



Report Highlights

Nicholls State University

University of Louisiana System

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Financial Audit Services • November 2015

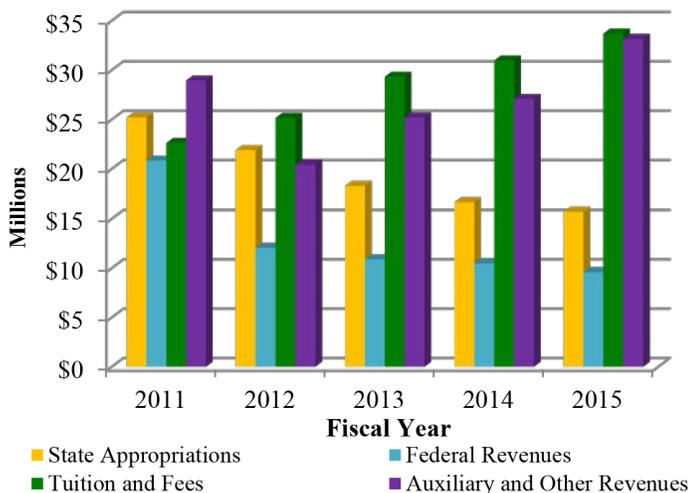
Why We Conducted This Audit

We performed procedures at Nicholls State University (Nicholls) as part of the University of Louisiana System's (System) audit and to evaluate its accountability over public funds for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

What We Found

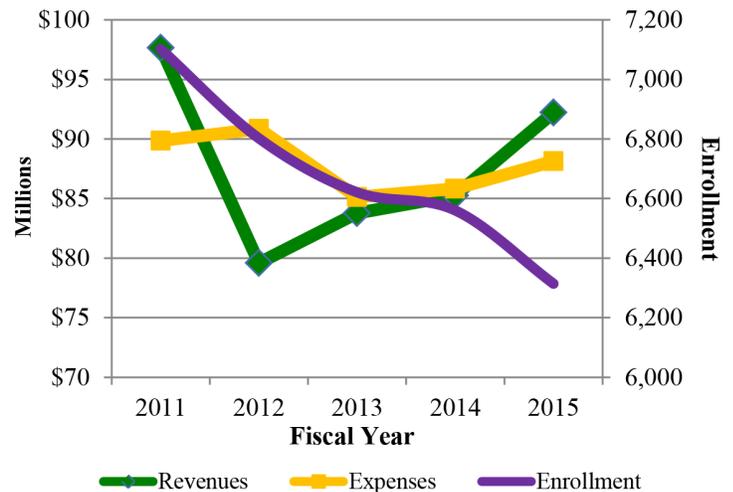
- Nicholls State University lacked adequate Information Technology (IT) controls over the Banner system, exposing data to unauthorized access, changes, or loss. However, we found no unauthorized data changes or disclosures.
- Financial information relating to the following accounts is materially correct, as adjusted: cash and cash equivalents, investments, due from State Treasury, capital assets, bonds payable, unearned revenues resulting from tuition and fees, net position, student tuition and fees, auxiliary enterprise revenues, state appropriations, and education and general expenses.
- In analyzing financial trends of Nicholls over the past five fiscal years, expenses have remained relatively consistent. Since fiscal year 2011, state appropriations have decreased 38% and federal revenues have decreased 54%. As these revenues continue to become a smaller portion of total revenues, the university's operations are becoming more dependent on student tuition and fees, and auxiliary and other revenues. Over that same period, tuition and fees have increased by 49% mainly due to the increases in tuition permitted by the GRAD Act (Act 741 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature). Auxiliary and other revenues have increased by 15%. In addition, the increases in tuition rates are offset by an 11% decline in enrollment.

Five-Year Revenue Trend



Source: FY2011-14 System Audit Reports;
FY15 Nicholls Annual Fiscal Report

Fiscal/Enrollment Trends



Source: FY2011-14 System Audit Reports; FY15 Nicholls Annual Fiscal Report; Louisiana Board of Regents Statewide Student Profile System - Institutional Summary Reports