

I. Overview

A. Briefly describe the proposed location in the following table.

Name	National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC)
Location Classification	Special Purpose Center
International Location	☐ Yes ☒ No
Location Address	8285 Bryan Dairy Road, Suite 125 Largo, Florida 33777
Nearby SUS/FCS Institution(s) (if applicable)	University of South Florida
Lower Division Undergraduate Courses Offered	☐ Yes ☒ No
State-Owned	☐ Yes ☒ No
Funding Types	☐ Education & General (E&G) ☒ Contracts & Grants (C&G) ☒ Auxiliary ☒ Other

A. Describe the purpose of the proposed educational location. Include details on what activities the location will support, why the location is necessary, space utilization, and any anticipated growth or expansion. If the institution intends to conduct or facilitate research at the location, describe the nature of the research that will be conducted.

The National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) is in a FIU-leased facility acquired in 2017 and initially designated a *Special Purpose Site*. Given changes in BOG regulations, effective June 2025, FIU utilized the category of *Other* in the revised BOG Regulation 8.009 Educational Locations.

The leased space, located in Largo, FL, currently consists of 101,388 square feet, which has been reduced by 24,830 square feet when the current lease agreement was renewed in 2026 to better align with the Center mission and current needs. This new lease agreement is effective from May 2026 until April 2034 but can be terminated at the end of designated two-year periods.



The NFSTC site does not generate student credit hours or duplicate existing instructional programs, consistent with the Board of Governors State University System (SUS) expectations for Special Purpose Centers. NFSTC currently manages \$10.6 million in active awards. Since FIU's acquisition of NFSTC in December 2017, NFSTC has received more than \$81 million in cumulative research awards and generates approximately \$2.3 million in annual Facilities and Administrative cost recovery from sponsored research and training activities.

The Largo location is necessary due to its ability to support specialized, operational, and training functions that are not feasible within a traditional academic campus environment and also includes the infrastructure required for large-scale training operations. Space utilization is optimized to support concurrent research, training, and operational activities, enabling efficient delivery of programs and maximizing the use of leased facilities. The site supports ongoing and anticipated growth in externally funded programs, interdisciplinary research, and workforce training demand, with flexibility to scale operations as new partnerships and requirements emerge.

Research conducted at NFSTC is primarily applied and translational in nature, focusing on advancing forensic science practices and technologies. These efforts are directly aligned with FIU's research mission and contribute to innovation, public safety, and national security outcomes.

B. Describe how the university will monitor enrollment at the proposed educational location on an annual basis, and complete Table 1 below to indicate the projected enrollment for the location.

Since becoming part of FIU, the NFSTC has not offered degree programs or generated student credit hours; this will continue to be the case. Therefore, no undergraduate or graduate headcount (HC) or full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is projected for this Special Purpose Center. This is consistent with NFSTC's designated function as a research, training, and operational facility rather than an instructional location.

Table 1: Projected Head Count (HC) and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)

Academic Year	Undergraduate HC	Undergraduate FTE	Graduate HC	Graduate FTE
Year 1	0	0	0	0
Year 5	0	0	0	0

C. For the proposed educational location, complete Table 2 and provide a detailed narrative regarding the sources of funding and how they will be utilized for the establishment of the proposed educational location. Include a detailed description of how funding for construction, property acquisition, and educational equipment will be allocated from the different funding sources. If other funds are planned to be used, please specify the source of these funds.

Since becoming part of FIU in 2017, NFSTC operates under a primarily externally funded model, with the majority of financial support derived from contracts and grants awarded by federal agencies and other partners. These funds support core activities at the site, including research operations, workforce training programs, personnel, equipment, and facility-related expenses associated with program delivery.

As an existing FIU location since 2017, the leased site does not require new construction or property acquisition. Lease costs and facility operations are supported through a combination of externally sponsored program funds and associated F&A cost recovery. This approach minimizes the need for state-funded capital investment and reflects an efficient use of resources consistent with SUS expectations.

Funding for training and research equipment is primarily supported through externally sponsored projects, which include dedicated budgets for specialized laboratory instrumentation, forensic analysis tools, digital forensics infrastructure, and training technologies. These investments are aligned with sponsor requirements and programmatic needs and are maintained and updated through ongoing grant and contract activity.

Overall, the funding model reflects a sustainable and diversified approach that leverages external resources, minimizes reliance on state funds, and supports the long-term viability of the site.

Table 2: Projected Location Budget

Budget Year	E&G Funds	Contract & Grants Funds	Auxiliary/ Philanthropy Funds	Fixed Capital Outlay Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
Year 1	0	\$6,279,448	\$55,522	0	0	\$6,334,970
Year 5	0	\$8,476,724	\$168,379	0	0	\$8,645,103

II. Institutional and State-Level Accountability

- A. If the institution intends to establish the proposed educational location in partnership with any other public postsecondary institution(s) in this state, describe the roles and responsibilities each partnering entity may assume. Attach any relevant Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).**

☒ Not Applicable

- B. If the institution's proposed location is within 50 miles of a State University System institution's main campus, provide evidence of communication with the institution, including the planning steps taken to ensure there is no duplication of services and activities, and any opportunities for collaboration.**

☐ Not Applicable

While this Largo, FL, location of the NFSTC is within 50 miles of the University of South Florida (USF), this is not a new FIU entity, and in 2017 FIU leadership and USF leadership discussed FIU's acquisition of NFSTC. Thus, given its 8.5-year history with FIU, USF has been aware of the FIU presence.

This proposal for the NFSTC to become a Special Purpose Center is to align its Education Location Inventory classification with revisions to BOG Regulation 8.009.

- C. Describe how the institution will ensure that student services provided at the educational location are aligned with Regulation 8.009.**

☒ Not Applicable

- D. Type I, Type II, or Type III Campuses and Special Purpose Centers must reflect a relatively permanent commitment from the institution, pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009(1)(g), Educational Locations. Describe commitments made by the institution that extend beyond the length of a single course.**

NFSTC is currently awarded several multi-year awards from government and industry sponsors and reflects a continuing commitment by FIU that extends well beyond the duration of any single course or short-term activity. This consistent portfolio of externally sponsored activity demonstrates both the ongoing demand for NFSTC capabilities and FIU's continued investment in maintaining and expanding this specialized resource.

FIU also currently holds a newly executed lease on the facility effective May 1, 2026 until April 30, 2034, with the option of terminating the lease every two years within the duration of the lease.



Collectively, these factors demonstrate that NFSTC represents a stable, mission-critical component of FIU's strategic research and training infrastructure, with commitments that extend beyond individual courses and align with the requirements outlined in Board of Governors Regulation 8.009(1)(g).

III. Academic Offerings

- A. In the table below, identify all degree programs to be offered at the location. Academic programs must be identified by program title, six-digit CIP Code, and degree level and must be consistent with Board of Governors Regulation 8.011.**

Table 3: Degree Program Summary

Program Title	CIP Code	Degree Level	Number of Credit Hours	Modality of Learning
				Choose an item.
				Choose an item.
				Choose an item.

☒ Not Applicable

- B. Provide a description of any educational activities offered at the location that are not tied to a degree program included in the table above. This description may include partial degree programs, certificate programs, or other forms of community education.**

☐ Not Applicable

NFSTC delivers a broad portfolio of non-credit training and workforce development activities designed to support forensic science practitioners, law enforcement personnel, and government partners. These activities are aligned with FIU's mission of public service and workforce development and are not associated with degree programs or student credit hour production.

Educational offerings at the site are primarily structured as professional training programs, including instructor-led courses, workshops, and scenario-based training exercises that provide hands-on, applied learning in operational environments. These programs span multiple forensic disciplines, including crime scene investigation, forensic biology and chemistry, digital and cyber forensics, and forensic intelligence, and are often delivered under externally funded contracts and grants.

NFSTC also offers continuing education opportunities, including five courses approved through FIU's continuing education office. These courses provide formalized professional development and are designed to meet the needs of practitioners seeking to maintain certifications, enhance technical competencies, and advance within their



fields. These offerings are non-credit and do not generate undergraduate or graduate student credit hours.

Continuing Education Credit Courses Offered:

- Intro to CSI Online Course
- Tactical Exploitation - Biometric and Forensic Intelligence
- Latent Print - 10 Day
- Intermediate CSI Online Course
- Digital Crime Scene Photography

In addition, NFSTC supports customized training and capacity-building programs for federal, state, local, and international partners. These programs are tailored to specific mission requirements and may include train-the-trainer models, technical assistance, and applied research integration, further reinforcing the site's role as a workforce development and applied learning hub.

Collectively, these activities reflect a comprehensive, non-degree educational portfolio that supports professional advancement, strengthens public safety capabilities, and aligns with FIU and SUS priorities related to workforce development and community engagement.