

The road to excellence: Transforming undergraduate education at UF

Board of Trustees
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Vision and goal

Vision

UF undergraduate programs will be ranked among the best in a public AAU university

Goal

To enhance selected undergraduate programs that will collectively place UF among the top AAU public universities

Strengths

- + High quality of undergraduate students
- + Breadth of programs and course offerings
- + Nationally ranked programs
- + World class faculty
- + Faculty mentoring and research opportunities for students

Selected peers

- + Penn State University
- + University of Texas - Austin
- + University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- + University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- + University of Washington - Seattle
- + University of Wisconsin - Madison
- + Indiana University - Bloomington

Strategic aspirants

- + Well-structured freshman and sophomore signature experiences
- + Theme-based General Education curriculum that provides common experience for all students during the first two years
- + Four-year Honors Program
- + Coordinated opportunities for undergraduate research and creative work for all students
- + Ongoing enhancement of faculty teaching skills and quality advising

Strategic aspirants

- + Close faculty-student interactions
- + Residential experiences that promote learning beyond the classroom
- + International experiential learning and global competency
- + Internships, service learning and civic engagement
- + Programs that enhance life-long learning

What we must do (Short term)

- + Enhance existing freshman and sophomore experiences
- + Review General Education curriculum
- + Revamp Honors Program
- + Coordinate undergraduate research and creative opportunities for all students
- + Provide discovery-based senior capstone experience

Long term plans

- + Develop a strategic plan for undergraduate education starting with a leadership retreat for stakeholders (faculty, deans, advisors, etc.)
 - + Action plan
 - + Timeline
 - + Ongoing assessment with benchmarks
- + Implement the strategic plan
- + Start preparing for SACS accreditation

Action plan

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 2008	Establish Committee on Undergraduate Education
January 2009	Committee submits report to Provost
February 2009	Provost releases report to campus
March 2009	Deadline for faculty and students to respond to report
April 2009	Deadline for colleges to respond to Provost
May 2009	Review and action by Dean's Council
August 2009	Establish Implementation Committee
November 2009	Share Implementation Plan with campus
March 2010	Review and action by Faculty Senate & Trustees
August 2010	Start implementation

Outcomes

- + UF will be the model for large public research universities
- + UF will continue to attract and engage the best students
- + Our students will be better prepared to compete and excel in the global market place of the future
- + Our students will be future leaders for economic development