

10 Ways Your Department Can Improve FSU's National Ranking

1. Continue to reduce class section sizes to under 20 and promote student learning

U.S. News awards points for small undergraduate class section enrollment, as measured in the fall term, with most of the points awarded for sections under 20 students. Sections with 20-29, 30-39, and 40-49 still receive some points. Sections with 50+ receive no credit. Large courses, where possible, should be reduced to under 20. Online, DIS, and thesis sections do not count. The Registrar's office can workshop with you on new course scheduling and space needs. FSU's standard meeting times allow for optimization of space and scheduling.

2. Make sure freshmen students come back for their sophomore year

FSU hit a record 94% freshmen retention. Help every freshman, particularly those who declared a major in your department, stay at FSU. Every six freshman who don't return for their sophomore year reduces retention by 0.1 percentage points. The Division of Undergraduate Studies assists in supporting first-year students.

3. Improve the graduation rate of students

Every six freshmen who do not graduate in six years reduces our graduation rate by 0.1 percentage points. Where appropriate, partner with Undergraduate Studies and Student Affairs to support and engage students, and FSU's Center for the Advancement of Teaching to promote student success in the classroom. EAB data and the Institutional Research Office can help identify student attrition patterns and optimal academic maps.

4. Ensure new, full-time faculty, including specialized, have a terminal degree (PhD, MFA, etc.)

As a top research university, FSU expects new, full-time instructional faculty (all tenure-track, teaching, and instructional specialist faculty) to have a terminal degree. Exceptions should be rare and approved in advance.

5. Increase the percentage of your undergraduate alumni who donate (any amount) to FSU

Partner with the FSU Foundation to identify strategies to increase annual participation of your alumni.

6. Help recruit high-achieving high school students to your department

12.5% of FSU's national ranking is determined by the selectivity of our freshman class (e.g., high SAT/ACT, top 10% of high school class). Admissions can facilitate departmental recruiting efforts.

7. Help high school guidance counselors understand your department's, and FSU's, excellence

U.S. News surveys guidance counselors around the U.S. on FSU's "undergraduate academic reputation." Outreach, recruitment, and promotional efforts from your department can bolster reputation. FSU's Admissions Office can coordinate expanded efforts to engage counselors and their students.

8. Help university leaders across the country understand your department's, and FSU's, excellence

U.S. News surveys senior higher education leaders on FSU's "undergraduate academic reputation." Be sure to keep University Communications up to date on the great work of your faculty, staff, and students.

9. Grow externally-funded research and graduate enrollment in strategic areas

U.S. News awards points for educational spending. Additional research funding and expanded graduate enrollment increase FSU's total expenditures and bolsters the university's reputation.

10. Help retain faculty members and improve our student-to-faculty ratio

Retaining/hiring faculty members improves academic continuity and FSU's student-to-faculty ratio. Partner with FSU's Faculty Development and Advancement Office to strengthen faculty support and engagement.

FSU METRICS

Performance-Based

1	Percent of Bachelor's Graduates Employed and/or Continuing their Education
2	Median Wages of Bachelor's Graduates Employed Full-time in Florida
3	Net Tuition and Fees per Degree
4	Six Year Graduation Rate (Full-time and Parttime FTIC)
5	Academic Progress Rate (2nd Year Retention with GPA Above 2.0)
6	University Access Rate (Percent of Undergraduates with a Pell-grant)
7	Bachelor's Degrees Awarded in Areas of Strategic Emphasis
8	Graduate Degrees Awarded in Areas of Strategic Emphasis
9	Board of Governors Choice (Faculty Awards)
10	Board of Trustees Choice (National rank higher than predicted by the financial resources ranking)

Preeminent University

1	Average GPA and SAT Score of Incoming Freshman in Fall Semester
2	Public University National Ranking
3	Full-time FTIC Freshman Retention Rate
4	Full-time FTIC Six Year Graduation Rate
5	National Academy Membership
6	Total Annual Research Expenditures (Science & Engineering Only)
7	Total Annual Research Expenditures in Diversified Non-Medical Sciences (Science & Engineering Only)
8	National Ranking in STEM Research Expenditures (includes public & private institutions)
9	Patents Awarded (over 3 year period)
10	Doctoral Degrees Awarded Annually (excluding Professional degrees)
11	Number of Postdoctoral Appointees
12	Endowment Size

U.S. News and World Report

I	Undergraduate Academic Reputation (22.5%)
a)	Peer Assessment Survey (15%)
b)	Highschool Counselors' Ranking (7.5%)
II	Student Selectivity for the Fall Entering Class (12.5%)
a)	Acceptance Rate (1.25%)
b)	Percent of Students in Top 10% of High school class (3.125%)
c)	ACT/SAT Test Scores (8.125%)
III	Faculty Resources (20%)
a)	Faculty Compensation (7%)
b)	Percent of Faculty with Terminal Degree in Their Field (3%)
c)	Percent of Faculty that is Full-Time (1%)
d)	Student-Faculty Ratio (1%)
e)	Class Size (8%)
IV	Graduation and Retention Rates (22.5%)
a)	Average Graduation Rate (18%)
b)	Average Freshman Retention Rate (4.5%)
V	Financial Resources (10%) (per student spending)
VI	Alumni Giving (5%)
VII	Graduation Rate Performance (7.5%)