

**State University System  
Education and General  
2024-2025 Legislative Budget Request  
Form I**

<b>University(s):</b>	<b>Florida Atlantic University</b>
<b>Request Title:</b>	<b>Establishing a College of Dentistry at Florida Atlantic University</b>
<b>Date Request Approved by University Board of Trustees:</b>	<b>August 15, 2023 (pending)</b>
<b>Recurring Funds Requested:</b>	<b>\$ 32,857,000</b>
<b>Non-Recurring Funds Requested:</b>	<b>\$ 80,464,000</b>
<b>Total Funds Requested:</b>	<b><u>\$113,321,000</u></b>
<b>Please check the request type below:</b>	
<b>Shared Services/System-Wide Request</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Unique Request</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**I. Purpose**

**In order to increase overall dental student enrollment and graduates that can best serve the needs of our growing population in Florida**, Florida Atlantic University is proposing the formation of the state’s second public dental school.

During the 2022-2023 Florida legislative session, Florida Atlantic University received \$10M in Operational Funds (\$5M one-time, \$5M reoccurring) and \$30M in Fixed Capital Outlay (PECO) Funds for the purpose of establishing a College of Dentistry, which once completed will be only the second public College of Dentistry in the State of Florida. We are pleased to report significant work is already underway and demonstrates the university’s commitment and ability to execute this project successfully.

In less than a year’s time, Florida Atlantic University has engaged a variety of highly qualified individuals to achieve the goals set forth, including a distinguished leader to manage this complex process. We swiftly began the process for facilities planning, establishing an appropriate operational infrastructure, cementing collaborative community-based relationships for the program, identifying potential faculty, establishing appropriate timelines for the essential academic milestones, and initiating the precursory steps to obtain CODA accreditation prior to enrollment. Substantial progress has been achieved and the university is on track for an accelerated timeline.

The state's commitment to date is also notable, as demonstrated by the initial allocation of funds. Likewise, we see the additional support essential for project completion as depicted in the 2022-2023 request. The application herein has been updated to reflect the first tranche of Operational and Fixed Capital Outlay Funds allocated.

Florida Atlantic University aims to create a new College of Dentistry and to offer the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program starting in 2026. The College of Dentistry is aligned with the development of FAU Health Network. We plan to admit 45 students in year 1 and have a staggered increase to 90 students over 4 years with a total enrollment of 350 students once fully enrolled (assuming attrition). The College of Dentistry will be supported by a proposed \$30 million lead donation and will be housed in a new 94,000 gsf College of Dentistry facility that will be constructed on FAU's Boca Raton campus. In addition to the operational funding requested in this legislative budget request, the College of Dentistry facility will be a fixed capital outlay request that seeks state support during the upcoming legislative session. In addition to standardized patient clinical program requirements, dental care clinic experiences will be operationalized in Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties with full and affiliate faculty members, similar to the clinical rotations provided by our College of Medicine and College of Nursing. The College of Dentistry also will partner with public and private partners in the FAU Health Network. The College of Dentistry is an essential component of FAU Health Network's mission to best serve the growing population of Florida. Further, the clinical, education and research opportunities will enhance Florida's life sciences sector, boosting its workforce and related economic impact.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 19 percent job growth for dentists (from 2016 to 2026), which is much faster than average. The bureau cites an aging population and new research linking oral and overall health as reasons for the increased demand for dental care. A 2019 report from Health Resources and Services Administration shows that one in four Florida residents already live in areas with a shortage of dentists, more than any other state. Topping the list of states with "Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas," more than 5 million Floridians live in areas that have limited or no access to a dentist. In fact, 63 of 67 counties have a dental shortage. Data from Wellbeing Florida shows that in 2021 hospitals billed more than \$620 million in preventable ER visits and hospital admissions stemming from oral health issues. About half of that was billed through Medicaid, Medicare and other government programs.

The elderly community and children are the populations that most often have limited access to dental care. Among those over 65 years of age, one in three people have significant dental issues as a result of tooth decay or gum disease, and 14 percent of seniors ultimately have all their teeth extracted. Moreover, one in five children in Florida suffer from treatable dental problems. Almost a quarter of Florida's third-grade children suffer from untreated tooth decay. Correspondingly, Florida is ranked sixth in the nation for the highest percentage of third-grade children with unfilled cavities.

According to the Journal of the American Dental Association, as a result of the current dentist shortage, the United States is seeing more foreign-trained dentists in the United States. Dentists trained outside the US have increased from 4.3% to 6% from 2002-2016, and estimates place that rate as high as 8% currently. However, current immigration policies continue to impact the ability to recruit and retain foreign trained dentists. The impacts of these policies are likely to be felt hardest in rural areas – the places that prove most challenging when attempting to recruit practicing dentists.

Florida Atlantic's proposed College of Dentistry aligns with the overall FAU Strategic Plan, *The Race to Excellence*, which includes health as one of its academic pillars and community relationships as an essential element. Moreover, the programs also concur with FAU's annual Accountability Plan, which establishes targets to produce more degrees in areas of strategic emphases and to meet workforce needs in health fields.

According to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), private dental schools on average burden a student with over \$500,000 in tuition, materials costs and administrative fees. These costs are projected to increase at a rate of 3-5 percent per year for the next 4 years. Currently, the state of Florida has only one publicly funded dental school to service a population of 22.2M residents.

The proposed FAU College of Dentistry would become the second public dental school in the state and would focus on recruiting students with a passion to work in underserved and rural areas.

Our goals are to:

1. Establish the infrastructure for the education mission of the school inclusive of an office of student affairs, accreditation and curriculum development, in accordance with the requirements of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
  - a. CODA evaluates the educational quality of predoctoral, advanced, and allied dental education programs in the United States. All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia recognize the Commission's authority to accredit predoctoral, advanced, and allied dental education programs in their respective disciplines.
  - b. The Commission also evaluates the educational quality of international dental education programs (see International Predoctoral Policies and Procedures). The Commission on Dental Accreditation has developed accreditation standards for each of the disciplines within its purview. The standards, which are the basis for accreditation actions, are reviewed periodically and revised as necessary (see CODA Policy and Procedures for Development and Revision of Accreditation Standards).
2. Recruit, hire and train an additional 30 teaching, clinical and research faculty and supporting staff to actualize the education, research and clinical curriculum.

3. Recruit, hire and train an additional 10 faculty to lead and manage the college's administrative operations from the tripartite mission perspective.
4. Partner with precepting faculty in underserved communities as well as with the state to advance loan repayment programs designed to incentivize graduates to serve in underserved areas

**Goal 1 Establish the infrastructure and facilities for the educational mission of the school inclusive of an office of student affairs, accreditation and curriculum development.**

- (1) Recruit, hire and retain a founding dean, associate dean for student affairs, assistant dean of curriculum, and senior faculty with expertise in accreditation. They will need legal, financial and human resources personnel in addition to support staff.
- (2) Hire a focused consulting firm to expedite the accreditation process.
- (3) Purchase learning tools and equipment .
- (4) Identify academic classrooms for didactic learning areas.
- (5) Build dedicated dental school facilities by year 3 that include:
  - a. Wet laboratory with online milling units, sintering oven, and intraoral scanners with learning software.
  - b. Preclinical spaces for simulation learning of basic skills of dentistry, as well as fixed and removable prosthodontics on mannequins.
  - c. Instructional clinical spaces with comprehensive dental operatories for standardized patient, student treatment clinics.

**Goal 2 & 3 Recruit, hire and train an additional 30 teaching, clinical and research faculty to actualize the education, research and clinical curriculum and an additional 10 faculty to lead and manage the college's administrative operations from the tripartite mission perspective.**

- (1) Will recruit 30 full-time, qualified "core faculty" as described by the CODA, as well as supporting staff to deliver a high quality DMD curriculum in accordance with CODA specifications.
  - a. The standards for accreditation curriculum must include at least four academic years of instruction or its equivalent.
  - b. The stated goals of the dental education program must be focused on educational outcomes and define the competencies needed for graduation, including the preparation of graduates who possess

the knowledge, skills and values to begin the practice of general dentistry.

- c. Using the CODA definition of an FTE, the prescribed student-faculty ratio for instruction preclinically and clinically in the predoctoral program – subtracting out administrators, biomedical scientists, and those who have other teaching responsibilities such as shared responsibilities with the college of medicine (e.g. anatomy), is not to exceed 10:1 and should accommodate the requirements of clinical instruction (70 percent or more by core faculty).

- (2) We will hire key roles for implementation and execution of the curriculum including IT, library services, research services, simulation, and rural outreach.
- (3) We will hire administrative leadership that will oversee and ensure the delivery of a quality dental education program, meeting and exceeding CODA standards for education, and embracing the tripartite mission.

**Goal 4 Partner with the state moving forward on loan repayment programs designed to incentivize graduates to serve in underserved areas.**

- (1) We will establish clinical opportunities with qualified preceptors in our local and regional community.
  - a. Adjunct faculty are defined as dentists from the community that practice in a variety of clinical settings and commit to teaching one day a week for ten months a year.
- (2) Recruit an Asst Dean of Admissions and office staff to recruit students to achieve these goals. Work with state lawmakers to develop proposed legislation that would establish dental education reimbursement and loan repayment programs similar to the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program referenced in § 1009.65 Fla. Stat.

## **II. Return on Investment**

### ***Contributions***

FAU is making the following contributions to creation of its College of Dentistry:

- Leveraging existing resources within the University, including infrastructure surrounding finance, human resources, information technology, legal, marketing, registrar services.
- Maximizing opportunities for interprofessional learning in pre-clinical classes and in research programs.
- Shared use of existing simulation and anatomy labs with College of Medicine.

- Shared instructors with the College of Medicine in common or overlapping areas of training.
- Use of lecture halls and other spaces with other Colleges on FAU campuses.
- Use of simulation lab in the Medical Research space for basic science faculty.

### *Projected Return on Investment*

FAU Health Network aims to best serve the healthcare needs of the population of the region and of Florida through education, research integration and interprofessional practice. Florida Atlantic's Boca campus currently houses 7 colleges related to health sciences (e.g. biomedical engineering, medicine, nursing, psychology, social work).

The proposed College of Dentistry is the next natural progression of this coalition of collaboration. The College of Dentistry will be a key pillar in this foundation of care delivery, providing a pipeline of highly trained dental professionals, well equipped to serve the community.

Population and economic growth are driving the demand for and the expansion of the life sciences sector in Southeast Florida. According to the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, the county alone is home to 15 hospital and over 700 life sciences companies primarily engaged in medical services, as well as the research and development or manufacturing of biotechnologies, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and biological sciences. The construction and operationalization of a new College of Dentistry would have a significant impact on the region's growing life sciences sector. The design and construction of a new 94,000 gsf College of Dentistry facility would result in approximately 1,500 direct, indirect and induced jobs. These numbers are over and above the 40 full-time faculty and 70 full-time support staff that will be employed once the College of Dentistry is fully operational. In addition to directly creating 110 high wage jobs and infusing tens of millions of dollar into the regional economy, the ongoing operations of the College of Dentistry will also have significant indirect impacts on job creation. It is estimated that an additional 540 indirect jobs will be created as a result of the College of Dentistry's annual operations.

In addition, FAU Health Network will work collaboratively with the region's 12 dental hygiene programs to provide additional clinical rotation opportunities – also impacted by the shortage of dentists in the region. The ability to find and retain adequate preceptors is becoming evermore challenging for the dental allied health providers. These programs directly benefit from connectivity to a dental school and will also help FAU reduce the cost of clinical support personnel.

Between 80-90% of the dental students that train in Florida remain in Florida, this will have a tremendous impact on the number of dentists available to serve. Focusing the curriculum on serving the underserved will benefit the 63 counties that have a shortage of dental providers.

The primary educational outcomes of the proposed programs include student enrollment and graduation numbers. The primary workforce outcomes include the number and percentage of students who successfully pass the National Board

Dental Examination (Part 1 and 2) and enter the dental workforce in Florida, and specifically in underserved areas of the state. This program will increase the number of dental graduates, and will recruit students likely to stay in the region as they develop ties to the community that will further increase the likelihood of retention. The expected returns on investment (ROI) include increases in the number of dentists, as well as allied dental professionals, such as dental hygienists and assistants, that are added to Florida's workforce.

The funding for doctoral student stipends/scholarships will also allow us to attract and enroll additional students and will also contribute to the college and FAU's mission.

### **III. Personnel**

This legislative budget request contains a combination of both recurring operational and non-recurring startup funds that would support the creation and ongoing operations of the College of Dentistry.

The majority of costs associated with the program are recurring and are for personnel needed to support the college and for the annual, recurring expenses associated with the program for operations, equipment, supplies, mannequins, radiological software, and diagnostic tools.

A minimum of 40.0 total faculty FTEs, 70.0 staff FTEs, and 10 adjunct FTEs will be hired. Various faculty will be needed to represent expertise in administration, education and research.

Additionally, the remaining \$85.5M non-recurring request would fund the startup faculty and staff expenses, fees, infrastructure and equipment necessary to provide academic instruction in clinical settings and in campus simulation lab settings.

**IV. Facilities**

	<b>Facility Project Title</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Priority Number</b>
1.	<i>College of Dentistry Facility</i>	2023-2024	\$84,695,700	N/A
2.	<i>College of Dentistry Facility</i>	2023-2024	(\$30,000,000)	N/A
3.	<b>College of Dentistry Facility (Balance)</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>\$54,695,700</b>	<b>N/A</b>





**2024-2025 Legislative Budget Request**  
**Education and General**  
**Position and Fiscal Summary**  
**Operating Budget Form II**  
 (to be completed for each issue)

**University:** Florida Atlantic University  
**Issue Title:** Enhancing and Expanding Florida's Dental Services

	<u>RECURRING</u>	<u>NON-RECURRING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Faculty	40.00		40.00
Other (A&P/USPS)	70.00		70.00
 Total	 110.00		 110.00
	=====	=====	=====
	=====	=====	=====
 Salaries and Benefits	 \$21,357,000		 \$21,357,000
Other Personal Services		\$750,000	\$750,000
Expenses	\$10,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$27,000,000
Operating Capital Outlay		\$72,714,000	\$72,714,000
Electronic Data Processing	\$450,000		\$450,000
Financial Aid	\$1,050,000		\$1,050,000
Special Category (Specific)			
	=====	=====	=====
 Total All Categories	 \$32,857,000	 \$80,464,000	 \$113,321,000
	=====	=====	=====