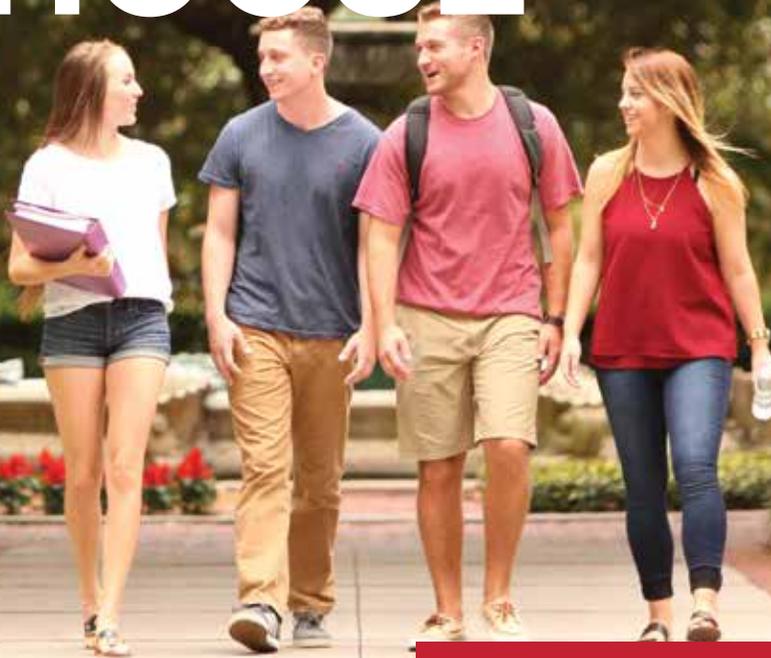


PARENT GUIDE

# HELPING YOUR STUDENT CHOOSE

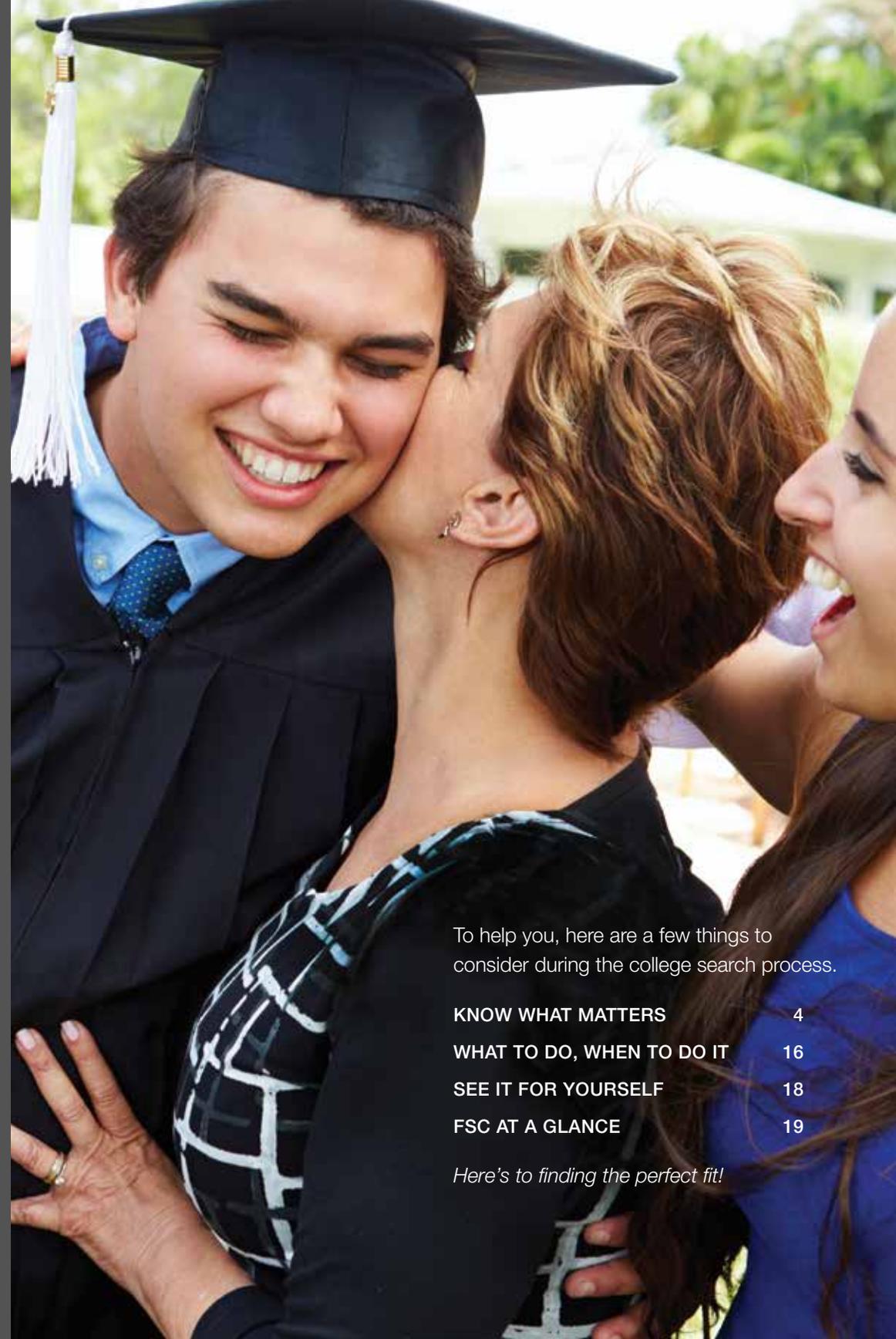


FLORIDA   
SOUTHERN  
COLLEGE

Your child isn't the only one going through the admissions process. As a parent, you're making sure to remind your student of important deadlines. You're researching colleges. You're thinking about costs and value.

You do all this because you want your child to find a school that offers a stellar education, lasting friendships, along with a world of possibilities. You want to find a school where they will thrive.

**You play a critical role in that search.**



To help you, here are a few things to consider during the college search process.

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*Here's to finding the perfect fit!*

There are guidebooks and rankings for every aspect of college life, but lists can only tell you so much. Choosing a college is a major decision. So how can you know which one is the right one? What factors should you consider when evaluating colleges?

Think about what's best for your student. How does he learn most effectively? What are her long-term goals? What type of campus community will help him or her grow into a well-rounded person?

**Don't just focus on price; consider the quality of your investment.**





**IT'S AN EFFORTLESS TRANSITION INTO THE REAL WORLD**

Within a year of graduation, our students report having achieved their post-bachelor's degree goals by securing gainful employment, entering into the military or volunteer service, or beginning an advanced degree program.

# A strong purpose makes all the difference.

Having a clear and vital mission means a college knows what it is and who it serves. It means your student will get more than just an education; he or she will have opportunities to bridge the gap between theory and practice and make a difference in the world.

**DOES THE MISSION FIT YOUR STUDENT?**

Understanding a school's mission makes it easier to know if it's the right fit; it helps you to know if the school's educational approach will deliver the types of experiences your child seeks.

At FSC, our mission is to provide high impact, hands-on experiences in an intimate learning environment. Ask yourself if your child enjoys project-based learning. Will she benefit from small classes and collaborative opportunities with faculty? Is he ready to be challenged in a supportive environment where he's given autonomy to steer his studies?

*“My undergraduate years weren't simply a stepping-stone to med school. They were an opportunity to discover my passions. I was encouraged to engage with the community and participate in activities that informed me in medicine, the sciences, and the social aspects of healthcare.”*

— **Brent Willobee '12;**  
surgical resident  
at University of Miami's  
teaching hospital



**COMPARE WHAT THEY SAY TO WHAT YOU SEE**

Brochures say a lot of things about a school's mission. When you visit, see if its actions live up to the hype.

We provide our students with a way to focus in on their particular passions and a broad vision of how those passions can serve the common good. Then, we make sure students have the knowledge and the drive to realize that vision.

**A POWERFUL ALUMNI NETWORK**

Finding the best program for your student is only the first of many steps toward matching your child with the best school. Don't overlook the value of a supportive network of alumni. Alumni do more than help fund their alma mater; they also serve as a community that aids graduates in advancing throughout the course of their lives.

**30,000+ MAKING A POSITIVE AND CONSEQUENTIAL IMPACT**

Over the years, we've graduated leaders who've gone on to serve as a secretary general of OPEC, a chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court, and a Deputy National Security Advisor to the President. Our alumni have remained highly loyal to our community, and their generosity enables us to provide **\$31+ million** in aid annually. They also enjoy connecting students with their fields of interest by sponsoring internships and research opportunities. They provide the inside track on jobs and how to get them.



### GRADUATION IN FOUR YEARS, GUARANTEED

On the average, only 59 percent\* of students who begin a college education complete it in six years. At Florida Southern, however, our investment in student guidance and support allows us to make you this promise: if your student follows the guidelines and is unable to graduate in four years, we will cover the cost of any additional coursework needed.

# A high-quality education is never "one size fits all."

College is a time for you to step back and for your child to take charge of their decisions. But that doesn't mean they have to do it alone. You can help by making sure they have everything they need to thrive — and the attention they deserve.

### PERSONAL ATTENTION STARTS WITH THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Every school promises personal attention. But do they actually deliver? Their recruitment and selection process will show you. Are they only interested in test scores and class rank? Or are they genuinely interested in who your child is?

We begin our selection process with your child's best interest in mind. We want to know that FSC will be a good fit for a student, so we learn as much as we can about his or her accomplishments and goals.

### EASING THE TRANSITION

Leaving home for college is a major milestone not just in a student's life, but also in the life of a whole family. How will the school make that transition seamless for your child and for you?

We believe information is key to a successful transition. So we start early, sending frequent communications that include customized checklists, personal reminders, and alerts about events that will help you and your student make connections on campus.

### A TAILORED PLAN FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS IS CRITICAL

During those very first days on campus, a faculty advisor will work closely with your student to plan an academic program that includes a major, complementary electives, and a hands-on learning experience. Additionally, each student is guaranteed a travel-study opportunity that deepens their knowledge of their field.

*"Close interaction between students and faculty allowed Laura to be mentored and guided in a way that would not have been possible at a large research institution."*

— **Kim Hackett**, mom of Laura Hackett '15 who is currently working as a content specialist for the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce



### RETENTION RATES

At Florida Southern, our first-year retention rate is significantly higher than the national average of other private four-year schools<sup>†</sup>. Our first-year transition programs, the strong relationships students develop with faculty, and the profound academic and personal support provided by our staff are just some of the reasons why FSC students choose to remain enrolled.

<sup>†</sup> Includes both profit and not-for-profit institutions

\* See the National Center for Education Statistics for additional information



# 15:1

## STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

Our small class sizes ensures our faculty members establish connections with their students. They invite students to collaborate on research, study abroad, network to build connections with the workforce, while providing the guidance needed to help them launch a successful career.



# What it all comes down to — the classroom.

When comparing institutions, consider the strength of the faculty and its dedication to teaching. You'll know where a college truly stands on this issue by asking if good teaching is considered important for promotion and tenure, and if the school invites students to be engaged participants in learning.

**WHAT MAKES A GREAT TEACHER?** Command of the material, passion for the subject, and confidence in students. These are qualities to look for when you meet with faculty on a college visit.

**WILL YOUR STUDENT'S EDUCATION BE A TOP PRIORITY?** You've read the stories — as faculty face increasing pressures to research and publish, teaching becomes secondary.

FSC's faculty members are highly respected scientists, scholars, artists, and business leaders. But above all, they're teachers who see themselves as partners in student development.

**LEARNING HAPPENS BY DOING.** Part of a college education is learning how your discipline intersects with the world. That kind of learning gives students a competitive edge when seeking jobs or graduate school admission.

Our teaching philosophy is simple. The best learning takes place by doing. With a host of opportunities to gain real-world experience, our students develop a deeper understanding of their discipline as well as practical know-how.

*“Knowing that the professors are vested in helping students pick their correct path is very comforting. The high cost of college creates a desire to ‘get it right, out of the gate.’ The daily encouragement Sam receives creates an environment where it is possible to succeed.”*

— **Karen Bolger**, mom of Caitlin Bolger '20; biology and pre-med

**100%**  
**OF 2018 GRADUATES**  
PARTICIPATED IN  
AT LEAST ONE HANDS-  
ON, RÉSUMÉ-BUILDING  
EXPERIENCE



### RESEARCH

Every science major experiences the scientific method first hand.



### PRESENT

200+ students a year share original research at national conferences



### TRAVEL

47+ trips annually to places such as China and Australia



### INTERN

By their senior year, 60 percent of our students have gained work experience



'08 WESLEY HALL

'09 NICHOLAS HALL

'09 MCKAY ARCHIVES CENTER

'09 BLANTON NURSING BUILDING

'10 RINKER TECHNOLOGY CENTER

'10 CHRISTOVerson HUMANITIES BUILDING

'12 WARDEN TENNIS CENTER

'13 USONIAN HOUSE

'14 WARDEN DANCE STUDIO

'15 BECKER BUSINESS BUILDING

'16 GARDEN APARTMENTS

'17 SHARON & JIM FRANCE '68 ADMISSIONS CENTER

*New facilities the College has constructed in the past ten years.*

## Not all campuses are created equal.

When it comes to facilities and resources, and student access to these amenities, pay close attention. Just because a school has a particle accelerator doesn't necessarily mean students ever see it. So while you're learning all about what a campus has, always ask if these resources will directly support your child's education.

### WHAT CONDITIONS ARE THE FACILITIES IN?

Every school has that building that needs renovating, but if you're touring campus and are consistently seeing buildings that look in need of repair, that can be a red flag.

Though our campus may be known for its Frank Lloyd Wright architecture and its "Most Beautiful" campus designation, we're more than just looks. Here, you'll find state-of-the-art facilities that support every aspect of the student experience.

### IS THERE NEW CONSTRUCTION?

New buildings and facilities are clear evidence a school is working to stay innovative and willing to put resources where it counts — your child's education.

*"Look beyond the picturesque lake and historic architecture, and you'll find everything needed for a comfortable, and productive four years."*

— **Julie James '94**, mom of Alex James '18; psychology and criminology

Recently, the College opened the doors to a brand new business building that features a virtual trading floor. The newly renovated communications building houses our broadcast studio and newsroom for Tampa's WTSP 10 News, providing students access to a major-market media outlet.

### DON'T FORGET ABOUT OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Not all opportunities happen on campus. Ask about partnerships with other institutions and local organizations that offer additional resources for students to customize their learning.

Florida Southern is the only private institution of higher education in Florida with a formal internship agreement with the prestigious **Washington Center**, enabling our students to dig deeper into politics, law enforcement, journalism, and government relations.



**CITY OF Lakeland**  
BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA SAYS U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

While splendid lakes and mild weather may lure your student, our location puts them at the heart of innovation. From internships with Fortune 500 companies to networking organizations that foster connections with the business community, Lakeland provides a wealth of opportunities for young, motivated professionals.



**3000+**  
STUDENTS

Our enrollment is an ideal size for undergraduate education: large enough to enable a wide range of extracurricular choices and small enough for students to recognize many of the faces around campus.

**100+**  
CLUBS  
TO GET  
INVOLVED IN



**14**  
MUSICAL  
ENSEMBLES

**5**  
THEATRICAL  
PRODUCTIONS

**14**

GREEK  
ORGS

**20**  
VARSITY  
TEAMS

**THREE**  
CLUB SPORTS:  
E-SPORTS,  
WATER SKI, &  
EQUESTRIAN

## Learning at college happens outside the classroom, too.

New people, new opportunities, new responsibilities — living in a college community will shape your child profoundly. All schools have a character that imprints itself on students. Who your child surrounds himself or herself with can make all the difference.

### COMMUNITY IS KEY

Look for schools that make the time spent outside of the classroom as meaningful as the time spent in class. Does the campus promote an overall sense of community? Does the faculty participate in campus activities? Do residence halls maintain a schedule of organized activities?

Students choose Florida Southern because they want a college that emphasizes community. What they find is a close-knit campus with educational and entertaining programs and events, and all of the outdoor activities our sunny location provides.



### THINK WHOLE PERSON

Student development goes beyond gaining knowledge. The best schools think of education in broad terms and provide students with opportunities to develop as a whole person.

We attract bright, multi-talented people looking to explore, so we give them opportunities beyond the classroom to get involved in everything, from the arts to sports to service.

“Participating in diverse organizations allowed me to practice leadership and dependable membership. Both roles improved my ability to be a creative, self-starting, open-minded person who could work with others, improvise, meet deadlines, and recognize how even the smallest tasks were important to the greater mission of an organization.”

— **Megan Beddow '10**, Manager for Grant Programs Oversight, Broward County Public Schools, Miami



A RAPIDLY RISING  
STAR AMONG THE  
**NATION'S  
BEST  
PRIVATE  
COLLEGES**

— *Colleges of Distinction*

AMONG  
AMERICA'S

**TOP  
COLLEGES**

— *Forbes*



**THE  
PERFECT  
SIZE**

FOR A STUDENT WHO  
DOESN'T WANT TO GO  
UNNOTICED

— *The Princeton Review*

ONE OF THE  
**BEST AND  
MOST  
INTERESTING**  
SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.

— *Fiske Guide*

# It always seemed so far in the future, but your student is almost through high school!

It's an exciting, yet anxious time for both of you.

Ensure a smooth transition to college life by using this timeline as a guide on what to do and when.

## JUNIOR YEAR

*Now's the time to address any areas that need improvement. Are grades and test scores where they should be? Has your child demonstrated a commitment to activities outside of the classroom?*

*Encourage your son or daughter to think about what he or she has accomplished and what they see for themselves in the future. Having a clear understanding will help answer some of the difficult questions that lie ahead.*

### RESEARCH COLLEGES

You can help your child review college websites, brochures, and guidebooks. Make a list of requirements and deadlines for each college your child is considering.

### TEST

Make sure your student is signed up to take the PSAT in the fall and the SAT or ACT in the spring.



### VISIT CAMPUS

The spring or summer of junior year is a good time to visit campuses and talk with admissions counselors. Be sure to document your experiences by taking pictures and notes — and ask plenty of questions.



**Day on Campus** is the perfect opportunity to visit Florida Southern. Register at [flosouthern.edu/day](https://flosouthern.edu/day).

### FINISH STRONG

Colleges want to see a high school record with challenging courses and good grades — particularly in junior and senior years. Help your child select a rigorous but manageable course load.

## SENIOR YEAR

*The college preparation that takes place during your student's senior year is loaded with paperwork. You can best support your student by helping them keep track of important deadlines. You'll also play a key role in helping him or her to make that final decision.*



### APPLY!

Once your student decides on the lucky contenders, it's time to start completing forms and drafting essays. Students can apply easily using our online application or the Common App - and there's no application fee.



Remind your student to check his or her email for a link to our preferred application.

### FILE THE FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on October 1. Complete it early to ensure you don't miss any deadlines.

### RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid may seem complicated, but there is a lot of money out there to help families pay for college and many resources to help you navigate the process. It's work, but spending time searching for scholarships can pay off.

### FINALIZE ENROLLMENT DETAILS

The following will require your attention:

- Completing the housing application
- Registering for advising/orientation
- Submitting placement scores, etc.

Encourage your student to tackle all this ASAP so there's no delay moving in or registering for classes.

### PLAN TO ATTEND ORIENTATION

Sometime soon, that Saturday will arrive. Prepare yourself for the flood of emotion.



FSC's Orientation program includes a session just for parents: Helping You Feel Okay About Letting Go.

## SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

### JUNE TO MARCH

Apply for admission

### OCTOBER 1

Complete your FAFSA

### NOVEMBER 1

Early Decision application deadline

### DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY OR MARCH

Attend Scholars Weekend

### JANUARY 3

Prestige Scholarship deadline

### JANUARY 15

Early Decision deposit due

### MARCH 1

Regular Decision application, Honors application, and Financial Aid priority deadline

### MAY 1

**DECISION DAY!** All accepted students must notify FSC where they will be attending

### AUGUST

Orientation and the first day of classes

# Will I fit in? That's an important question. To answer it, there's no substitute for a campus visit.

To really know if a college is the right fit, you need to find out if it's a place your student will feel like he or she belongs.



## EXPERIENCE FLORIDA SOUTHERN!

We offer individualized tours and info sessions year round, so you and your student can ask questions that relate specifically to interests and goals.

PLAN YOUR DAY AT [FLSOUTHERN.EDU/VISIT](https://fلسouthern.edu/visit)

**IDENTIFY THE MUST-HAVES.** After spending time on different campuses, you and your student will have a better sense of the options available. This will enable your child to decide what factors are most important.

**TAKE NOTES.** You're going to visit a lot of campuses, and before you know it, they will all end up as a blur. You and your child should write down your thoughts and impressions about a school — the good and the bad — as soon as the visit is complete.

**VISIT. THEN VISIT AGAIN.** When you start visiting campuses early, you have the luxury of taking a second (or even third) look at a school. Consider a post-admission visit to make sure the school still feels like a good fit.

**TAKE YOUR TIME.** Making sure a school is the right place for your child means spending time there. The Admissions office will arrange opportunities to tour campus, meet with a counselor, sit in on a class, and talk to faculty. Plus, all of these options show that your student is genuinely interested — and that is something schools are caring about more and more.

**GO DEEPER.** Take the tour, but then explore on your own. Once the official presentation is over, walk around campus and observe how students and faculty interact. Talk to students. Pick up a copy of the campus newspaper to see what concerns students have. All of this will give you different perspectives on the campus culture.

## FSC AT A GLANCE

Founded  
**1883**

Florida Southern College is a private coeducational school dedicated to the liberal arts.

**3000+** STUDENTS come from nearly every state in the U.S. and 50 countries, including Venezuela, New Zealand, Sweden, Ireland, and France.

3.76  
GPA

1130-1290  
SAT

23-29  
ACT

*Florida Southern receives more than 7,000 first-year applications annually and accepts approximately 51 percent.*

**50+** MAJORS plus self-design options and a range of career tracks, concentrations, and pre-professional preparation, with graduate degree programs in business, nursing, and education.

**139** FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS Nearly **88 percent** hold PhDs or terminal degrees in their field.

**SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED** A full range of guidance and support services, including career planning and placement.

**47+** STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS

include trips to China, Australia, and the Galapagos. Partnerships with Regents University in the U.K. and Proyecto Español in Spain allow students to spend an entire semester abroad.



**INTERNSHIPS ARE GUARANTEED** and are available in every major and located in Lakeland, Central Florida, and beyond.

**100+** CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS focused on the arts, math and sciences, business, media, music, service, culture, politics, pre-professional interests, faith, and Greek life.

**94%** OF FIRST-YEARS LIVE ON CAMPUS

**18 RESIDENCE HALLS** including four apartment complexes of various styles.



**20 NCAA DIVISION II TEAMS** include water skiing, tennis, baseball, and equestrian club — to name a few. Florida Southern Moccasins hold **30 National Championships**.



**#1 MOST BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS** ranked two years in a row by *The Princeton Review* is comprised of **57 buildings** on more than **113 acres** in **LAKELAND, FLORIDA**, a city located between Tampa and Orlando in Florida's High Tech Corridor.



**APPLYING IS EASY**

We encourage completed applications by **March 1** for fall admission. Visit [fلسouthern.edu/applynow](https://fلسouthern.edu/applynow) for additional details and deadlines.

**\$31+ MILLION IN FINANCIAL AID AWARDED ANNUALLY** on the basis of academic merit, talent in athletics, fine arts, leadership, community service, and need.

Learn how we can help make a Florida Southern education affordable for your student at [fلسouthern.edu/financialaid](https://fلسouthern.edu/financialaid).

# Choosing the perfect college doesn't have to be difficult.

## GET CONNECTED

Discover more about Florida Southern through our website at [fلسouthern.edu](http://fلسouthern.edu).



*Founded in 1883, **Florida Southern College** is the oldest private college in the Sunshine State and welcomes 3,000 students seeking a high impact, hands-on college experience.*

*A comprehensive, selective college, we offer a superb liberal arts core, more than undergraduate 50 degree programs, and outstanding professional programs in business, nursing, education, and pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, engineering, law, pharmacy, physical therapy, podiatry, theology, optometry, and veterinary medicine.*

*Florida Southern is located in historic Lakeland, 40 miles east of Tampa and 50 miles west of Orlando, in the heart of Central Florida's emerging High Tech Corridor.*



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