History

In 1962, the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao, known then as the Humacao Regional College, was established as the first regional college of the University of Puerto Rico System, offering two-year transfer programs in General Studies, Social Sciences, Humanities and Education. Its most important role was to provide students in the Eastern region of Puerto Rico with access to the University System and to facilitate their transfer to other units of the System for completion of their university studies. In 1963, the Continuing Education and Extension Division initiated operations, offering evening and summer courses. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools first accredited the College in 1965.

In 1967, the College began offering associate degrees in Business Administration, Nursing, Secretarial Sciences, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, followed by programs in Communications, Physical Education, Recreation, Arts and Sciences. The Humacao Regional College was appointed, for administrative purposes, to the Office of the President of the University and began offering four-year programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences degrees. Between 1975 and 1978, bachelor's degree programs in Marine Biology, English, Social Work, Nursing and Industrial Chemistry were established, followed in 1980 by bachelor's degree programs in Elementary Education, Business Administration (with majors in Accounting, Management, Human Resources and a General Program), Secretarial Sciences, Physics Applied to Electronics and Computational Mathematics.

In August 1979, the Legislature of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the approval of Law Number 186, granted Humacao University College its autonomy. In 1982, the Council on Higher Education also granted the institution its autonomy by appointing the first chancellor and transferring to the directive bodies of the College tasks that had been previously carried out by the University's Central Administration. Finally, the Board of Trustees of the University of Puerto Rico, in its Certification Number 103, Series 1999-2000, authorized the change of the name of the institution to the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao (UPRH).

Currently the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao offers 19 bachelor's degree programs, 7 associate degree programs and 4 transfer programs to a population of approximately 4,440 students with a faculty of 334 professors. The Middle States Association last accredited the UPRH in 2002. The programs in Social Work, Nursing, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy are also accredited by their corresponding accreditation agencies. In August 2003, a Bachelor's Degree in International Business was offered for the first time.

Vision

The primary goal for the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao is the formation of human beings that can undertake roles of excellence in society and be capable of contributing to improve their own quality of life. Led by this directive, this institution will endeavor to place the students at the center of the teaching, services, and investigation efforts in all university activity. We aim to form professionals who have developed their own knowledge and skills and also possess the superior values with respect to responsibility and solidarity that distinguish Puerto Rican society. Our academic programs will be innovative and varied and will be directed at developing a physically, emotionally, and intellectually integral human being. We also aspire to be an institution working at the cutting edge of progress, responding assertively to today's challenges and fomenting Puerto Rican cultural values. This institution will be an innovative center of democratic life, founded on the freedom to decide how to teach and guaranteed by university autonomy. It will respect and promote free thinking and freedom of expression as well as divergent criteria. Dialogue and participation in planning, decision making, and the implementation of all projects will be fomented in all sectors of the university concerned with these processes.

Mission

The mission of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao is:

- To effectively contribute to the ethical, cultural and intellectual development of Puerto Rico in general, and of the eastern region in particular, through teaching, aesthetic expression, scientific and humanistic research and the dissemination of knowledge.
- To investigate the main social, cultural and environmental problems affecting our society. To affirm ecological balance and racial diversity and inclusion as principles of change in a democratic community aspiring to justice.
- To prepare students as professionals and contributors to the improvement of the quality of life in Puerto Rico, through the offering of innovative and relevant undergraduate and graduate programs.

Goals

The goals of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao are:

- To offer students a general and professional education of excellence which will lead to their integral development and allow them to respond to the changing demands of a technologically advanced society.
- To contribute, through an education in its broadest implications, to the improvement of the social-economic conditions and the quality of life in the region served by UPRH and in Puerto Rico in general.
- To secure the values of the Puerto Rican culture.
- To achieve the institutional climate in which the students, the faculty and the non-teaching personnel can easily share and discuss ideas and mutual interests.
- To promote and support pure and applied research as well as creative work directed toward the advancement of knowledge and the arts and toward the solution of problems in Puerto Rico.

Accreditations and Affiliations

The University of Puerto Rico at Humacao has been accredited by the Middle states Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-280, Telephone: 215-662-5606. Its academic programs are licensed by the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education. It is also a member of the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

In addition, the following programs are accredited by professional accreditation organizations: Nursing-National League of Nursing (LN); Social Work-National Council of Social Work (NCSW); Physical Therapy-Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA); Occupational Therapy Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

The University of Puerto Rico at Humacao also belongs to the American Association of Colleges and Universities.
Structure and Government

Organization of the University of Puerto Rico

Presently, the University of Puerto Rico System is a well established and mature institution with a total enrollment of over 68,000 students. The University of Puerto Rico at Humacao serves a student population of approximately 4,469 students. The University was established by virtue of legislation in 1903. It was reorganized under Act No. I of January 20, 1966. The University of Puerto Rico System is composed of the Rio Piedras, Mayaguez and Medical Sciences Campuses, offering undergraduate and graduate programs, and the Humacao, Cayey, Bayamón, Carolina, Aguadilla Arecibo, Ponce and Utuado University Colleges, offering two and four-year programs of study. The 11 campuses constitute autonomous units and have a chancellor as their principal administrative and academic officer.

Board of Trustees of the University of Puerto Rico

The Board of Trustees of the University of Puerto Rico is the governing body of the University. Its membership consists of ten private citizens who represent the public interest in higher education, two faculty members, and a student representative. The Governor of Puerto Rico, with the advice and consent of the Senate of Puerto Rico, appoints the representatives of the public interest. The faculty and student representatives are elected among the non-administration members of the University Board. The public interest members serve six-year terms, while the faculty and student representatives serve a one-year term. The Board of Trustees elects its president from among its members.

The Board of Trustees of the University of Puerto Rico meets in regular sessions according to an annual calendar which it approves and publishes each year. It may hold special meetings at other times, when so requested by its president or by five of its members.

The Board of Trustees, as the main authority of the University of Puerto Rico, is responsible for examining and reviewing the budgetary and institutional development plans of the University; authorizing the creation of new campuses, centers, and other institutional units; appointing the President and Chancellors; defining the rights and duties of the various constituents of the institutional community; defining the standards for student financial aid; and preparing an annual report to the Governor and the legislature on the state of the University of Puerto Rico.

President of the University of Puerto Rico

The President of the University of Puerto Rico, who is appointed for an indefinite term by the Board of Trustees, is the chief executive officer of the University System. Subject to the approval of the Board, he or she appoints the chancellors of the various campuses and colleges. The President represents the University on corporate matters before the courts and government agencies. He or she is also an ex-officio member of all the faculties, academic senates and administrative boards of the System.

The President is responsible for submitting to the consideration of the Board of Trustees the institutional budget; the institutional development plan and its revisions; regulations, contracts and agreements that require the Board’s approval; and the annual report. He or she is also responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with other cultural and educational institutions, both locally and internationally.

University Board

The University Board is responsible for preparing the general by-laws of the University, the general laws of the student body and the development plan of the University System with the recommendations of the Academic Senates, for final submission to the President and the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. The Board also considers the system’s integrated budget and is the first course of appeal against any decision taken by the Administrative Board or the Academic Senate of an autonomous unit. It consists of the President of the University, the Chancellors of the eleven campuses and university colleges, the Budget Director, three additional members appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Trustees, one faculty representative from each Academic Senate and one student representative from each unit.

Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao

The Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao is the chief executive officer of the institutional unit. Among his or her responsibilities are presiding the Administrative Board, the Academic Senate and faculty meetings; appointing the deans, department chairpersons and university personnel; resolving on appeal the decisions of the deans; representing the campus at functions, ceremonies, and academic activities; and preparing for submission to the President, the campus annual report and budget petition.

Administrative Board

The Administrative Board of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao consists of the Chancellor as presiding officer, the deans, the director of the Library, four directors of the academic departments who represent the programs of Education, Arts, Sciences and Administrative Sciences, two academic senators elected among those faculty members of the Senate who are not ex-officio members, and an elected student representative.

Academic Senate

The Academic Senate of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao consists of the Chancellor as presiding officer, the deans, the director of the Library, an elected member from each academic department, an elected representative from the Library and from the Interdisciplinary Department for Student’s Integral Development (DIDIE in Spanish), and four student representatives.

The Faculty

The Faculty is composed of the Chancellor, the Dean for Academic Affairs, the department chairpersons, and teaching personnel. The General Regulations of the University of Puerto Rico define the Faculty’s functions, privileges, duties and rights.

Students

The rights and duties of students are set forth in the General Student Regulations. The General Student Council represents students before the University administration. The students are also represented in the Academic Senate, Administrative Board, University Board and Board of Trustees.