The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic and cultural development of the southeast region of the state known as the Northshore. The University's educational programs are based on vital and evolving curricula that address emerging regional, national, and international priorities. Southeastern provides credit and non-credit educational experiences that emphasize challenging, relevant course content and innovative, effective delivery systems. Global perspectives are broadened through programs that offer the opportunity to work and study abroad. Together, Southeastern and the community provide a broad array of cultural activities that complete the total educational experience.

The University promotes student success and retention as well as intellectual and personal growth through a variety of academic, social, vocational, and wellness programs. Southeastern embraces active partnerships that benefit faculty, students and the region it serves. Collaborative efforts are varied and dynamic; range from local to global; and encompass education, business, industry, and the public sector. Of particular interest are partnerships that directly or indirectly contribute to economic renewal and diversification.

Southeastern is categorized as a SREB Four-Year 4 institution, as a Carnegie Master's College and University I, and as a COC/SACS Level V institution. Southeastern will offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs and be committed to graduate education through the master's degree, offering graduate programs to meet regional/state needs. Southeastern will limit associate degree offerings to 2+2 programs, conduct research appropriate to academic programs offered and necessary for program accreditation, and implement, at a minimum, Selective III admissions criteria. Southeastern is located in Region II.