

STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENTS

As Reflected On University Web Sites

Board of Governors Meeting
April 21, 2005

UF Mission Statement

With the turn of the calendar to a new millennium, the University of Florida Faculty Senate crafted the following academic mission statement for the campus master plan:

The University of Florida faculty renews its commitment to serve the citizens of Florida and educate students so they are prepared to make significant contributions within an increasingly global community. In affirming the university's academic mission, we honor the human component of our mission: our students, faculty, staff and administrators; and recognize the importance of these human resources to the university's success. Towards this affirmation, the University of Florida faculty specifically encourages a campus-wide culture of caring.

It is the mission of the University of Florida to offer broad-based, inclusive public education, leading-edge research and service to the citizens of Florida and the nation. The fusion of these three endeavors stimulates a remarkable intellectual vitality and generates a synthesis that promises to be the university's greatest strength.

The university intends to renew its dedication to excellent teaching and researching by creating a strong and flexible foundation for higher education in the 21st century. While the faculty remains committed to key aspects to the university's original mission, changing times will require that we continually expand and evaluate our academic aspirations. We do this in order to assure that quality education at the University of Florida remains the highest goal and most valued contribution to society.

The University of Florida belongs to a tradition of great universities. It is one of the nation's largest public, land-grant research institutions, one of the most comprehensive universities in the United States, and it encompasses virtually all academic and professional disciplines. The faculty and staff of the university are dedicated to the common pursuit of its mission of education, research and service. Together with our undergraduate and graduate students we participate in an educational process that links the history of Western Europe with the traditions and cultures of all societies, that explores the physical and biological universes, and that nurtures generations of young people from diverse backgrounds to address the needs of our societies. The university welcomes the full exploration of our intellectual boundaries and supports our faculty and students in the creation of new knowledge and the pursuit of new ideas.

Teaching is a fundamental purpose of this university at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Research and scholarship are integral to the education process and to the expansion of our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses. Service reflects the university's obligation to share the benefits of its research and knowledge for the public good.

These three interlocking elements span all of the university's academic disciplines and represent the university's commitment to lead and serve the State of Florida and the

nation by pursuing and disseminating new knowledge while building upon the experiences of the past. The University of Florida aspires to advance the state, nation, and the international community by strengthening the human condition and improving the quality of life.

Florida State University Mission Statement

**(Approved by BOR, July 28, 1988; revised, May 21 1999;
updated 2002)**

Mission. The Florida State University is a comprehensive, graduate-research university with a liberal arts base. It offers undergraduate, graduate, advanced graduate, and professional programs of study, conducts extensive research, and provides service to the public in accord with its statewide mission. The University's primary role is to serve as a center for advanced graduate and professional studies while emphasizing research and providing excellence in undergraduate programs.

In accordance with the University's mission, faculty members have been selected for their commitment to excellence in teaching, their ability in research and creative activity, and their interest in public service. Among the faculty are recipients of many national and international honors, who have included four Nobel laureates and ten members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Given its history, location, and accomplishments, The Florida State University does not expect major changes in its mission during the next decade. Rather, it sees further refinement of that mission with concentration on its strong liberal arts base and on quality in its teaching, research, and public service. The University has established its reputation upon areas of strength by building excellence in the four components of the Science Development Program-physics, chemistry, psychobiology (now neuroscience), and statistics-together with the physical, biological, earth, and mathematical sciences closely related to them. Excellence in these and related areas, particularly materials science, resulted in relocation of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory to Florida State. Enhancement of the fine and performing arts began with the establishment of the Center for Music Research in the already prestigious School of Music and includes prominent programs in Theatre, Dance, and the Visual Arts. Within the areas of humanities, the Departments of English, Philosophy, Religion, and Humanities are particularly distinguished. Special emphasis in economic policy and government has been directed to the College of Social Sciences' Departments of Economics, Geography, Political Science, Urban and Regional Planning, and School of Public Administration and Policy and to its DeVoe L. Moore and Family Center

for Economic Policy and Government and the public policy components of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the School of Social Work, and the College of Education.

The University's location in the State's capital city provides great opportunity for service and interaction among governmental agencies and the social science and professional schools, especially the Colleges of Business and Law and the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy. Special resources, such as the School of Computational Science and Information Technology and the Florida State Conference Center, enhance its ability to deliver such service. The University is strongly committed to its mission in international education. It provides study-abroad opportunities for its students and faculty through the Florence and London Study Centers, which it operates for the State University System, and through programs in Barbados, Costa Rica, the Republic of Panama, Switzerland, Russia, Cetamura, Italy, Oxford, England, and in Central and Eastern Europe. The University co-sponsors Florida bi-national linkage institutes in Costa Rica and France.

As a comprehensive residential state university, Florida State attracts students from every county in Florida, every state in the nation, and 139 foreign countries. The University is committed to high admission standards that ensure quality in its student body, which currently includes 577 National Merit, National Achievement and Hispanic Scholars, as well as students with superior creative talents. It also provides alternative admission and highly successful retention programs for special student populations. Most students pursue a full-time course of study in normal progression from high school or undergraduate institutions. Graduate students, who comprise 17.8 percent of the student body, are enrolled in over 204 graduate degree programs of which 72, covering 133 fields, are doctoral. The median age of all students is 23.7 and approximately 12.5 percent, mostly graduate students, are over 31 years old.

Creating One FAMU!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), as an 1890 land-grant institution, is to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technological and student-centered environment, conducive to the development of highly qualified individuals who are prepared and capable of serving as leaders and contributors in our ever-evolving society. The University seeks and supports a faculty and staff of distinction dedicated to providing outstanding academic preparation at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional school levels, with a particular emphasis on integrity and ethical conduct. FAMU is committed to inspirational teaching, exemplary research and meaningful public and community service through creative partnerships at the local, state, national and global levels. The University is also committed to the resolution of complex issues that will enhance humankind. While the University continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities are welcomed and encouraged to remain life-long members of the university community. The University, through its diverse faculty and staff, provides a caring, nurturing, collegial and respectful environment.

USF Mission

The University of South Florida is a multi-campus national research university that supports the development of the metropolitan Tampa Bay Region, Florida, the United States and the world. Building upon unique strengths inherent in Florida's population, location, and natural resources, the university is dedicated to excellence in:

- Teaching and lifelong learning in a student-centered environment
- Research to advance knowledge and promote social, cultural, economic, educational, health, and technological development
- Service based on academic excellence and the ethic of community responsibility
- Community engagement to build university-community partnerships and collaborations

Mission Statement

Florida Atlantic University is a public university committed through its distributed campus structure to providing access to challenging opportunities in higher education for students in Southeast Florida and beyond. Its mission is to serve its region, state, and nation by preparing students to make meaningful contributions in an increasingly complex global society, by encouraging reflection on and evaluation of emerging needs and priorities, and by supporting research and service that enhances economic, human, and cultural development.

FAU accomplishes its mission primarily through its teachers and researchers, its undergraduate educational programs, its graduate and professional offerings, and its linkages to other educational institutions and the community.

Teachers and Researchers

Florida Atlantic University fosters an intellectual environment that values the role of faculty as researchers-teachers. As researchers and scholars, faculty discover and create new knowledge, design solutions, and develop new means of expression. As teachers committed to effective student learning, faculty share results, processes, and perspectives with students. Inside and outside the classroom, students at Florida Atlantic University find opportunities to become a part of a dynamic community of inquiry and learn to value intellectual activities and personal qualities that contribute to an enriched and productive life.

Undergraduate Educational Programs

Florida Atlantic University prepares its undergraduate students to be productive and thoughtful citizens by offering a broad liberal education coupled with the development of competency in fields of special interest. By providing both disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the pursuit of knowledge and the solving of problems, FAU encourages students to think creatively and critically and provides intellectual tools needed for lifelong learning. A variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities enable students to appreciate the rich diversity that characterizes their region and world.

Graduate and Professional Offerings

With its graduate and professional programs, Florida Atlantic University offers advanced education responsive to evolving societal needs. These programs promote original scholarship and basic and applied research, thereby contributing to the new knowledge and approaches needed to respond effectively to complex and critical issues. By working closely with faculty in the classroom, laboratory, studio, and field, students experience first-hand the ways in which knowledge is discovered, applied, and extended.

Community Linkages and Educational Partnerships

Through its partnerships with other educational institutions, local businesses, industries,

and civic and cultural organizations, Florida Atlantic University enhances the economic, human, and cultural development of Southeast Florida and beyond. By collaborating with others to address critical problems and expand cultural and educational opportunities, the University connects learning and discovery with the needs and priorities of the communities that it serves.

Strategic Goals

To guide its development and promote its mission during the first decade of the 21st century, Florida Atlantic University has adopted eight strategic goals:

Goal 1: To increase student access on each of Florida Atlantic University's partner campuses

Goal 2: To provide student support services and other activities that contribute to an exciting and supportive learning environment

Goal 3: To encourage curricular and pedagogical innovations responsive to the diverse learning styles, circumstances, and educational needs of Florida Atlantic University's students

Goal 4: To achieve recognition from local, regional, national, and international constituencies for the excellence of FAU's academic programs

Goal 5: To enhance graduate education and research

Goal 6: To expand partnerships with business, government, cultural, and educational institutions

Goal 7: To promote the academic and organizational integration of FAU's partner campuses

Goal 8: To develop and allocate resources on the basis of strategic priorities and performance

University of West Florida

Mission

To empower each individual we serve with knowledge and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world.

UCF's Mission

The University of Central Florida is a public, multi-campus, metropolitan research university, dedicated to serving its surrounding communities with their diverse and expanding populations, technological corridors, and international partners. The mission of the university is to offer high-quality undergraduate and graduate education, student development, and continuing education; to conduct research and creative activities; and to provide services that enhance the intellectual, cultural, environmental, and economic development of the metropolitan region, address national and international issues in key areas, establish UCF as a major presence, and contribute to the global community.

UCF GOALS

Goal 1: Offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida.

Goal 2: Achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study and research.

Goal 3: Provide international focus to our curricula and research programs.

Goal 4: Become more inclusive and diverse.

Goal 5: Be America's leading partnership university.

FIU Mission Statement

Florida International University is an urban, multi-campus, research university serving South Florida, the state, the nation and the international community. It fulfills its mission by imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, promoting public service, discovering new knowledge, solving problems through research, and fostering creativity.

UNF

The University of North Florida's strategic plan begins with our institutional mission: The University of North Florida's primary focus is on instruction, with scholarship and community involvement playing vital roles. The University provides a comprehensive array of degree programs, with a targeted emphasis on select programs where the University is a national leader.

FGCU Mission

Established on the verge of the 21st century, Florida Gulf Coast University infuses the strengths of the traditional public university with innovation and learning-centered spirit, its chief aim being to fulfill the academic, cultural, social, and career expectations of its constituents

Outstanding faculty uphold challenging academic standards and balance research, scholarly activities, and service expectations with their central responsibilities of teaching and mentoring. Through these efforts, the faculty and University transform students' lives and the southwest Florida region

Florida Gulf Coast University continuously pursues academic excellence, practices and promotes environmental sustainability, embraces diversity, nurtures community partnerships, values public service, encourages civic responsibility, cultivates habits of lifelong learning, and keeps the advancement of knowledge and pursuit of truth as noble ideals at the heart of the university's purpose.

Approved by the FGCU Board of Trustees December 2, 2002

The Mission of New College

New College offers an undergraduate liberal arts education of the highest quality in the context of a small, residential public honors college with a distinctive academic program which develops the student's intellectual and personal potential as fully as possible; encourages the discovery of new knowledge and values while providing opportunities to acquire established knowledge and values; and fosters the individual's effective relationship with society.¹

As a member of the State University System of Florida, New College of Florida, the 4-year residential liberal arts honors college of the State of Florida, preserves its distinctive mission as a residential liberal arts honors college. To maintain this mission, New College of Florida has the following goals:

- (a) To provide a quality education to students of high ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of study that is both demanding and stimulating.
- (b) To engage in undergraduate educational reform by combining educational innovation with educational excellence.
- (c) To provide programs of study that allow students to design their educational experience as much as possible in accordance with their individual interests, values, and abilities.
- (d) To challenge undergraduates not only to master existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers of knowledge through original research.²

New College pursues these goals through highly selective admissions, an individualized and intensive "academic contract" curriculum, frequent use of individual and small-group instruction, an emphasis on student/faculty collaboration, a required senior thesis, and innovative approaches to the modes of teaching and learning.¹

¹ as endorsed by New College Faculty, Fall 2000

² as described in Florida Statutes 240.2011 & Florida Legislature 2001 SB 1162, Section 39