



SNAPSHOT

Aug. 28, 2025

Professional Education in Louisiana

Louisiana has enrolled an average of 3,200 students over the last decade in its six public schools that train new doctors, lawyers, dentists and pharmacists.

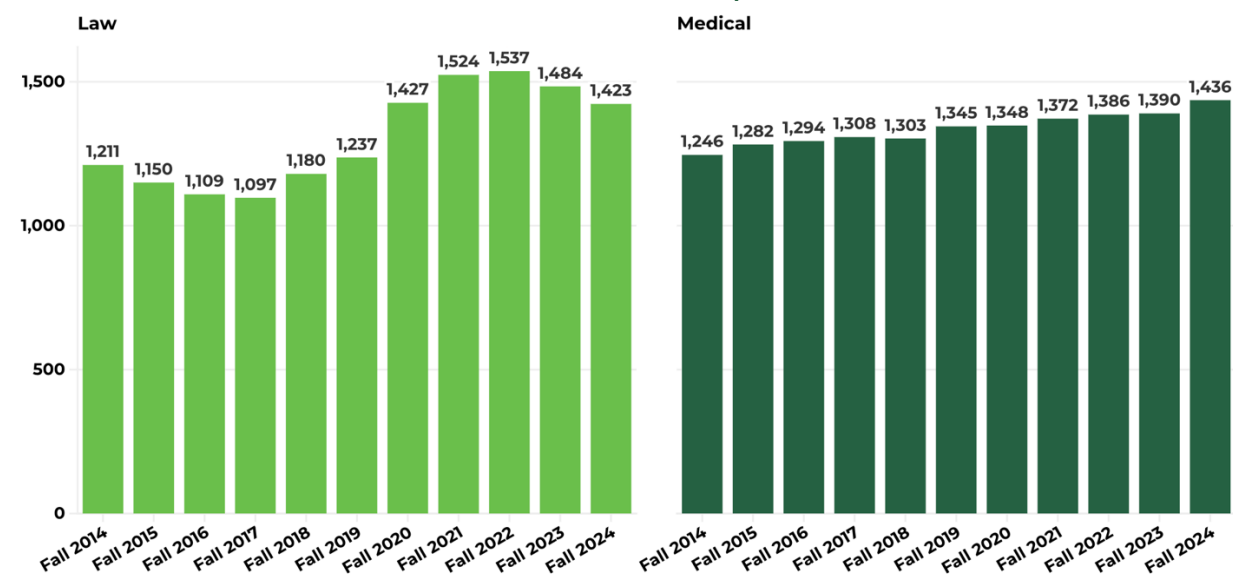
In the previous academic year, roughly 3,400 students attended one of those public professional schools, according to data from the [Board of Regents](#), the state agency that coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana.

Louisiana has several private universities with their own professional programs such as Tulane Medical School, Loyola New Orleans Law School and Xavier Pharmacy School. This Snapshot focuses on programs at public colleges that receive state funding, including at LSU, Southern University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Professional schools are post-baccalaureate programs in a highly specialized discipline that reward degrees required to enter a profession. This Snapshot reports on only four professional programs. However, a range of other specialties exist such as nursing, occupational therapy and dental hygiene.

Although enrollment in medical schools has increased, overall enrollment in these Louisiana professional schools has declined over the last three years. This drop in professional degree seekers aligns with national and regional trends of [declining higher education enrollment](#).

Law and Medical School Enrollment Trends, 2014-2024

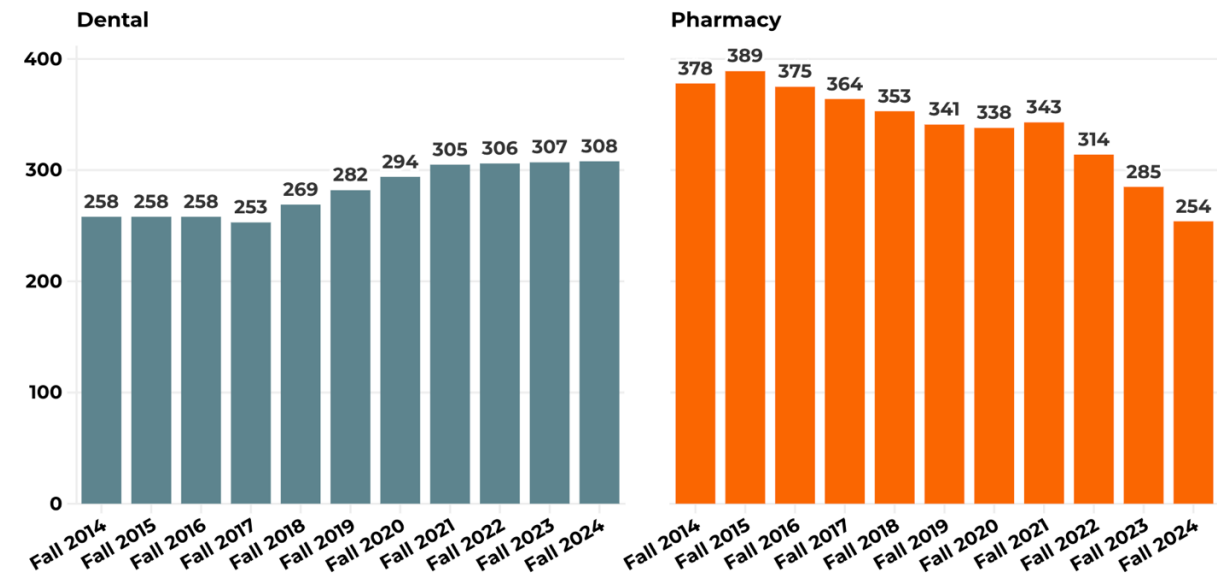


Source: Louisiana Board of Regents

After several years of rapid growth, Louisiana’s two public law schools saw enrollment peak at 1,537 students in the 2022-23 school year, but numbers have declined since, with the Southern University Law Center shedding 135 students over the past two years, according to Board of Regents data.

The public medical schools at LSU have seen a gradual growth in enrollment over the last decade, with the largest increase in 2024 when enrollment surpassed law school enrollment for the first time since 2019.

Dental and Pharmacy School Enrollment Trends, 2014-2024

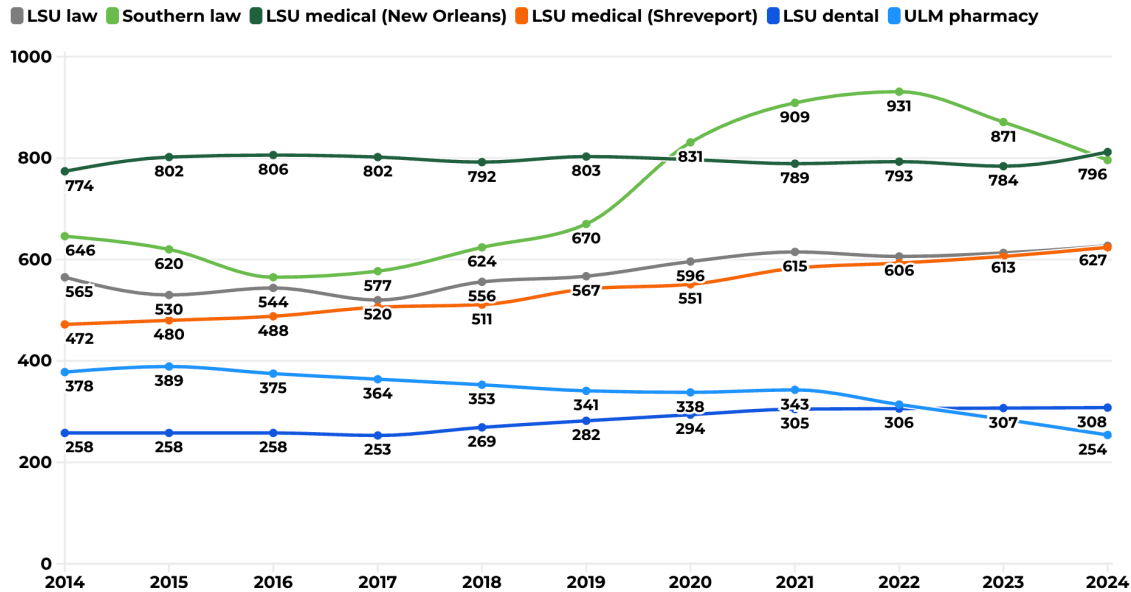


Source: Louisiana Board of Regents

LSU’s dental school has incrementally added students but largely maintained steady enrollment numbers, with an average of 280 students admitted each year over the last decade.

In contrast, the state’s only public pharmacy school at the University of Louisiana at Monroe has seen its student numbers decline for most of the past decade. ULM’s College of Pharmacy has lost nearly 90 students in its annual enrollment since 2021.

Individual Professional School Enrollment, 2014-2024



Source: Louisiana Board of Regents

LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans has consistently enrolled more medical students than its Shreveport counterpart, but the gap has narrowed to just 188 students in 2024. Ten years ago, the New Orleans campus enrolled 300 more students than Shreveport.

The Southern University Law Center enrolled a nine-year high of 931 students in 2022, but enrollment has since dropped to 796 students. The LSU Law Center has increased enrollment over the last seven years, adding an average of 15 students to its rolls every year since 2017.