

Introduction

Southern Polytechnic State University is a member of the University System of Georgia. Located in the historic city of Marietta, Southern Polytechnic is only 20 minutes from downtown Atlanta. Approximately 3,600 traditional and non-traditional students attend day, evening and weekend classes on a campus that combines 232 acres of naturally wooded landscape with modern facilities to meet students' academic, physical, and social needs.

SPSU was founded in 1948 as a two-year division of The Georgia Institute of Technology. Over the years there have been many changes in name and in stature. One of the most significant was the establishment of the institution as an independent college in the University System of Georgia. The school's first president, Stephen Cheshier, was named in 1980. The college became a university in 1996 with the new name of Southern Polytechnic State University. Its second president, Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, joined SPSU in the summer of 1998 and was inaugurated in early 1999.

Academic Programs

The University offers bachelors and masters degrees in a variety of technology and science-related fields through four Schools: The School of Arts and Sciences; The School of Engineering Technology and Management; The School of Architecture, Construction and Civil Engineering Technology; and The School of Computing and Software Engineering. Students have a wide range of program choices from architecture to computer science to management. Master of Science programs are offered in eight fields. Dedicated and experienced faculty with excellent academic credentials and business and industry experience teach the programs.

Southern Polytechnic has earned an exceptional reputation in the field of engineering technology education. In the "*Engineering & Technology Degrees 2000*" published study, SPSU is ranked in the top ten producers of bachelor's degrees in

engineering technology for the year 2000. The university is second in awards of master's degrees in engineering technology. Likewise, the 2001 issue of the "Book of Lists" (distributed by the Atlanta Business Chronicle) ranked Southern Polytechnic #4 among "high-tech programs of the University System of Georgia." Over the years, Southern Polytechnic has expanded and broadened its degree programs in some of the nation's fastest growing fields, including Software Engineering and Information Technology. It also offers a diverse Arts and Sciences curriculum. In 2001 it added Biology and International Studies:Global Technology to the program list.

Southern Polytechnic is also leading the way for the state of Georgia with its non-degree certificate programs in technology-related fields. Non-degree certificate programs are offered through the Office of Extended University and include certification in embedded systems, computer service technician, web development, programming, time study, and A+ Test Prep. The Computer Science Department offers a graduate certificate in software engineering that gives practitioners the opportunity to advance into leadership positions and provides courses that can apply toward the Master of Science in Software Engineering. Computer Science also offers an undergraduate certificate in programming. This certificate program offers courses that can apply towards the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

A University of Firsts

Southern Polytechnic is an educational institution of "firsts." In the fall of 1997, Southern Polytechnic stepped to the forefront of technological advances in education, becoming the first institution in Georgia to offer a full degree program over the Internet. The Master of Science in Quality Assurance, offered on the Internet by the Industrial Engineering Technology Department, set the tone for educational options in the future and placed Southern Polytechnic as a role model for the University System of Georgia. Indeed, SPSU's oldest graduate, 75 year-old Mary Knight, recently graduated with her Master's

in Quality Assurance earned through the online courses.

Other University "firsts" include:

- the University System of Georgia's **only** nationally accredited Bachelor of Architecture degree (and only the second institution in the nation to receive an initial accreditation of five years)
- Georgia's **first** master's programs in the management of technology and technical and professional communication
- the Southeast's **only** master's programs in electrical engineering technology and quality assurance
- Georgia's **only** master's program in construction
- Georgia and the Southeast's **first** Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Engineering Technology
- Georgia's **only** master's and bachelor's degree programs in software engineering
- Georgia's **only** bachelor's degree in surveying and mapping

Student Life


Southern Polytechnic provides many learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Award-winning professional student organizations; Greek organizations; the student newspaper, *The Sting*; intramural programs; honor societies; the WGHR student radio station; and other activities and organizations are offered to give students many options for participation. Intercollegiate athletics are also an important aspect of student life.


Membership in the Georgia Alabama Carolina Conference (GACC) has provided tough competition with other universities in the region. "The Hornets," as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), have competed in national tournaments in basketball, baseball, and tennis and ranked nationally in recent years. They have earned the GACC Basketball Tournament Championship the last two consecutive years. Beginning in Fall 2002, the school's first ever women's basketball team will begin competing.


Community Outreach


Southern Polytechnic serves the community through its numerous partnerships with business, industry, professional organizations, government and through continuing education and public service programs. It is the home of Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, Inc. (GYSTC). GYSTC has established fourteen regional centers across the state that offer professional development workshops for teachers as well as camps, Saturday Science and other programs for students. It is an excellent program for encouraging younger students to get involved in the sciences. More than 514,000 Georgia students, 113,000 teachers and 55,000 school administrators and others have participated in GYSTC conducted or sponsored programs. In addition, GYSTC headquarters on the SPSU campus is the host site for Georgia's only NASA's Regional Educator Resource Center (RERC). GYSTC brings hundreds of students and teachers to the Southern Polytechnic campus each year through its support of Science Olympiad, Science Bowl competitions and Space Day celebrations.


Historical Highlights


 Founded in 1948 as a two-year division of Georgia Institute of Technology, our school was established at the request of Georgia business and industry. It first opened its doors as The Technical Institute in rented military barracks in Chamblee, Georgia.


 The first director, L.V. Johnson, began operations with 116 students, all but 10 of who were World War II veterans; and all but one of who were male, and a staff of 12 members.


 In 1949, a name change and a status change became important to the institution and its students. Now called the Southern Technical Institute, the institution was recognized as a college-level school by the U.S. Department of Education.


 Less than a decade later, the growing college moved to its present campus in Marietta, Georgia. In 1961, Hoyt McClure was named acting director and led the move of the college to eight new buildings on 120 acres of land. This was the base of today's campus of 232 acres and 36 buildings.


 In 1970, we became a four-year college and one of the first colleges in the nation to offer the bachelor of engineering technology degree.

 In 1979, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to make "Southern Tech" an independent senior college in the University System of Georgia, separating organizational ties with its former parent institution, Georgia Tech. In the summer of 1980, we officially became the 14th senior college and the 33rd independent unit of the University System.

 The college's first president, Dr. Stephen R. Cheshier of Purdue University, was named in 1980 and took the college through the transition of becoming Southern College of Technology in 1987. He served with distinction until his retirement as president in June 1997.

 The school became a university and was re-named Southern Polytechnic State University in the summer of 1996.

 Dr. Daniel S. Papp was SPSU's interim president from July of 1997 until the summer of 1998.

 The university welcomed Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher of Dickinson College, as our president on August 3, 1998. She was inaugurated at the beginning of 1999.

Institutional Accreditation

Southern Polytechnic State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate and masters degrees.

Professional Accreditations

Program	Accrediting Body	Year
Engineering Technology Programs (except the program leading to the master's degree)	Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET)	1997
Bachelor of Architecture Program	National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB)	2001
Bachelor of Science in Construction Program	American Council for Construction Education (ACCE)	1997
Master of Science in Management Program	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)	1999

Student Organizations

<p>Active Organizations: Aerial Robotics Team African Students Association Amateur Radio Club Ambassadors American Association of Textile Colorists & Chemists (AATCC) American Concrete Institute (ACI) American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) American Institute of Constructors (AIC) American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) American Society for Quality (ASQ) Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Bahai Club Baptist Student Union Black Student Association Campus Activities Board (CAB) Chinese Friendship Association (CFA) Computing Women of SPSU Constructor's Guild Game Application Modeling and Engineering Society (GAMES) General Builders General Engineering of Autonomous Robots (GEAR) Georgia Society of Professional Engineers (GSPE) Human-Powered Vehicle-Super Mileage Team India Club of SPSU Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) InterGreek Council (IGC) International Student Association (ISA) Japanese Friendship Society Knights of the Realm Chess Club Mathematics Association of America Muslim Student Association (MSA) National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) National Organization of Woman Architects (NOWA) National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Residence Hall Association (RHA) Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Southern Polytechnic Soccer Club Specialty Contractors Steel Bridge Team (ASCE) STING/On-line Student Newspaper Student Government Association (SGA) Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG) Ultimate Frisbee Club WGHR Radio Station - 100.7 FM Women in Architecture</p>	<p>Fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha Beta Sigma Chi Kappa Alpha Psi Phi Beta Sigma Pi Kappa Phi Sigma Nu Sigma Pi Tau Kappa Epsilon</p> <p>Sororities: Delta Sigma Theta Gamma Phi Beta Zeta Phi Beta</p> <p>Honor Societies: Delta Mu Delta – Management Phi Psi – ATET Sigma Lambda Chi – Construction Tau Alpha Pi</p> <p>Inactive Organizations: Alpha Delta Pi American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air Conditioning (ASHRAE) Bahai Club Campus Crusade for Christ Campus K.N.I.G.H.T.S. Graduate Student Association Lambda Chi Alpha LOG (Yearbook) Safe Passage Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Southern Polytechnic Cycling Club Student Society of Environmental Developers</p>
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Source: Student Activities

Organizational Chart

Approved by The Board of Regents 4/18/01

