

History

Florida Atlantic University was established by the Florida State Legislature in 1961 as the fifth university in the state system.

When it 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 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, which offers students the same high-quality degree programs at seven different locations, Florida Atlantic University serves as a model for urban, regional universities of the future. FAU offers a comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate programs, enrolling more than 25,000 students who reflect the rich cultural diversity of the region.

Florida Atlantic University's nine colleges are 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 & Computer Science, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, and the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College. Established in 1999, the Honors College provides a unique and challenging curriculum for the brightest students from Florida and beyond. Together, these colleges offer 176 degree programs.

In addition, the University is home to one of the largest and most successful lifelong learning programs in the nation.

The University's campuses are located on the Gold and Treasure Coasts of Southeast Florida. The region's temperate climate, beautiful beaches, innovative industry and unique cultural opportunities provide a stimulating environment for scholars and researchers. FAU has Eminent Scholar Chairs in many academic disciplines, and it 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 faculty and students. In recognition of the University's research funding and doctoral programs, the Division of Colleges and Universities of the Florida Board of Education has designated FAU a research university.

Florida Atlantic University is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States.

