

# ABOUT VALENCIA COLLEGE

Valencia Junior College was founded in February 1967 by the Orange County Board of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education under authority granted by the 1961 session of the Florida Legislature.

In July 1967, the College Advisory Committee became the Valencia Junior College Board of Trustees and replaced the Orange County Board of Public Instruction as the governing body of the College.

In Fall 1967, the charter class, limited to freshmen, began classes in temporary facilities on West Oak Ridge Road in Orlando.

In 2011, Valencia College won the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the only national competitive award recognizing top achievement in student academic performance and workforce preparedness.

The following have been landmark events in the history of the College:

- 1969 – Granted full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- 1971 – Changed its name from Valencia Junior College to Valencia Community College
- 1971 – Moved to a first permanent campus, West Campus
- 1974 – Added Osceola County to the college district
- 1975 – Opened East Campus
- 1997 – Opened Osceola Campus
- 1998 – Opened Winter Park Campus
- 2004 – Opened Sand Lake Center (Continuing Education facility)
- 2005 – Co-founded DirectConnect to UCF, to provide Valencia students with guaranteed admission to the University of Central Florida
- 2011 – Changed its name from Valencia Community College to Valencia College
- 2011 – Valencia College began offering bachelor's degrees
- 2011 – Received the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence
- 2012 – Opened Lake Nona Campus
- 2012 – Established a smoke-free policy collegewide
- 2017 – Opened Poinciana Campus and celebrated 50-years of service to Orange and Osceola counties (<http://valenciacollege.edu/50years>)

In response to a burgeoning student population, the college anticipates opening additional campuses during the next decade, including one in the Poinciana community scheduled to open during this academic year.

## Accreditation

Valencia College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Associate and Bachelor's 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 Valencia College. The Commission's address and contact numbers are provided to enable interested constituents to (1) learn about the accreditation status of the institution, (2) file a third-party comment at the time of the institution's decennial review, or (3) file a complaint against the institution for alleged non-compliance with a standard or requirement. Normal inquiries about the college, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to the appropriate department at Valencia College and not to the Commission's office.

## Administration and Faculty

To view our Administration listing please visit [valenciacollege.edu/aboutus/administration.cfm](http://valenciacollege.edu/aboutus/administration.cfm) (<http://valenciacollege.edu/aboutus/administration.cfm>). To view our complete faculty roster, please visit <http://net5.valenciacollege.edu/facultyroster/>.