
SUPPORTING DATA**MASTER PLAN****1 Academic Mission of the University****Academic Mission of the University Support Data**

The information included in this element was developed by The Florida Atlantic University and collected in 2003. The purpose of this element is to describe the present and future academic mission of the University. The University is currently undertaking the process of updating the University wide academic mission based on Goals adopted by the Board of Governors. The academic mission as approved by the University Strategic Planning Committee will be included within the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the FAU Davie Campus Master Plan.

1. Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions**1.a. University Mission Statement**

Florida Atlantic University recently adopted the following Mission Statement as a guide to its development over the next five-year period.

Mission Statement

Florida Atlantic University is a public university committed through its distributed campus structure to providing access to challenging opportunities in higher education for students in Southeast Florida and beyond. Its mission is to serve its region, state, and nation by preparing students to make meaningful contributions in an increasingly complex global society, by encouraging reflection on and evaluation of emerging needs and priorities, and by supporting research and service that enhances economic, human, and cultural development.

FAU accomplishes its mission primarily through its teachers and researchers, its undergraduate educational programs, its graduate and professional offerings, and its linkages to other educational institutions and the community.

Teachers and Researchers

Florida Atlantic University fosters an intellectual environment that values the role of faculty as researchers-teachers. As researchers and scholars, faculty discover and create new knowledge, design solutions, and develop new means of expression. As teachers

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committed to effective student learning, faculty share results, processes, and perspectives with students. Inside and outside the classroom, students at Florida Atlantic University find opportunities to become a part of a dynamic community of inquiry and learn to value intellectual activities and personal qualities that contribute to an enriched and productive life.

Undergraduate Educational Programs

Florida Atlantic University prepares its undergraduate students to be productive and thoughtful citizens by offering a broad liberal education coupled with the development of competency in fields of special interest. By providing both disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the pursuit of knowledge and the solving of problems, FAU encourages students to think creatively and critically and provides intellectual tools needed for lifelong learning. A variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities enable students to appreciate the rich diversity that characterizes their region and world.

Graduate and Professional Offerings

With its graduate and professional programs, Florida Atlantic University offers advanced education responsive to evolving societal needs. These programs promote original scholarship and basic and applied research, thereby contributing to the new knowledge and approaches needed to respond effectively to complex and critical issues. By working closely with faculty in the classroom, laboratory, studio, and field, students experience first-hand the ways in which knowledge is discovered, applied, and extended.

Community Linkages and Educational Partnerships

Through its partnerships with other educational institutions, local businesses, industries, and civic and cultural organizations, Florida Atlantic University enhances the economic, human, and cultural development of Southeast Florida and beyond. By collaborating with others to address critical problems and expand cultural and educational opportunities, the University connects learning and discovery with the needs and priorities of the communities that it serves.

When it originally opened in 1964, FAU was the first university in the country to offer only upper-division and graduate-level work, on the theory that freshmen and

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sophomores could be served by the community college system. Located in rapidly growing Southeast Florida, the University responded to the need to provide increased access to educational opportunities by opening its doors to freshmen in 1984. Today, with its developed system of distributed campuses, where the same high-quality education is offered at seven different locations, Florida Atlantic University serves as a model for urban, regional universities of the future. It offers a comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate programs, and enrolls over 20,000 students who reflect the rich cultural diversity of the region.

The University's campus locations along the Florida Gold and Treasure coasts, which boast a temperate climate and beautiful beaches, innovative industry, and unique cultural opportunities, provide a stimulating environment for its outstanding scholars and researchers. FAU has Eminent Scholar Chairs in multiple disciplines and is the home of nationally recognized research centers. The University's burgeoning Research Park is facilitating exciting new research and learning initiatives by bringing high tech industries into close collaboration with FAU's faculty and students. In recognition of the University's research funding and doctoral programs, the Florida Board of Regents has designated FAU as one of the state's public research universities.

Florida Atlantic University's colleges include the College of Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs, the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Nursing, and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. These colleges offer one hundred and twenty five different academic degree programs. In 1999, FAU opened a new residential Honors College, which provides a unique and challenging four-year curriculum for the brightest students from Florida and beyond. In addition, the University is home to one of the largest lifelong learning and continuing education programs in the Nation.

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The university's service area includes Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Hendry Counties. As a state university, service is provided as required to meet the needs of all Florida residents. Florida Atlantic University at Davie is one of four locations in Broward County and as such, has a primary service responsibility to residents of Broward County. It also serves residents of the adjacent portion of Miami-Dade County.

1.c. Supplementary Policies

A supplemental policy of the President further defines that the university's mission is to be recognized as the model for urban universities of the future characterized by a distributed structure. Under this model the university will be aggressive in establishing full service educational facilities in Broward County and in the northern portion of our service area. The university, in cooperation with the other urban universities, is committed to the development of distance learning capabilities. The aim of this endeavor is to enhance the delivery of educational programs to the diverse population within our service area and across the state.

2. Future Needs/Requirements**2.a. Changes to the Mission Since Inception**

Legislation was passed in 1961 approving the establishment of an upper division university at Boca Raton. The institution opened in the Fall of 1964 with juniors, seniors and limited masters' level work in Education. The mission of the university was to provide educational opportunities beyond the junior college level to the residents of Southeast Florida. Up until that point no public education at that level had been available south of Tampa. The university continued with the same basic mission, extending classes throughout Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier, Hendry, Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie, Glades, and Indian River Counties, until Florida International University opened in 1972 and assumed some of the responsibility for this extended service area.

The student body increased in size and the number of programs at the undergraduate and master degree level increased throughout the 1960s and 1970s. By the early 1980s the citizens of Southeast Florida were demanding additional educational services which led to the development of the Southeast Florida Plan in 1983. This plan was instituted in

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1984, establishing full four-year baccalaureate programs at Florida Atlantic University. These developments comprised a significant change in the mission of the institution.

The lower division was originally intended to be of modest size and small growth; however, in 1988 the Legislature dramatically increased enrollment caps on the lower division so that FAU's student distribution would become more reflective of the State University System norm.

The Southeast Florida Plan was enhanced and operationalized with the passage and funding of the Comprehensive University Presence Plan in 1985. This plan has led to the implementation of Ph.D. degrees, primarily in the areas of science and engineering; has provided significant funding to the Broward Campuses; and has enhanced the support areas impacted by the new degree programs. In 1991 a College of Liberal Arts was established on the Davie campus in Broward. In 2002, this College was dissolved and its programs merged with the College of Science and Arts and Letters.

2.b. Changes to the Mission Since the Last Master Plan

There is no major change in the mission's focus on teaching, research and service, but there is a stronger emphasis on both the graduate/professional degree programs and research activities as part of the ongoing effort to increase the number of doctorates awarded and the number of federal research dollars brought to the university annually. An update to the mission statement may occur as part of the current strategic planning process underway as a result of goals adopted by the Board of Governors and the University.

2.c. Fulfillment of Assigned Roles

In each of the four component parts of the mission there is evidence of growth and continuity.

Teachers and Researchers

- Growth from 553 full time faculty in 1990 to 861 full time faculty in 2000 university wide
- Growth to 74 full time faculty in Davie
- Growth from \$14,803,153 in sponsored research in 1990 to \$36,593,572 in 2000 university wide
- Examples of current sponsored research projects in Davie include:

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- Bioterrorism research (Biology)
- Infant/parent interaction research (Psychology)
- Everglades restoration (Science)
 - Digital Education research and training (Education)

Students

- Growth in Davie overall headcount and FTE
- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1990 – | 1,878 students; | 725 annualized FTE |
| 1995 – | 4,083 students; | 1,691 annualized FTE |
| 2000 – | 5,109 students; | 2,013 annualized FTE |
| 2003 – | 5,277 students; | 2,485 annualized FTE |

Undergraduate Programs

- Currently offer 58 Bachelor's programs university wide; 36 in Davie
- Growth in Davie undergraduate FTE from 1179 in 1998-99 to 2053 in 2002-03

Graduate and Professional

- Currently offer 52 Masters, 3 Specialist, and 16 Doctoral programs university wide: 16 Masters and 2 Doctoral programs in Davie
- Growth from 173 graduate FTE in 1998-99 to 280 in 2002-03

Linkages and Partnerships

Examples university wide:

- Biomedical program with UM
- Florida Engineering Education Delivery System state wide
- US Navy collocated at SeaTech
- Center of Excellence program with NSU, Harbor Branch, FIU

Examples in Davie:

- More than 50 2+2 articulation agreements with BCC
- University/College Joint Use Library in Davie
- Shared FAU/Broward School Board liaison position
- US Geological Survey partnership beginning with FAU/UF/NSU
- South Florida Education Consortium includes School Board, BCC, NSU, UF, and FAU

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3.a. FAU Goals

Goal 1: **Provide access to and production of degrees/diversity.**

Goal 2: **Meet Statewide professional and workforce needs.**

Goal 3: **Build world class academic programs and research capacity.**

Goal 4: **Meet community needs And fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities.**

3.b. Davie Goals/Priorities

1. Additional faculty lines and offices.
2. More technology-equipped classrooms.
3. Offer both high volume programs (programs to meet student and workforce demand priorities) and those that are not available at other Broward institutions.
4. A stronger research atmosphere including:
 - Space for research storage, labs and centers
 - More graduate student
 - Onsite assistance with the grant writing/management process, i.e. a sponsored research person.
5. Continue to work in partnership with others:
 - With BCC, particularly to find ways to articulate better from the AS programs.
 - With NSU, UF and USGS to be a premier environmental site.
 - Between Colleges, i.e. Arts and Letters with Education and Nursing.
 - Between Civil Engineering and Urban and Regional Planning
 - Between Business and Public Administration
6. More discipline-specific labs and classrooms, rather than general use space.