



Annual Report

2019-20



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



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COVID-19 INFORMATION

The global COVID-19 pandemic forced universities across the country (including Florida State) to pivot to remote instruction during the spring and summer semesters. About 36 percent of FSU’s classes were taught in person in Fall.

The university has followed CDC guidelines for social distancing, wearing face coverings, and cleaning and disinfecting of all buildings. In addition, FSU implemented an on-campus testing program with its own lab that allows for a quick turnaround of results, plus a contact assessment initiative.

Photos were taken prior to and during COVID-19



LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF

Hello. At Florida State University, we are dedicated to your success in college and beyond. As the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, I handle academic issues for most freshmen and sophomores and work with a broad range of programs designed to engage, challenge, and support you as you find that success.

Our faculty, staff, and students are eager to help you craft a personalized/individual journey to reach and surpass your goals. The information contained here will show how we became recognized as a Preeminent University by the State of Florida and as one of the most respected research institutions in the country. We have the highest four-year graduation rate of any public university in Florida and we are ranked in the top 20 among national public universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. Our first year retention rate of 95 percent mark ranks in the Top 15 among national public universities. All of these successes move us toward our goal of helping you make the most of the opportunities available at a major research university while retaining the hands-on feel of a small liberal arts college.

Toward that end, we promote high-level engagement activities outside of the classroom from the first term of enrollment through graduation. Research shows that students who are more engaged in their college community perform better. We designed the Engage 100 program to get students involved in an immersive experience during their first semester. These are small, mentor-guided group experiences centered on a particular topic or curriculum that assist students in acclimating to university life. Our students enjoy the experiences as well.

Some approved high-level engagement activities include:

Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs)

A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program. FIGs help new students in many ways, including showing them all that the university can provide and connecting them with other students who have similar interests.

Living-Learning Communities (LLC)

A Living-Learning Community is a small group of students who live together, share an interest, and take one or two of their classes together in a small classroom inside their residence hall. An LLC is a great place for freshmen to immediately find themselves among friends, supporting and caring for one another.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

FSU is recognized as a national leader in undergraduate research, providing students from across campus with the opportunity to conduct research with our award-winning faculty. Students choose from hundreds of projects representing all areas of study, gaining hands-on knowledge and research principles, which are an attractive skillset for future employers and graduate schools.

These programs were designed to help our students explore and grow in ways they did not know were possible. We use many forms of peer advising and mentoring to connect new students with peers who understand what it is like to study at a major university. These peer mentors, along with our staff, can help students reach and expand their goals. As they mature at the university, they can take on the mentor role themselves and give back to their fellow students. It is one of the many high impact educational practices that form the foundation of education at FSU.

FSU has a long history of helping high-achieving students thrive in an exciting research institution. We hope that the information contained here will show how we can help you soar past your potential and achieve things you have not yet imagined.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe O'Shea

Dean of Undergraduate Studies





ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (ACE)

ACE is a university learning center that helps students develop study skills and successful habits that are necessary to achieve their educational and career goals.

We provide:

Tutoring

Peer tutoring supports student learning by strengthening a wide variety of educational skills in potentially challenging subjects. ACE provided **15,664** tutoring sessions last year.

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

PASS is a high impact program offered in selected undergraduate courses that have been targeted as historically difficult at FSU. PASS Leaders focus on the most challenging content of the course and give students an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers outside of class time in an effort to develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of concepts presented in lecture. In 2019-2020, PASS sessions were available to **10** courses in various academic fields of study such as accounting, economics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, and psychology. We assisted **5,231** students with this academic support. Students who attended five or more PASS sessions throughout the semester earned higher final grades in these classes than students who did not attend PASS.

Workshops

ACE offers free academic workshops on topics such as time management, test preparation strategies, and graduate school entrance exams (GRE, LSAT, GMAT). Over **300** students participated in our workshops this year.

Personal Academic Consultations (PACs)

ACE offers students an opportunity to meet with an ACE faculty member to review and make improvements to their study and personal success habits. A total of **168** students completed personal academic consultations last year.

Early and Proactive Interventions

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Proactive Referral and Engagement (PRE) program offered support to **3,164** referrals from faculty indicating students who were struggling in their courses and in need of academic intervention. Approximately **35%** of those referrals (**1,118**) responded to outreach and received assistance via email, phone, in-person meeting, or an appointment with a study skills tutor.

Study Skills Tutoring

ACE offers students an opportunity to meet with undergraduate study skills tutors to make improvements to their study and personal success habits. In 2019-2020, **71** students engaged in study skills sessions with a peer tutor. The main topics discussed between the students and tutors focused on improving learning strategies and time management strategies.





ADVISING FIRST

Advising First has a well-trained team of professional academic advisors and college life coaches located throughout campus whose role is to support our students in finding their community on campus as well as making the best educational decisions to graduate within 4 to 6 years.

With extensive training in effective guidance and expertise on university policies, resources, and opportunities, our Advising First professionals promote students' progress and growth.

We provide:

Academic Advising

Our advisors educate students on academic requirements and degree progress and guide students in setting educational and career goals. We also connect students with relevant university resources and recommend hands-on learning opportunities.

We had over **44,202** face to face meetings with students prior to the COVID epidemic. last year and interacted with more than **228,146** via Zoom and other electronic means.

College Life Coaching

Pre-selected students receive one-on-one attention twice per month during the academic year from a college life coach who is committed to student development and success. Our coaches actively assist incoming students with their transition to the university and help define academic, personal, and career paths.

Our coaches held over **14,928** student meetings in person prior to the COVID epidemic and conducted more than **52,432** student meetings via Zoom and other electronic means.

Additional Services

- Student workshops and conferences
- Web-based outreach efforts
- Campus-wide events
- Class and residence hall presentations

Robert Cotter

MAJOR: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
GRADUATION: SPRING 2020

Robert Cotter, a Tarpon Springs native, was selected for the prestigious Presidential Scholars program. This merit scholarship program accepts the top 25 students of the incoming freshman class and aims to shape them into critical thinkers who make meaningful contributions to society.

"Presidential Scholars definitely helped me become a better leader, but I learned to become a better leader by learning how to be a better team member," Cotter said.

Presidential Scholars also opened doors for Cotter along his pre-med path. During his initial interview, Cotter struck up a conversation with Associate Professor Ewa Bienkiewicz, who offered him a spot in her lab at the College of Medicine studying Alzheimer's Disease. Cotter worked in this lab for three years, first through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and then through Honors in the Major for his honors thesis, "X-Ray Structure Determination of Complexes of Alzheimer's Amyloid-Beta Peptide with Oligomerization Inhibitors."

Along with his research on Alzheimer's Disease, Cotter participated in an internship for pre-medical students at Harvard Medical School. Cotter's work focused on issues faced by patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. Personal experience also has influenced Cotter's trajectory. During the summer after Cotter's sophomore year, his younger brother Will suffered a cervical break in his neck and was paralyzed from the chest down. FSU President John Thrasher and First Lady Jean Thrasher visited Cotter's brother after he was transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, for rehabilitation.

"Seeing the support from our FSU community was really key to allowing me to take care of my parents," Cotter reflected. "My experiences trying to support my family through my brother's spinal cord injury have given me the opportunity to better understand the struggles faced by patients and their families, which will one day make me into a more empathetic and more effective doctor."

Recognizing that he could facilitate at least a small change in this realm, he founded the organization Cord Community Connection to provide support for family members and caregivers of patients in ICU with spinal cord injuries. The organization connects families in the acute pre-rehabilitation hospital phase with families further along in the process. Cotter is involved with several student organizations and institutions. He is a member of the fraternity Theta Chi and has held several leadership positions, including spearheading the fraternity's Dance Marathon fundraising efforts for two years. He also is a member Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the Garnet and Gold Key Leadership Honorary, and he has served as a medical responder and teaching assistant for FSU's Medical Response Unit.

He has also won a long list of academic awards: the 2016 Yvonne & Stephen Brown Legacy Scholar, the 2017 Theta Chi Victor Simon Memorial Scholarship, and the 2018 and 2019 Theta Chi Sherwood and Janet Roberts Blue Memorial Scholarship. In 2019 he was selected as one of FSU's finalist nominations for the Truman Scholarship. Following graduation, Cotter plans to spend a gap year participating in a research internship at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and volunteering at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital. He then plans to apply to medical school.





UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The FSU Honors Program is a caring community of dedicated faculty, staff, and talented students who have the potential, dedication, and drive for creating change and developing to their fullest potential. The program provides students with holistic development through enriching experiences in and beyond the classroom. We offer training, support, and opportunities to develop students who are scholars, leaders, innovators, and lifelong learners. The Honors Program is located in the Honors, Scholars & Fellows House, utilizes the building to develop cooperation, achievement, and intellectual curiosity in students via participation in two avenues: Students can achieve their full academic potential by completing the coursework and experiences of the University Honors Program. They can also satisfy their intellectual curiosity by engaging in research projects/creative endeavors outside the classroom via the Honors in the Major Program.

Students accepted into the Honors program who indicate interest on their application form will be considered for acceptance into the Honors Experience Program (HEP). The HEP is a state-of-the-art curriculum comprised of cutting-edge courses taught by four core honors faculty chosen for their teaching excellence and focus on student success. The HEP is supported by a rich and varied co-curricular program, including immersive excursions and field trips, research experiences, expert speaker luncheons, and musical theatre events, which enable students to integrate their intellectual and personal passions into their academic experiences. The HEP now serves **442** honors students who share a strong sense of community through their courses, co-curricular events, and numerous student leadership opportunities.

Also housed within the FSU Honors Program is the Presidential Scholars Program. The Presidential Scholars program is the premier scholarship program on campus and is made possible by civic-minded private donors. Our Presidential Scholars are critical and innovative thinkers who are awarded four years of support to use their talents to make meaningful contributions to society. Scholars receive additional funding for educational enrichment opportunities including international experiences, research and creative projects, service learning projects or public service, internships, and entrepreneurial development. In its sixth year, the Presidential Scholars Program is made up of **110** current undergraduate honors students.



A total of **469** students graduated with the Honors Medallion this year across four categories of achievement including:

- University Honors: **287**
- Honors in the Major Thesis: **121**
- Dual Honors (University Honors and Honors in the Major): **26**
- Outstanding Senior Scholars (awarded dual honors and achieved a GPA of 3.9 or higher): **35**
- In total, **169** earned Honors in the Major distinction this year, up from **160** last year.



PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The Presidential Scholars award is the premier undergraduate merit scholarship at Florida State University. The program provides four years of support and is open to high school seniors who are admitted into the Florida State University Honors Program.

The highly competitive program attracts the best and brightest students to the university, but it does not concentrate solely on academics.

The program also offers support to help students shape their entire college experience. In addition to covering most tuition expenses, the scholarship provides \$12,000 for educational enrichment opportunities such as international experiences and service learning projects.



Nicole Heim

MAJOR: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE—HONORS IN THE MAJOR
GRADUATION: SPRING 2021

Florida State University senior Nicole Heim was accepted into the university's premier academic scholarship program, the Presidential Scholars program.

"From the beginning, the university and the Presidential Scholars program made me feel welcomed to campus, that they cared about my goals as an individual and were going to help me every step along the way to succeed in those areas," Heim said.

Recipients of the Presidential Scholarship have access to an enrichment fund that they can put toward experiences outside of the classroom they believe will impact their undergraduate experience.

With the help of her enrichment fund and the Bess Ward Honors Travel Grant from the Honors Program, Heim spent a semester abroad in Valencia, Spain, through FSU International Programs.

Heim also used her enrichment funding, along with help from The Career Center's Internship Fund, to travel to South Africa, where she worked under a wildlife veterinarian for three weeks.

That experience prompted Heim to major in Biological Science and get involved with FSU's Pre-Veterinary Club, serving the organization as speaker coordinator and treasurer.

Heim hopes to attend veterinary school after graduating from Florida State in Spring 2021.

Research also has been a big part of Heim's collegiate journey. Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), she served as a research assistant in the Nee Lab in the Department of Psychology. There, she assisted on a project that aimed to explore the mechanisms behind working memory and spent much of the year working on coding a paradigm that allowed participants to target different regions of the brain within the same task. Heim presented the project at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference.

She also received the Helen Louise Lee Undergraduate Research Award, which is part of the IDEA Grant Program. She will use this award to continue working on her Honors in the Major thesis, which explores how the timing of prescribed burns in the Apalachicola National Forest might be affecting the phenology of the sundial lupine plant.

As an Honors Program participant, Heim also serves as an Honors Colloquium Leader and helps welcome students to Florida State and the Honors Program.

"The Honors Program has provided me with incredible mentorship and tools for success," Heim said. "Being able to work with students was a wonderful experience and I loved being able to learn from them and see how there are so many different paths one can take to get to the same goal."

Heim is also a member of the Academic Recruitment Organization (ARO), which aims to recruit high-quality students from high schools around the country through student-to-student style communication. She's helped to coordinate personalized tours for prospective students and has spoken with prospective students over the phone, via email, and in-person at college fairs.

Heim's experience with ARO led her to become a University Ambassador. In this role, she provided outreach to more prospective students and their families, helping them through the application process and answering any questions they had along the way.

"The college application and decision process can be stressful and overwhelming, and I feel like my ability to answer questions and share experiences made a difference for many families," Heim said. "I've seen many students in classes and walking around campus that I played a role in encouraging to come to FSU, and that has been a wonderful experience."



Leah Singleton

MAJOR: CHEMISTRY
GRADUATION: FALL 2019

Leah Singleton, a graduating senior at Florida State University, found an unexpected world of opportunities at FSU as she began a career in public service.

"Coming into college, I really wanted a university that valued international affairs and social justice and that could really help me pursue my passion for public service," said Singleton, who double majored in international affairs and religion. "And I found that at FSU through the Academic Recruitment Organization."

The Academic Recruitment Organization (ARO) is a student-run initiative that strives to recruit top academic talent to Florida State University through various forms of outreach and personalized campus tours. Singleton received a personalized tour of campus through ARO where she was paired with an upperclassman majoring in international affairs, who has since become a mentor to her.

Singleton applied to FSU's Presidential Scholars program, the university's premier undergraduate merit scholarship program, and was selected as one of 25 scholarship recipients from a pool of 800 applicants. In addition to the designated general scholarship funds, Presidential Scholars can receive up to \$12,000 in educational enrichment funds through the program.

"Presidential Scholars was a huge deciding factor for me to come to FSU because of the enrichment funds that we receive," Singleton said. "Knowing I would be able to experience different nonprofit work with the safety of knowing I could have travel and funding to pursue those opportunities was huge."

At FSU, Singleton discovered that research could open unexpected doors and be used to search for further potential solutions for human trafficking.

As a freshman, Singleton conducted research under Professor David Berlan as part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). The project focused on examining the way nonprofit leaders conceptualize their mission.

After completing UROP, Singleton wanted to do more and applied to the Global Scholars Program to conduct research in Ghana the summer after her freshman year. Singleton was selected for the program and decided to



take on an independent research project with a research partner that was beyond the scope of Global Scholars. She traveled to Ghana to complete a three-month internship where, by interviewing Ghanaians,

she helped investigate the potential connection between local attitudes on contraception and the factors that lead to child labor.

The two later teamed up to write a research paper on their findings and were published in FSU's Research Journal. Later, Singleton and her research partner presented their paper at the Harvard Undergraduate National Research Conference which would lead to an internship at Harvard for the summer.

Eventually, Singleton became involved with the Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking and FSU's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. Through these two organizations, she has been able to work for advocacy at the local level by implementing partnerships and events. As a senior, Singleton decided to take her research to the next level and conduct an Honors Thesis. She received funding from FSU's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, Social Science Scholars program, and Presidential Scholars program to pursue her research. She interned at a Colorado nonprofit and participated in their 8-week human trafficking leadership development program and later completed fieldwork in Minnesota, a state that implements a public health approach to human trafficking.

After completing her undergraduate degree in May 2020, Singleton plans on working in public service in Washington, D.C., for a few years, with hopes of attending law school while earning a combined Master of Public Health degree.

"With the help of FSU, the human trafficking research I've done has taken me all over the country, and even the world," Singleton said. "Find something you love and find people who can support you, so that you can do what you love well and pursue it fully."

By University Communications, edited for length





CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT (CARE)

CARE provides preparation, orientation, and academic support programming for students who are among the first in their families to attend college. Our students may face unique challenges in college because of economic and educational circumstances. We can help.

CARE had a First Year (Fall-to-Fall) Retention Rate of **93.7%**

95% of CARE students are in Good Academic Standing.

We provide:

Pre-Collegiate Programs

Beginning in middle and high school, CARE's College Reach-Out and Upward Bound Programs connect students to resources that motivate and promote their acceptance, enrollment, and completion of a college education.

Summer Bridge Program (SBP)

SBP helps students get to know the Florida State campus and assists students with developing the academic habits vital for their success at FSU.

Unconquered Scholars Program (USP)

The Unconquered Scholars Program provides additional support for students who have been in foster care, homeless, or classified as wards of the State.

CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab

Our lab provides academic assistance, computer access, and dedicated study space for CARE students.

Unconquered Scholars Program (USP)

The Unconquered Scholars Program provides additional support for students who were in foster care, homeless, or classified as wards of the State.

Of the **141** total students enrolled in the Unconquered Scholars Program since 2012, **98%** were retained at FSU following their first year.

USP boasts an astounding **85%** graduation rate (compared to a 2-3% national graduation rate for students with the same background).



CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab

Our lab provides academic assistance, computer access, and dedicated study space for CARE students.

Advising/Coaching

Academic advising and college life coaching help CARE students plan their academic path and develop into more well-rounded students by promoting engagement and connection to the FSU campus.

Student Support Services administers academic and engagement activities for qualifying students throughout their enrollment at FSU.



UNCONQUERED SCHOLARS

FSU's Unconquered Scholars Program provides support services to students who have experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care, or ward of the state status.

Established in 2012, the Unconquered Scholars Program is housed in the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). The program collaborates with partners across campus to offer services that include college life coaching, tutoring, financial aid, mental health counseling, and academic and skills workshops. The program has been named a "Model of Excellence" by University Business magazine.



Arria Hauldin

MAJOR: ANTHROPOLOGY
GRADUATION: SPRING 2020

Arria Hauldin never expected to be where she is today. During her time at Florida State University, the recent graduate combined research and local and global experiences to amplify stories that are often overlooked. “The idea of going to college was honestly more of a fantasy for a long time,” Hauldin said. “Even though it was a goal of mine, I didn’t know where I wanted to go, what I wanted to do or how I would even pay for it.”

During her junior year of high school, Hauldin was volunteering at a local hospital in Broward County when a nurse told her about his daughter’s experience as part of the CARE Program at FSU. The Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) provides equity and access to traditionally underrepresented students disadvantaged by their educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.

After looking more into CARE to see if she qualified as a first-generation college student, Hauldin later applied to the program and was accepted.

“FSU’s CARE Program offered me support from all angles,” Hauldin said. “Not only was I receiving financial support, but I had a community of first-generation students to connect and grow with throughout my four years.”

Hauldin started as a biology major but ultimately found an interest in anthropology during her sophomore year, through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

“Before UROP, I had never considered research or thought it was for me, but UROP has really motivated me to continue pursuing research long-term,” she said. Ultimately, Hauldin became a UROP Leader, helping to mentor and teach her own UROP student sections. This past year, she was selected as a trainer for future UROP Leaders.

Hauldin’s research and teaching interests led her to many international travel experiences. The summer after her freshman year, she volunteered in Thailand with

GIVE Volunteers, a service-learning organization with country specific social, environmental, and educational themes.

In the summer of 2019, Hauldin traveled to Vietnam as part of FSU’s Global Scholars Program. She and her research partner were the first FSU Global Scholar students to go to Vietnam through Coins for Change. She received \$3,000 through the Global Scholars Travel Grant to fund this trip.

Hauldin also received the U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, which gave her \$4,000 toward her trip to Vietnam. Throughout the application process, she turned to FSU’s Office of National Fellowships (ONF), where Assistant Director, Jesse Wieland, helped her form a successful application. Hauldin and her research partner were awarded a \$2,000 IDEA Grant toward a research project that explored the lives of minority single mothers in Vietnam, and how their experience translated into the wider global narrative of being a single mother.

A Spring 2020 graduate, Hauldin had plans to take part in Beyond Borders Jamaica and the United States Peace Corps but the trips have been delayed due to Covid-19. After serving in the Peace Corps, Hauldin hopes to earn a Fulbright and plans to pursue a master’s in either public health or education, followed by her doctoral degree in anthropology. Her goal is to make the wide applications of anthropology known through a combination of teaching, research, and nonprofit work.

“My hope is that once people see similarities between one another, people can see that we all desire and need similar things,” she said. “We can then use this knowledge to propel one another and uplift each other.”

By University Communications, edited for length



FRESHMEN INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS)

A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that have been linked by a theme or academic program. They are only available in the fall. Freshmen find them to be a great way to simplify registration and explore what interests them while forming a community of students with similar intent.

FIGs come in clusters of interest. Examples include business, engineering, pre-law, pre-med, and assorted STEMs (science, technology, engineering and math).





CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT (CRE)

The Center for Undergraduate Research & Academic Engagement (CRE) is leading a growing movement to involve undergraduate students in the highest levels of academic engagement, helping students take advantage of the very best a major research university like FSU has to offer.

We support faculty and instructors as they include research and creative projects in their courses and service learning (facilitating meaningful community service), entrepreneurship and innovation, and research projects with community-based organizations around the world.

We also offer programming to involve undergraduates and historically underrepresented students in research and scholarship and to showcase the work of student researchers through conferences and publications.

We provide:

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

As undergraduates, students can join Research Mentors in their work in laboratories, libraries, studios, and beyond to assist with research and creative projects, while also engaging with other like-minded peers in a UROP colloquium and presenting their research findings at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Last year we had **424** UROP students with **61** faculty members and advanced graduate students peer leaders. Last year **456** students presented posters at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

IDEA Grants

IDEA grants fund research, creative projects, and the development or evaluation of new or existing ideas. This year, we awarded **47** grants for a total of **\$68,000** provided by generous donors.

Tech Fellows

This year saw the fourth year of the Tech Fellows program, which supports the diversification of the tech and start-up industry by embedding CARE students in start-up incubators around Florida. This year we fully funded **5** Tech Fellows to complete ten-week internships with Canvs (Orlando), Tampa Bay WaVE, and Domi Station (Tallahassee).

Global Scholars

Administering the Global Scholars program during a pandemic entailed the pivoting of the program, with **31** students completing the spring training course and **13** of those opting to complete virtual summer internships in some form.

Gap Year Fellows

FSU is proud to be one of the few universities in the country (and the second public university) to offer financial assistance to incoming students taking a Gap Year between high school and college. The Gap Year Fellows program provides up to **\$5,000** for students to undertake service projects in an intercultural context for a minimum of six months.

We are currently funding **2** students who will volunteer around the world.

Academic Recruitment Organization (ARO)

Since Fall 2015, this student-led initiative has recruited high-potential students to Florida State University. To do so, ARO emphasizes one-on-one interactions between current and prospective students with similar majors, interests, or professional fields. During ARO's years of operations, recruitment strategies have included high school visits, tabling at admissions events, phone calls, emails, student panels, and individual campus tours.

Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (SCURC)

SCURC, a student organization funded by the Student Government Association, aims to increase the quantity and diversity of undergraduate students involved in research on Florida State's campus. SCURC publishes *The Owl*, Florida State's Undergraduate Research Journal, and organizes Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, who volunteer to promote undergraduate research and creativity among their peers. Talking to an Ambassador is a great first step in getting involved in research at Florida State.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP)

UROP launches students into the fascinating world of a research university by allowing them to actively participate in the research process. Florida State University provides high-achieving students an engaging community with the flexibility and funding opportunities to explore their full range of interests.

Choose from hundreds of projects representing all areas of study, including fine arts, humanities, sciences, medicine, engineering, business, and social sciences, including the freedom to engage research outside of your proposed, or declared, field of study.



TECH FELLOWS



This year saw the fourth year of the Tech Fellows program, which supports the diversification of the tech and start-up industry by embedding CARE students in start-up incubators around Florida. This year we fully funded **5** Tech

Fellows to complete ten-week internships with Canvs (Orlando), Tampa Bay WaVE, and Domi Station (Tallahassee).



COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELATIONS

The Office of Community College Relations works closely with the academic colleges and schools to support the articulation of academic programs and services between the **12** public Florida universities and the **28** Florida College System institutions (formerly community colleges).

The Office of Community College Relations makes regular campus visits to Florida College System institutions to ensure that students wishing to transfer to FSU receive accurate advising regarding their intended transfer majors and timely information relating to application requirements and deadlines.

The office creates a cooperative climate between the universities and colleges, which assists FSU in its efforts to attract and retain quality transfer students and helps transfer students make a smooth transition to the university.

The Office of Community College Relations processed **6,538** applications for permission to do transient student work at other state institutions during the 2019-20 academic year.



TRANSFER STUDENT SERVICES

Transfer students make up a third of our undergraduate population. We have transfer students from all parts of Florida, the U.S., and diverse countries across the globe. Our office connects students to the academic, engagement, career, and self-care resources at FSU to support a holistic and satisfying transfer experience. The Transfer Student Services team is here to help you thrive.

We provide:

- Transfer Experience Workshops
- Orientation Sessions for transfer students
- Personal Academic Consultations
- Transfer Geniuses - current FSU students who work with new transfer students in their first semester to help guide them through on-campus and virtual life at FSU
- Supervision of course SLS 3140 “Academic Success Strategies for Transfer Students”

ENGAGE 100

The Engage 100 program was designed to get students involved in an approved engagement experience during their first semester. These are small, mentor-guided group experiences centered on a particular topic or curriculum that assist students in acclimating to university life. Engage 100 is designed to connect, engage, and challenge students during their first semester at FSU, as well as pave the way to future success in college. Examples of approved experiences include Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs), the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and Living Learning Communities.



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Staff members in the Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUS) are frontline problem-solvers for students and carry out their mission with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. They serve as the Academic Dean’s office for most freshmen and sophomores (with the exception of Fine Arts and Music students admitted directly into their degree-granting programs).

The office provides information and services on all academic matters, including earning credit through test exemption, general education and liberal studies

courses, academic standing (warning/probation/dismissal), readmission, remediation/preparatory classes, registration holds, enrollment in courses at other colleges and universities, requests for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading, and requests for taking an overload/underload schedule. They are good people to know.

They counsel and advise approximately **6,300** students each year.





OFFICE OF NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS (ONF)

The Office of National Fellowships supports the FSU community in developing academic and interpersonal student and alumni excellence by connecting them to fellowship opportunities and challenging them to reflect on and articulate their passions persuasively within a fellowship application. Through our one-on-one mentoring, students and alumni can identify and achieve their academic, career, service, creative, and leadership goals.

Since its inception in the spring of 2005, the Florida State University Office of National Fellowships has mentored and assisted some of our most talented students. Our students have won over **300** nationally competitive awards, including **3** prestigious Rhodes Scholarships, **4** Truman Scholarships, **10** Goldwater Scholarships, **21** Hollings Scholarships, **5** Pickering Fellowships, **3** Payne Fellowships, and over **100** Gilman Scholarships and Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarships each. Our students have travelled to over **50** countries, expanding FSU’s influence around the globe.



OFFICE OF RETENTION

The Office of Retention monitors undergraduates at Florida State University to ensure that they have ample opportunity to complete a degree. The office provides academic advising for individual students and coordination with the colleges and university programs to help ensure student success.

The office identifies and tracks specific students who may benefit from special help and coordinates university resources to assist them. The Director of Retention assists students in accessing campus resources to support their academic and personal success as they progress toward completion of a degree. Students who have received academic status warnings, academic probation, or academic dismissal are encouraged to come to the office for advising and academic support. The office tracks undergraduate course enrollment closely and promotes the university’s “Take 15” campaign, encouraging students to make timely degree progress and success by taking at least 15 credit hours in fall and spring semesters.

The office also oversees the Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs) and the Engage 100 initiative. A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program. In Fall 2019, **62** student FIG leaders served **941** incoming students. The Engage 100 program is designed to connect, engage, and challenge students during their first semester at FSU, as well as pave the way to future success in college. These small, peer mentor-guided group experiences are centered on a particular topic that assists students in acclimating to university life. In 2019-2020 **34%** of the incoming fall freshmen cohort participated in an Engage 100 program, and many participated in more than one experience.

Florida State University has a **95%** retention rate and the highest four-year graduation rate in the state of Florida and one of the highest six-year graduation rates in the country. This places FSU among the Top 15 public universities in the country in both categories.



STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SERVICES

The primary focus of Student Athlete Academic Services (SAAS) is to facilitate the academic success of each student athlete. Student success is encouraged through academic counseling, study skills development, individualized assessment and support, and a wide array of tutorial services.

- A record number of **301** student athletes were on the 2019-2020 ACC Honor Roll.
- Approximately **7,105** tutoring sessions were conducted last year.
- SAAS provides a comprehensive support program that assists all student athletes with the transition into college and provides continued support in all phases of academic and professional development, culminating in graduation, job placement, or graduate school.
- Approximately **1,277** mentoring appointments were conducted last year.
- Spring 2019 GPA was above **3.4**, while the cumulative departmental GPA was above **3.0**.

Academic All-Americans:
 Ayla Bonniwell - Women’s Swim/Dive
 Molly Carlson - Women’s Swim/Dive
 Trent Forrest - Men’s Basketball
 Shanice Love - Women’s Track



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DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES