

CHAPTER 1: ABOUT USF ST. PETERSBURG

MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND GOALS

Our Mission

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg offers distinctive graduate and undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, business, and education within a close-knit, student-centered learning community that welcomes individuals from the region, state, nation and world. We conduct wide-ranging, collaborative research to meet society's needs and engage in service projects and partnerships to enhance the university and community's social, economic and intellectual life. As an integral and complementary part of a multi-institutional system, USF St. Petersburg retains a separate identity and mission while contributing to and benefiting from the associations, cooperation, and shared resources of a premier national research university.

Our Values

Whereas our mission and vision are the plans for the future, our values will help guide us to success at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

We value a collegial, inviting, and safe learning environment that emphasizes excellent teaching, encourages growth, and rewards academic achievement.

We value an education rich in both theory and practical experience that enables our graduates to pursue careers and professions with competence and confidence.

We value collaboration throughout the campus community in scholarship, research, and service.

We value individuals, respect their diversity and varied perspectives, and commit ourselves to tolerance of divergent views.

We value academic freedom and responsibility, creative expression, and the unfettered pursuit of truth.

We value deliberative dialogue in making decisions and solving problems.

We value shared governance and shared responsibility in the operation of the university and the allocation of its resources.

We value honesty, integrity, and openness while promoting ethical behavior.

We value lifelong learning and recognize our responsibility to contribute to civic well-being.

We value longstanding, continuing partnerships that unite and benefit both the campus and community.

We value efficient, trustworthy, and able stewardship of our university.

Our Vision

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg will be a premier masters degree level urban university recognized for its vibrant community of scholars who engage and improve its community and the world.

Our Goals

1 – Academic Performance

Support and enhance programs that prepare students to be knowledgeable, reflective, and engaged citizen scholars in a global society.

2 – Student Engagement

Enhance learning and achievement and promote retention through active engagement in curricular and co-curricular programs.

3 – Diversity and Inclusion

Create a vibrant, inviting, and enriching university community that values and respects all individuals and whose students, faculty, and staff represent the diversity of its region.

4 – Research and Creative Activities

Support faculty research and creative activities, and engage students in local, national and international scholarship.

5 – Environmental Stewardship

Foster stewardship of the environment and embody the values of sustainability.

6 – Administration and Financial Stewardship

Enhance revenue and provide effective and efficient financial management and ensure institutional sustainability.

ACCREDITATION

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USF St. Petersburg, USFSP) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg was initially accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges in 2006. Previously, since 1965, USFSP was part of the University of South Florida Tampa. USFSP will undergo initial reaffirmation of accreditation in 2011.

For additional information on USF St. Petersburg's reaffirmation process, please visit the USF St. Petersburg SACS Reaffirmation website at:

<http://www.stpete.usf.edu/sacsreview/index>

HISTORY OF USF ST. PETERSBURG

USF St. Petersburg – Then

In the fall of 1965, the University of South Florida opened a campus along St. Petersburg's Bayboro Harbor without celebration or ceremony. More than 250 freshmen needed a place to live and study, and the overbooked Tampa campus had no room for them. They attended classes and set up home in buildings of a World War II Merchant Marine base.

From that makeshift operation, a campus grew a step at a time. In 1968, upper-division

and graduate programs began on campus, with enrollment topping 600. In that year, the state legislature passed a bill establishing St. Petersburg as an official branch of the University of South Florida, the first regional campus in the State University System. The library opened in 1968 with 2,200 volumes, and in 1970 the first degrees were conferred upon 51 students.

The St. Petersburg City Council and business leaders lobbied for expansion of the campus. Their visionary efforts garnered today's 46.5 acres for classrooms, laboratories, administration offices, library and support facilities.

Bayboro Hall, now Lowell E. Davis Hall, and the old Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, now Bayboro Hall, were dedicated in May 1981. Coquina Hall opened in 1984, and the U.S. Geological Survey brought its Center for Coastal Geology here in 1989. A year later, the Campus Activities Center was dedicated.

The new Nelson Poynter Memorial Library opened in 1996, and the Florida Center for Teachers, now the Peter Rudy Wallace Center for Teachers, in 2000.

USF St. Petersburg helped preserve the city's history by moving two homes to campus in the mid 1990's - the Perry Snell House, c.1904, and the John C. Williams House, built in 1890 by one of St. Petersburg's founders. The two buildings house the Honors Program, Florida Studies, and the Division of External Relations. The Williams House also serves as a site for special receptions and events.

Several initiatives helped develop the campus's identity, including the Academic Frontiers lecture series, the Urban Initiative, the Program for Ethics in Education and Community, and the Science Journalism Center.

In 1998, after 30 years of serving juniors, seniors and graduate students, USF St. Petersburg admitted a limited number of freshmen in a special Learning Community program. In 2000, the campus admitted freshmen and sophomores in all programs, a step that provided increased choices for Pinellas citizens, as well as enrollment growth.

USF St. Petersburg – Now

Today, USF St. Petersburg is a growing, urban Master's comprehensive university. Although envisioned in 2003 as growing to 8,000 students by 2008, growth has been slower than envisioned due to the very adverse budget environment in the State of Florida. The university serves more than 4,600 students enrolled in 24 undergraduate and 10 graduate degree programs through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education. USF St. Petersburg is the only public university in Pinellas County, in an area of 1 million people.

In 2007, a new six-story residence hall opened. Freshman and upper class students enjoy suite-style living with outstanding water views and close proximity to their classes. The addition of opportunities for residential living and the concomitant rapid growth in freshmen enrollment have led to the explosive growth of student organizations, a maturation of student government, and a strengthened focus on student support services. In 2009, a new Science and Technology building was completed with support from Progress Energy Florida. This is a shared facility with the College of Marine Science (a USF Tampa unit) and houses modern teaching and research laboratories.

USF St. Petersburg is committed to excellence in research and teaching, and values faculty-student research collaboration, interdisciplinary perspectives, university-community partnerships, and a student-centered environment supportive of diversity. USF St. Petersburg's beautiful waterfront campus resides within St. Petersburg's downtown area featuring parks, shops, restaurants, art galleries, museums and performing arts and sports venues.

USF St. Petersburg shares its beautiful landscape with other University of South Florida branches and colleges as well as state and federal agencies. Hosted are: the Children's Research Institute Department of Pediatrics (USF Health), and the nationally renowned USF Tampa College of Marine Science. The Florida Humanities Council, the United States Geological Survey's Center for Coastal and Watershed Studies, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Marine Research Institute, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service Southeastern Division, and the Florida Institute of Oceanography (a direct support organization of USF Tampa are also located on or near USF St. Petersburg).