

1 Academic Mission of the University**Academic Mission of the University Element****1. Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions**

1.a Vision: Florida State University aspires to be recognized as one of the top twenty public universities in the nation, with no fewer than one-third of its Ph.D. programs ranked among the top fifteen such programs at public universities nationally. The faculty is committed to earning membership in the Association of American Universities.

Mission: Florida State University is a comprehensive, national, graduate-research university that puts research into action for the benefit of our students and society. Its extensive graduate programs and our law and medical schools enrich the graduate, professional and undergraduate experiences, making Florida State University a demanding and intellectually stimulating environment for students and faculty.

With an impressive breadth of programs, Florida State University has leading undergraduate, graduate and professional programs that consistently rank among the top twenty-five at the nation's public universities, including those in Business, Chemistry, Creative Writing, Criminology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Information Law, Meteorology, Oceanography, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Public Policy, Sociology and Statistics. The University's mission is to maximize the excellence in all programs with special emphasis on programs that already earned national and international acclaim. Florida State University's arts programs—including Dance, Film and Music—rank among the finest in the world.

At the Ph.D. level, notable research faculty provide a range of interdisciplinary offerings that transcend the traditional disciplines, including Neuroscience, Molecular Biophysics, Computational Science, Materials Science and research at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

Florida State provides world-class opportunities for graduate and professional students to:

- Learn and conduct research with internationally recognized scholars;

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- Conduct research in specialized interdisciplinary centers, such as the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, The Reading Research Center, the Institute of Molecular Biophysics and the School of Computational Science;
- Participate in other interdisciplinary work across campus, such as efforts that integrate economics, geography, climate forecasting, law and other environmental courses and programs; and
- Work with faculty to forge new relationships among professions, including medicine and information, the physical sciences and engineering, business and law, human sciences, nursing and social work.

Florida State provides extraordinary opportunities for undergraduate students to:

- Select from nationally ranked programs, ranging from the basic sciences to performing arts;
- Live and learn in residence hall designed around academic programs;
- Study abroad at the finest centers in the world;
- Participate in an Honors Program, ranked among the best in the country;
- Interact with a diverse faculty including outstanding minority and women scholars; and
- Study with some of the finest graduate and professional students and faculty in the nation.

Florida State University owes special allegiance to the citizens and taxpayers of the State of Florida. Florida State exists to:

- Educate students from diverse communities in Florida, the nation and the world in an environment that emphasizes research, inquiry, and excellence;
- Identify, create, celebrate, and disseminate important knowledge;
- Maximize the opportunities for its students
- Contribute to the economic development of the State of Florida and the nation
- Harness contributed dollars and contract and grant activity for the benefit of our students and society; and
- Generate research that will benefit the citizens of Florida, the nation and the world.

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Goals: Our goal is to become recognized nationally and internationally for our teaching and research programs, including making significant progress towards the goal of being invited to become an AAU member institution.

- Enhance undergraduate education by recruiting, retaining and educating outstanding undergraduate students on a diverse campus.
- Promote excellence in undergraduate teaching by fostering a campus community of excellence.
- Ensure academic excellence by developing, retaining and rewarding talented and diverse faculty.
- Promote excellence in graduate education and research.
- Encourage the dissemination and transfer of knowledge by providing broad access to institutional resources and services to the community and to the State.
- Promote and foster learning by maintaining and expanding facilities and technology.

Note: The current mission statement was released as a part of the Board of Governor's Strategic Plan on June 9, 2005.

Source: 2007-2008 FSU Fact Book

1.b Description of University Facilities

A description of University Facilities is included in the 2007-2008 FSU Fact Book.

1.c Definition of University Service Area

As a graduate education and research institution, the Florida State University service area is statewide.

1.d Supplemental Policies

A supplemental policy of the President that further defines the University's Mission is to be and be recognized as one of the top 25 public universities in the nation. Specifically, recognition shall include membership in the AAU and be ranked among the top 25 public institutions for at least half of the academic departments.

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1 Academic Mission of the University**2. Future Needs/Requirements****2.a Changes to the Mission Since Inception**

Pages 4 and 5 of the 2007-2008 FSU Fact Book describe the history of the University and tracks the evolution of the current mission.

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

Page 1 of the 2007-2008 FSU Fact Book describes the University's approved mission statement. The University has an on-going review process that looks at the University's mission and prepares modifications to it, when necessary. Any such modification is administered under the policies of the University's Board of Trustees and the Florida Board of Education.

2.c Fulfillment of Assigned Roles

The University fulfills the role assigned to it of a major, comprehensive graduate research university by teaching, research and service.

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