

Frequently Asked Questions

LPU East Campus Transition

1. What decision has been made regarding LPU East?

Life Pacific University's Board of Trustees has made the difficult and prayerful decision to conclude brick-and-mortar operations at the LPU- VA East Campus in Christiansburg, Virginia, effective 6/30 and will transition to a more viable education model.

2. Why is LPU making this decision?

This decision follows years of faithful investment, prayerful consideration, and careful review of enrollment, financial, and operational realities. Despite significant efforts over the past seven years and a deep desire to succeed, the campus has continued to face low enrollment and an unsustainable financial model which also hinders our ability to serve students with a comparable on-campus experience.

3. Is this decision because LPU is no longer committed to the East?

No. LPU remains deeply committed to students, churches, ministry formation, and leadership development in the East. This decision is about changing the delivery model, not ending LPU's commitment to the region where education continues to grow through online, schools of ministry and church micro-sites.

4. What factors contributed to this decision?

Several factors contributed, including sustained low enrollment, increasing operational costs, inflation, limited program offerings at the VA/East Campus, inability to provide a comparable experience, post-COVID changes in student preferences, and higher education trends: growing number of students choosing online, larger campus, or church-based education models closer to home.

5. Were international students part of the original vision for VA/East Campus?

Yes. International student enrollment was part of the strategic vision for LPU East. However, recent visa-related challenges made it difficult for international students to enroll at the East Campus in the way originally anticipated. Enrollment was impacted significantly.

6. What academic programs were available at LPU East?

LPU East offered a limited number of academic pathways, including an AA degree and two BA degrees – Ministry and Leadership and Worship Arts and Media (hybrid). Many students today are seeking broader program options, more campus services, or flexible online and church-based pathways.

7. What will happen to current students?

Current students are priority and will receive a clear teach-out plan and individualized advising with various options. Each student will be supported with care and respect in identifying the best path to continue their education through LPU.

8. What options will students have?

Students may continue their academic journey through one of several pathways, including:

- Continuing online through LPU
- Transitioning to the San Dimas campus
- Joining a church-based micro-site where available
- An individualized plan will be made available for each student

9. Will students be able to complete their degrees?

Yes. LPU is committed to helping students continue toward degree completion through a teach-out plan and individual advising support.

10. What is a teach-out plan?

A teach-out plan is a structured academic plan designed to help students continue and complete their programs with minimal disruption. LPU will work individually with students to review degree requirements, course options, timing, and available pathways.

11. Will students need to reapply to LPU?

Current enrolled students will not need to reapply to LPU in order to continue through an approved LPU pathway. Advisors will work with students to clarify next steps based on each student's situation.

12. What about housing and student life?

Because brick-and-mortar operations at the VA/East Campus are ending, the residential and local campus experience will not continue in its current form but may evolve into a church based micro site. A housing transition plan on site is being worked out. LPU will work with students to explore transition options based on their academic pathway and personal needs.

13. What will happen to faculty and staff?

LPU is committed to communicating with care and clarity with all impacted employees. There is currently one full time employee, two part time staff, student staff, and adjunct faculty impacted. The university will work directly with employees regarding transition details, timing, and available support.

14. What does this mean for alumni?

Alum remain part of the LPU family. LPU honors the alumni of Mount Vernon Bible College, Life East, Ignite Academy and LPUVA/East, students, pastors, churches, faculty, staff, and partners who have invested in the East Campus over many years. Alumni remain an important part of the LPU story, and we are grateful for the legacy of lives shaped through this work and will continue to be a part of LPU's alumni network, events, and communications.

15. Is LPU leaving the East region?

No. The contrary. LPU's work in the East is gaining momentum. More than 100 leaders and emerging leaders are currently enrolled with LPU in the East beyond the Christiansburg location. LPU will continue serving students and churches through online undergraduate education, graduate programs, certificates, and church-based micro-sites.

16. What are church-based micro-sites?

Church-based micro-sites are local church partnerships where students can participate in a ministry and leadership formation environment while completing their academic program through LPU's approved delivery model. <https://lifepacific.edu/church-partner/>

17. How many micro-sites are currently in the region?

LPU currently has 38 active micro-sites that include 7+ in the Atlantic District alone. This model reflects the growing demand for flexible, church-based leadership development.

18. Is this connected to broader changes in higher education?

Yes. Higher education has changed significantly, especially since COVID-19 with numerous college closures, challenges for small schools and changes in student learning preferences. Many students are choosing flexible online options, local church-based models, larger campus environments with more degree programs and amenities, or pathways that allow them to stay closer to home, work, and church.

19. Was this decision made quickly?

No. This decision followed years of effort, analysis, review, investment, and discussion. The university carefully considered enrollment realities, financial sustainability, operational realities, student experience, and long-term mission impact. This year's new enrollment fell well below target making it unsustainable for this year and years to come.

20. How has The Foursquare Church supported LPU East?

The Foursquare Church has been a significant sponsor since 2019 helping fund prior to and then through the years of Covid-19 with continual funding to date. Additionally, individual leaders, pastors, alumni, churches, and partners have invested significantly in the campus. LPU is deeply grateful for this faithful support and continued partnership in developing leaders for ministry and mission.

21. What is the timeline for closure?

Brick-and-mortar operations at the VA/East Campus will conclude effective June 30 with a housing transition period through August 1 for on-site students and employees. LPU will communicate with students, employees, and partners throughout the transition.

22. Who should students contact with questions?

Students should contact their assigned LPU advisor or designated student support contact for individualized guidance regarding their academic pathway, teach-out plan, and transition options.

23. How should pastors, alumni, and partners respond?

We ask for prayer, care, and support for the students, employees, alumni, and community members impacted by this transition. LPU is committed to stewarding this decision with compassion, clarity, and faithfulness.

24. What is the main message LPU wants people to understand?

While this is a difficult and heart wrenching decision, it is not the end of LPU's mission in the East. The model of an extension campus is changing yet our mission remains the same. LPU remains committed to equipping Christ-centered, Spirit-filled leaders through sustainable and accessible models that serve students, churches, and communities in this new era of higher education. Email: lifeeastquestions@lifepacific.edu