STUDENT SUCCESS
Providing programs and support services ensures that our students succeed not only in their respective academic fields, but in laying the foundation for life after college.
Sustaining Student Success – $8 million

Student success is at the center of all University endeavors. Florida Gulf Coast University is dedicated to the highest quality education that develops the whole person for success in life and work. Priorities for academic planning, policies, and programs are determined by the needs of students. The University has implemented methods to assess and, when appropriate, accelerate learning in order to streamline the time required to earn a degree. At FGCU, quality teaching is demanded, recognized, and rewarded.

You can help make student success an intrinsic part of the culture at Florida Gulf Coast University by investing in program support for undergraduate resources, graduate studies, international and interdisciplinary learning or career services.

Investment in Undergraduate Resources

At FGCU, we recognize our responsibility to offer our students an exceptional educational experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. Investment in undergraduate learning projects includes:

- Increasing the number and types of opportunities for students to study individually with faculty in the laboratory or in the field.
- Providing resources to create special interdisciplinary courses and programs.

Success means more than accessibility. It encompasses having the programs and infrastructure in place that allow our students to make informed and intelligent collegiate transitions.

I challenged our faculty and staff to analyze what contributes to Florida Gulf Coast University’s student success and graduation rate. Their responses indicated the need for additional investments in our honors program, first-year learning communities, access to, and efficiencies in, advising and delivery of undergraduate studies.

— Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.
President, Florida Gulf Coast University

“...

- Expanding offerings to students in FGCU’s Honors Program, a dynamic program designed to inspire high-achieving students as they engage in research, serve the community, study abroad, and develop leadership skills.

- Expanding internship opportunities to assist students in launching their careers. We believe it is critical to expand the pool of internships offered and provide support services that will enable students to be successful in those positions. Creating an Office of Internships will strengthen public-private partnerships through the community, broaden the range of positions available and assist students in securing posts that will complement their academic experiences, making them more employable and ultimately more successful.

- Expanding the Accelerated College Experience program (ACE), which brings high-performing junior and senior high school students to FGCU for advanced study. They earn college credits while also completing their high school diplomas. This program nurtures students who have great academic and leadership potential and can provide a path to FGCU’s Honors Program.

- Providing academic support to ensure each student masters course content, critical and creative thinking skills, and communication and collaboration skills, as well as receives guidance and advice about career and life goals. Such support includes:
• The Step Ahead Program, which gives specially selected first-time students a jump start on their education through a summer program that focuses on writing and student success skills, while also providing individual meetings with advisors and access to many on-campus resources to better prepare them to start their college careers.

• A Peer Mentoring Program, which provides intensive one-on-one interactions between experienced students and beginning students.

• First Year and Professional Advising, which helps students discover their academic potential and realize their professional goals.

• Tutoring in the Center for Academic Achievement, the Writing Center, and the Student-Athlete Learning Center, which helps students develop the skills necessary for academic success.

• A Leadership Development program hones students’ ability to succeed in their careers and life.

Investment in Graduate Studies

FGCU grants master’s degrees in 28 disciplines and doctoral degrees in two areas of study. Graduate students have opportunities for international study that range from a semester’s residence abroad to joint degree programs with European universities. Graduate students also have opportunities to work closely with seasoned faculty scholars on projects of national and international importance. Investment in graduate studies includes:

► Providing travel funds for graduate students to conduct research studies or to present the results of their research at conferences.

► Offering fellowships to attract gifted as well as nontraditional students to graduate programs.

► Making funds available for faculty research that leads to patents, publications, and recognition for the University.

► Granting professional development support for faculty and graduate students.

As future leaders, students will be well-prepared to confront the many challenges ahead… One never knows where a star is born. Giving deserving students the opportunity for higher education enables dreams to become reality.

— Jeff Provol, donor

Investment in International and Interdisciplinary Learning

Diversity of perspectives is a critical element of a dynamic learning environment. At FGCU, we have partnerships and academic exchange agreements with universities around the world – from China to France and from Germany to Kenya. Our students benefit by exchanging ideas with the visiting faculty and students, while FGCU faculty have opportunities for collaborative research. FGCU’s University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future, a required course for all students, is designed to explore the concept of sustainability from diverse perspectives. Investment in this area includes:

► Underwriting travel to conduct joint research with international partners.

► Supporting travel for graduate students participating in joint degree programs with international partners.

► Developing scholarships to support study abroad and research opportunities that are integral to the university experience.

► Providing resources to enhance civic engagement and learning, making them more meaningful for students, expanding opportunities throughout the community and aligning their experiences to help them hone skills they will need upon graduation.

► Providing resources to expand the role of the University Colloquium, FGCU’s signature course that engages sustainability from various fields of study.

► Developing new partnerships with international universities to expand our study-abroad opportunities.

Investment in Career Readiness

FGCU’s success was recognized in 2013 for having 87 percent of bachelor’s degree graduates employed and/or continuing their education one year after graduation, ranking...
FGCU first among Florida's state universities. Similarly, 81 percent of FGCU’s master’s degree graduates were employed or continuing their education after graduation – again placing FGCU first among Florida state universities. Investment in career readiness includes:

► Providing additional resources to increase essential faculty, staff, and student advisors in key academic and professional programs.

► Investing in high-impact practices that increase retention and graduation rates.

► Expanding internship and cooperative learning experiences to prepare students for employment immediately upon graduation.

► Expanding opportunities for students to attend STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) summer camps that can spark their interest and skills in these important fields of study.

### Investment in Wellness

Staying physically fit is a critical component of remaining healthy, happy and able to perform well academically. Since the University’s current fitness center opened, the student population has grown exponentially – from 3,500 students to almost 15,000. Recreation facilities have not kept pace with growth. A new Recreation and Wellness Center with state-of-the-art fitness equipment, gathering spaces for student interaction and sports clubs and administrative space for the Campus Recreation staff would greatly enhance the recreational and fitness opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Investment in our holistic approach to wellness includes:

► Constructing a new state-of-the-art Recreation and Wellness Center that would enhance student fitness and promote a sense of belonging and school spirit.

► Building outdoor recreation fields and courts.

► Providing the equipment and supplies needed to make such a facility operational.