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The University of Florida is one of the nation’s leading public research universities, with one of the most comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs in the country. Sixteen colleges offer more than 100 undergraduate majors and the Graduate School coordinates more than 250 graduate programs. UF is also a member of the Association of American Universities.

In addition to its campus programs, the university administers statewide educational and research programs through the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. These programs make major contributions to Florida’s agricultural industry, as well as to the overall economy of the state. The Health Science Center at UF also plays a significant role by providing leading-edge medical care and other health services throughout the state.

The University of Florida traces its beginnings to the establishment of the East Florida Seminary in 1853. The seminary subsequently moved to Gainesville and merged with the state’s land-grant Florida Agricultural College to become the University of Florida. From an enrollment of 102 students in 1906, the university has grown to an enrollment of about 50,000 in 2011.

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERIES
UF is a leader in research and discoveries which improve the lives of individuals throughout the state, nation and world.
• UF received more than $651 million in research awards in 2010-11.
• UF has more than $750 million in new research facilities recently completed or under construction, including the Nanoscale Research Facility, the Pathogens Research Facility, the Florida Innovation Hub and the Biomedical Sciences Building.
• UF is a national leader in alternative energy research, with strong programs in ethanol production, and nuclear and solar energy.
• UF has strong research collaborations with Scripps Florida and the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute.
• The UF astronomy department is a global leader in the development of sophisticated devices that are mounted on some of the world’s largest telescopes to detect new planets and other objects.
• UF is home to one of the world’s largest butterfly and moth collections, with more than 9 million specimens.
• UF’s McKnight Brain Institute is home to more than 300 faculty using some of the world’s most powerful MRI imaging systems and other state-of-the-art tools to better understand the human brain and nervous system.
• UF’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute is one of only 60 the National Institutes of Health is funding to speed the transformation of scientific discoveries into medical advances for patients.
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• UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute is a national model for using interdisciplinary research methods to identify, prevent and treat human, animal and plant pathogens.
• Gatorade®, the world’s most popular sports drink, is just one of the many products UF’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences contributes to the world.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
UF’s talented faculty members are highly recognized within their respective fields.
• UF is consistently ranked among the nation’s top universities: No. 19 in U.S. News & World Report “Top Public Universities” (August 2011); No. 3 in The Center’s “Top Public Research Universities” (2010); No. 2 in Kiplinger’s “Best Values in Public Colleges” (2012).
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• UF has 4,215 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research and service, including 40 Eminent Scholar chairs and 27 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
• Faculty awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA’s top award for research, and Smithsonian Institution’s conservation award.

COMPETITIVE STUDENT ADMISSION; ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
• Over 90 percent of incoming freshmen score above the national average on standardized exams. The fall 2011 incoming freshman class had an average 4.16 GPA and 1256 SAT score.
• UF admitted 1,375 International Baccalaureate students in fall 2011.
• The freshman retention rate of 96 percent is among the highest in the country.
• Among AAU public universities, UF ranked second in bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students in 2009-10.
• Among AAU public universities, UF ranked first in bachelor’s degrees and fifth in Ph.D.’s awarded to African American students in 2009-10.

RICH ACADEMIC HISTORY
• One of Florida’s largest universities — and one of the nation’s largest —UF enrolls approximately 50,000 students per year. UF is home to 16 colleges and 168 research centers.
• UF has been a member of the Association of American Universities (the top 61 public and private institutions in North America) since 1985.

ECONOMIC IMPACT
UF is an economic powerhouse behind Florida’s economy.
• UF’s annual economic impact exceeds $8.76 billion.
• UF activities generate an estimated 116,118 statewide jobs, including more than 41,000 university employees and those employed by supporting businesses.

SERVICE MISSION AND CULTURAL IMPACT
A land-, sea- and space-grant institution, UF is dedicated to serving the interests of society.
• UF’s world-class cultural and artistic venues, including the Florida Museum of Natural History, Harn Museum of Art, and Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, attract individuals from throughout the state and beyond.
• The university’s statewide outreach includes Cooperative Extension Offices in each of the state’s 67 counties, and 13 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Research and Education Centers throughout the state.
• UF’s Health Science Center serves as the major referral center for patients in the southeastern U.S., and provides health and dental services in Gainesville and 11 other cities throughout the state.
• The Shands HealthCare family includes two major teaching hospitals, Shands at UF in Gainesville and Shands Jacksonville; two specialty hospitals, Shands Rehab Hospital and Shands Vista for behavioral health; a network of outpatient rehabilitation centers; and two home-health agencies. Shands at UF includes Shands Hospital for Children and Shands Cancer Hospital.
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SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP
UF is committed to the responsible teachings and practices of environmental protection and social responsibility.
• UF hosts a myriad of centers for environmental research, conservation, planning, design, policy, and law. Additionally, UF offers more than 300 courses related to sustainability, many college-level certificates in sustainability, a major and a minor in Sustainability Studies, and a Sustainability in the Built Environment major in the College of Design, Construction and Planning.
• UF is home to the Water Institute, the Florida Climate Institute, the Florida Institute of Sustainable Energy (FISE), and the Energy Technology Business Incubator (ETBI). UF enjoys the interdisciplinary efforts of more than 150 faculty in developing new technologies — from fuel cells, batteries, and solar cells to biofuels and nuclear power — in order to create a sustainable energy future for Florida and the world.
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 UF/Gainesville

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January/12
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