University Overview

University of Houston–Clear Lake is a student-centered, community-minded, partnership-oriented university that offers bachelor’s, master’s and select doctoral degree programs to enhance the educational, economic and cultural environment of the region. The university serves a diverse student population from the state, the nation and abroad – particularly from the Houston–Galveston metropolitan area – by offering programs on and off campus.

UHCL offers a variety of programs in business, education, human sciences and humanities, and science and engineering. Academic programs are designed to develop the critical thinking, creative, quantitative, leadership and communication skills of students.

The university is committed to community engagement through partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

A Metropolitan University

Adjacent to NASA’s Johnson Space Center, UHCL is situated in the heart of Clear Lake’s high-tech community. The campus is located between downtown Houston and Galveston Island. Its neighbors to the east are Armand Bayou Nature Center and Bayport Industrial Complex. As one of the leading higher education institutions serving the Texas upper Gulf Coast, UHCL is a vital component of the surrounding region. The university conducts applied and basic research. It engages in community and professional services that support both the economic development and the quality of life of the area. Because a strong university is essential to the success of the area’s industries, UHCL is dedicated to developing and strengthening programs that support the region’s various commercial, engineering, human services and trade sectors, especially in the computing, medical, petrochemical and space industries.

Students and faculty apply academic theories and conduct research through UHCL’s centers, institutes, clinics and laboratories. These entities include:

• Art School for Children and Young Adults
• Center for Executive Education
• Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities
• Center for Educational Programs
• Center for Professional Development of Teachers
• Center for Robotics Software
• Counseling Clinic
• Cyber Security Institute
• Diagnostic Reading Clinic
• Environmental Institute of Houston
• Learning Resources Review Center
• Mathematics Center
• Psychological Services Clinic
• Research Center for Language and Culture

Establishment of UHCL

The establishment of UHCL was authorized by the 62nd Texas Legislature in 1971. The measure was the result of a 1968 report by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System (now the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board), which called for a second University of Houston campus to
provide upper-level and graduate programs. In 1973, the Texas Senate authorized construction of a permanent campus at Clear Lake.

Construction began early in 1974 with the first phase of the Bayou Building, the largest of the university's five principal buildings. September 1974 marked the beginning of regularly scheduled classes on the UHCL campus under the leadership of founding chancellor, Alfred R. Neumann. Opening-day enrollment totaled 1,069 students. Charter faculty included 60 professors. Today, the university has approximately 8,900 students, and more than 600 full-time and adjunct faculty.

In fall 2014, UHCL welcomed its first-ever freshman class. The university received approval from the state in 2011 for downward expansion, which allowed the university to add freshman- and sophomore-level courses to its roster.

Creation of UHCL Pearland Campus

In 2007, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved creation of UHCL Pearland Campus. The new campus was developed as a partnership between UHCL and the city of Pearland to improve access to higher education for Pearland-area residents. During spring 2009, construction began on a 30,659 square-foot building. UHCL Pearland Campus, located at 1200 Pearland Parkway, features eight media-equipped classrooms, two teaching labs, a computer lab, a library and a variety of student resources. Classes at the satellite campus began fall 2010, with more than 600 students enrolling in degree programs such as accounting, business, criminology, education, nursing and psychology.

In fall 2014, UHCL Pearland Campus began offering courses toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree for registered nurses with associate degrees. The RN to BSN program is customized for students who wish to improve managerial skills and advance as nurse managers, educators or administrators. For more information about degree programs offered at UHCL Pearland Campus, call the Office of Enrollment Services at 281-212-1690.

Accreditations

University of Houston–Clear Lake is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master's and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the University of Houston–Clear Lake.

The College of Business maintains accreditation for graduate and undergraduate business programs by the Associate to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). College of Business accounting programs also maintain separate AACSB accounting accreditation.

The College of Education is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), 1140 19th Street, N.W. Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone 202-223-0077. This accreditation covers all of the institution’s initial teacher preparation and advanced educator preparation programs. In addition, the educational management with principal certification program is accredited
by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC). The EC–6 English as a second language certification program is accredited by Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The early childhood education advanced program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The 4–8 generalist program is accredited by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE). The special education program is accredited by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The reading specialist program is accredited by the International Reading Association (IRA). The 4–8 mathematics and the 8–12 mathematics certification programs are accredited by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). The EC–6 generalist program is accredited by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). The College of Education is also accredited by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).

The College of Human Sciences and Humanities has several accredited programs. The Behavioral Analysis program is accredited by the Association for Behavioral Analysis International. The Family Therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. The Human Factors Certificate and the Human Factors concentration in the M.S. Psychology program are both accredited by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. The Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The School Psychology program is accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists. The Bachelor of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. In addition, the National Strength and Conditioning Association has recognized the Fitness and Human Performance curriculum as preparing students for successful entrance into the career field.

The College of Science and Engineering’s undergraduate degree plan in computer engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) Inc. The undergraduate degree plans in computer science and computer information systems are accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. The program in chemistry is accredited by the American Chemical Society (ACS). The undergraduate Environmental Science–Industrial Hygiene and Safety plans are accredited by the Applied Science Commission of ABET.

The Office of Counseling Services is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). The Doctoral Internship Program in the Office of Counseling Services is additionally accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Governance

UHCL is one of four institutions with distinct identities and missions that make up the University of Houston System. The universities are governed by the UH System Board of Regents and Chancellor Renu Khator. Administrative responsibility for UHCL is vested in its president. UHCL’s shared governance process includes the Faculty Senate, University Staff Association and Student Government Association, working with
the university’s administration through various committees and councils including University Council, which is chaired by the university’s president. Other councils/committees include Academic Council, University Life Committee, Planning and Budgeting Committee, and Facilities and Support Services Committee.

The Campus

UHCL’s buildings are situated in a 524-acre natural environment. The campus features picturesque, park-like settings with Horsepen Bayou winding through heavily wooded areas abundant with wildlife.

The Arbor Building houses painting, ceramics, weaving and photography studios, as well as educational centers, teaching methods labs and psychology facilities.

The Bayou Building houses the majority of classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, the library, alumni relations, bookstore, cafeteria, computing services and laboratories, copy services, mailroom and Bayou Theater.

The Central Services Building is headquarters for building maintenance, grounds and custodial services, scheduling and space planning, and vehicle maintenance. The UHCL Police Department is located next to Central Services.

The Delta Building houses student computer laboratories, classrooms and computing faculty offices.

The Student Services and Classroom Building accommodates five categories of functions including academic; enrollment; health, wellness and academic support; programming; and general space. The one-stop Student Assistance Center provides enrollment, registration, fee payment, financial aid, and scholarship services.

UHCL’s Environmental Institute of Houston is located in North Office Annex 1, just off Entrance 3 adjacent Parking Lot D.

Opening fall 2018 will be the STEM and Classroom Building and a Recreation and Wellness Center.

The STEM and Classroom Building will house classroom and lab space for science, technology and mechanical engineering. A three-story section will accommodate classrooms, teaching labs and research labs; a two-story section will house offices, computer lab and a 100-seat tiered lecture hall.

The Recreation and Wellness Center will include academic and recreational wings, open study spaces, casual seating, food service and private study rooms. An indoor, elevated three-lane running track will provide runners a campus view while overlooking two regulation-sized basketball courts and a multi-activity court for indoor soccer, hockey and other sports. It will also feature weight and cardio rooms, two multipurpose rooms for yoga and other exercises as well as three teaching labs and two classrooms.

Opening in spring 2019 will be the Health Sciences and Classroom Building on the UHCL Pearland Campus. The Health Sciences and Classroom Building will provide several mid-to-large sized classrooms, including a 100-seat tiered lecture hall, two science teaching
labs, a suite specifically design for the RN-to-BSN program, faculty offices, suite for a satellite operation of the UHCL Center for Autism & Development Disabilities program, and a suite for the Licensed Professional Counselors program. This is the second building on the UHCL Pearland Campus, and will provide much needed student study/social/lounge space and a small food services area.

University Forest Apartments is a privately owned and managed apartment complex built in 1995 on the campus of the university. This 136-unit student housing facility is a two-story complex that includes a central courtyard with clubhouse, laundry facility, swimming pool, jacuzzi, sand volleyball court, barbecue grills, and picnic and lounge areas.

Construction will begin in summer 2018 on a 297-bed on-campus student housing building that will be immediately adjacent to the new Recreation and Wellness Center. The student housing project will be completed and ready for occupancy in fall 2019.