Overview

The Florida State University is a public, fully accredited, coeducational research institution, and one of eleven units within the Division of Colleges and Universities directed by the Florida Board of Education. 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 450.9 acres in Tallahassee with other facilities owned in Leon, Bay, Franklin, Sarasota, and Gadsden counties, and leased in Marion and Leon counties in Florida, and other locations overseas.

With 16 colleges and schools, students may take courses of study leading to the baccalaureate degree in 95 degree programs, to the master's degree in 109 degree programs, to the advanced master's degree in 1 program, to the specialist degree in 27 degree programs, to the doctorate degree in 73 degree programs, and to the professional degree in 2 degree programs. The academic divisions are the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Communication, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Education, Engineering, Human Sciences, Information, Law, Medicine, Music, Social Science, Social Work and Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance; and the Schools of Motion Picture, Television, and Recording Arts and Nursing.

Approximately 83 percent of the students enrolled at the university attend full time. Undergraduates comprise 76.7 percent and graduate students 20.0 percent of the total enrollment of 39,652 students in the Fall of 2005. The remaining 3.3 percent are considered unclassified. The average age of all students is 23.2; of undergraduates, 21.1; and of graduate students, 30.1.

The Division of Colleges and Universities operates under the supervision of the Florida Board of Education. The 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: Jim Smith (Chair), William Andrew Haggard (Vice Chair), Jim Cobbe, Derrick Brooks, Emily Fleming Duda, David Ford, Jesse Furlow, Manny Garcia, Harold Knowles, Richard C. McFarlain, E. Ann McGee and John Thrasher. A thirteenth member of Florida State University’s Board of Trustees is the current student body president, Chris Schoonover.

Research and Special Programs

The 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 $100 million in external funds will be generated this year by the university faculty and administration as supplements to state funds used for research. These external funds are in the form of contracts and grants from private foundations, industries, and government agencies, and are used to support research, improve research facilities, and provide stipends for graduate students.

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.

In addition to the branch campus, FSU offers a variety of overseas study opportunities for students during the regular academic year. FSU has study centers located in Florence, Italy; Panama City, Republic of Panama; Valencia, Spain; and London, England. Courses at the study centers are offered each semester and cover a wide range of subject areas perfect for meeting general and liberal studies requirements. International Programs also offers study programs, some general and some major specific, in: Tianjin, China; San Jose, Costa Rica; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Prague, Czech Republic; London, England; Paris, France; Dublin, Ireland; Moscow, Russia; and Leysin, Switzerland. A summer Law program is offered in Oxford, England. There is one Linkage Institute, FLORICA, in Costa Rica, and Beyond Borders programs in Turrialba, Costa Rica, Kingston, Jamaica, and Dresden, Germany.

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. Since July 1, 1990, the Appleton Museum of Art, in Ocala, has been jointly owned by Florida State University and Central Florida Community College.

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.

The Florida State University has a large number of computers that are used for instruction and research. In addition to centrally operated systems and public laboratories, many FSU colleges, departments, and research institutes operate computers and laboratories for their own use. Computers at FSU are linked by a campus-wide fiber optic network. The network and centralized computing services are run by the Academic Computing and Network Services organization, which is located at Innovation Park.
The University Library System contains over 2.8 million volumes, of which more than 245,000 are available electronically as e-books. The libraries subscribe to more than 42,000 current serials including academic journals, professional and trade journals, and major newspapers from around the country and the globe in both paper and electronic formats. The libraries also subscribe to more than 300 databases. The FSU Libraries include 8 libraries on campus: The Robert Manning Strozier Library, Paul A. M. Dirac Science Library, Mildred and Claude Pepper Library, Warren Allen Music Library, Harold Goldstein Library and Information Science Library, College of Law Library, College of Medicine Medical Library, and the College of Engineering Library. Library materials and services are also available at the FSU Panama City Campus, as well as International Programs study centers in London, Florence, and Panama, and a collection of art and related materials at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida.

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, FSU Proton-Induced X-Ray Emission (PIXE) Laboratory, FSU Institute of Science and Public Affairs, and the School of Motion Picture, TV, and Recording Arts.

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: http://www.fsu.edu

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Seal of The Florida State University

The seal of The 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.

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: Digital versions of the university seal can be downloaded at http://www.fsu.edu/~unicomm/pages/seal_gallery.html