

# ABOUT USF

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA 2017-2018 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

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## Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values

### Vision

The University of South Florida is a global research university dedicated to student success and positioned for membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

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

- Student access, learning, and success through a vibrant, interdisciplinary, and learner-centered research environment incorporating a global curriculum
- Research and scientific discovery to strengthen the economy, promote civic culture and the arts, and design and build sustainable communities through the generation, dissemination, and translation of new knowledge across all academic and health-related disciplines
- Partnerships to build significant locally- and globally-integrated university-community collaborations through sound scholarly and artistic activities and technological innovation
- A sustainable economic base to support USF's continued academic advancement

### Mission

The University of South Florida's mission is to deliver competitive undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, to generate knowledge, foster intellectual development, and ensure student success in a global environment.

### Goals

The linked goals of the University of South Florida are to have/create:

- Well-educated and highly skilled global citizens through our continuing commitment to student success.
- High-impact research and innovation to change lives, improve health, and foster sustainable development and positive societal changes.
- A highly effective, major economic engine, creating new partnerships to build a strong and sustainable future for Florida in the global economy.
- Sound financial management to establish a strong and sustainable economic base in support of USF's continued academic advancement.

### Values

The University of South Florida values:

- High-quality education and excellence in teaching and learning
- High-impact scholarship, research, and creative activities
- Diversity of students, faculty, and staff
- Affordable and accessible education
- Global research, community engagement, and public service
- Social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- Focus and discipline in aligning the budget with institutional priorities
- A campus life with broad academic, cultural, and athletic opportunities
- Success and achievement of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni
- Shared governance within all components of the institution
- Collegiality, academic freedom, and professional responsibility
- Entrepreneurial spirit, partnerships, and innovation
- Efficiency and transparent accountability
- First-class physical infrastructure and a safe campus environment

## Commitment to Honor & Living the Commitment

As an ethical community, the University of South Florida is dedicated to the ideals of excellence in student development, academic learning, scholarship and research. By joining this community, each member is expected to accept and live these commitments.

I resolve to maintain the honor and integrity of the university community in pursuit of student development, academic learning, scholarship and research.

*Living the Commitment:* A commitment to this resolution upholds our core values of honesty, diligence and trust within our academic and professional lives. This means that authentic and sincere efforts motivate our work while we strive for genuine, trustworthy interactions.

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I resolve to respect the dignity and intrinsic value of all persons.

*Living the Commitment:* A commitment to this resolution requires appreciation for another's personal right to explore freely, to express oneself responsibly, and to participate actively in building an environment of mutual respect and inclusion for each individual. This means that we will support equal rights and opportunities for all people, while exhibiting behaviors which are compassionate and considerate to others.

I resolve to contribute to the progress and greater good of the community.

*Living the Commitment:* A commitment to this resolution motivates us to serve the University with words and actions that generate a positive impact on the future of the whole community. This means that active and creative thought and contributions within a collegial environment will expand both the nature and scope of knowledge and the quality of community life.

I resolve to strive for excellence and discovery for myself, others, and the University.

*Living the Commitment:* A commitment to this resolution confirms the shared values that make the University a strong community. We hold high expectations for our own academic and professional work. Concurrently, we endeavor to support the success of others as we *all* seek to contribute to the mission of the University.

## About the USF System

The University of South Florida System is a young and emerging system that currently includes three institutions, each separately accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: USF; USF St. Petersburg; and USF Sarasota-Manatee. The main doctoral research campus in Tampa is home to USF Health which includes the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Pharmacy; and to the College of Marine Science which is physically located in St. Petersburg. Serving nearly 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion and is ranked 43rd in the nation for research expenditures among all universities, public or private.

The USF System was formed to bring its three institutions together, so that collectively and collaboratively they could serve the region and beyond in optimal ways, resulting in a stronger presence and a distinctiveness that provides an unstoppable competitive differentiation. In addition to being a strong and unified voice for higher education, the USF System seeks to find and capitalize on synergies and economies of scale among its institutions that are of benefit to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and communities.

At the heart of the USF System is a vibrant, diverse, and engaged student body. With over 240 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialty and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine, the USF System offers a dynamic learning environment that inspires innovation and creativity and is focused on student success. More than 2,000 distinguished scholars, researchers and expert teachers, nearly all holding PhDs or the highest degrees in their fields, make up the faculty.

## About USF

Founded in 1956, the University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university located in beautiful Tampa Bay on Florida's spectacular west coast. It is one of the largest public universities in the nation, and among the top 50 universities, public or private, for research spending according to the National Science Foundation (NSF). The University is one of only five Florida public universities classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.5 percent of all universities.

USF is a member of the American Athletics Conference, with 17 men's and women's varsity teams competing at the NCAA-level. New facilities for practice and competition, along with a completely renovated USF Sun Dome, put the university's athletic facilities on par with virtually every top program in the country.

Ranked first among the nation's most veteran-friendly schools, USF offers a number of unique programs and resources for student veterans, including a Veterans Achievement Center and on-site Department of Veteran's Services representative.

The current president of the USF System is Judy Genshaft, who has served in the position since July 2000.

## USF Facilities

Since its inception, USF has endeavored to provide facilities that assist students and scholars in achieving their educational and professional goals.

USF, which includes USF Health, is situated on more than 1,500 acres in northeast Tampa, one of the fastest growing areas in Tampa Bay. USF features more than 250 buildings valued at over \$1.5 billion, including modern science and engineering labs; a communications building with a full range of broadcast facilities; foreign language listening labs; fine art studios and display spaces; education teaching labs; open-use computing labs with free Internet access in addition to being a Wi-Fi campus; a public television station; and a listener-supported radio station.

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In addition, projects to enhance the campus pedestrian walkways, bikeways, and lighting have been implemented for use and enjoyment. Future planned projects include continued campus facilities enhancements.

The campus also offers a wide variety of recreational facilities, including a multi-million dollar recreation center featuring a 6,500-square-foot weight room, an indoor pool, racquetball courts and various fitness studios; two outdoor swimming pools; 22 lighted tennis courts; an 18-hole golf course and driving range; a running trail; three softball fields; four outdoor basketball and volleyball courts; 10 lighted multi-purpose fields; a riverfront park/recreation activities area; and a new recreation field facility adjacent to the residence hall, Juniper-Poplar Hall.

### **Diversity and Equal Opportunity Policy**

The University is committed to creating and maintaining a system-wide work and study environment for faculty, staff, and students that is free from discrimination and harassment based on race, color, marital status, sex, gender, pregnancy, religion, national or ethnic origin, veteran's status, disability, age, or genetic information, as provided by law as prohibited by law and University policies. The USF system protects its faculty, staff, and students from sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and expression.

The USF System is also committed to the employment and advancement of qualified veterans with disabilities and veterans protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, as amended (VEVRAA).

Any person who believes they have been subjected to discrimination can file a complaint with the USF System Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity, John & Grace Allen Building (ALN) 172 on the Tampa Campus. The telephone number is (813) 974-4373. It shall be prohibited for any employee of USF to discriminate or take retaliatory action against any individual who, in good faith, has opposed an alleged unlawful practice or has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the provisions of applicable law or the university equal opportunity policies. For more information on the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity, please visit their website at: <http://www.usf.edu/diversity/>.