE: BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE
Your future is in your hands, so take control of it.

Tips and Tricks: Read everything carefully, ask questions, and take advantage of help when it’s offered.

Lee College offers a number of community services including financial aid counseling and free FAFSA workshops. Remember, these services are free; all you have to do is sign up!

For more information on the financial aid process, visit www.lee.edu.

THINKING ABOUT TAKING OUT AN EXTRA LOAN TO PAY FOR COLLEGE?

“While student loans do provide borrowers with additional financial support to pay for their education, they aren’t risk-free,” explained Lee College Financial Aid Director Sharon Mullins. “Because repayment typically does not begin until students have either graduated or stopped pursuing a college degree, loans can seem like a ‘free money’ quick fix. Often students borrow more than they actually need because they think they’re playing it ‘safe,’ and they fail to take factors like interest rates and future monthly payments into account.”

So what does the risk of too much student loan debt look like? With interest rates currently hovering around six or seven percent, Mullins says current students can expect to pay a minimum average monthly payment of $250. “To put this in perspective, that figure represents roughly 10 percent of a $30,000 salary, and that’s a conservative estimate.”

Given this financial outlook, what advice does Mullins have for students worried about paying for college?

“First, apply for financial aid early to ensure the application is processed in a timely manner,” she said. “Most financial aid awards will include a combination of loans, grants, work study and in some instances, scholarships.”

Students should carefully review their award letters to determine what types of financial assistance they will receive.

“Secondly, don’t forget to ask about scholarships,” Mullins continued. “Check out the college websites, ask your employer or your parents’ employers about education benefits and use a reputable, free search site like www.fastweb.com and www.collegeboard.com.”

Finally, do your research.

“In the event a student needs to take out an extra loan, he or she should research the lending agency, terms and interest rates to be sure they aren’t taking on more debt than they can successfully repay,” she said.
Mary Alvarez always had a passion for numbers. “My grandfather was an engineer and a math nerd,” she said, laughing. “He used to randomly quiz us on our multiplication and division tables. I guess that’s where I caught the bug.”

That bug led Alvarez to pursue both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Applied Mathematics. “In college, whenever I told my friends what my major was they looked at me like I was strange. Then they always asked, ‘so what do you want to do with that?’”

That’s not an unusual question, says Lee College Mathematics, Engineering and Science Division Chair Tom O’Kuma. “There’s a common misconception among students that careers in math and science are limited and boring,” he explained. “A student hears ‘math’ and it’s almost like they default to the image of an algebra class. In reality, jobs for math majors are plentiful, lucrative and interesting.”

Just how interesting?

Alvarez works as a data analyst for a government agency. “My job involves analyzing statistical data, and designing systems that help protect vital information,” she explained. “Much of what I do is security sensitive, and often requires travel overseas, sometimes to locations I can’t discuss.”

Although the covert nature of her work is challenging, Alvarez says it’s worth it.

“Sometimes it’s hard to not be able to talk about my day with friends and family,” she continued. “But it’s extremely rewarding to know that I’m helping protect our country.”

While Alvarez’s career choice may seem extreme to some, O’Kuma says it’s just one more option on an endless list of possibilities.

“Math is not just about solving equations, it’s about learning to look at a situation objectively, deconstructing it, and finding a solution,” he explained. “The skills a student learns in the classroom translate into the critical thinking skills necessary to solve ‘real world’ problems.”

WANTED: PROBLEM SOLVERS

Math majors aren’t the only ones who benefit from these skills, he adds. “Animators use geometric figures to create movement and change. Restaurant owners analyze trends to determine the most popular dishes, order supplies, calculate shipping costs and price menu items appropriately. Math is everywhere,” he said.

“I was an Anthropology major in college, so I never really expected to use math in my career,” said 27-year-old Caitlin Kennelly. “But, once I started working, I finally understood how important it was.”

A former project coordinator at Jack Rouse Associates (JRA), a multi-disciplinary design firm specializing in children’s attractions, sports arenas and theme parks, Kennelly spent three-and-a-half years helping build Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The country’s first Ferrari-themed amusement park, Ferrari World features 20 attractions and encompasses 925,000 square feet.

As the design firm responsible for the conceptualization, planning, design, media production and management of the park, Kennelly says JRA used mathematical calculations to verify site work and ensure equipment adequately met the needs of the space.

“We also had to calculate total energy usage to determine what cooling equipment to purchase. We had to estimate the weight of equipment to calculate container sizes and shipping costs,” she continued. “Our operators also used an accelerometer to make sure that riders could sustain the forces of our roller coasters.”

Collecting this data helped Kennelly successfully complete what she describes as one of the most exciting parts of her job—coordinating media events with National Geographic and the Discovery Channel.

“Reporters always want to translate facts and figures into general terms that viewers can understand,” she explained. “So I converted statistics, such as the amount of wiring or the length of rides, into miles, kilometers and other relatable facts. That’s all basic math.”

And that’s the one point O’Kuma hopes students will remember.

“As an educator, one of the most common questions I hear students ask is, ‘when will I use this again?’” he said. “And my answer is, you’ll use it everyday.”
**EVERYDAY MATH**

Whether or not you realize it, math plays a major role in everyday life. Take a look at the real-life scenarios below. Can you figure out the answers to each?

1. You joined eight friends for dinner out and plan to split the $177 bill. Factoring in a 20 percent tip, how much do each of you owe?

2. You’re on a road trip. Your car has two gallons of gas left, and the next gas station is 30 miles away. Can you make it to the gas station?

3. You’re packing for a weeklong trip overseas. The forecast predicts an average high of 32 degrees Celsius. What kinds of clothes should you pack?

4. You’re buying your first house and want to get a thirty-year, fixed-rate, $200,000 mortgage. Which option is better: a mortgage with 5.6 percent interest and no points or one with 5.3 percent interest and two points?

5. You’re grocery shopping and trying to stick to your budget. The name brand peanut butter costs $3.50 per pound, while the store brand costs 23 cents per ounce. Which is a better deal?

So the next time you find yourself sitting in math class wondering, “When will I ever use this,” remember, you’ll use it everyday.

**Source:** [http://www.education.com/magazine/article/math-matters](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/math-matters)

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**PUTTING MATH TO WORK**

Still not convinced that math is important? Think about this: A 2009 report by the Wall Street Journal lists Mathematician as the “best job in the U.S.” Five of the top six best jobs included in the report are math-related; and according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the 15 highest-earning college degrees require math skills.

So what can you do with math? Check out the list below for some more examples.

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**ACTUARY**

Salary Range: $51,950 - $158,240/year

Actuaries deal with the financial impact of risk and uncertainty, and typically work in the insurance industry. Others may work for major corporations, and government services.

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**BIOSTATISTICIAN**

Salary Range: $38,430 - $117,210/year

Biostatisticians analyze data related to human health, animals and plants. They often work in the healthcare, biomedical and pharmaceutical fields, and certain sectors of government.

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**HYDROLOGISTS**

Salary Range: $46,290 - $110,110/year

Hydrologists use mathematic principles to solve water-related problems, such as finding water supplies for cities or farms, controlling flooding and erosion or preventing or cleaning up pollution. They are typically employed by architectural and engineering services firms and some branches of government.

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**OPERATIONS RESEARCH ANALYSTS**

Salary Range: $40,030 - $119,140/year

Using advanced techniques from mathematics, science and engineering, operations research analysts help companies better allocate resources, measure performance, design facilities and manage supply chains, among other tasks. Historically, they have also played a role in wartime efforts.

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**PETROLEUM ENGINEER**

Salary Range: $58,600 - $150,310/year

Typically employed by major petrochemical companies, petroleum engineers identify petroleum sources, determine appropriate drilling methods and monitor drilling and production operations.

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**PHYSICIAN**

Salary Range: $51,750 - $166,400/year

Physicians use math in their every day practice, often relying on statistics and probability to interpret test results and determine appropriate treatments. Although most physicians are self-employed, they also work in hospitals, outpatient care centers and state and federal facilities including private colleges, universities and professional schools.

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**TECHNICAL WRITER**

Salary Range: $37,070 - $100,020/year

Technical writers produce technical documentation, such as user guides and system manuals for technical, business and consumer audiences. The job requires specialized experience in select fields including math and science. Although typically employed by major industries, technical writers may work for book, magazine and newspaper publishers or for government agencies.

**Source:** WeUseMath.org
Wherever you plan to go in life, Lee College can help you get there. One case in point is Lee alumnus Whitney Stockett Cahan, who went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in international studies from American University and a master’s degree from U.S. Naval War College. She later worked for a member of U.S. Congress.

Whitney credits her college success to her educational foundation at Lee College. “I found it to be an excellent launching pad from high school and then into an academically rigorous environment,” she said.

**Help to Transfer**

Professors at Lee College are ready to help students successfully transfer. Honors Professor John Britt encouraged Cahan to consider American University because he felt she would be able to earn scholarships there, and he was right. Thanks to Cahan’s academic performance, she was able to secure a combination of scholarships and grants and pursue her advanced degree.

Other teachers aided her in transferring by providing letters of recommendation and reading her college application essays. “They were supportive though my whole time at Lee, but especially during my transfer process,” she said.

“The Student Success Center is another place to start,” said Dr. Cathy Kemper, vice president of Learning and Instruction. “There they can help you complete admissions and financial aid applications, as well as register. It’s an all-purpose place.”

Additionally, advisors at the center can help students who already know their transfer institution determine which courses will transfer, saving students from taking needless classes. Students who have chosen their major can ask for advice in selecting applicable courses. If a student has not decided on a degree or transfer institution, counselors can suggest which courses are most easily transferred to any college, in any major.

Cahan says her transfer process was “remarkably smooth.” Her courses, which were mostly honors, all transferred to American University. “There wasn’t a single class that went to waste from Lee.”

**Prepared to Transfer**

Students have many options of when to transfer. Some students, like Cahan, choose to complete an associate’s degree before transferring. Other students choose to complete only their core courses at Lee College.

“The core curriculum in Texas is designed to transfer to any public, four-year university in the state,” said Kemper. Once completed, the 42-hour core curriculum will automatically transfer to any Texas public university.

After transferring to American University, Cahan realized how well prepared she was for academic work. “One of the best things Lee College gave me was the ability to have a really rigorous academic debate and to really analyze the world through different lenses. That enabled me to completely excel when I got to a higher-level university.”
Traveling the World with Lee College

While at Lee College, students can explore the world.

As part of a British Literature class, Whitney Stockett Cahan spent several weeks touring England. During her time abroad, she explored Canterbury, made famous in Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, studied C.S. Lewis at Oxford, and traveled to Bath to learn about Jane Austen. She describes her experience as “one of my favorite trips ever.”

She also credits her experience abroad with helping her focus on her studies at American University without traveling.

Plus, it was a more affordable way to tour Europe. “I would have probably spent twice or three times the amount to go with AU [American University],” she said.

Did You Know?

According to a 2006 study commissioned by the Cooke Foundation, students transferring from a community college to a four-year institution tend to graduate at similar rates and maintain similar grade-point averages as those students who began their academic careers at four-year institutions.

Top Ten Transfer Institutions

More than one quarter of Lee College students will transfer to a four-year university each year. Here are some of their top picks:

1. University of Houston-Clear Lake
2. University of Houston
3. University of Houston – Downtown
4. Lamar University
5. Texas State University – San Marcos
6. Sam Houston State University
7. University of Texas at Austin
8. Texas Southern University
9. Texas A&M University
10. Stephen F. Austin University
Commuting to a school far away can be time-consuming and intimidating. But thanks to agreements with four-year schools including LeTourneau University and the University of Houston, students can complete their bachelor’s degree in select fields on the Lee College campus.

For students pursuing a degree in elementary education, LeTourneau University offers an opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Early Childhood Through Sixth Grade. Classes are offered in a five-week format and meet one night a week in Baytown. Students interested in a technical field can earn a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision through the University of Houston’s program. Classes take place either at Lee College or online.

Both programs provide a local option for students who want to earn a bachelor’s degree. “Because of these agreements, our students are able to pursue new opportunities in a familiar setting and at a fraction of the cost,” said Dr. Cathy Kemper, vice president of Learning at Lee College.

The programs also ease the way for a student to transfer to a four-year university and help ensure that credits earned at Lee College will count toward a bachelor’s degree. “We will work with [students] very closely on what transfers,” said Kathy Perkins, education partnership coordinator at LeTourneau University.

The University of Houston helps students transfer credits from their associate of applied science in a technical field. Its program teaches students leadership and management skills they can apply to their current field, whether automotive technology, emergency medical technology, or another technical industry. “It provides them with the tools necessary to become a manager, a supervisor, a director, a leader within their company,” said Dr. Jerry Pyka, assistant dean of Outreach at the University of Houston.

Students who have already been to a community college tend to do better in LeTourneau’s program than students without prior college experience said Kathy Perkins.

Whatever route students choose, their time at Lee College has helped prepare them for success.
"If a student has demonstrated the perseverance and the academic skills to do well and achieve an associate’s degree at a community college, then they already have some of those basic skills that will enable them to do well in upper-level classes. They’ve already demonstrated the ability to get the job done."

WHAT IS AN ARTICULATION AGREEMENT?

Articulation agreements between community colleges and four-year universities typically outline the transferable courses and grades for specific programs. These agreements help students pursue a more defined curriculum during their first two years of school, one that ensures a seamless transfer from a community college to a university.

Below are additional examples of some of Lee College’s articulation programs:

NURSING PROGRAM

Thanks to formal articulation agreements with both Lamar University and the University of Texas at Arlington, students are able to follow a designated course path, and enroll in either of the universities’ RN-to-BSN programs shortly before or after graduating from Lee College.

BAY AREA EDUCATION RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT (BAER2) PROGRAM

This program uses community college preparation, university graduation and school district experience to train future teachers for careers in education in Baytown. Upon completing 54 semester hours at Lee College, students transfer to the University of Houston-Clear Lake and attend junior- and senior-level courses. While attending classes at both schools, students are able to take advantage of employment opportunities with the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.
Affordable tuition and a convenient location may be some of the reasons local students take a "first look" at Lee College, but the classroom experience, friendly campus, and promise of a bright future are the reasons more than 6,000 students choose to start their journey here.

As a hearing impaired student, Robert E. Lee graduate, Kris Briones, says she has benefited from a number of college programs and services as well as support provided by the college’s Counselor for Students with Disabilities.

The small campus and "family atmosphere" have made the biggest impact, she adds. "I love the flexibility of classroom choices. Plus, everyone knows everyone; which makes it a fun experience. Getting to know your teachers and classmates is a big help," Kris added. "Especially when you need assistance with homework or notes."

When sophomore Josh McGee needs assistance, he knows exactly where to go. "I chose Lee College because I heard the faculty and staff are very helpful and go out of their way for the students, which they have," he said. Thanks to an average student-teacher ratio of 25-to-1, instructors are always available to answer questions, and invest more time building positive relationships with their students.

"Lee College has provided me with the atmosphere I need to easily transition to the next step"
Additionally, thanks to job placement services offered through the college’s Student Career and Employment Office, as well as a number of extracurricular activities, the sophomore kinesiology major has had the opportunity to gain “real world” work experience as the campus Weight Room Monitor and “meet new people and compete in sports that are new to me,” such as intramural volleyball.

Students looking to meet new people and make new friends have ample opportunities to do so at Lee College. Sophomore Ricky Pope cites the Lee College Student Center, with its six pool tables, dartboards, ping-pong tables, computers, television and coffee shop as his favorite place on campus. “When I have free time, it’s a good place to relieve stress.”

As an active member of Lee College’s student government, sophomore Terrence Herman plays a role in planning campus events including the annual Halloween Costume Party, Fall Festival, and Spring Fling. He says the “student interaction” provided at these events creates a campus atmosphere similar to that of a larger, four-year university.

Which brings us to another important point: If you plan to transfer to a four-year school, Lee College is a great place to begin. Approximately one-fourth of current students have declared their intent to transfer to a four-year university, and with good reason. The college’s core curriculum is designed to transfer to any public, four-year university in Texas.

For freshman Anita Francis, that means a direct path to the University of Texas at Arlington and a chance to pursue her passion for writing as a public relations and journalism double major. “Lee College has provided me with the atmosphere I need to easily transition to the next step,” she said. “As long as I stay on top of my assignments and work hard, I know I’ll get there.”

Think getting into college is hard? Think again. Thanks to Lee College’s streamlined admissions process, getting into college is as easy as counting to five.

1. **Complete an Admissions Application**

   Visit www.applytexas.org to apply to any college of your interest, including Lee College. The same application is also available on the Lee College website, www.lee.edu, or in the college’s Admissions Office.

   A meningitis shot is required to enroll at any public Texas College or University. For information, visit www.lee.edu/admissions.

2. **Send your high school transcripts to Lee College**

   Official high school transcripts are required for college admission. Transcripts can be mailed to Lee College’s Admissions Office at P.O. Box 818 Baytown, TX 77522-0818, or delivered in person.

   Remember, the sooner you submit your transcripts, the sooner college officials will be able to help you register for classes.

3. **Complete required testing**

   Although admission to Lee College is not affected by a student’s test scores, college officials use these scores to help place students in the right classes. If you have taken the TAKS, SAT, or ACT, be sure to provide an official score report or high school transcript listing your scores.

   Students who do not provide these scores may take the Accuplacer exam on campus.

4. **Schedule an orientation time for advising, financial aid and registration**

   After completing steps one through three, you will meet with a counselor or advisor to select your classes and sign up for orientation.

   Lee College requires that all first-time students attend a New Student Orientation. Additionally, students receiving federal student aid must also attend a mandatory Financial Aid Orientation. During these sessions, you will learn how to access your myLC account, learn about college policies and procedures, and how to register and pay for classes.

5. **Pay tuition and fees**

   Remember, enrollment is not complete until you have paid your tuition and fees. If you cannot afford to pay tuition in full, you may sign up for a payment plan.

As always, keep an eye on the deadlines! If you fail to pay your tuition or set up a plan by the require date your classes will be dropped and you will need to register again.
No place so close can take you so far!

Discover more at LEE.EDU

Tour the Campus!
Schedule a tour at BeaRebel@lee.edu