



USF St. Petersburg SACS Accreditation

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VI. CORE REQUIREMENT SIX

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Statement

The institution is in operation and has students enrolled in degree programs.

Our Students

USF St. Petersburg began teaching approximately 250 students in 1965, serving the "overflow" enrollment of USF Tampa. In 1968, the year that the state legislature officially established USF St. Petersburg as an official branch campus of the University of South Florida, and the first regional campus in the State University System, upper-division and graduate programs began with enrollment topping 600. In 2000, the campus admitted freshmen and sophomores in all programs, a step that provided increased choices for Pinellas County citizens, as well as enrollment growth.

As the oldest and most mature of USF's regional campuses, USF St. Petersburg is uniquely positioned to address the State's need for expanding access to higher education. This is borne out by the campus' impressive record of enrollment growth this year and its projections for the future.

During the 2002-03 academic year, USF St. Petersburg witnessed an 8% increase in student enrollment in each of the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters (over the previous academic year), achieving an all-time high student headcount. At the same time USF St. Petersburg saw an impressive growth in diversity among its student body as the number of African American students climbed 7%, Hispanic student grew by 24%, and 18% more Asian students enrolled on campus. At the Fall 2003 Drop/Add Benchmark, USF St. Petersburg had 4,610 students enrolled in its programs.

[Fall 2003 Drop/Add Benchmark Enrollment Summary \(Full Benchmark figures available in Attachment Y.](#)

- Undergraduates comprise 79% of the total students enrolled.
- 63% of USF St. Petersburg students are female.
- 8% are African-American, 6% are Hispanic, 5% are Asian/Pacific Islander
- The median USF St. Petersburg student is 25 years old.
- 97% of USF St. Petersburg students are Florida residents.
- 5% are First Time in College (FTIC) students

- 8.5% are Community College Transfers
- 25% are enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences
- 23% are enrolled in the College of Business
- 14% are enrolled in the College of Education
- 30% have not declared a major
- 70% were taking all of their credits at USF St. Petersburg

The changes mentioned above represent early outcomes of a renewed focus on enrollment management that is set on improving both quality and diversity of the student body as well as strengthening student retention.

While continuing to provide higher education opportunities for non-traditional students, an increased focus on recruiting first time in college students resulted in an all-time high count of FTIC students (a 29% increase over the previous year). The campus's commitment to maintaining seamless transfer and articulation (as well as a broader collaboration) with St. Petersburg College and other community colleges remains strong and will continue to represent an essential ingredient in the future growth of USF St. Petersburg.

Among USF St. Petersburg's other enrollment growth initiatives is an 8% increase in 2003 Summer School enrollment while maintaining college budget allocations at Summer 2002 levels; the design and implementation of a pilot dual enrollment program for high achieving students at St. Petersburg High School (recently ranked #24 by *Newsweek* among its list of the 100 Best High Schools in America); and plans to construct the first student housing on campus that is expected to bring at least 750 student beds on line over the next 5 years creating a campus climate that is deemed essential to the accommodation of future enrollment growth.

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Our Programs

The College of [Arts & Sciences](#) is the university's largest college, driving much of the campus's growth. In addition to undergraduate degrees, students can earn a Master's in Journalism, and will soon be able to earn a Master's of Liberal Arts in Florida Studies.

The College of [Business](#) currently has more than 1,500 business majors enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs that include accounting, economics, finance, information systems and decision sciences, management, and marketing. All are nationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). In just the last three years, the number of undergraduate majors has risen 28 percent.

The [College of Education](#) has produced over 10,000 teachers with degrees since 1970. It offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees and is nationally accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Last year alone, 500 students graduated with an education degree from USF St. Petersburg. Most stay to teach in Pinellas County; in fact, every school in the Pinellas County School System employs at least one of our graduates. Approximately 65 percent are hired by St. Petersburg's schools. In addition, most of the middle and high schools, as well as special education schools, have hired our graduates as administrators.

The College's interns work in every elementary and special education school in the city. In a partnership with Pinellas County Schools, and

guided by the Area IV Superintendent, the Internship Advisory Board has placed over 70 percent of the College's elementary and special education interns in area schools.

Collaborations between the College's faculty and local elementary schools, are developing cutting-edge teacher training programs, a class model to help struggling 2nd grade readers, and the first MA degree in Elementary Education with a Montessori Certificate.

Programs of Distinction

USF St. Petersburg has identified four special Programs of Distinction. Each has received funding to develop a program that will help create a distinctive national identity for the university.

Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting - In the wake of scandals that have rocked the global financial markets, the College of Business will analyze management and marketing ethics, and fraud prevention and detection. This unique program will prepare controllers, certified fraud examiners and forensic accountants. By partnering with regional, national and multi-national corporations, the university will assume an exciting new leadership role.

Journalism and Media Studies - The University's Journalism Studies program enjoys an international reputation, particularly in regard to its focus on social responsibility. It maintains a long partnership with both the *St. Petersburg Times* and the prestigious Poynter Institute for Media Studies. This program will broaden the department with additional professors of visual communications and science journalism, with the purchase of state-of-the-art news gathering technology, and with added support for the Neighborhood News Bureau, another USF St. Petersburg community partnership.

Florida Studies - This interdisciplinary initiative will draw together scholars from a number of fields - anthropology, geography, history, economics, political science - to explore Florida's history, culture, politics and changing identity. From environmental policy and resource management to political challenges and immigration reform, students from any discipline will benefit as they prepare for careers ranging from urban planning to social work, from historic preservation to international business.

Environmental Science, Policy and Geography - Scientific research, policy and social analysis, as well as geographic information and remote sensing data will be combined to address global groundwater issues, including keeping our beaches healthy. Students will strengthen their scientific and analytical skills while enhancing their understanding of the broader social and natural contexts in which they will apply those skills in the region.

USF St. Petersburg offers 24 Bachelor's programs, 10 Master's Programs and 19 Minors. A list of USF St. Petersburg programs are included in [Attachment Z](#).

Supporting Documents:

Attachment Y	Fall 2003 Drop/Add Benchmark Enrollment Summary
Attachment Z	Degrees Awarded at USF St. Petersburg
Attachment AA	USF SP Programs of Distinction

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USF St. Petersburg

USF St. Petersburg - 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg Florida 33701-5016 -- 727-553-4USF
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