

## Section 2

# USF: Florida's Leading Metropolitan Research University

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### USF Vision, Mission, Goals, Values, and, Accreditation

USF Strategic Plan: <http://www.ie.usf.edu/StrategicPlan/strategies.asp>

#### Vision

The University of South Florida envisions itself as a pre-eminent research university with state, national and global impact, and positioned for membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

#### Mission

As Florida's leading metropolitan research university, USF is dedicated to excellence in:

- Student access and success in an engaged, and interdisciplinary, learner-centered environment,
- Research and scientific discovery, including the generation, dissemination, and translation of new knowledge across disciplines; to strengthen the economy; to promote civic culture and the arts; and to design and build sustainable, healthy communities, and
- Embracing innovation, and supporting scholarly and artistic engagement to build a community of learners together with significant and sustainable university-community partnerships and collaborations.

#### Goals and Strategies

##### Goal 1

**Expanding world-class interdisciplinary research, creative, and scholarly endeavors.**

- Promote nationally and internationally distinctive and prominent research and graduate programs,
- Strengthen the University's research support infrastructure to enhance contracts and grants workflow and output – through critically examining the applicability of alternative models of F&A indirect cost distribution, and other innovative mechanisms,
- Focus on increasing the amount and proportional share of competitive federal research awards,
- Enhance and expand the talent pool of world-class, competitively-funded faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students,
- Establish a salary enhancement program that rewards highly productive faculty in the areas of teaching and learning; scholarship, research and creative endeavors; and service and engagement, and
- Strengthen and support integrated and synergistic interdisciplinary research across disciplinary, departmental, college and campus boundaries.

##### Goal II

**Promoting globally competitive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs that support interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development, knowledge and skill acquisition, and student success through a diverse, fully- engaged, learner-centered campus environment.**

- Create and support globally competitive, relevant and distinctive academic programs that address the changing needs of the region, state and nation through innovative approaches to curriculum development and delivery,
- Provide increased access to excellence in higher education for students who demonstrate the aptitude to succeed,
- Enhance and expand the talent pool by shaping the enrollment profile of USF's undergraduate and graduate student body to reflect that found at a pre- eminent research university,

- Improve year-to-year retention and time-to-graduation; demonstrated acquisition of knowledge, communication and critical thinking skills; and competency to synthesize and apply new knowledge; together with providing an optimal college experience for all students,
- Build a sustainable campus environment at USF that meets the criteria for Carnegie classification as a “primarily residential” campus, and
- Improve and promote cultural and global literacy, foreign language proficiency, and the international competitiveness of USF graduates through significant growth in study abroad participation, an increase in fee-paying international students, and cross-cultural curriculum development.

**Goal III**

**Expanding local and global engagement initiatives to strengthen and sustain healthy communities and to improve the quality of life.**

- Establish a unified institutional structure to facilitate and promote community engagement, social enterprise, and global collaborations in education, research and service learning, including mechanisms for managing fiscal and human resources for student exchange, study abroad and international field placement programs, and faculty research, teaching, outreach and professional development opportunities,
- Develop an up-to-date clearinghouse of information about all the engagement currently occurring at USF and develop institutional systems to measure community engagement,
- Encourage and reward faculty effort in community engagement – require an annual faculty impact statement and explicitly introduce community engagement into USF’s promotion and tenure guidelines, and
- Encourage and reward student engagement in the community and explore the feasibility of acknowledging community engagement and other co-curricular activities on the official transcript.

**Goal IV**

**Enhancing all sources of revenue, and maximizing effectiveness in business practices and financial management to establish a strong and sustainable economic base in support of USF’s growth.**

- Refine business practices to ensure a strong and sustainable economic foundation at USF,
- Promote and sustain a positive working environment, significantly improve service quality, and improve staff support through providing competitive salary structures, expanding professional development opportunities, and building cross-functional teams,
- Build USF’s fundraising enterprise and endowment to a level commensurate with that found at a pre-eminent research university by completing a comprehensive campaign to support capital projects, endowed professorships and scholarships, and to supplement operating needs,
- Expand USF’s national identity through developing and implementing a comprehensive, cutting-edge branding campaign grounded in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge; interdisciplinary collaboration; commercialization and economic development; and global engagement,
- Expand the commercialization of emerging technologies to enhance regional and state economic development, and
- Build a sustainable environment to support an expanded and improved teaching and research mission, a more engaged residential community, and a university-based global village.

**Values**

**The University of South Florida values:**

- Excellence in teaching and learning; scholarship and research (both basic and applied/translational); together with community engagement and public service based on the highest standards of discovery, creativity and intellectual attainment,
- Outstanding research and scientific discovery, including the application of new knowledge to solve state, national and global problems,
- Recruitment and retention of world-class faculty and high potential undergraduate and graduate students,
- Access to a world-class, globally relevant and affordable education, including utilization of alternative modes of delivery,
- Student competitiveness, success and academic achievement through knowledge, communication and critical thinking skill acquisition,
- Cultural and ethnic diversity and inclusion along with an enhanced global experience, understanding, and appreciation,
- Integrated, interdisciplinary inquiry and collaboration across departmental, college and campus boundaries,
- Facilitating the optimal development of personal and professional potential of students, faculty, and staff, and enriching the quality of an engaged campus community,
- Shared governance structures that empower all USF stakeholders, campuses and entities to reach their full potential,
- The creation and support of a premier university system that adds value to the region, state and nation while ensuring necessary levels of autonomy and preserving the distinctive regional and strategic identities of all member campuses and entities,
- An environment of collegiality based on the principles of academic freedom, respect, integrity, civility, the freedom to engage in debate, the exchange of ideas and intellectual discovery, and professional responsibility,
- Mutually beneficial partnerships and community engagement that increase the understanding of, and present solutions to, local and global challenges, with a mind to strengthening the economy and building sustainable healthy communities,
- An entrepreneurial spirit and innovation with a focus on defining, informing and generating “next best practices”,
- The utility of proven and emerging technologies to enhance instruction, learning, research and engagement, and to improve service quality and efficiencies in institutional business practices,
- Focus and discipline in aligning the budget and fiscal resources with institutional priorities and action, and
- Transparent accountability along with timely and effective communication.

**Accreditation**

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the University of South Florida.