History

In the fall of 1969, Lamar University opened its first extension center in Orange, Texas with classes held in the former Tilley Elementary School. In 1971, the Texas Legislature passed legislation enabling Lamar University to operate a two-year educational center, thus removing the extension status and allowing students to take two full years of coursework on the Orange campus. In 1971, the building was destroyed by fire, and a spirited community-wide fund raising effort netted more than $250,000 for the purchase of the former Sabine Supply Company building, located at 410 Front Street in Orange. Classes began at this location in fall 1971. Since that time, facilities, enrollment and course offerings have grown steadily. Academic programs are offered in four divisions: Allied Health, Arts and Sciences, Business and Technology, and Education.

The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Lamar University System in 1983. In 1991, the Texas Legislature provided degree-granting authority to Lamar University-Orange. Lamar University-Orange, along with sister institutions in Port Arthur and Beaumont, was merged with the Texas State University System (TSUS), effective September 1, 1995. With system offices located in Austin, the TSUS also includes Angelo State University, Sam Houston State University, Texas State University-San Marcos, Sul Ross State University and Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College.

During the 1999 legislative session, Lamar University-Orange was officially renamed Lamar State College-Orange. Lamar State College-Orange currently averages a headcount enrollment of 2,000 students, and offers technical, academic, and public service programs. Students may complete two years of coursework and satisfy most of the general education requirements for bachelors’ degrees. The College’s core curriculum is transferrable to any Texas state school and some private and out-of-state schools.