

**State University System
Education and General
2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Form I**

University(s):	University of West Florida
Request Title:	Student Success and Affordability
Date Request Approved by University Board of Trustees:	
Recurring Funds Requested:	\$3,093,100
Non-Recurring Funds Requested:	
Total Funds Requested:	\$3,093,100
Please check the request type below:	
Shared Services/System-Wide Request	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique Request	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Description –

For more than 50 years, the University of West Florida has provided educational opportunities responsive to the needs of our state. We have created pathways for career and life for more than 85,000 graduates – and we have done it well. Eight-five percent of our students are from Florida and the majority of our graduates stay in the state when they have completed their studies.

At UWF, we see ourselves as a spirited community of learners, launching the next generation of big thinkers who will change the world. We believe we are living up to that vision.

Over the past few years UWF has excelled at providing increased access, opportunity and career readiness to our students by:

- Creating a robust culture around student success and investing in highly successful programs and initiatives. This focus has resulted in:
 - Improved academic progress rate by 23% over four years
 - Improved 4-year graduation rate by 45% over four years

- Creating tailored student support opportunities for programs such as:
 - Argo 30—a financial aid program that provides full-ride scholarships to Pell-eligible students to cover financial gaps, allowing low-income students to graduate with no debt.
 - Anchor Down Mentor Program—a mentoring program that pairs first and second year students with an accomplished professional to mentor and prepare students for their professional and career goals.
 - Military and Veterans Resource Center—ranked by Victory Media as a top five in the nation Military Friendly school for five years in a row.
- Expanding online offerings to provide more accessibility to our students and get them into the workplace faster.

Recurring funding must be found for UWF to continue to support student success and develop talent to enhance the state’s economy.

1. Student Success – Opportunity and Affordability

UWF requests \$2,409,300 for scholarships and financial aid software to benefit students.

UWF’s Track Record

UWF has taken several steps to eliminate financial barriers by simplifying the financial aid process and increasing scholarships and grants.

UWF has invested one-time funding to develop several new scholarship programs that increase student success. UWF’s Office of Admissions awards merit-based scholarships which range from \$1,000 per year to “full rides.” These scholarships allow us to recruit and retain the best and brightest students from across the country. We implemented this merit-based scholarship program in fall 2017 and saw increased GPA and test scores for this incoming class along with a significantly increased retention rate in 2018 of 81.3%. We also offer micro grants to assist students in a specific stage of their education, such as moving from the freshman to sophomore year or students who are in their final semester. Micro grants also help students overcome unexpected circumstances such as a costly car repair or food insecurities. These micro grants fill in gaps so that students do not find it necessary to withdraw or enroll in a reduced course load, which delays graduation. UWF provided these scholarships primarily with the top three performance based funding UWF earned. After the 2020-2021 academic year, these funds will be exhausted and additional funds will be needed to continue to offer and expand these impactful scholarship programs.

Pell eligible and first-generation students encounter substantial financial, personal and academic barriers to degree attainment. UWF is launching the Argo 30 Guarantee in Fall 2019 to ensure that all Pell eligible, Florida residents will have enough gift aid (grants

and scholarships) to cover 100% of the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for up to 30 credit hours per academic year. UWF also participates in the state's First Generation Matching Grant program, but UWF has more eligible First-Generation students than this program can support. Additional funding will be committed to additional institutional dollars for First Generation scholarships and grants.

Providing complete and accurate information regarding available financial options and reducing student debt is a priority for UWF. The capability of our current tools is limited and they do not allow customized communication to UWF students.

Specific Needs

UWF requests supplemental scholarship funding to support Pell eligible and first-generation students. UWF must invest in a robust software (Campus Logic) that will transform the way we deliver and communicate financial aid by providing personalized communication, simplified forms, and understandable award letters in a mobile device friendly environment. The new software will enable enhancements and efficiencies for every aspect of the complex financial aid process.

- Staff \$259,300 (includes benefits for 3 staff members)
- Expense \$150,000 (software)
- Financial Aid \$2,000,000 (scholarships)

2. Expand Artificial Intelligence Communication Platforms for Student Success

UWF requests \$397,800 for enhancing student success with artificial intelligence software.

UWF's Track Record

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions launched UWF's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) software for undergraduate student recruitment in 2017 and was an early adopter of this type of software. This "chat bot" technology is cutting edge and resonates with "Gen Z". The system, known to students as "Argie," provides a conversational tool for students that responds to questions at any time and guides students through complex enrollment processes, such as completing the FAFSA, registering for orientation, learning about scholarships, and completing the next steps for enrolling. The system can also be used to "nudge" or gauge interest for various action items, helping to narrow down outreach to specific student populations and streamlining staff resources.

Only a few universities have taken the next step to incorporate chat bots into their student success initiatives, but these efforts have yielded very promising results.

Specific Needs

UWF will expand its chat bot system to enhance student success with the addition of 3 full-time staff members (\$173,800) and resources to enhance and maintain the system (\$224,000 in expense).

3. Parent Engagement

UWF requests \$71,500 for enhancing parent engagement for student success.

Parent engagement and support is a key component to student success. Parents, especially parents of First Generation students, are often unsure how best to support their college student. Freshman Orientation sees high attendance rates of parents/families. UWF plans to build on this participation by creating more resources and engagement opportunities developed specifically for parents. It is essential that parents are knowledgeable about the key processes at UWF such as registration and fee payment, important dates, have the resources available to support their student, and have access to information about topics such as transition to college, campus safety, financial literacy and housing.

Specific Needs

Parent portals, webinar options and targeted communication are all tools that can more fully engage and equip parents who are striving to best support their college students. The requested funding is for a communications coordinator that will be dedicated to this effort.

4. Transfer Student Success

UWF requests \$214,500 for enhanced transfer opportunities for students.

UWF's Track Record

The University of West Florida enrolls twice as many transfer students as freshman each year and has experienced a 5% increase in transfer students over the past five years. Although UWF has made great strides in launching pathway programs and has been working diligently to make the transfer transition as seamless as possible, resources need to be secured in order to expand and enhance our transfer programs.

Over the past two years, UWF has established several new recruitment initiatives and pathways for transfer students. The 2UWF pathway program has been established with five FCS institutions. The Argo Accelerate Pathway was established for all other transfer students attending a FCS or two-year college. In addition, UWF recently launched its first Honors Transfer Pathway with Santa Fe College, offering honors students at Santa Fe College automatic admission into the UWF Kugelman Honors program. Seventy-seven

students to date have enrolled in one of the UWF transfer pathway programs since March 2019.

These pathway programs include access to a UWF Pathways Advisor, who is dedicated to providing transfer students with support and course advising, as well as UWF degree planning while the students pursue their AA degree at an FCS or two-year institution. Students who choose to enroll in a UWF Transfer Pathway have access to their pathways advisor as early as their first semester of their AA degree.

Specific Needs

Three transfer enrollment advisors will substantially improve and expand UWF's capacity to serve and support transfer students. Transfer enrollment advisors will serve as transfer transitional "coaches" and will be responsible for maximizing transfer course equivalencies to ensure the quickest time to graduation, establish a transfer student graduation plan, and assist with first semester registration shortly after admission to UWF. Adding Transfer Advisors will increase graduation rates for transfer students from FCS institutions.

II. Return on Investment –

Expected Outcomes in Support of SUS Strategic Goals

- Increase degree productivity and program efficiency
- Increase community and business workforce

Metric	Metric Title	Value 2020	Value 2024	Change	Excellence Pts 2020	Excellence Pts 2024
1	Percent of Bachelor's Graduate Employed and/or Continuing their Education:	73	75	2	10	10
2	Median Wages of Bachelor Grads Employed:	40,900	43,000	2,100	10	10
3	Net Tuition & Fees per 120 Hours:	7,980	7,000	-980	10	10
4	Four Year Graduation Rate Full time FTIC:	35	50	15	0	10
5	Academic Progress Rate:	80	88	8	2	8
6	Bachelor's Degrees in Strategic Emphasis:	59	60	1	10	10
7	University Access Rate:	39	42	3	9	10
8	Graduate Degrees in Strategic Emphasis:	57	60	3	8	10

9	Percent of Bachelor's Degrees without Excess Hours:	83	83	0	10	10
	Performance-Based Funding Metrics				69	88

III. Facilities

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

2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Education and General
Position and Fiscal Summary
Operating Budget Form II
(to be completed for each issue)

University: University of West Florida
Issue Title: Student Success and Affordability

	RECURRING	NON- RECURRING	TOTAL
<hr/>			
<u>Positions</u>			
Faculty	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other (A&P/USPS)	9.00	0.00	9.00
	-----	-----	-----
Total	9.00	0.00	9.00
	=====	=====	=====
Salaries and Benefits	\$719,100	\$0	\$719,100
Other Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$374,000	\$0	\$374,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electronic Data Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Aid	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Special Category (Specific)	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	-----	-----	-----
Total All Categories	\$3,093,100	\$0	\$3,093,100
	=====	=====	=====

**State University System
Education and General
2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Form I**

University(s):	University of West Florida
Request Title:	Developing Talent for Florida's Future
Date Request Approved by University Board of Trustees:	
Recurring Funds Requested:	\$1,018,500
Non-Recurring Funds Requested:	
Total Funds Requested:	\$1,018,500
Please check the request type below:	
Shared Services/System-Wide Request	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique Request	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Description -

1. Connecting Students with Employers

UWF seeks \$620,000 to sustain and expand proven programs to reach additional industry segments state-wide to provide opportunities for employers to fill needed positions.

UWF's Track Record

The [#iHireUWF](#) marketing campaign improved the number and quality of employers recruiting and hiring UWF graduates. #iHireUWF was established in 2018 with non-recurring funds. The campaign focused on four academic programs of distinction: healthcare, cybersecurity/IT, engineering, and supply chain logistics. UWF student accomplishments and contributions to their respective fields were featured in the campaign which led to more employers expressing interest in hiring UWF graduates.

The #iHireUWF campaign has generated more than 7,300 landing page views. To date, the campaign has yielded 90 new contacts and over 200 new job opportunities for students. Forty new employer consults have been requested from the landing page and over 1,600 new employers have registered on Handshake, the University's career management platform.

Specific Needs

Phase Two of this campaign will focus on non-linear career paths and the employers who have hired graduates in majors not typically represented by their respective industries. Occupational outlook data also cite the need for non-linear discipline knowledge in fields of greatest workforce demand such as cybersecurity, healthcare, and engineering. By collecting and documenting additional student and employer success stories to be featured on the #iHireUWF site, UWF will highlight how it prepares students for a variety of careers through the use of high impact practices and other talent development initiatives. Students will benefit by having more employers engaged with their university.

- Staff \$300,000 (includes benefits for 4 staff members with a Data Analyst to be shared with TRIO)
- OPS \$280,000 (student internships)
- Expense \$40,000

2. Student Centered Research that meets Workforce Needs

UWF requests \$198,500 to strengthen and expand undergraduate research opportunities.

The Office of Undergraduate Research is dedicated to research and student project awards. The office currently operates with a part-time director and office assistant.

UWF's Track Record

The OUR model helps prepare graduates for jobs in a changing economy. It provides large numbers of students in all disciplines with team-based, collaborative research experiences that address real-world problems. One faculty-student research project is designed to predict the onset of hypoxia in pilots using artificial intelligence and wearable sensors. UWF's undergraduate research opportunities cannot be found at many other universities, whether it is piecing together the story of America's first settlement, analyzing cybersecurity's role in national security, or working throughout the Gulf Coast to mitigate one of the worst oil spills in our nation's history. In all of these examples, the University's libraries are a central partner in undergraduate research.

OUR's innovative approach has not gone unnoticed. The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) has selected UWF to host the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Spring 2022. At this annual three-day event, more than 4,000 students will travel to Pensacola from around the nation to present scholarly research and meet with corporate recruiters. This is the first time the conference will be held in the state of Florida. The event itself will also provide a significant economic impact to Pensacola and the surrounding region. The Haas Center estimates a direct economic benefit of \$1.4 million to the state. Materials from the University of Oklahoma which

hosted the conference in 2018 reported an estimated overall economic impact of \$2.5 million.

Since the Office of Undergraduate Research was opened, we have added six additional programs (over the original two) and original programming has grown significantly. Undergraduate research has emerged as a priority for UWF's new Metric 10/High Impact Practices.

Specific Needs

The requested funding will transition the part-time director to a full-time director position and establish two coordinators. The director will serve as facilitator for the 2022 national conference in Pensacola.

3. Workforce Preparation and Engagement

UWF requests \$200,000 to expand work study programs.

Work study provides part time employment to students with financial need, allowing them to earn money for education related expenses while gaining valuable work experience and skills. Approximately 6,000 UWF students (nearly half of total enrollment) are eligible to participate in work study; however, our limited federal and state allocations and support only about 250 positions each year.

UWF's Track Record

For the past five years, UWF has supplemented our limited allocations from the Federal Work Study Program and the Florida Work Experience Program to provide more work study opportunities to students. These positions include working in the university's libraries, tutoring center, writing lab, child development center, and other departments.

There is no doubt as to the effectiveness of these programs. Over the past five years, UWF work study participants have demonstrated a retention rate approximately 6% higher than the UWF overall retention rate and an approximately 4% higher 4-year graduation rate.

Specific Needs

Funding for campus internships to provide skills and career opportunities for UWF students.

II. Return on Investment –

Expected Outcomes in Support of SUS Strategic Goals

- Increase degrees awarded within programs of strategic emphasis

- Increase community and business workforce
- Strengthen quality & reputation of scholarship, research, and innovation
- Increase research activity and attract more external funding
- Increase community and business engagement
- Increase degree productivity and program efficiency
- Increase community and business workforce

III. Facilities

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

2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Education and General
Position and Fiscal Summary
Operating Budget Form II
(to be completed for each issue)

University: University of West Florida
Issue Title: Developing Talent for

	NON- RECURRING	RECURRING	TOTAL
<hr/>			
<u>Positions</u>			
Faculty	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other (A&P/USPS)	6.50	0.00	6.50
	-----	-----	-----
Total	6.50	0.00	6.50
	=====	=====	=====
Salaries and Benefits	\$498,500	\$0	\$498,500
Other Personal Services	\$280,000	\$0	\$280,000
Expenses	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electronic Data Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Category (Specific)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Work Study	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	-----	-----	-----
Total All Categories	\$1,018,500	\$0	\$1,018,500
	=====	=====	=====

**State University System
Education and General
2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Form I**

University(s):	University of West Florida
Request Title:	Success in STEM for Florida's Economy
Date Request Approved by University Board of Trustees:	
Recurring Funds Requested:	\$1,767,164
Non-Recurring Funds Requested:	
Total Funds Requested:	\$1,767,164
Please check the request type below:	
Shared Services/System-Wide Request	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique Request	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Description –

Success in STEM for Florida's Economy

UWF requests \$1,767,164 to sustain and expand the pipeline for diverse STEM talent to fill critical jobs needs in the region and state. The majority of the SUS Programs of Strategic Emphases lie within STEM fields.

Northwest Florida is home to seven military bases, three major healthcare networks, and a growing Engineering-, Cyber-, and IT-related workforce, all with a critical need for STEM graduates. NWF's lagging economics, high poverty, and low educational attainment rate translate to regional students who are highly capable, but may be severely financially disadvantaged, ethnically underrepresented, and often first-generation in college. Financial assistance alone is not enough. Students must be engaged early and often to increase persistence, particularly during their first year. Thus, building a talent pipeline to the jobs of tomorrow requires coordinated, multipronged efforts to mentor, teach, prepare, and engage specific student populations. We propose to do this by expanding on successful, nationally recognized, UWF STEM first-year practices.

UWF's Track Record

Student engagement programs in the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering are founded on nationally-recognized model programs incorporating four key components:

- academic and social integration,
- knowledge and skill development,
- support and motivation, and
- monitoring and advising.

Federal grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Education (DOE) seeded novel programs as three to five year pilots, where faculty built a STEM Living Learning Community (LLC) and established NSF SSTEM, Chem, and NIH MARC Scholars programs. The initial success of these initiatives led to additional student engagement programs such as Bio Bootcamp, offered to incoming Biology freshmen and a professional development course aimed at Biology freshmen called Bioskills. The college's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) and Research Experience Away Program (REAP) provide summer research opportunities and skill development necessary for job competitiveness. Together, these programs are synchronized and designed to engage students in professional development, academic preparedness, and research activities at multiple points along their undergraduate careers.

Student Learning Community Programs	
Program	Description
STEM LLC	Residents are required to attend monthly STEMinars designed to provide academic, personal, and professional resources such as Learning Styles, Adjusting to College Life, Campus Resources, Building Resumes, Stress Management, Getting Involved in Undergraduate Research, etc. Residents are mentored by faculty in each of these areas.
Bio Bootcamp	One-week long boot camp where freshmen Biology majors are introduced to Biology I content as well as the necessary study skills for passing Biology I.
Bioskills	First year experience course with demonstrated increased retention and first year GPAs. Topics include study tips, test-taking tips, resources on campus, financial and career advice for students, health and wellness, and persistence in STEM.
Scholar programs	The Scholar programs are a learning community of students involved in an academic support program incorporating a STEM for Life Seminar (professional and academic development for 1 credit hour every semester for entire 4-years of undergraduate career), undergraduate research beginning in first year, and faculty mentoring.
SURP & REAP	These are summer research opportunities for undergraduate students. Students receive a stipend to work with faculty mentors on their research projects.

The results below provide conclusive evidence that the original proof of concept ideas have succeeded at retaining and graduating STEM students from *all* backgrounds.

APR and 4-Year Grad Rates				
Programs	APR	Projected or Actual 4-year Grad Rate	# student participants	# faculty
STEM LLC – Year 1	97%	70% on-track to graduate in 4 years	58	1
STEM LLC – Year 2	84%	---	94	2
Bio Bootcamp	83%	---	42	4
Bioskills	82%	---		
STEM Scholars	92%	88% (projected)	25	3
Chem Scholars	98%	83% (actual – over 7 years)	---	2
MARC Scholars	---	100% (actual)	15	2

In 2018, UWF was awarded a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions grant to establish much needed student academic support systems for entry level STEM courses. Through this grant effort, peer led Chem Success sessions and Math Success sessions are now mandatory for all students enrolled in the first-year chemistry sequence. Additionally, peer coaching has been established to provide guidance and support from upper-division STEM students. Other departments such as Biology and Physics are implementing similar support systems.

These programs and courses are restricted in size and scope because of limited grant funding. For example, NIH-funding (MARC Scholars) ended in May 2019 and NSF-funding ended in May 2020. Continuing and expanding these first-year programs through recurring funding will further improve STEM academic progress rates and 4-year graduation rates.

Specific Needs

Faculty resources are crucial in order to expand these time and resource intensive programs. UWF's scope of expansion includes:

- Increasing the STEM LLC to 250 students and include Engineering majors;
- Hosting annual math, chemistry, engineering, and computer science bootcamps, modeled after the Bio Bootcamp;
- Building cornerstone courses in engineering and computer science modeled after Bioskills;
- Offering a two-semester sequence STEM for Life Seminar for all STEM FTIC students to ensure every FTIC student is engaged throughout their first year, which includes a common read and semester themes of College Survival Skills and Maximizing/Getting Involved in College;
- Redesigning other key STEM gateway courses to improve pass rates;

- Developing a Calculus program, with faculty course leads, that engages students in applications relevant to their major; and
- Engaging more students in undergraduate research beginning in their first year.

Faculty must engage and mentor students inside and outside of the classroom. Thus, a low faculty to student ratio is critical as summarized below.

RESOURCES FOR EXPANSION		
Program	Description of Workload	Resource Request
STEM LLC	Faculty to student ratio is 1:40. Faculty serve as mentors and receive one course reassignment each semester for mentoring LLC residents.	2 faculty lines; 5 PAL positions;
Math, Chemistry, Engineering, and Computer Science Bootcamps	One faculty member per area is needed to lead, plan, and organize the boot camps, develop instructional materials, and track students.	1 faculty line
Cornerstone courses – Engineering & Computer Science	Engineering and Computer Science are high enrollment disciplines. Each will offer 2-3 sections each semester.	2 faculty lines 4 graduate assistantships
STEM for Life Seminar one – year sequence	Eight sections per year are required to cover all incoming STEM FTIC students.	1 faculty line
Calculus Program	Calculus and calculus-based physics are included. Faculty will redesign and build an innovative approach to delivering calculus, primarily based on applications. The number of sections of calculus and calculus-based physics will increase. Calculus-based physics labs will also be redesigned.	4 faculty lines 6 graduate assistantships
Undergraduate research	Additional research capacity is needed to include increased numbers of STEM LLC residents and scholar participants.	2 faculty lines SURP budget REAP budget

Faculty \$1,167,164 (includes benefits for 8 Instructors and 4 assistant professors; also includes summer compensation for nine-month faculty)

OPS \$210,000 (graduate assistantships)

Expense \$90,000 (PAL positions, SURP, and REAP)

Library Materials \$300,000

II. Return on Investment –

Expected Outcomes in Support of SUS Strategic Goals

- Increase the number of degrees awarded within programs of strategic emphasis
- Increase community and business workforce

III. Facilities

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

2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request
Education and General
Position and Fiscal Summary
Operating Budget Form II
(to be completed for each issue)

University: University of West Florida

Issue Title: Success in STEM for Florida's Economy

	RECURRING	NON-RECURRING	TOTAL
<u>Positions</u>			
Faculty	12.00	0.00	12.00
Other (A&P/USPS)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----	-----
Total	12.00	0.00	12.00
	=====	=====	=====
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,167,164	\$0	\$1,167,164
Other Personal Services	\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000
Expenses	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
Electronic Data Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Category (Specific)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Materials	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	-----	-----	-----
Total All Categories	\$1,767,164	\$0	\$1,767,164
	=====	=====	=====