Excelling in Higher Education

As South Florida’s first and only urban public research university, FIU is the university of access for the region’s five million residents and is a solutions center for addressing global needs. Since opening for classes in 1972 with the largest first-day enrollment in American collegiate history, FIU has distinguished itself as one of the nation’s largest, most diverse institutions of higher education.

Here are some more facts about FIU:

Student Success

- FIU is ranked No. 7 among the top U.S. universities founded in the last 50 years and one of the top 100 young universities in the world founded in the last 50 years (Times Higher Education).
- A national leader in the production of STEM degrees for minorities.
- Ranked first in the nation in awarding bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Hispanic students.
- Ranked first in the nation in awarding bachelor’s degrees to minorities.
- FIU is one of the nation’s largest Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).
- FIU has the highest six-year Hispanic graduation rate in the nation among large HSIs.
- FIU is one of only 12 HSIs in the nation that are research institutions.
- FIU has awarded more bachelor’s and master’s degrees in STEM disciplines to Hispanic students over the last 10 years than any other university.
- More than 50% of FIU undergraduate students will be the first generation in their families to receive a college degree.
- Average SAT score of incoming freshmen: 1485-1725; average ACT score of incoming freshmen: 20-24; average GPA of incoming freshmen: 3.4-4.0.
- A total of 21 student Fulbright Scholars at FIU since 1999.
- 77% of FIU baccalaureate graduates were either employed full-time or continuing their education one year after graduation in 2012-13 – the highest percentage among Florida public universities.
- FIU is one of only four Florida public universities that enroll students with military status.
- Approximately 35% of teachers in the Miami-Dade Public School System have FIU degrees.

Faculty & Staff Success

- More than 5,700 faculty and staff, nearly 4,900 of which are full time.
- 99% of tenured or tenure-seeking full-time faculty hold a doctorate or the highest degree attainable in their field.
- FIU has been named one of “America’s Best Employers” by Forbes. FIU is ranked third among the 19 Florida-based employers recognized and ninth in the education category. On the overall list of 500 employers, FIU is ranked 64th.
- FIU has a 27:1 student to faculty ratio.
- $200 million awarded in 2013-14 to faculty for innovative research.
- FIU’s faculty have helped FIU achieve a top 100 North American ranking of business schools based on research contribution.
- FIU faculty conduct research in a wide array of disciplines, representing FIU centers and institutes such as the Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging Center, STEM Transformation Institute, Extreme Events Institute, Center for Children and Families, Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology, Florida Coastal Everglades Longterm Ecological Research Program, Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse, and Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center.
- 41 faculty members published their books in the past year.

University Footprint

- The fourth largest university in the nation by enrollment and the largest public university in South Florida.
• More than 180,000 graduates and 200,000 degrees awarded.
• FIU enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and three centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75 and the Miami Beach Urban Studios.
• FIU has three museums: the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, the Wolfsonian-FIU and the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.
• FIU has academic programs at offshore sites in China, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Panama.
• More than 190 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs in 12 colleges/schools.
• FIU is a member of Conference USA and has over 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports.
• The diverse population of our student body represents 152 countries.
• Approximately 87% of our students are minorities.
• FIU graduates more than 10,000 students each year.
• More than 100,000 students will graduate from FIU in the next decade.
• Most of FIU’s alumni – about 125,000 of them – live work and work in South Florida.

Financial Efficiency
• FIU’s overall endowment – financial assets donated to the university – is $176 million.
• FIU provides grants and scholarships totaling more than $170 million a year from institutional, state and federal sources.
• FIU’s tuition, approximately $6,500 per academic year for in-state undergraduates, ranks among the lowest in the nation and the lowest among our competitors. In fact, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine consistently ranks FIU among the top “100 Best Values in Public Colleges.”
• Ranked 13th among the 25 schools whose students graduate with the least debt load, a “best buy” in higher education; FIU is the top Florida school in this category (U.S. News & World Report).
• Approximately 70% of FIU students receive some form of financial aid and less than half take on student loans.
• FIU graduates are among the best paid Florida public university graduates (Florida Board of Governors). In fact, they actually are the highest paid at a median wage of $36,200. This median wage is $200 higher than that of University of Florida graduates in 2012-13.
• As one of South Florida’s anchor institutions, FIU contributes $9.8 billion each year to the local economy.
• Twelve active fraternities and sororities, and approximately $123,650 raised by FIU Greeks in 2014 for their philanthropies.

High-achieving Programs
• Named among the top universities in the country in terms of engagement and contributions to its community. According to rankings of national universities by Washington Monthly, FIU placed 24th out of 277 higher education institutions. The university also ranked 38th in federal work-study funds allocated to service, 47th in graduation rate and 16th in community service participation and hours served.
• For the third year in a row, Leadership Excellence, a publication of HR.com, has named FIU’s Center for Leadership as a recipient of its Leadership 500 Excellence Award for outstanding leadership development programming in the U.S. The center remains the No. 1 ranked leadership development organization in Florida and ranks No. 2 in the U.S. in the category of educational institutions for 2015.
• FIU’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has been ranked 20th nationwide among the Top Medical Schools for Education Quality, and fourth for Top Medical Schools for Career Support (GraduatePrograms.com).
• FIU’s interior architecture program ranks first among universities in Florida and among the top 10 in the nation ("America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools" by DesignIntelligence).
• FIU Law ranked among top 100 law schools in the nation and top 2 in Florida for the success of its graduates finding jobs (U.S. News & World Report).
• FIU College of Business ranked No. 8 among undergraduate international business programs in the nation in 2015 (U.S. News & World Report) and No.15 among the top business schools for the International MBA (U.S. News & World Report, 2016 edition of the Best Graduate Schools).
• The College of Business’ Online Corporate MBA program was ranked No. 14 among the best in the U.S. (Financial Times 2015 edition of the Online MBA Rankings).
• The FIU Model United Nations (UN) team ranks fourth in North America. It continues to be the highest ranked team in Florida and the highest ranked team from a public university (BestDelegate.com).
• FIU is in the top 10 national ranking among HSIs who contribute volunteers to the Peace Corps.
• FIU received the 2014 Engaged Campus Award from Florida Campus Compact. The award recognizes universities that advance education, improve community life and educate students for civil and social responsibility.
• FIU received the 2014 Campus-Community Partnership Award from Florida Campus Compact. The award recognizes ACCESS, FIU’s collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to improve student success, increase graduation rates and promote college readiness.
• FIU owns and operates the world’s only undersea research laboratory – Aquarius Reef Base.
• Youngest university to have been awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most distinguished academic honor society.
• One of only 300 institutions nationwide to attain the Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
• FIU’s Carnegie Classification is Research University (High Research Activity).

FIU’s Vision:
Florida International University will be a leading urban public research university focused on student learning, innovation and collaboration.

FIU’s Mission:
Florida International University is an urban, multi-campus, public research university serving its students and the diverse population of South Florida. We are committed to high-quality teaching, state-of-the-art research and creative activity, and collaborative engagement with our local and global communities.

Brief Snapshot of FIU’s History:
In 1965, Florida Senator Robert M. Haverfield introduced Senate Bill 711, which instructed the state Board of Education and the Board of Regents to begin planning for the development of a state university in Miami.

An abandoned airfield is an unusual place for the birth of a university. But in the summer of 1969, founding FIU President Chuck Perry gathered three leaders who would help him create his vision.

Butler Waugh, Donald McDowell and Nick Sileo joined the 31-year-old Perry at Tamiami Airport and set up shop in the former air traffic controllers’ tower. The tower had no phones, no drinkable water and no furniture. President Perry decided that the control tower should never be destroyed and so it remains standing today at the center of campus, as FIU’s Ivory Tower.

From that single building on that abandoned airfield, FIU has grown to be one of the largest universities in the country. The spirit of entrepreneurship born on that summer day thrives at today’s FIU.