

**State University System
Education and General
2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request
Form I**

University(s):	University of Florida
Issue Title:	UF- Top 5 National Ranking Operating Support
Date Issue Approved by University Board of Trustees:	September 6, 2019
Recurring Funds Requested:	\$50,000,000
Non-Recurring Funds Requested:	
Total Funds Requested:	\$50,000,000
Please check the issue type below:	
Shared Services/System-Wide Issue for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique Issue for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. Description -

Since 1853, the University of Florida has been committed to increasing its level of excellence to provide students and Florida with opportunities to succeed that are unique in Florida. This commitment stems from recognizing Florida's challenges are evolving and talented researchers, entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers and many more professionals will be necessary to identify sustainable solutions that will maintain Florida's reputation as an economic driver and leader across many industries and other areas of society. And over the last 6 years, this commitment has never been taken more seriously. UF moved from being ranked the #17 public university several years ago to being ranked #14, #9, #8 and now #7 with the recently-released rankings. But UF will not stop there.

To maintain UF's momentum, UF leadership recently launched an initiative to upgrade campus to a 21st-century living and learning environment that maximizes student achievement, faculty discovery and staff satisfaction. These expenditures, privately and publicly funded, will complement all continued investments to make UF a top 5 public university and support UF's ability to fulfill its missions of impactful research, academic excellence and public service and to improve accessibility.

Additionally, this specific request builds on the University of Florida's over-arching goal, established by the UF Board of Trustees in partnership with the Board of Governors, to become one of the nation's top 5 public universities as recognized by U.S. News & World Report. UF has already demonstrated remarkable, sustained progress towards this goal and remains focused on executing this mission. This pursuit, however, to become a top 5 public university, requires a significant investment of new public and private funds.

A sustained partnership with the State will support UF's continued goal of hiring world-class faculty that secure research contracts and grants and improve the student experience. UF has 28 graduate programs ranked among our nation's top 30, public or private. This is where much of world-changing innovation happens. From a research perspective, increased expenditures equate to advancing the State's knowledge and understanding of diseases, new technologies that enhance businesses and create new economies, security threats, and challenges that impact communities on a regular basis. This request allows UF to continue to improve the quality of life for Floridians by creating, attracting and supporting economic development initiatives.

UF is very successful moving breakthroughs and innovations from the lab to practical applications. The Milken Institute ranks UF 3rd in the nation, among Best Universities for Technology Transfer, ahead of peers including Stanford and MIT. The International Business Innovation Association ranked UF's Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute the #1 biotech incubator in the world in 2017.

This request, if funded, will help UF address other key initiatives and investments that play important roles in determining UF's national ranking and better enable UF to partner with the State to solve the most pressing issues of our time. UF has partnered with donor Herbert Wertheim, for example, to transform the College of Engineering's capabilities and achievements to realize the college's vision of "The 21st Century New Engineer." These sorts of innovations bolster Florida's competitiveness on the global stage for talent and will help attract innovators and investors to this state. Investments in research, outreach and education will even better prepare students for the workforce, create more vigorous streams of research in the emerging fields of cybersecurity, the Internet of Things and autonomous vehicles, attract larger grants and contracts, and increased outreach to Florida industries. And just as the College of Engineering will continue to gain national recognition, UF's national and international reputation will grow as cross-disciplinary teams of faculty tackle the 9 "Moonshots" as described in UF's 2019 Accountability Plan. Furthermore, increased funds will help UF implement a multitude of strategies that will support its goal of increasing the FTIC four-year graduation rate to 75% for the students who entered in 2018.

The requested funds, which could be funded through recurring increases in existing funding programs or otherwise, will be used in a variety of ways annually, including:

- Additional faculty and staff;
- Employment of support staff, such as laboratory managers and technicians, fiscal assistants, grants editors, and grants managers;
- Employment of postdoctoral scientists who will work shoulder to shoulder with STEM faculty in their laboratories;
- Seed funds to enable faculty to experiment with new research avenues in preparation for submitting grant proposals;
- Modernization of laboratories and support facilities, such as laboratory animal care;
- Purchase of laboratory equipment;
- Establishment of world-class centers of excellence through the recruitment of National Academy-caliber scientists; and

- Compensation to assist in retaining and rewarding outstanding faculty members and graduate assistants.

In summary, UF is determined to become a top 5 public university in the US, greatly benefiting Florida's economy and workforce. With this goal comes aspirational targets and a strategic plan to meet them. However, incremental change will take time and requires continued investment to maintain the momentum. Despite this, the good news is UF is already competing among the best of the best universities in the nation and that is good for our state and the entire State University System.

With the support of the Board of Governors, Legislature and Governor DeSantis, UF will not only be a preeminent university nationally, but it will become a top destination for the very best students, faculty, and researchers.

II. Return on Investment -

Continued investment in the University of Florida is a fiscally responsible and strategic investment that benefits all Floridians. The outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting UF's goal of becoming a top 5 public university, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. As of 2019, UF is ranked #7 in public universities by U.S. News & World Report.
- Hiring and maintaining world-class faculty and researchers to prepare Florida's students for a competitive workforce in strategic areas of emphasis.
- Reducing the student to faculty ratio from 18:1 to 16:1, which will improve students' experience and outcomes.
- Increasing the percentage of students that graduate in 4 years or less.
- Hiring new faculty to help UF continue to secure grants and contracts, which totaled more than \$865M in FY18. Continued investment will assist UF in reaching its goal of exceeding \$1B in annual research expenditures.
- Supporting the growth of graduate and undergraduate programs through the hiring of additional faculty.
- Supporting "moonshot initiatives," which will solve some of society's most pressing problems while redefining the role of a land grant university¹.
- Providing one of the best value educations in the nation through increased scholarships and graduate assistantships, increasing the percentage of graduates with no student-loan debt.

More importantly, state investments will support the University of Florida as it continues to achieve world-class recognition and improve on key metrics that further enhance student and faculty success.

Key metrics that the U.S. News & World Report and other evaluators use include:

- Student retention and graduation rates

¹ UF launches bold initiative to tackle society's biggest problems (4 October 2018). Retrieved from <https://news.ufl.edu/articles/2018/10/uf-launches-bold-initiative-to-tackle-societys-biggest-problems.html>

- Freshman retention
- Student/Faculty ratio
- Class size
- Faculty resources
- Total Research Expenditures
- Federal Research Expenditures
- National Academy Members
- Faculty Awards
- Doctorates Granted
- Average SAT
- Postdoctoral Fellows
- Alumni Giving Rate
- National Reputation

III. Facilities *(If this issue requires an expansion or construction of a facility, please complete the following table.):*

	Facility Project Title	Fiscal Year	Amount Requested	Priority Number
1.	N/A			
2.				

2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request
Education and General
Position and Fiscal Summary
Operating Budget Form II
(to be completed for each issue)

University: University of Florida
Issue Title: UF Top 5 National Ranking
Operating Support

	RECURRING	NON- RECURRING	TOTAL
<u>Positions</u>			
Faculty	125.00	0.00	125.00
Other (A&P/USPS)	25.00	0.00	25.00
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Total	150.00	0.00	150.00
	=====	=====	=====
<u>Salary Rate (for all positions noted above)</u>			
Faculty	\$11,718,750	\$0	\$11,718,750
Other (A&P/USPS)	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
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Total	\$13,218,750	\$0	\$13,218,750
	=====	=====	=====
Salaries and Benefits	\$17,625,000	\$0	\$17,625,000
Other Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electronic Data Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Category (Specific)	\$0	\$0	\$0
UF- Top 5 National		\$0	\$0
<u>Ranking Operating</u>		\$0	\$0
<u>Support</u>	\$32,375,000	\$0	\$32,375,000
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Total All Categories	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$50,000,000
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