

Florida State University Perspective

Overview

Florida State University is a public, fully accredited, coeducational research institution, and one of twelve universities comprising the State University System of Florida, led by the Board of Governors. Located in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city, the University affords students and faculty opportunities for interaction with state and federal agencies for internships, research, and part-time employment, as well as a myriad of social, cultural, and recreational activities. The main campus is located on 487.6 acres in Tallahassee with other facilities owned in Bay, Collier, Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, and Sarasota counties, as well as the District of Columbia. Additional locations are leased in Escambia, Jackson, Leon, Orange, St. Lucie, and Volusia counties in Florida, and other locations overseas. The University owns a total of 1,850.2 acres.

Founded in 1851, Florida State University is a comprehensive, national, graduate-research university offering more than 265 outstanding academic and professional degrees in top flight programs ranging from Business and Physics to Music and Creative Writing. Florida State University provides extraordinary opportunities for undergraduate students to build a strong foundation in their chosen fields; study abroad at the University's overseas campuses; engage in scores of service activities; benefit from world class library and technical facilities; participate in extensive intramural and recreational events; and interact with some of the finest students and faculty in the nation in a distinctive, welcoming environment. The University instills the strength, skill, and character essential for lifelong learning, personal responsibility, and achievement.

With 17 colleges, students may take courses of study leading to the baccalaureate degree in 93 degree programs, to the master's degree in 101 degree programs, to the specialist degree in 6 degree programs, to the doctorate degree in 64 degree programs, and to the professional degree in 4 degree programs as of June 2026. The academic divisions are the Colleges of Applied Studies; Arts & Sciences; Business; Communication & Information; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Education, Health, and Human Sciences; Engineering; Entrepreneurship; Fine Arts; Hospitality; Law; Medicine; Motion Picture Arts; Music; Nursing; Social Sciences & Public Policy; & Social Work.

At FSU, 80.5 percent of the enrolled students attend full time. Undergraduates comprise 71.6 percent and graduate/professional students 23.9 percent of the total enrollment of 46,184 students in the Fall of 2025. The remaining 4.5 percent are considered unclassified. The average age of all students is 22.9 years; of undergraduates, 20.5; and of graduate/professional students; 30.4.

The State University System operates under the supervision of the Board of Governors, State of Florida. Florida State University is governed by a Board of Trustees, which was established in July 2001. The twelve governor-appointed members of the Board of Trustees are: Peter Collins (chair), Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz (vice chair), Maximo Alvarez, Kathryn Ballard, Jorge Gonzalez, Jim Henderson, Roxanne Hughes, Peter Jones, Brian Murphy, Justin Roth, Tim Weisheyer; one position is vacant at the time of the publication. The thirteenth member of Florida State University's Board of Trustees is the current student body president, Ian Seibert.

Research and Special Programs

Florida State University has built a reputation as a strong research center in both the sciences and the humanities. It is expected that more than \$270 million in external funds will be generated this year by the faculty and administration to be used to support research, improve research facilities, and provide stipends for graduate students. These external funds are in the form of contracts and grants from private foundations, industries, and state/federal government agencies. In addition, Florida State University receives more in National Science Foundation funds than any other university in the state of Florida.

Florida State is well known in the natural sciences for its basic research programs in biology, chemistry, meteorology, nuclear science, oceanography, physics, and psychology. Strong basic and applied research programs are also found in computer science, geology, mathematics, and statistics. As a nationally recognized center of excellence in graduate training in the visual and performing arts, the University offers professional training in music, theatre, and dance performance and theory.

For over 65 years, FSU International Programs has been a nationally recognized leader in the field of international higher education, providing the life-changing opportunity to live, study, and intern at the University's four international centers in Florence, Italy; London, England; Panama City, Republic of Panama; and Valencia, Spain. Prestigious FSU faculty members also lead students on study abroad programs across the globe. FSU consistently ranks among the top public universities in the nation for "long-term duration" of study abroad experiences thanks to its unique First Year Abroad program. FSU credits are earned for all courses and are transferable within the U.S. university system.

FSU operates the Ringling Center for the Cultural Arts in Sarasota, which includes the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, the largest museum/university complex in the nation. Also on the property and operated by FSU is the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts, which houses the Asolo Repertory Theatre.

Florida State University has both an Air Force and an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. FSU students may apply for admission to the Navy ROTC Program offered through Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee. The FSU Student Veterans Center is the hub for the university's veteran-support programs and resources. Veterans, active military personnel, National Guard and Reserve members, and their dependents can get assistance with their federal educational benefits from the Student Veterans Center.

FSU is a founding member of the Florida LambdaRail, a consortium of universities created to facilitate advanced research, education, and economic development activities. The network consists of 1,540 miles of dark fiber/optical equipment, operating at 10 gigs/sec. and allowing up to 32 independent networks to exist. FSU has a supercomputing grid that enables researchers to use high capacity computing to support complex investigations.

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University Libraries provide collections, resources, and services to enhance the learning, teaching, research, and service activities of Florida State University. The Libraries' collections include over 5.8 million titles, and the website offers access to 803 databases and more than 236,453 electronic journals. Materials not available online or at the Libraries may be requested through interlibrary loan or the statewide UBorrow system, offering FSU faculty and students access to millions of books from 39 other state university and college libraries. The Library Express Delivery Service (LEDS) delivers books and articles to faculty, post-docs, and graduate, teaching, and research assistants daily. University Libraries had over 1.1 million visitors last fiscal year 2024-25. The FSU Libraries include Robert Manning Strozier Library (Main), Paul A. M. Dirac Science Library, Mildred and Claude Pepper Library, the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Library, and FSU Panama City - Florida Library and Learning Center. The following are designated dean-directed libraries: Warren Allen Music Library, College of Law Legal Research Center, College of Medicine Medical Library, and the John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art Library in Sarasota, Florida. International Programs study centers in London, Florence, Valencia, and Panama also provide library services, resources, and spaces.

Among the special programs which have won national or international distinction in research are the Program in Nuclear Research, Institute for Molecular Biophysics, FSU Marine Laboratory, Center for Music Research, Learning Systems Institute, Institute of Science and Public Affairs, Resilient Infrastructure & Disaster Response Center, and the College of Motion Picture Arts. FSU was awarded the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) 2021 Degree Completion Award. The award is recognized as the most prominent in the country for student success. The APLU selected FSU for achieving a record-high 74 percent four-year graduation rate while nearly eliminating gaps by race, ethnicity, and income level. Since then, FSU's four-year graduation rate has grown to 78.1 percent.

Additional nationally recognized research initiatives include the Florida State University Quantum Initiative, a \$20 million investment positioning FSU at the forefront of quantum information science and engineering; the Center for Advanced Power Systems, known for its work in superconductivity and maritime energy resilience; and FSU's sustainability research enterprise, which includes the top-ranked Sustainability and Governance Lab and contributions from over 250 faculty across multiple colleges. The university is also noted for excellence in trauma and resilience research, drug discovery and delivery, and data science, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, as key cross-disciplinary areas of strategic growth.

In 1990, the National Science Foundation announced that FSU would be the home of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. A joint project with the University of Florida and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the lab became the nation's top center for research on magnets millions of times more powerful than the Earth's magnetic field. This facility is the first national lab to be located in Florida and went into operation in 1994. Research at the lab is conducted in such diverse fields as biology, materials science, medicine, physics, chemistry, engineering, and superconductivity.

Online Resource: Florida State University's website can be accessed at [fsu.edu](https://www.fsu.edu)



Seal of Florida State University

The seal of Florida State University, which was designed by the combined talents of the Art and Classics Departments, has its origins in the first decade of the 20th century during the administration of President Albert A. Murphree. It was updated in the year 2000 to accurately reflect the year that Florida State University was created, 1851. In 2005, minor cosmetic updates were made.

The torches of the seal symbolize the fire given to man by the Greek god Prometheus. This fire enabled man to elevate himself above the animals and become human. The torches of the FSU seal symbolize the purpose of the University: the passing on of knowledge from generation to generation. The torch on the left is Vires: strength of all kinds, physical, moral and intellectual. The center torch is Artes: that which we acquire - knowledge which transcends skills, the appreciation of beauty. The torch on the right is Mores: customs, character and tradition. Through these three ideals the student is educated physically, mentally, and morally.

Source: Florida State College for Women: Notes on the Formative Years, by William G. Dodd

Online Resource: Additional brand information available at: brand.fsu.edu