

Academic Mission of the University

The Panama City Campus of The Florida State University began operations in 1967 when three universities started offering courses to area students. The University of West Florida was assigned to administer the campus in 1971, and that administrative responsibility was transferred to The Florida State University in July 1982. The Bay County Commission donated 26-acre waterfront site for constructing new campus facilities to replace buildings loaned by the Bay County School Board and Gulf Coast Community College. Construction of the new campus facilities began in 1983, and the new buildings were ready for use during the 1987 Spring Semester.

A permanent faculty and staff of 55 people, plus additional faculty who travel on a regular basis from the Tallahassee campus, serve students on campus. About 80 percent of the courses offered at the campus are taught by Tallahassee faculty, thus offering area students the same course structure, content, and expertise available to Tallahassee campus students.

The University replicates in Panama City the quality, though not the quantity, of upper division and graduate programs available on the main campus. Based on identified student needs, the University offers in Panama City as many of the high quality programs given in Tallahassee, as resources will permit. An effective and mutually beneficial partnership exists with Gulf Coast State College, Okaloosa Walton Community College, and Chipola College which provide lower division work leading to the Associate of Arts degree for many students who enroll in the campus degree programs.

The Panama City Campus emphasizes excellence in instruction and maintains close ties with the local community. Insofar as resources permit, it attempts to meet the professional and workforce needs of the area. Several colleges, such as the College of Business and the College of Education offer extensive undergraduate programs. Degree programs are offered in several liberal arts areas. The College of Nursing offers a master's degree and an undergraduate degree. To further meet the needs of the community, the University also provides undergraduate, graduate and continuing education work in engineering. These programs are offered with the cooperation of the Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, and the Florida Engineering Educational Delivery System (FEEDS).

Since the Panama City campus operates as a non-residential commuter campus, present facilities can support a considerable increase in the current enrollment of over 1,000. The FSU Panama City Administration would like a study of the potential enrollment impact if University housing was available. This 28-acre campus has a current enrollment of 1,073 students (divided between

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day and evening students) and contains eight facilities. Enrollment is projected to grow in the years covered by this amendment and beyond. To accommodate this growth, the University has significantly expanded its inventory of academic and administrative buildings on this campus.

The City of Panama City and the Panama City Campus are growing and developing. As the campus population grows and more day classes are offered, the range of student activities and services will increase. The University also plans to become a cultural center both for its own students and the Panama City community, with contributions from the performing arts, the Center for Professional Development, and other University programs. The summer musical theater is the most obvious example.

The Board of Regents adopted the mission statement in 1988. The statement contains information that was correct when adopted; specific information may have changed slightly since then. However, the intent and general operation of the Panama City campus remains as originally described.

There exists considerable information located elsewhere in the Campus Master Plan that details additional facts and figures about the Panama City Campus, including academic programs offered, breakdowns of student enrollment, future enrollment projections, and the like.

Urban Design

The Panama City campus is situated on the south shore of North Bay in Bay County. As shown in **Figure PC.1**, the campus has a long shoreline offering recreational potential. Predominantly a wooded site, the campus has three main clusters of academic and support buildings with adjacent surface parking. The lots are sensitively arranged. The land between the main buildings and the shore transitions from a man-made lawn and landscaping treatment to natural woods and shore vegetation. The lush trees, lawns, and landscaping plus the personal scale and texture of the multi-shaped brick buildings exude a suburban air of repose and comfort and welcome. The campus development has basically adhered to the original master plan of 1979.

Across Brown Avenue to the east is a modest, well-kept neighborhood of single-family homes. Gulf Coast State College is to the south across Collegiate Drive. The buff-colored stucco facilities of GCSC are much larger and more numerous than FSU Panama City, sprawling across the grounds. Athletic fields are directly across from the entrance to FSU Panama City.

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The two campuses share the library and police services but are otherwise independent. Seldom are students observed walking between campuses although separated by only a few minutes walk.

Land Use

Situated in a suburban setting described above, the Panama City campus is surrounded by low-density uses. The diagrams in **Figure PC.1** note the adjacent land uses and the relative separation of the campus from intrusive urban activities.

On-campus land uses are basic for a small facility. The Academic cluster of buildings houses both classrooms, faculty offices, administration and maintenance/support functions. Recreation and open spaces are primarily around the northern and western sides of the buildings toward the water. Maintenance and support activities also occur at the three quads on Bay Drive in the southwest corner. A new Administrative Service Center opened several years ago which houses the Facilities Department, Police Department and the entire central plant for the existing facilities and future facilities.

There are no residential facilities owned or operated by or for the University, though the University has plans to study the possibility of developing on-campus housing in the future, perhaps in partnership with Gulf Coast State College.

Areas along the shore are intended to be left undisturbed, or better described as undeveloped, to the degree possible, as conservation zones.

There are no known environmental constraints to further develop. However, any additional future facilities planned on the Panama City Campus may need an enlarged central plant to provide long-term operational economy.

With the diversion of traffic away from Collegiate Drive and from in front of the campus, there is little unusual interference from automobiles.

Academic Facilities

There are 12 facilities totaling more than 100,000 gross square feet. The three main academic buildings were built at the inception of the campus, completed in time for the spring semester of 1987. The first of three new Academic Centers was completed in the summer of 2008.

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There are no intercollegiate athletics at the Panama City Campus; therefore, there are no requirements for athletic fields. The recreation fields on the adjacent Gulf Coast State College site are available to FSU students. No needs have been expressed for such facilities on campus at FSU, although the original master plan showed several outdoor tennis, racquetball and basketball courts.

Housing

Currently there are no housing units at the Panama City campus, but FSU Panama City Administration has plans to study the possibility of development on-campus student housing in the near future, perhaps with the administration of the adjacent Gulf Coast State College.

Recreation and Open Space

The current master plan promotes the conservation of existing natural areas and the use of open areas on site for recreation and passive enjoyment. As noted above, the adjacent athletic fields and recreation facilities at Gulf Coast State College are available and adequate for FSU students. The fact that this is a commuter and night campus contributes significantly to the lack of perceived need for such facilities on site.

General Infrastructure

Potable Water Sub-Element

It would appear that water for domestic use and for fire protection is adequate for moderate facility expansion with an 8" loop around the campus. A fire flow test will be required to determine the need of a fire pump for future expansions.

Sanitary Sewer Sub-Element

The existing sanitary will require tie in and extension. Existing capacities must be verified with the utility and the civil engineer.

Utilities

Hot and Chilled Water Sub-Element

As part of the project to develop the Holley Academic Center and the new Administrative Service Center, chilled water and steam production and distribution systems were greatly enhanced.

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Electrical Power and Other Fuels Sub-Element

Power is provided to the facility from a 12,470 PECO power line located on a pole on the east side of the campus. Power is run underground from the pole to pad mounted transformers at buildings D, B, and A. The transformer at B serves buildings B south and C. Building B south feeds building B north. Power is run to a primary pull box on the east side of the campus for future use. This feeder can be extended to pick up the new building loads as long as the demand current is within the cable and equipment voltage. After the loads of the new facilities are determined, it will be necessary to coordinate with the electric utility company to verify that their feeder can accept the additional loads.

Telecommunications Systems Sub-Element

Service entrances for the telephones enter the property from the south side of the campus and have termination points in the Barron building and in the Faculty building. Service entrances for data and television enter the property from the south side of campus and have termination points in the Technology building. Six 4" ducts connect the Barron building to the Faculty building while it connects to the Technology, Bayside and Conference Center buildings through 4" ducts also. A newer, separate duct bank and manhole system connects the Administrative Services Center via six 4" ducts, the Technology building via eight 4" ducts, the Faculty building via three 4" ducts and the Academic building via six 4" ducts. Manholes have been placed on the west side of the campus for future expansion.

Transportation

Transit, Circulation and Parking Sub-Element

The student body of this campus places few demands on the transportation system of the campus or the host community. The Panama City campus has approximately 400 parking spaces, fifteen of which are for handicapped permit only. Parking is located south and east of the building structures and is available without permits or other user costs. Panama City Campus will consider assessing parking fees at a future date.

There are no pass-through roadways located within the confines of the campus. The only circulation within the campus is parking lot access that is adequate to serve existing travel movements.

Access to the campus is gained via Collegiate Drive off of W. 23rd (SR 368). Collegiate Drive is a two-lane, two-way, minor arterial defining the southern boundary of the campus. The realignment of this road reduced through traffic thereby permitting safer pedestrian access between the campus and Gulf Coast State College.

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The Panama City campus offers students, staff, and faculty access to an upper level university in a distinctive, natural, waterfront setting. The goal of the university should be to keep this campus in its current state as long as possible, accenting pedestrian and transit access as need arises.

Pedestrian and Non-Vehicular Circulation Sub-Element

Almost all students and faculty arrive by automobile. Once on campus, the distances between buildings are short and easily walkable. Although Gulf Coast State College is just across the road, there is little if any pedestrian interaction between campuses. If a student needs to go to the GCSC library, he usually drives his car to park near his destination.

The configuration of the campus lends itself to walking. Bicyclists have easy access to the site and to the buildings. Once on site, there is no need for continued use of the bicycles until ready to depart.

Intergovernmental Coordination

See discussion in Element 12 Intergovernmental Coordination, which will apply to the Panama City Campus. FSU-PC enjoys a good relationship with the local government and community college.

Conservation

The Panama City Campus is located in Bay County within the city limits of Panama City. It is adjacent to a residential neighborhood on the east, Gulf Coast Community College on the south, Gray Park to the west, and faces North Bay along its northern edge.

The campus contains numerous mature trees, many draped with Spanish moss. Along the water's edge is a thin strip of natural vegetation. At the northeastern end of the site is a small tidal pool. With modest care, access to the pool by boardwalk could enable visitors to enjoy the site without disturbing its natural functions. Around the building sites, well-kept lawns and modest landscaping present a manicured image to students and visitors.

There are no wetlands or floodplains on the campus. The 100-year floodplain lies along a thin strip of the North Bay. There are no known springs or sink holes.

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Minimal chemical and hazardous wastes are generated by academic programs and maintenance-related solvents. The University has routine procedures for properly handling and disposing of any such materials.

Possible energy consumption reduction practices as described in other sections, primarily Element 13 Conservation may apply equally well to the Panama City Campus.

Capital Improvements

The comments included in Element 14 include the Panama City Campus.

Architectural Design

The Administration, Faculty, Technology, Bayside, Auditorium and Conference Center buildings are actually clusters of buildings or modules arranged around small courtyards. The modern buildings have many facets, balconies, sloped rooflines, and curved stair forms. The exterior materials are a dark brown brick and glass. The roof, primarily on the Administration Building, is a sloped standing seam terne metal system with shed roof (single slope) forms, or is a flat roof system. Concrete and brick bridges cross-parts of interior courtyards between modules. One of the courtyards is configured to be an amphitheater with shallow concrete terraces.

Future buildings should maintain the general forms and use of dark brick and metal roofs, although a simplified perimeter may produce a more efficient envelope.

Landscape Architectural Design

The Panama City campus is a quiet, mostly wooded site. The eastern boundary of the campus has remained in a natural, unimproved wooded mix of pines and oaks to help screen campus parking and activity along that edge. The northern edge of the campus follows the shoreline of North Bay and is regarded as a Preservation Zone along the entire length of the campus shoreline, the width varying from 70 to 200 feet. In the northeast corner of the campus is a tidal pool wetland, and adjacent to it is a wood deck used for access to the shoreline. Due to the predominance of night classes on campus, students or classroom groups seldom use the shoreline and tidal pool areas. The western boundary of the campus abuts with the county park, and the southern boundary is the frontage of Collegiate Drive, with Bryan Avenue and Bay Drive cutting through campus to allow access to the park. Maintenance facilities are located in the separated part of campus south of Bay Drive.

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The Academic Center scheduled to open summer of 2008 calls for a redesign of the Bryan Avenue entrance, and 223 paved parking spaces to the south and west of the building complex.

Pedestrian circulation consists of concrete sidewalks linking parking areas and buildings. Almost all were installed at the original construction of the campus, and two additional walks were put in along the most prominent paths worn into the grass from the western parking lot to the buildings. Backless wood benches were installed with the original construction and were recently refurbished. Additional concrete benches, also without backs, have been purchased by the student government and supplement the wood benches. Bicycle facilities consist of concrete wheel chocks at 3 locations for bicycle parking and locking.

Original trash receptacles were replaced with an all-plastic type with lid. There is no material recycling program on campus because there are no recycling programs available in Bay County.

Lighting on campus consists of anodized aluminum fixtures in a bronze color used for walkway lighting. The original number of fixtures has been supplemented by additional fixtures of the same design as needed for enhanced security lighting on the campus. Enhanced lighting on campus also consists of floodlights being installed on building exteriors where possible.

Planted areas on campus consist of maintained lawns and shrub areas around the building complex and parking lots and unimproved natural areas of pines and oaks along the perimeter boundary. Pines and oaks, along with some additional flowering ornamental trees, are incorporated into the lawn and building areas. The western part of the campus is maintained but left mainly unimproved, as is the shoreline preservation zone.

Facilities Maintenance

See comments included under Element 17 for the Main Campus.

Coastal Management

The Panama City campus is not officially in a coastal high hazard zone because the local government has not declared such a zone. The campus is located on the mainland, to the north of US 98, facing North Bay. Only the shoreline is considered in the 100-year floodplain according to the FEMA maps of the city.

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The evacuation route for the campus is to move south to US 98, turn east on US 98, then turn north on US 231. This route requires the traveler to cross no bridges and no water. See **Figure PC.2**.

There are no plans for emergency sheltering in University facilities at this time.

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