

# New Graduate Student Orientation

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Welcome!

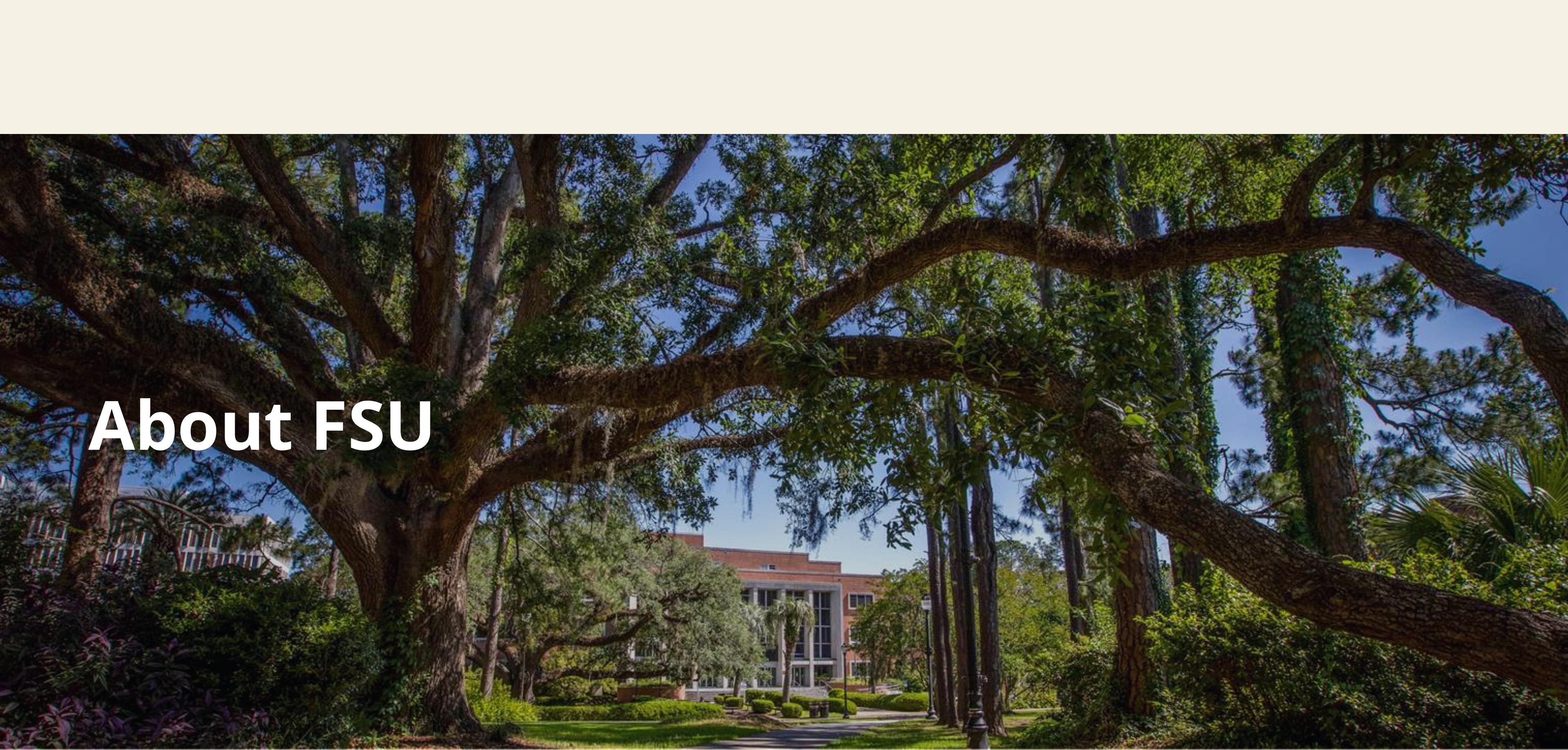
**FSU** | THE GRADUATE  
SCHOOL



# About Me

- Steve McDowell, PhD
- Assistant Provost for International Initiatives and Interim Dean of The Graduate School
- Teaching Interests
  - New Communication Technology and Society
  - Mass Media Telecommunications Policy
  - International Communication

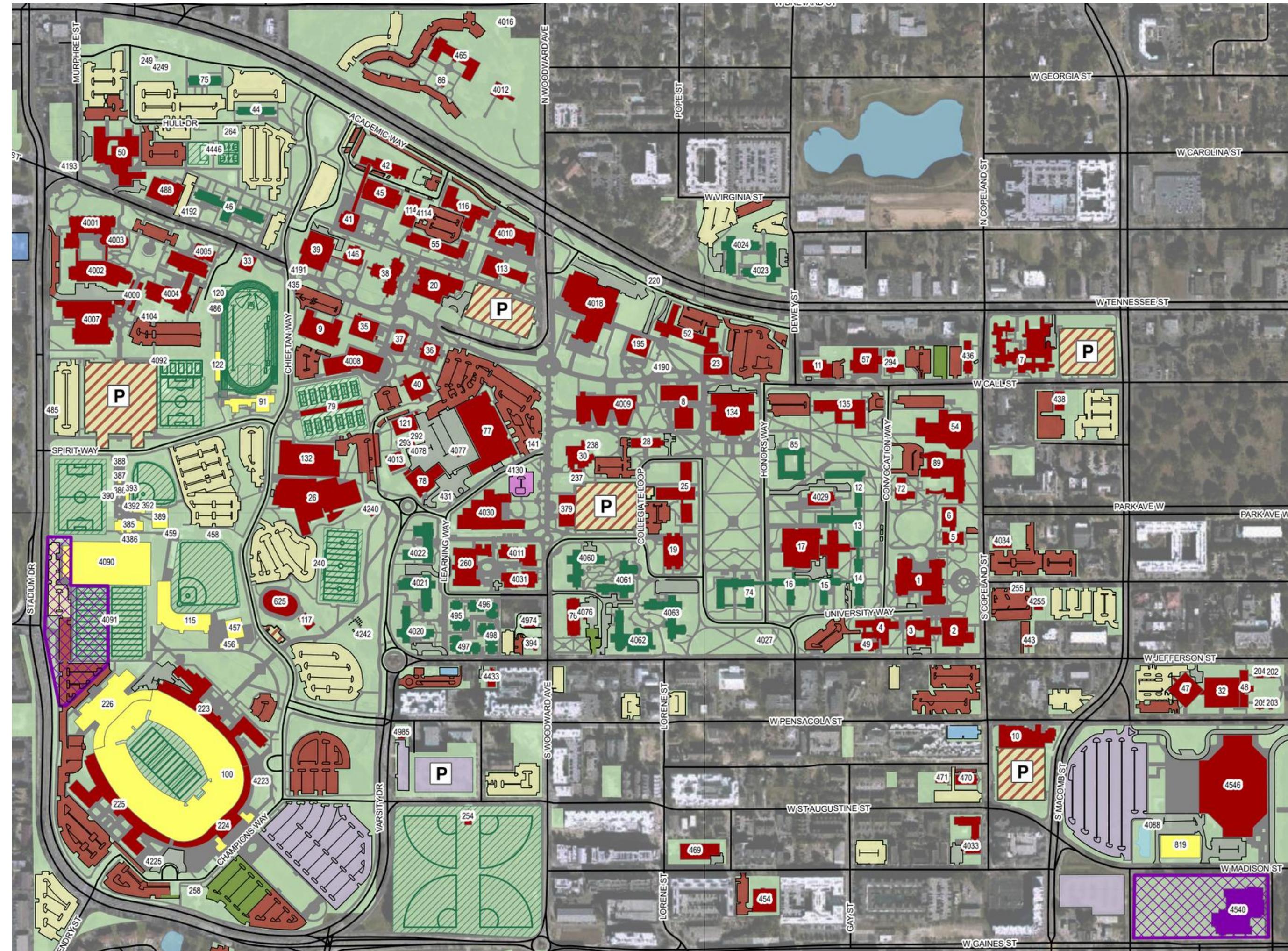




# About FSU

FSU

# Campus



# Graduate School Locations



Main Office

*Westcott Building*



Graduate Admissions

*Hecht House*



Office of Graduate  
Fellowships & Awards

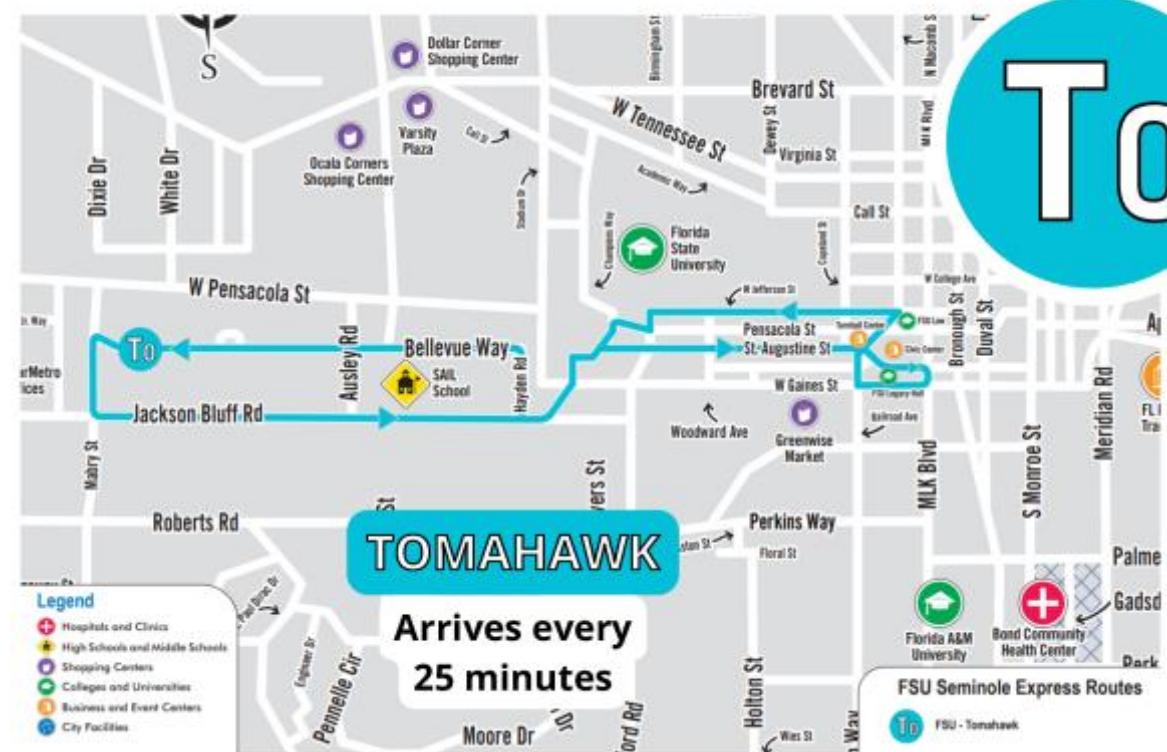
*HSF House*

# Getting Around

# FSU | SEMINOLE EXPRESS

JAN 2026 Route Updates

Powered by  starmetro



## New Points of Interest:

- FSU Legacy Hall
- FSU College of Law
- Turnbull Conference Center
- Donald L. Tucker Civic Center
- Gaines Street businesses



## New Points of Interest:

- FSU Legacy Hall
- Turnbull Conference Center
- Donald L. Tucker Civic Center
- St. Augustine and Gaines Street residences and businesses
- FSU Main Campus Fields
- FSU Childcare/Early Learning



## New Points of Interest:

- FSU Legacy Hall
- FSU College of Law
- Turnbull Conference Center
- Donald L. Tucker Civic Center
- Gaines Street businesses



FSU | TRANSPORTATION & PARKING SERVICES

Visit [Talgov.com/StarMetro](http://Talgov.com/StarMetro) for additional bus route information.

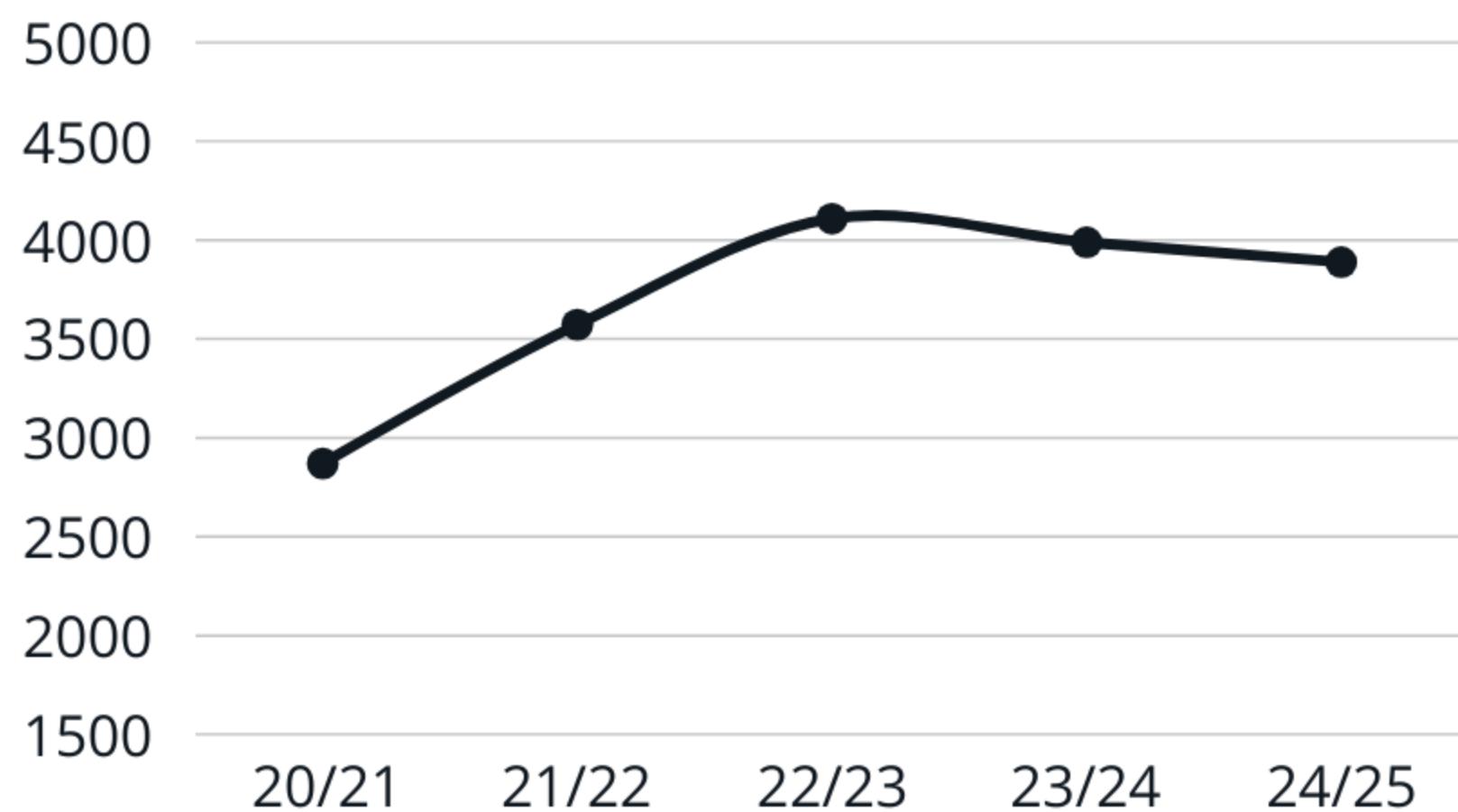


FSU | COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



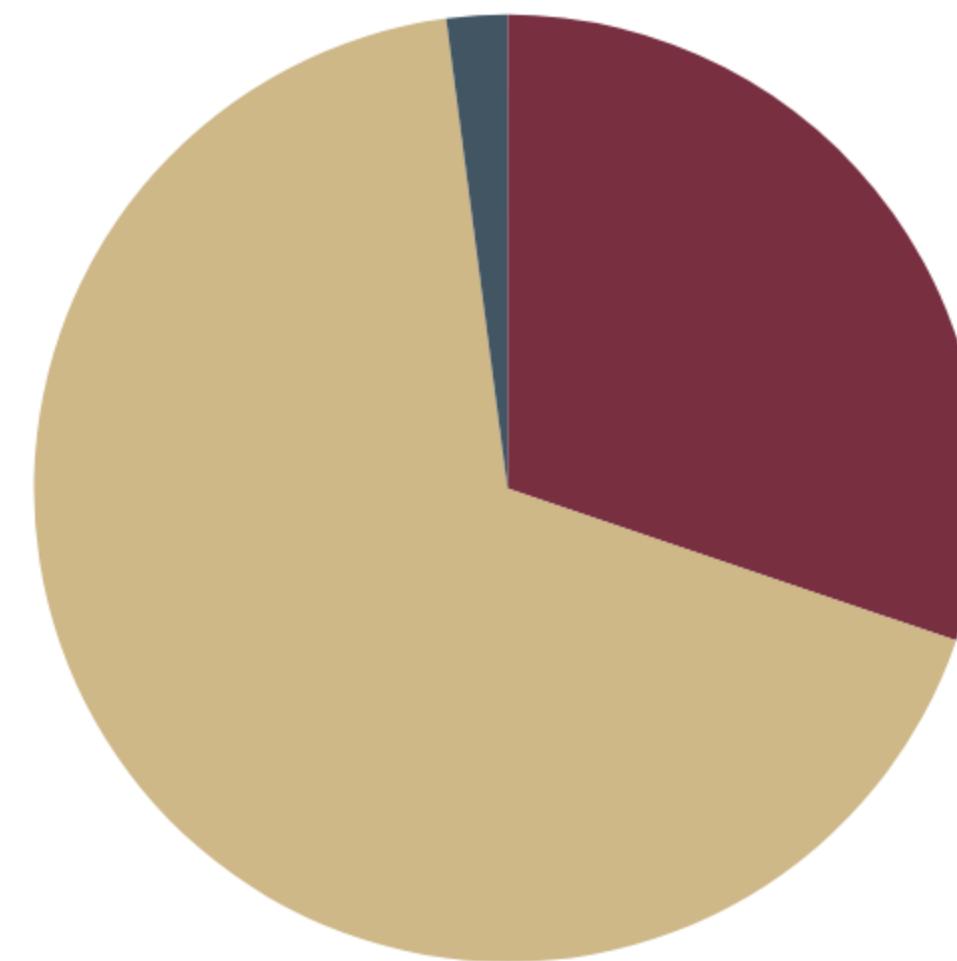
- **R1 Designation**
- **63 Doctoral Programs**
- **107 Master's Programs**
- **6 Specialist Programs**
- **17 Colleges**
- **Graduate students make up approximately 24% of total enrollment**

# Graduate Degrees Awarded



# #'s of Graduate Students

- Doctoral
- Master's
- Specialist



# Our Mission

To advance the quality and integrity of graduate education

## Goal 1

Assist graduate students in academic and policy matters

## Goal 2

Provide broad oversight and ensure implementation of policies pertaining to graduate education

## Goal 3

Collaborate with other campus units to advance graduate education

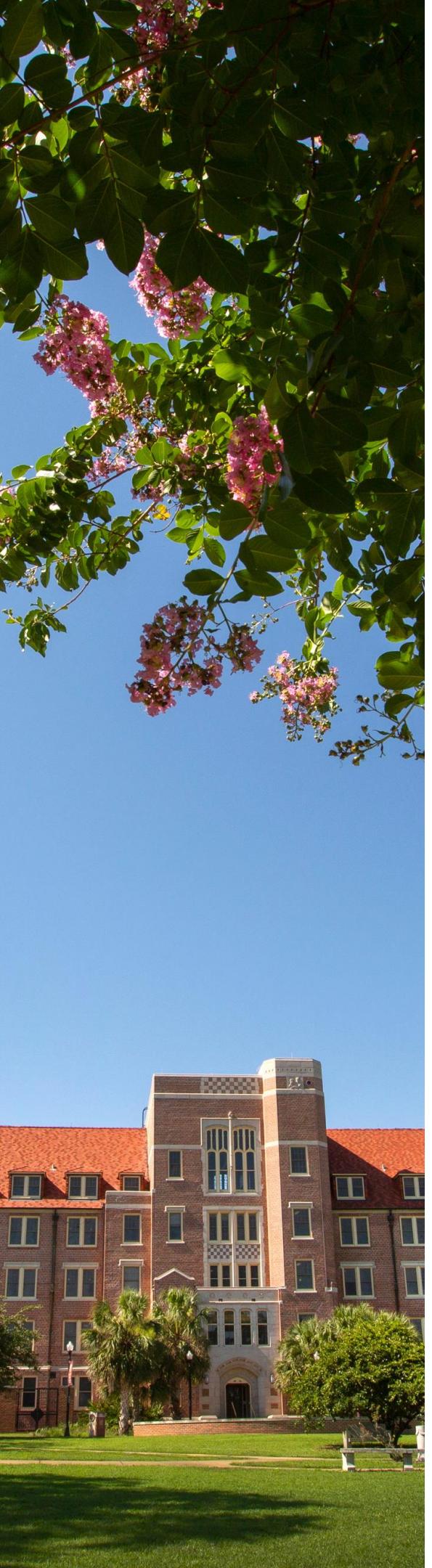
## Goal 4

Advance graduate education best practices at FSU



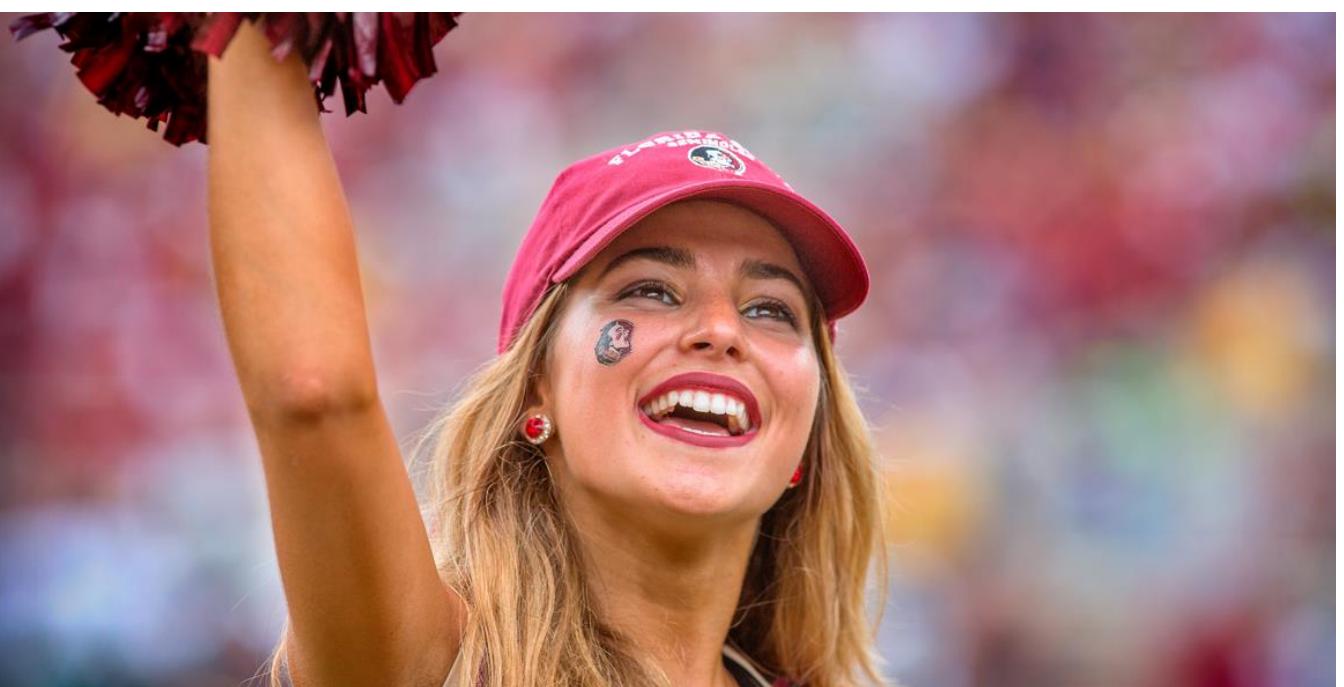
# Important Sites & Policies

01. [\*\*Graduate Bulletin\*\*](#)
02. [\*\*Student Handbook\*\*](#)
03. [\*\*Registrar Forms\*\*](#)
04. [\*\*Academic Calendar\*\*](#)
05. [\*\*Office of Student Finance\*\*](#)



# Important Resources

01. [\*\*FSU Alerts\*\*](#)
02. [\*\*Graduate Student Resource Center\*\*](#)
03. [\*\*University Health Services\*\*](#)
04. [\*\*Reading-Writing Center\*\*](#)
05. [\*\*Career Center\*\*](#)

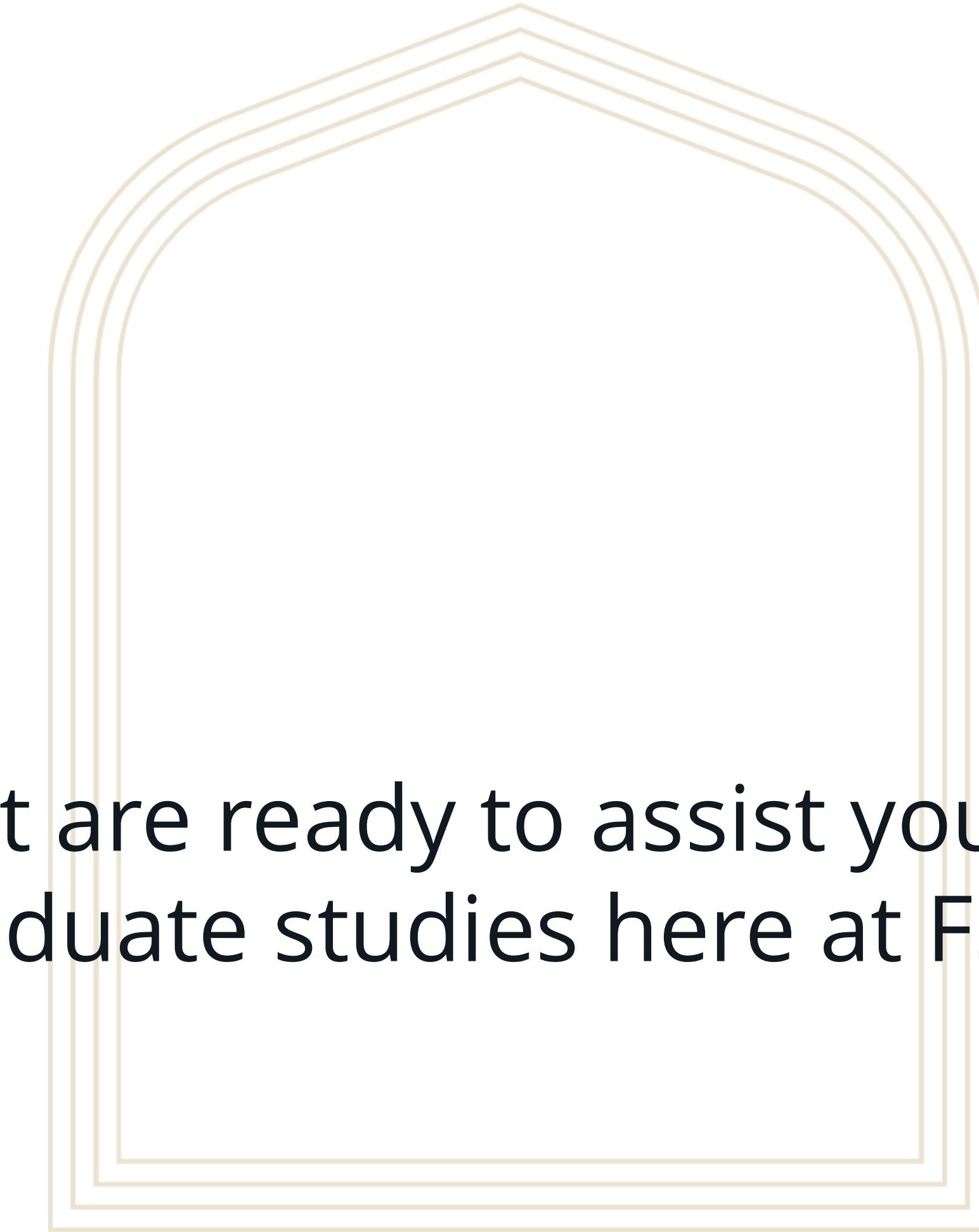


# Advice for 1st Term

- Familiarize yourself with key offices
- Know where resources are located
- Stay informed
- Immerse yourself into your program
- Look at everything from the view point that you may need this later
- Enjoy the campus, events, all the city has to offer

# Our Team

27 professionals that are ready to assist you throughout your graduate studies here at FSU





# **www.gradschool.fsu.edu**

- Graduate student forms
- Information and links to:
  - Policies
  - Tuition waivers
  - Health insurance subsidy
  - Graduate School fellowships & awards
  - Professional development
  - External fellowships & awards
  - Thesis and dissertation

⋮ FSU Ruby(The Graduate Sc...

Today • 2:55 PM



Ruby (The Graduate School) joined • 2:55 PM

Hi Brian, I'm Ruby (The Graduate School), a digital assistant.



How can I help you?

Ruby (The Graduate School) • 2:56 PM

Type your message...

## Ruby

- [www.gradschool.fsu.edu](http://www.gradschool.fsu.edu)
- Has more than 200 answers to questions for current graduate students
  - Tuition waivers
  - Health Insurance Subsidy
  - Assistantships
  - Manuscript Clearance

# Our Program for Today





# Speakers

- FSU Police Department
- University Health Services
- Graduate Student Resource Center
- Congress of Graduate Students
- Center for the Advancement of Teaching
- University Libraries
- Career Center
- Student Ombuds Office
- Graduate Assistant Union

# Florida State University Police Department



Welcome  
Graduate Students



Barbara O'Connor ▪ Assistant Vice President of Public Safety  
Jason Trumbower ▪ Chief of Police  
Greg Washington ▪ Captain of Operations  
Richard Wooten ▪ Captain of Criminal Investigations & Intel



# Safety Matters at FSU!!

## The Best Way to Stay Safe

- **Use Common Sense and Always Be Aware of Your Surroundings.**



- **Take Advantage of the Security and Safety Resources Available at FSU.**

# Florida State University Police Department



## How to Contact FSU Police

- **EMERGENCY- Call 911**
- **Non-Emergency- 850-644-1234**
- **REPORT.FSU.EDU**
- **Silent Witness Crime Report**

# Florida State University Police Department



## Emergency Notifications on Campus

- FSU Alerts Page ([alerts.fsu.edu](http://alerts.fsu.edu))
- Indoor and Outdoor Sirens
- SMS Text Messages
- E-mail
- SeminoleSAFE Mobile App
- Desktop Computer Alerts
- Facebook and Twitter

# Florida State University Police Department



## RUN HIDE FIGHT

In many cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter, and these situations are, by their very nature, unpredictable and evolve quickly.



# Security Enhancements & Lockdown Capabilities

- Card access control/lockdown
- Easy lockdown button in dispatch
- Panic buttons
- Lock/unlock swivel on deadbolts
- QR code inside rooms

SCAN HERE:



Or go to:

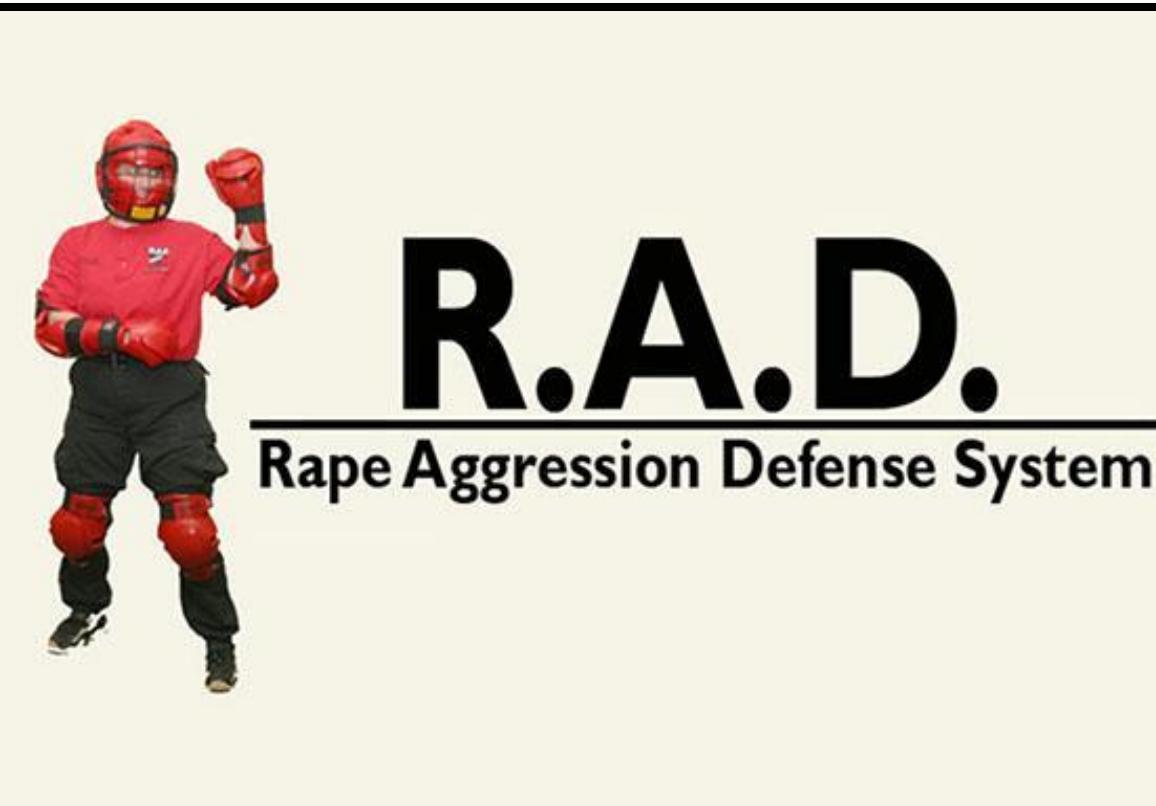
FSU  
PUBLIC SAFETY

[TakeAction.fsu.edu](http://TakeAction.fsu.edu)



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL: 911  
FSU POLICE: 850-644-1234

# Florida State University Police Department

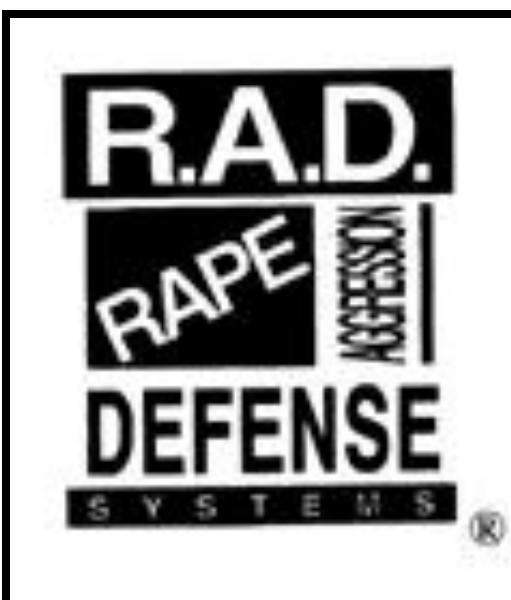


## Rape Aggression Defense



Self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D. system is a comprehensive, women-only course of instruction that begins with awareness, prevention, risk, and risk avoidance. It then progresses to teaching hands-on self-defense training, but it is not a martial arts program.

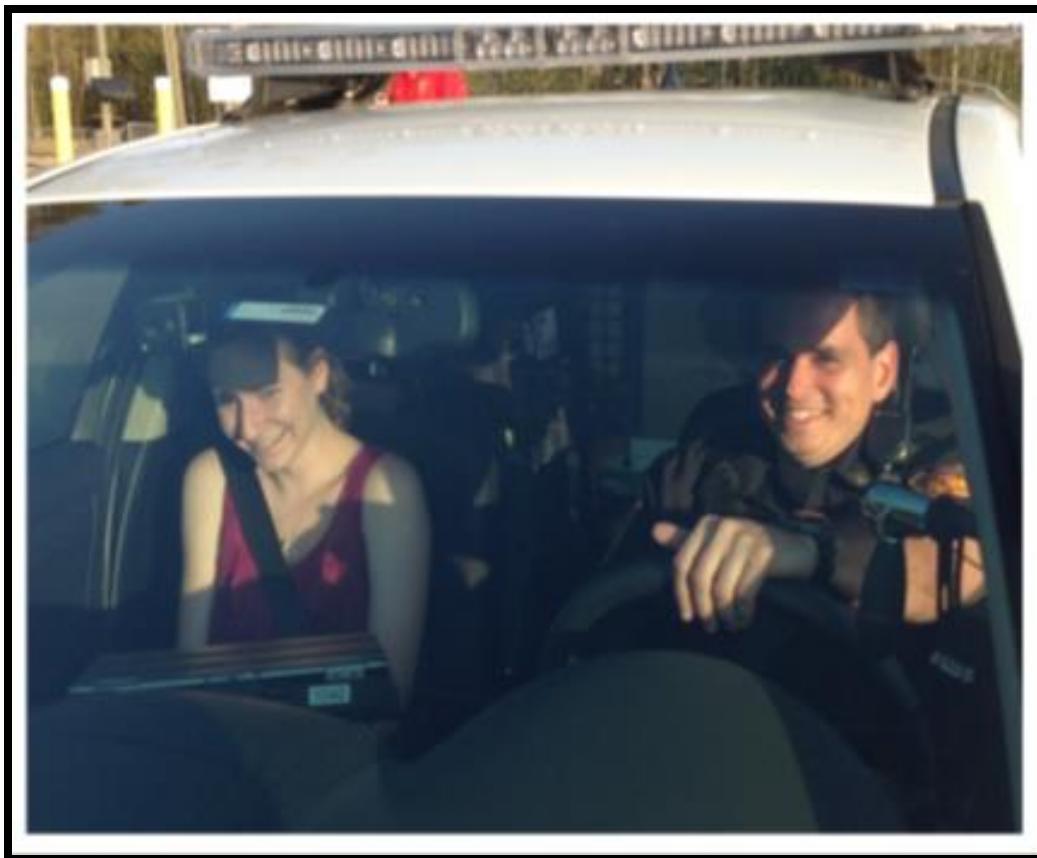
Special Requests & for college credit



# Florida State University Police Department



# Citizens Police Academy



The Florida State University Police Department saw a need to provide an “inside view” of law enforcement operations to our campus community. We developed a curriculum and invited campus members (Faculty, Staff and Students) to join us for the Citizen’s Police Academy.

# Local Law Enforcement Cooperation

Florida State  
University Police  
Department



Open Lines of Communication and Information Sharing  
with:  
Local, State, Federal & RTCC



# Capital Region Real-Time Crime Center (CRRTCC)

Florida State  
University Police  
Department



collaborative initiative between FSUPD, TPD, and LCSO analysts that proactively share information and support law enforcement response to enhance the safety of officers and the community.



# Florida State University Police Department



## DUI Enforcement



## The Tragic Cost of DUI – Lives Lost



# Florida State University Police Department



## Avoid Dangerous behavior!!



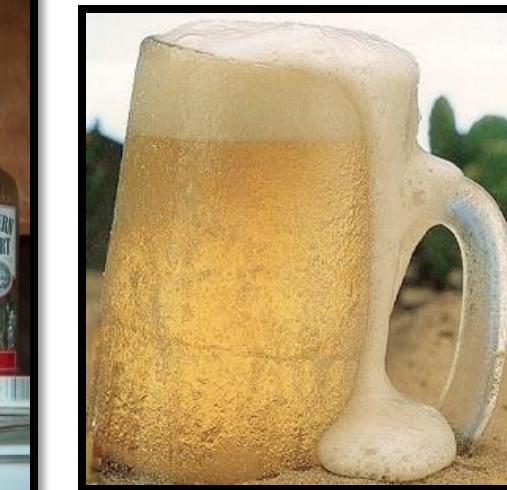
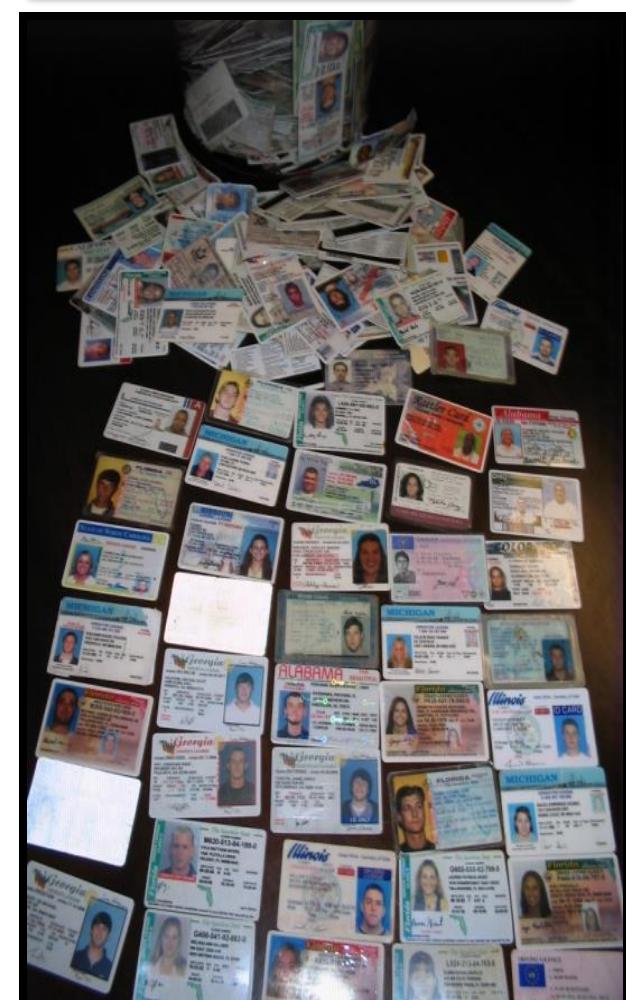
## Make GOOD Decisions!!!

# Florida State University Police Department

**Let's Have a  
Serious Discussion!!**



## Bad Decisions

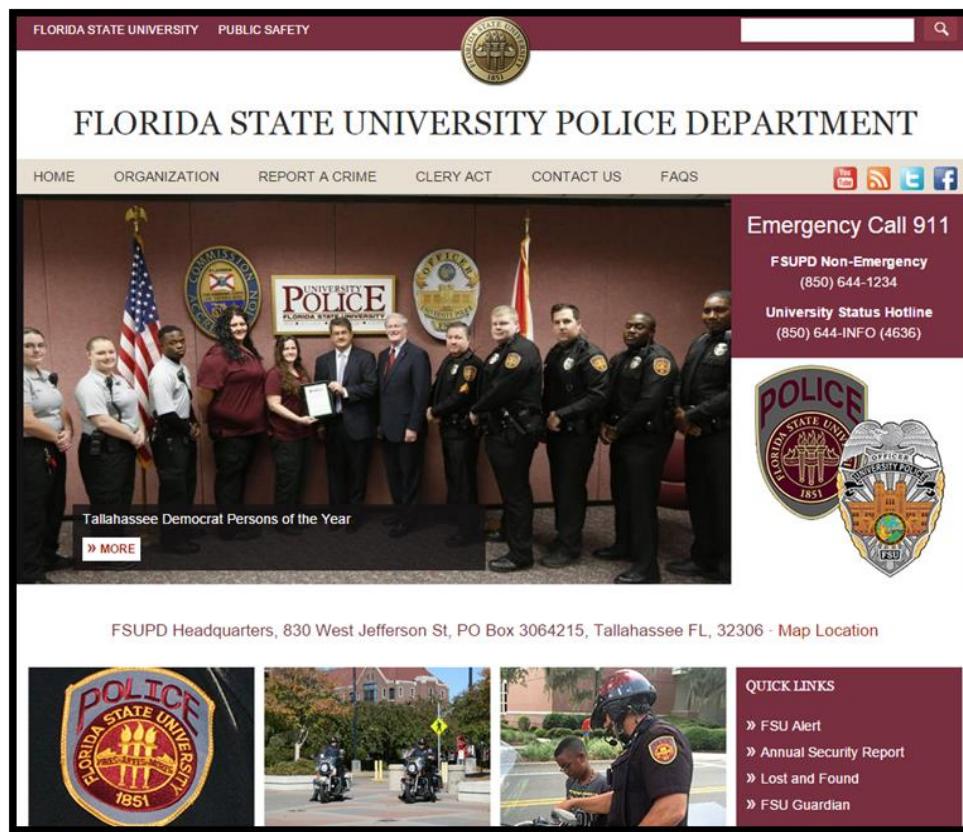


# Florida State University Police Department

## The FSUPD Website

## Important Information & Resources

The FSUPD Website  
[www.police.fsu.edu](http://www.police.fsu.edu)



SERVICES & RESOURCES



CRIME PREVENTION &  
OUTREACH



SPECIAL EVENTS

# Safety Begins with YOU!

Florida State  
University Police  
Department

if you  
**SEE | SAY**  
something



# University Health Services

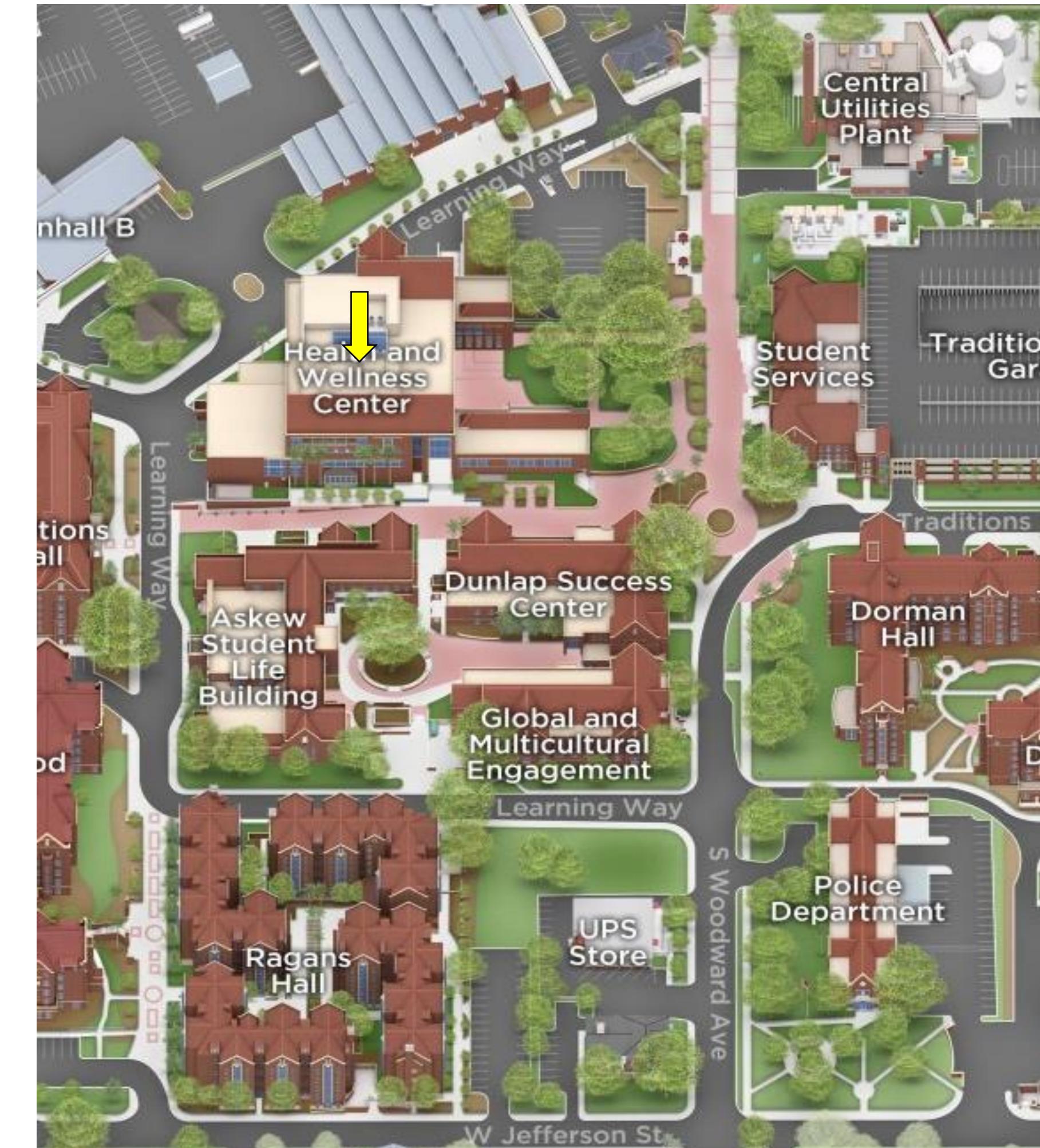
Graduate Student Orientation

**FSU** | FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# Hours of Operation & Location

- Monday through Friday
- Appointments available 8:00AM – 4:00PM
  - Appointment-based system
  - Appointments can be scheduled online, by phone, or in-person
  - Staffing available until 5:00PM
- Located at the Mary B. Coburn Health & Wellness Center



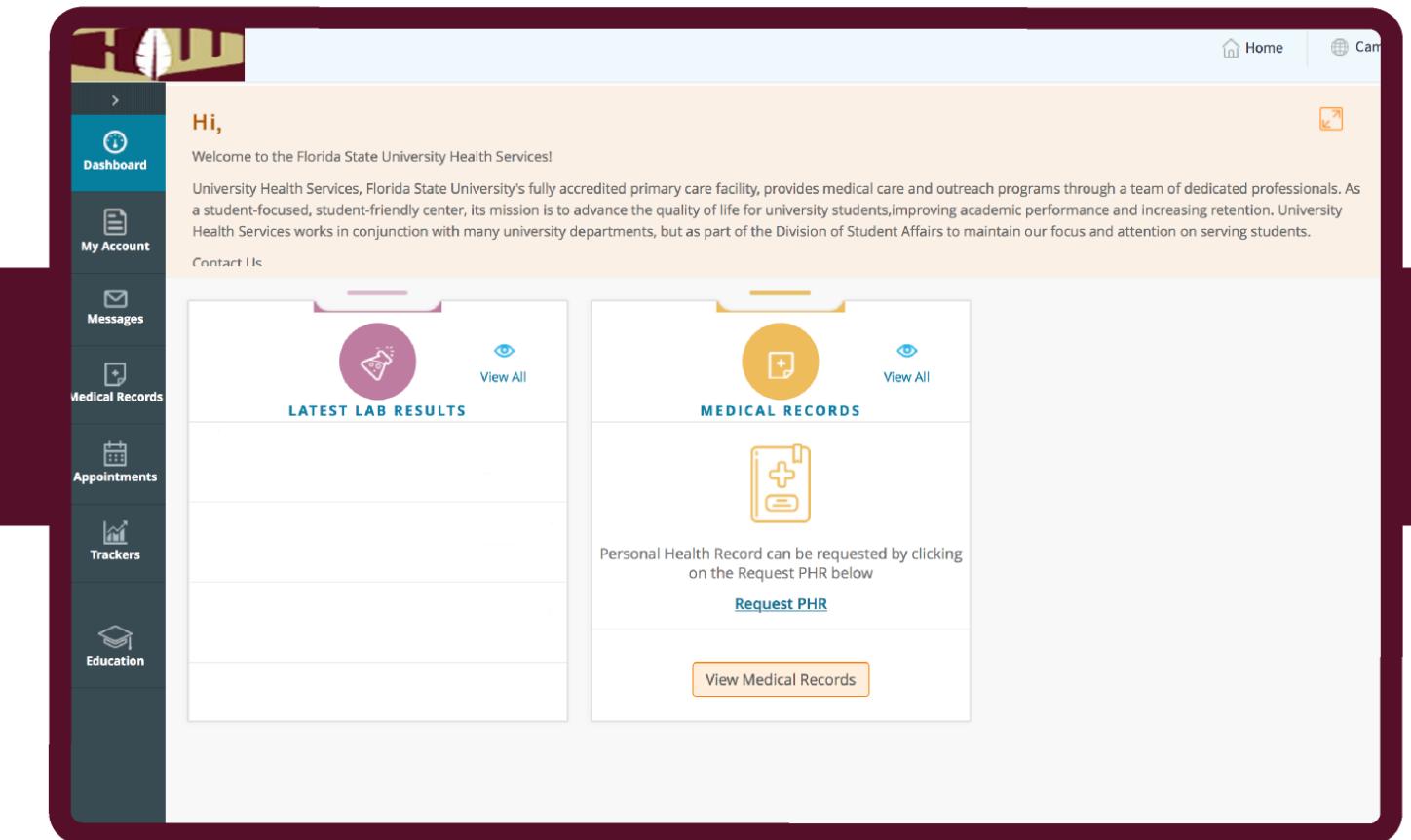
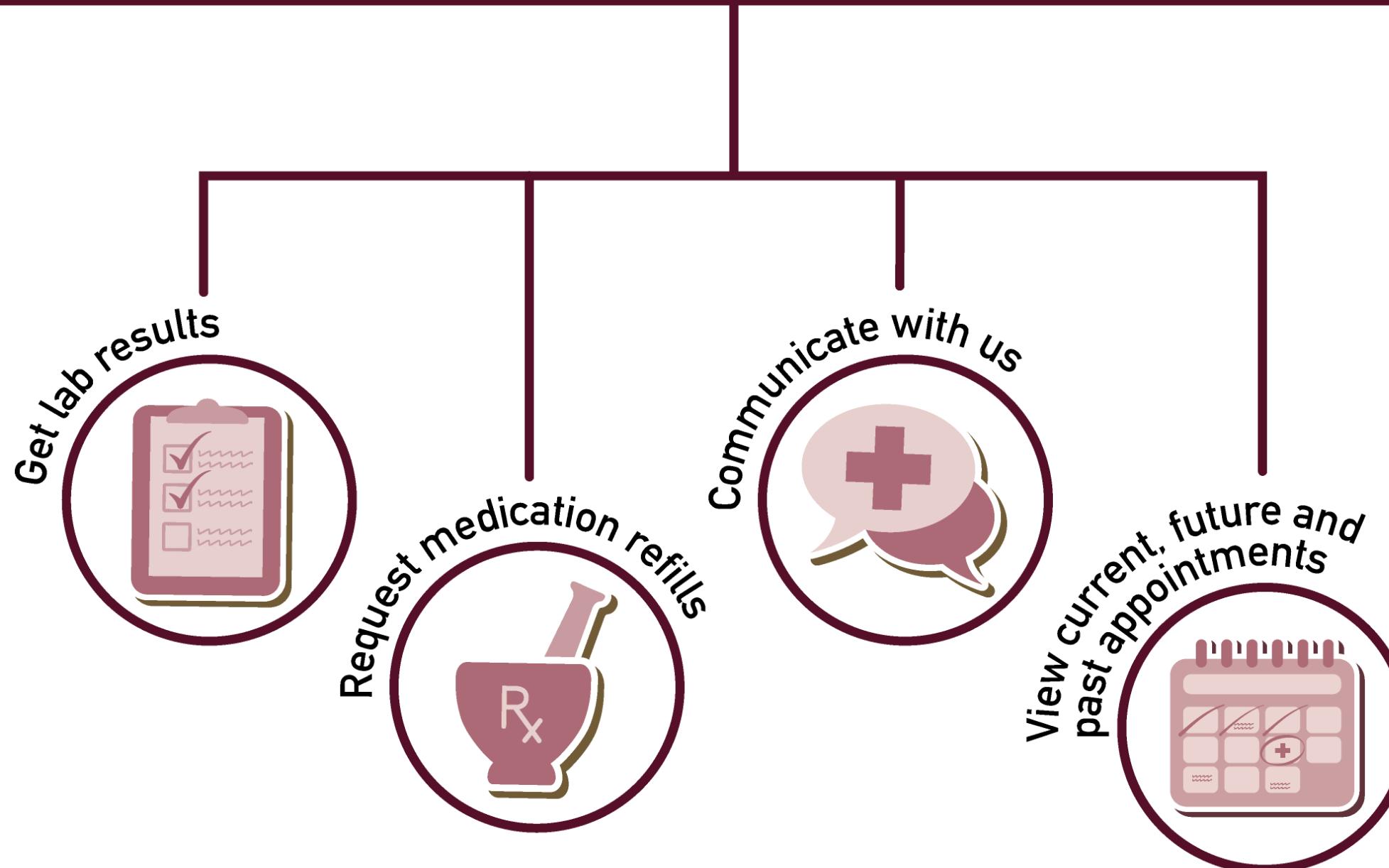


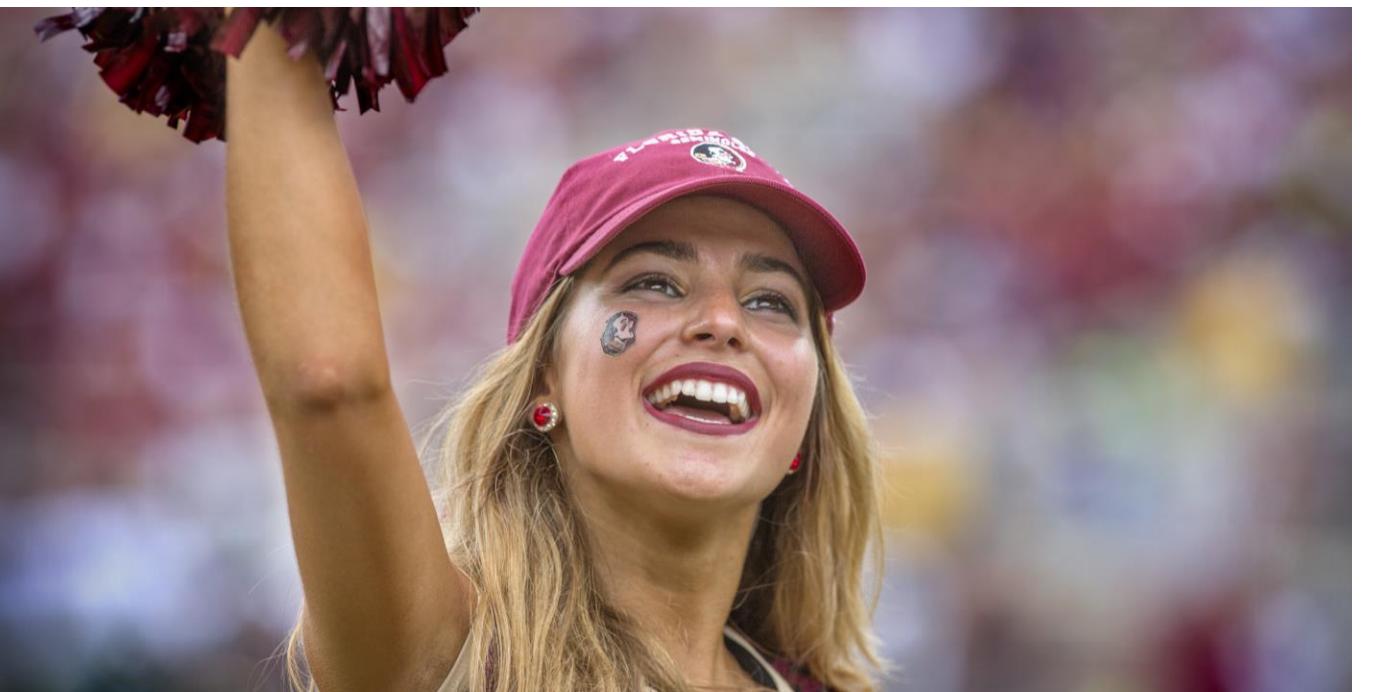
## Appointments available for:

- Well and preventative physicals (athletic, band, women's annual exams)
- Diagnostic Imaging (x-rays, ultrasounds)
- Immunizations
- Allergy Injections
- Acute illness and injury
- Lab Services
- Routine follow-ups and chronic medical care
- Mental Health follow-ups
- Medication Refills
- Physical Therapy
- Women's Clinic
- Virtual Services

# Returning Patients Can Access the

# PATIENT PORTAL





## Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW)

- Nutrition consultations
- HIV testing
- Smart Choices: Alcohol/drug harm reduction program
- Wellness Coaching
- Green Dot Bystander Intervention
- Healthy Noles Peer Education
- Power-based personal violence prevention

# Community Partners



**Wellness Sport & Spine, Morgan Dental, and Quest are independent vendors of the university that provide services to the greater FSU community including students, faculty, and staff.**

**For questions about insurance coverage, please contact the vendor directly.**

# After-hours System of Care

[uhs.fsu.edu/health-care/after-hours-care](http://uhs.fsu.edu/health-care/after-hours-care)



**healthiestyou**<sup>TM</sup>  
By Teladoc.

Talk to a doctor or therapist by phone or video with [HealthiestYou](#).

HealthiestYou provides 24/7 access to doctors and mental healthcare.

Download the App – [iOS](#) – [Google Play](#)

Call (855) 870-5858

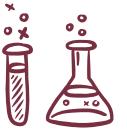
*Other After-Hours Care Options Include*

Walk-in Clinics

Urgent Care

Emergency Room

# Pharmacy



- No onsite pharmacy
- CVS located near campus (West Pensacola Street location)
- Several nearby pharmacy options available
- Some pharmacies offer specific reduced cost medications

## Alphameds

487 E Tennessee St # 2, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 942-1992

## CVS

882 West Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 841-1049  
1819 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 576-0147  
1708 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 385-6136  
1300 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 877-5168  
3035 Apalachee Parkway Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 402-4046

## Publix

1700 North Monroe St # 852, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 222-1975  
101 North Blairstone Road # 101, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 219-6211  
800 Ocala Road # 200, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 575-6997

## Target

2120 Apalachee Parkway Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 671-2041

## Walgreens

2009 W Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 580-1899  
414 South Magnolia Drive Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 877-3023

## Walmart

4400 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 574-4613  
3535 Apalachee Pkwy Tallahassee, FL 32311 (850) 656-4593  
3221 N Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 562-2829

Publix offers reduced cost medications\*

Walmart offers \$4 prescriptions\*

\*select medications

# Insurance & Billing

- The student health fee covers many free services for students (MRU, CHAW, CAPS, etc)
- Co-pays are not collected
- All visits, procedures, labs, diagnostic imaging & specialty visits will be billed to insurance carrier
- Outstanding balances post to student account

# Insurance & Billing

- In-network with a variety of different insurance plans
  - Out-of-network for Avmed & Tricare Prime
- University-sponsored insurance available
  - United Healthcare Student Resources
  - Premium deductible can be paid through financial aid
- Insurance coverage is a requirement for registration
  - Any health insurance will meet the requirement
- PPO vs HMO
  - Bridge of care
- ER care is for true emergencies and not a substitute for primary or specialty healthcare services

# Insurance & Billing

## *In-Network Insurance Plans*

- Florida Blue (formerly Blue Cross Blue Shield)
  - Network Blue/Blue Options
  - Blue Choice/PPO
  - Traditional
- Aetna
  - PPO
  - Managed Choice
  - HMO
  - POS & EPO
- United HealthCare (Student Resources)
  - FSU Sponsored Health Plan
  - In-network for all services
- United HealthCare
  - Choice Plus
  - PPO & POS
- CIGNA
  - PPO
  - OAP (Open Access Plus)
- Humana
  - PPO
  - POS
  - EPO
  - Choice Care Network
- Tricare
  - Select
  - Prime (Out-of-Network, Referral from your PCM is required)
- Medicaid (Humana)
  - Healthy Horizons
- Capital Health Plan (CHP) (Out-of-Network for Physical Therapy)
- United Behavioral Health

\*<https://www.uhcsr.com/glossary>

# University Health Services

## Student Insurance Rates 2025/2026

**Annual:** Aug. 15 – Aug. 14

### Domestic Student

\$3,086

**Fall:** Aug. 15 – Dec. 31

\$1,175

**Spring/Summer:** Jan. 1 – Aug. 14

\$1,911

**\*Summer:** May 10 – Aug. 14

\$830

### International Student

\$3,135

\$1,194

\$1,941

\$833



# Get Involved

**UHS offers several ways for students to become involved.**

**To learn more, visit [uhs.fsu.edu/getinvolved](http://uhs.fsu.edu/getinvolved)**

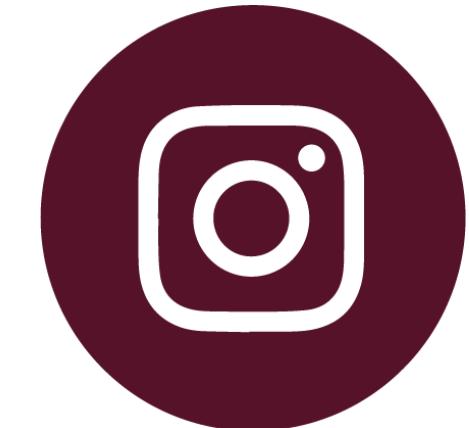




uhs.fsu.edu



@FSUHealth\_Services



@fsu\_health



**Find us on  
myFSU Mobile**

Thank You!





# Graduate Student Resource Center



Emily Leventhal, Ph.D.  
Director

# The Office of the Provost presents...

## The Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC)

- A virtual hub **connecting** graduate students to campus and community resources.
- We provide **programming** and **networking** to support graduate student success.



# Why would you need resources?

*To help manage  
ongoing concerns:*

- Reading and writing volume
- Mastering new skills
- Academic feedback and evaluation
- Paying bills
- Life balance
- Adapting to program culture
- Pressure

# GSRC website: supporting your journey

- Academic and Professional Development
- Basic Needs
- Funding/Financial
- Grad Life
- Health and Well-Being
- Parenting and Family
- Research
- Safety



[gsrc.fsu.edu](http://gsrc.fsu.edu)

# GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Campus and Community Resources
- Free Business Clothes
- Snacks and Refreshments
- Prize Giveaway

# Selected GSRC Professional Development Events

## January

Conflict Management

## February

Graduate School Survival Skills  
Writing beyond the Academy

## March

Graduate School  
Reading Skills

### Ongoing:

- Accountability groups
- Academic writing series
- Mentoring
- Department workshops

### With our partners:

- Life balance and resilience
- Post-graduation employment
- Financial wellness

# COFFEE & COMMUNITY

FREE COFFEE  
& SWEETS

HONORS, SCHOLARS, AND FELLOWS HOUSE, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ONCE A MONTH, ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9 AM

ALL GRADUATE  
STUDENTS  
INVITED

MEET THE FSU  
COMMUNITY



# GSRC Travel Grants

Maximum amount	Eligibility	Approved Uses and Limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to \$500 for attendees</li><li>Up to \$1000 for presenters</li><li><b>\$1.3 million annually for this year and the next three years</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Doctoral candidate</b></li><li>1 or more University Libraries Workshops</li><li>ORCID ID</li><li>Faculty approval</li><li>Apply for travel grants from COGS and your program</li><li>Check alignment with state regulations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conference fees</li><li>Lodging and most travel costs</li><li><b>1 grant per year</b></li></ul>



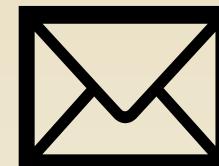
Let's Connect to  
Support Your Success!



**(850) 645-9990 (main)**



**<https://gsrc.fsu.edu/>**



**gsrc@fsu.edu**



**@fsugsrC**



**FSU Graduate  
Student  
Resource Center**





# The Congress of Graduate Students (COGS)

## Orientation Presentation



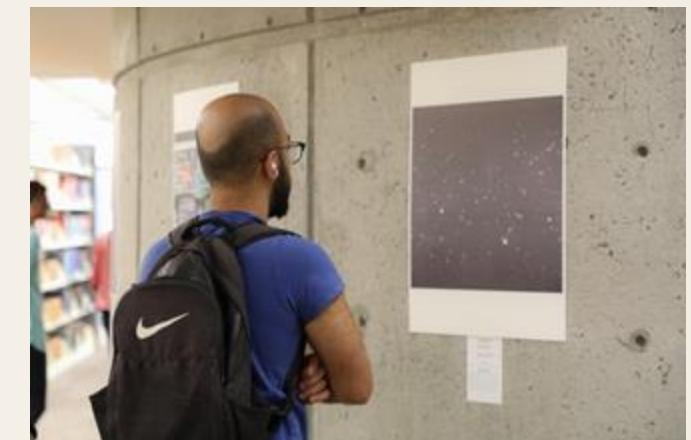
COGS Website



# The Work of COGS

# Our RSOs

COGS funds  
~100 RSOs!!!



# Advocating for Graduate Students

- Removing barriers for Veterans
- Serving on University Committees
- Campus Outreach



# Hosting Events



# Introductions - Meet the COGS Team



**Steven Medarev**  
Speaker  
**SGA-COGSSpeaker@fsu.edu**

**Joseph Serrone**  
Deputy Speaker, Finance  
**SGA-COGSFinance@fsu.edu**



**Noah Baez**  
Deputy Speaker, Communications  
**SGA-COGS-Communications@fsu.edu**



**DaSean Stokes**  
Deputy Speaker, Advocacy  
**SGA-COGSAdvocacy@fsu.edu**



**Nicholette Lanane**  
Deputy Speaker, Judicial Affairs  
**SGA-COGSJudicial@fsu.edu**



# Conference Grants

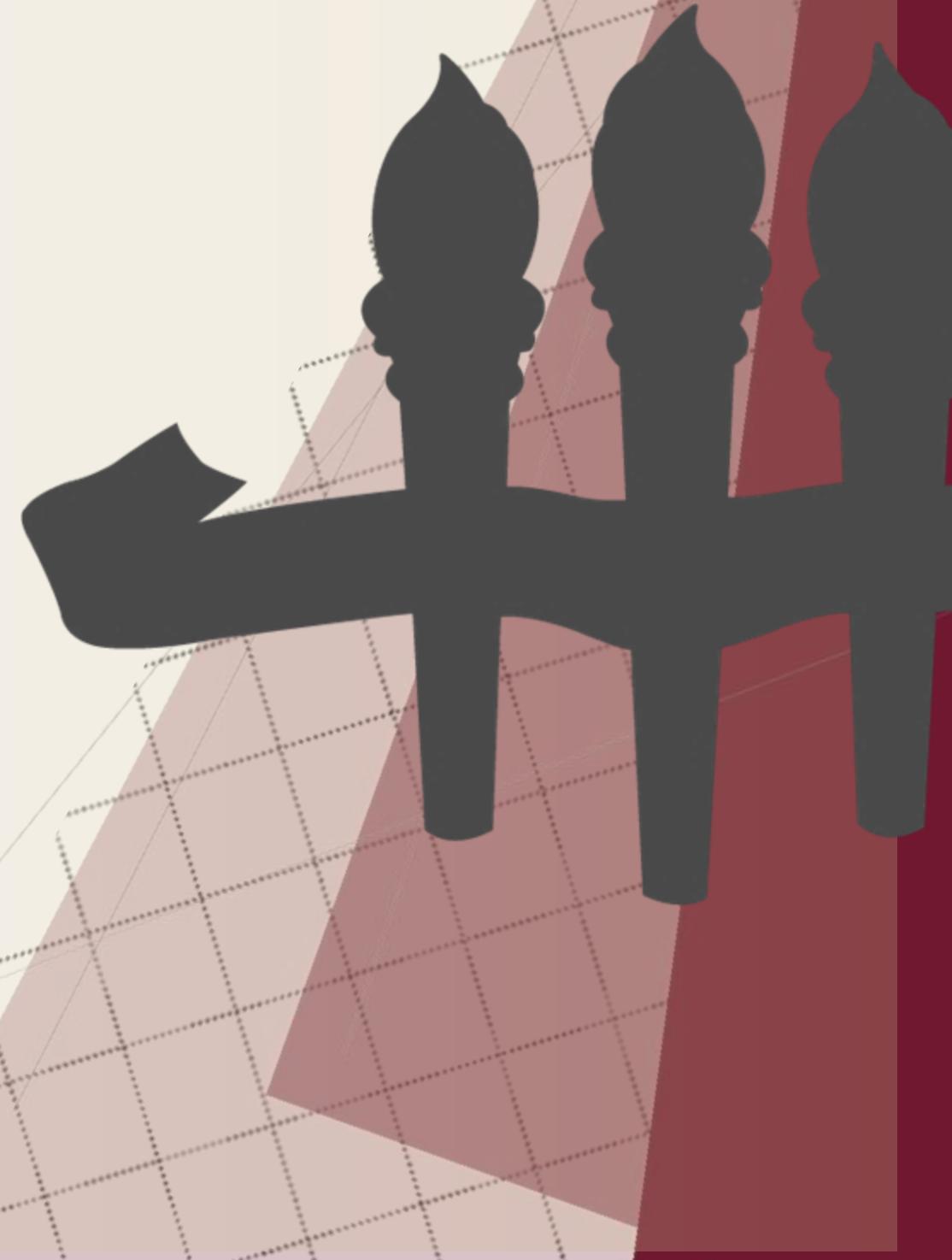
# What are COGS Conference Grants?

**Financial support for graduate students so they can attend conferences, present research, and represent Florida State University to the national and international academic community.**

**There are two different types of grants you can apply for:  
Attendance and Presentation Grants.**

**These grants are made available on a first come first serve basis, which means that you may not get your application approved if funding has run out for time period you applied during.**

**All requests must be submitted 15 business days prior but funds are disbursed as a reimbursement to students who completes all requirements.**



# Funding Timeline

## Funding periods:

July 1-October 31

November 1-February 29

March 1-June 30

June 1

October 1

February 1

## Earliest time you can apply:

# How much can I get?

## Attendance Grants:

Any location more than 100 miles from Florida State University: **\$200**

## Presentation Grants:

**Outside U.S. (foreign countries Alaska, Hawaii): \$700**

**Within the U.S. (>100 miles from Florida State University): \$350**

## Combined Grant:

**One Conference You Are Presenting At For the Whole Year: \$600**

**The maximum awarded amount in travel grants for any given student is**

**\$700 in any single fiscal year.**

**You are limited to 2 grants per fiscal year.**

# What do I need for the grant application?

## Attendance:

Conference registration form with  
billing information that lists you as a  
registrant

## Presentation:

Conference registration form with  
billing information that lists you as a  
registrant

A copy of a preliminary program  
showing your presentation schedule  
or acceptance letter which names  
YOU specifically as the primary  
presenter.

Application platform: <https://fsu-sgacogs.smapply.us/prog/>

## INVOICE/RECEIPT

Southern Association for College Student  
Affairs



Clemson,

10/5/2023  
Invoice No.: 200004396  
Tax ID: 56-1641039  
Due on receipt

Bill To:



Mail Check To:



PAID

Qty	Description	Price	Totals
1	2023 Student Registration - Joshua Burns	\$220.00	\$220.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			\$220.00
<b>Total</b>			\$220.00

### Payments/Adjustments

Qty	Description	Price	Totals
1		(\$220.00)	(\$220.00)
<b>Total Payments/Adjustments</b>			(\$220.00)
<b>Balance Due</b>			\$0.00

Example of what can be submitted for proof of conference registration confirmation

# What do I need for the grant application?

## Attendance:

Conference registration form with billing information that lists you as a registrant

## Presentation:

Conference registration form with billing information that lists you as a registrant

A copy of a preliminary program showing your presentation schedule or acceptance letter which names YOU specifically as the primary presenter.

Application platform: <https://fsu-sgacogs.smapply.us/prog/>

## SACSA 2023 Annual Conference Proposal Notification

Inbox x



to me ▾

Fri, Aug 18, 10:00 PM



Joshua Burns -

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your poster proposal, *Caring More for Our First-Year, First-Generation and Low-Income Students: Perceptions of Barriers and Transitional Success*, is accepted for SACSA's 2023 Annual Conference with NASPA Region III! We are happy to support this important work that, we believe, will benefit our region. Thank you for your submission!

As a reminder, SACSA's Annual Conference is November 4 - 6 in the vibrant and dynamic city of Atlanta, Georgia. Please let us know if you plan to attend and participate by following this [link](#). Your unique program ID code is **ATLP3**. **The deadline to accept your invitation to present is Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm CST.**

The coordinating presenter must be registered to attend the conference. Register for SACSA at <https://www.sacsa.org/page/ConferenceRegistration>. Please adhere to the standard poster size - 48" x 36" with horizontal orientation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED]

Again, congratulations on your poster proposal acceptance. We look forward to seeing you in ATL!

[REDACTED]  
SACSA Poster Session Chair

# Example of what can be submitted for proof of an acceptance letter

# What needs to be included for an international conference?

The additional requirement if you are traveling internationally for a conference is to upload approval of your international travel.

This requires you to plan ahead as this process must be completed at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to any proposed travel date and/or before making any financial commitments.

For more information on the policies FSU has visit:  
<https://global.fsu.edu/travel-policy/student-travel-policy>

**Reminder:** International travel is outside the continental U.S. (foreign countries Alaska, Hawaii)

**Subject:** Your trip was APPROVED  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:12:47 AM Mountain Daylight Saving Time  
**From:** TravelRegistry Notification <alerts@alerttraveler.com>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** AlertTravelerLogo.png

This email is automated from FSU's Travel Registry system through Terra Dotta. If you feel you have received this in error, please contact Ms. Ashley Krutz, Director of International Travel, Safety, and Risk in the Office of the Provost. Email: [akrutz@fsu.edu](mailto:akrutz@fsu.edu) or call 850-645-2176.

The following trip was APPROVED.

**Trip details**

**Trip Name:** MESA - Montreal, Canada

**Description:** Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference

**Reasons:** FSU student attending a conference/presentation

**Dates:** 2023-11-02 to 2023-11-05

**Destinations**

2023-11-02 - 2023-11-05 - Montreal, Quebec, Canada

To see your trip click [HERE](#) and login to your account.

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL



**AlertTraveler**

# What happens after submitting your application?

- COGS Deputy Speaker of Finance will either approve or deny your application based on if you meet all requirements for the grant being applied to and type of travel
- You should receive an email from SurveyMonkey letting you know that your application was approved or denied
- If you do not receive an email within 10 days of submitting your application, you can check the status of your application by following these [steps](#). You can also email us with questions or concerns: SGA-COGSFinance@fsu.edu

# Other important points of information

- Note: You should complete a travel authorization form before your conference.
  - Departments might have their own process and unique form with this, so talk with your department's travel representative.
  - This being done before your travel allows for a faster reimbursement.
- Even if you are not awarded the grant, you should continue to work with your travel representative.



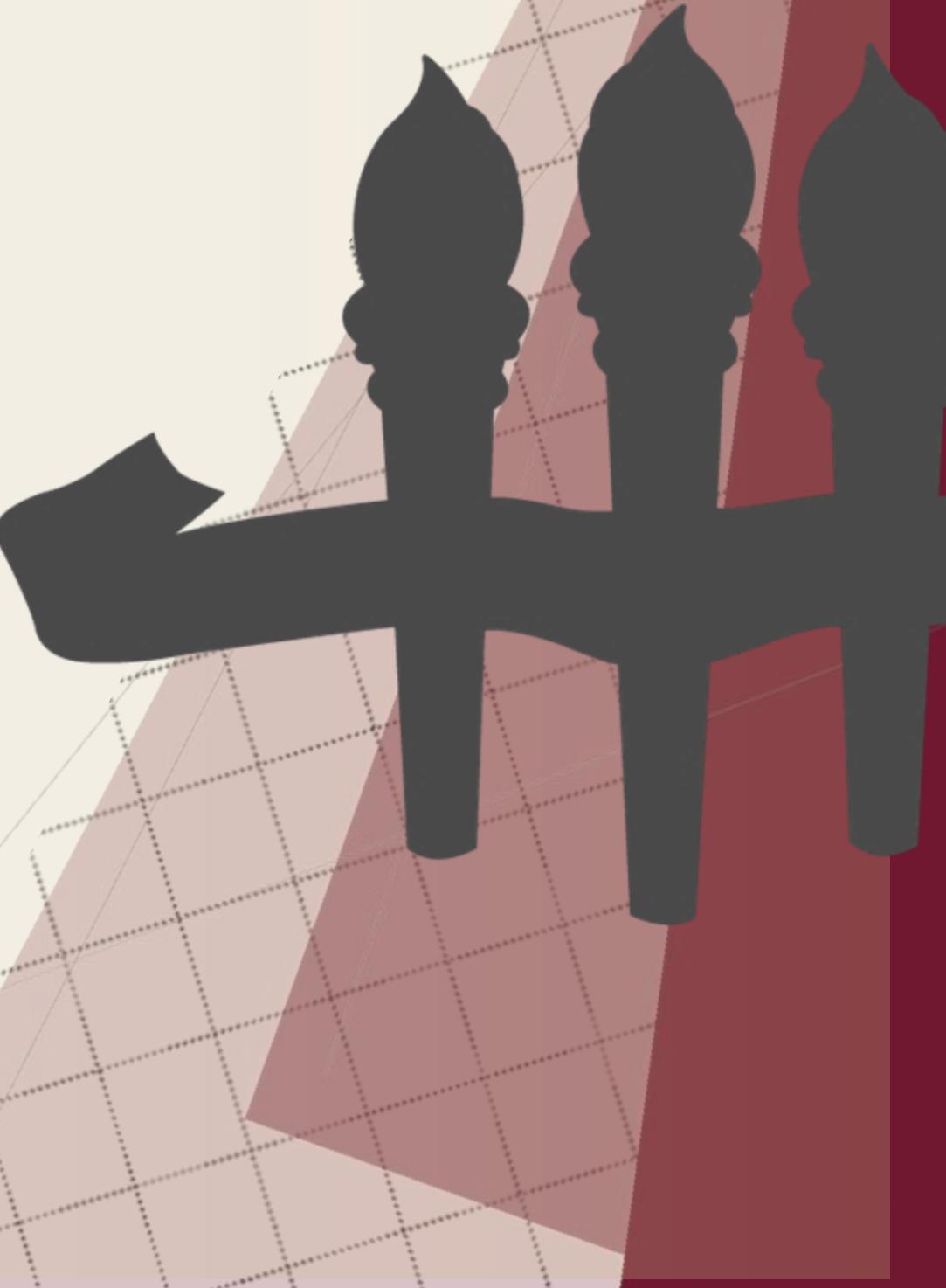
So you are  
approved,  
now what?

# After approval

No longer need to communicate with COGS

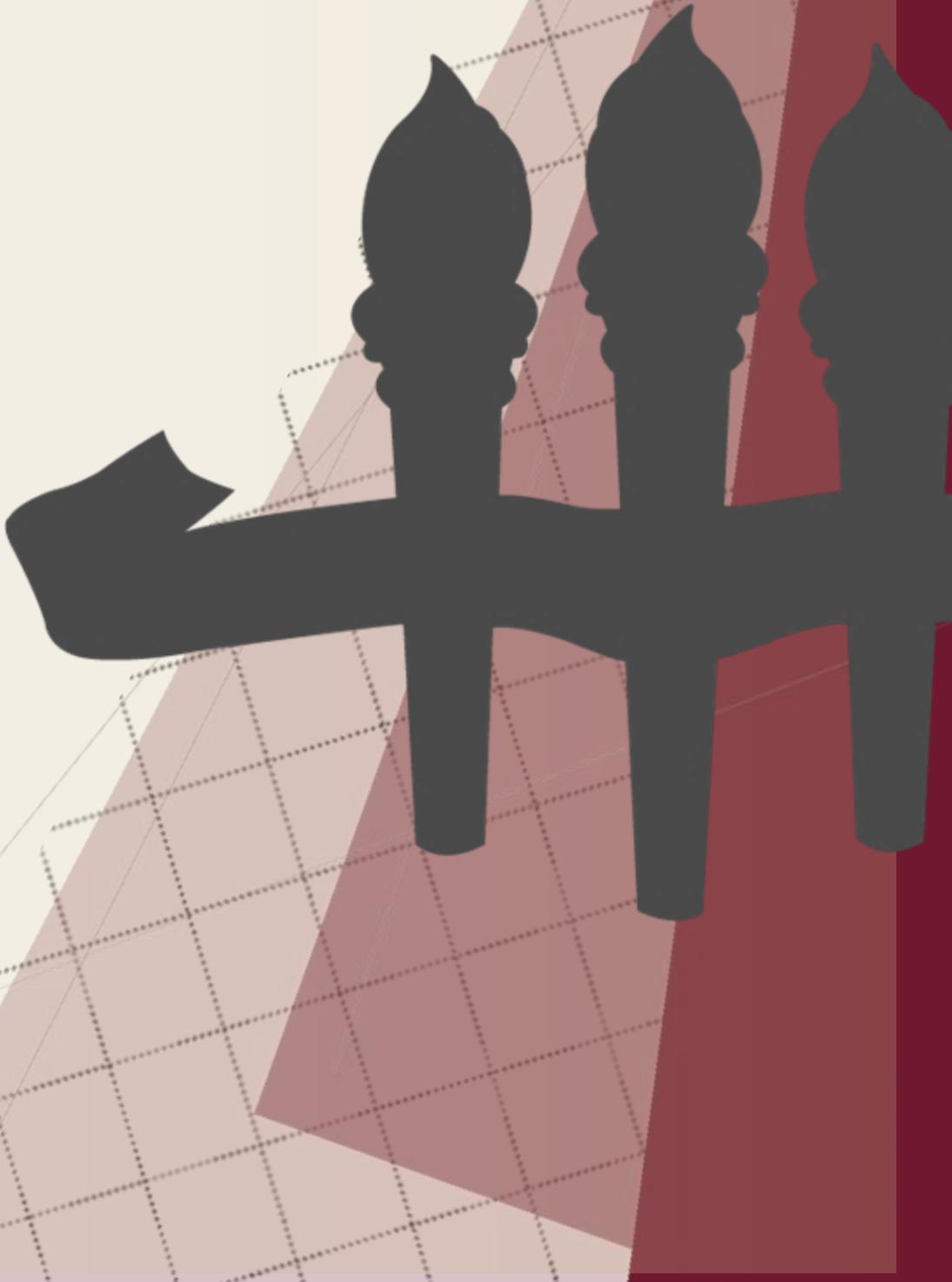
- Save all receipts from your travel
- Receipts must include: Date of Purchase Reprinted vendor name and address Billing information Details (Showing approved student receiving the grant as the payee)

Expenses that Can Be Reimbursed: Conference Registration Fees, Hotel/Lodging, Airfare, Map Mileage (if personal vehicle was used), Ground Transportation (Uber, Lyft, Taxi, etc) Parking Fees, Baggage Fees, Rental Car Fees (Please speak with your travel representative prior to reserving).



# After approval

- Within 30 days of coming back, work with your department's travel representative to build an expense report through Concur
  - You will send them the approval from COGS
  - Receipts
  - Program from conference
- How do you know who your travel representative is?
  - Usually have the title of administrative assistant/associate
  - Handle travel for all faculty, staff, and students in your department, so ask others
- Reach out to us if they need the budget code for the attendance or presentation grant



# Graduate Student Resource Center

## Grant Opportunity

- The GSRC has a grant program for doctoral students.
- Doctoral students can receive one grant per year, up to \$1,000.
- For more details, please go to  
<https://provost.fsu.edu/gsrc/travel-grants>

# Joining COGS

- We meet twice per month on Mondays at 6:30pm.
- COGS is a light time-commitment, it's meant to work around your schedule!
- Join COGS to help represent your college and department!

Link to our Petition →

Can also run for office  
at the Fall Elections.

Email [SGA-  
COGSSpeaker@fsu.edu](mailto:SGA-COGSSpeaker@fsu.edu)  
for more information!





COGS Website



# Questions?

# Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT)

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An Overview by Caity Bente,  
Program Manager: TA  
Training & Professional  
Development



# What Does CAT do for TAs?

## CAT supports effective TA role teaching endeavors by offering:

- University-wide teaching assistant (TA) training – Essential Policies & Practices for TAs
- Year-round interactive workshops on various teaching topics
- Reading groups on innovative, learning-centered pedagogy
- Monetary cost-free programs geared toward professional development in teaching
- One-on-one consultations on course design/teaching challenges
- Overall, creation/facilitation of programming & a community to engage in research-based teaching practices and connect with interdisciplinary instructors across FSU

# Essential Policies & Practices for TAs

## University-Wide TA Training for TA Categories 1 through 5

- Offered entirely asynchronously online via the FSU Learning Management System – Canvas
  - Participants work at their own pace through auto-graded modules to meet the deadline posted each semester
  - Offered spring, summer, and fall
  - Typically opens about 1 month prior to the deadline
  - Deadline is always before the semester begins to be in accordance with certification requirements
- Training Content
  - Consists of three modules
  - Some TA roles only require the first and/or second module; others require all three – your department will advise on this when you take on a TA role
  - FSU teaching policy, course design, facilitating discussions, feedback on student work, professional communication in the TA role, and overall learning-centered teaching approaches
  - **Note for Spring 2026 trainees** – Your completion data will begin being processed today



# CAT Grads Teaching Development Program (TDP)

## Optional professional development program for TAs:

- Monetary cost-free self-paced professional development program in teaching
- Approximately 4-semester (or longer) commitment
- Participants have the opportunity to:
  - Attend a series of teaching workshops/reading groups on evidence-based pedagogy
  - Engage in teaching observations/feedback reflection.
  - Create/receive feedback on course syllabi/other teaching artifacts.
  - Assemble/receive feedback on a teaching portfolio.
- Why might you like to join the TDP?
  - You will develop teaching skills among fellow TAs to foster better learning experiences for students.
  - You will cultivate an interdisciplinary teaching community and connect with other scholars.
  - You will develop strong application materials for possible faculty positions post-graduation, including a teaching portfolio.
  - You will be able to count workshops toward other amazing programs, such as the FSU Preparing Future Faculty program.
- How do I get started?
  - Visit the “Teaching Development Program” page on our website for upcoming “Information Session” dates.
  - Attend a session to learn about program components, ask questions, and let us know if you’d like to join! ☺



# A Few Upcoming Events for Graduate Students

## CAT Grads Teaching Development Program Info Sessions:

- January 15, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., via Zoom, OR
- January 16, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., via Zoom
- *These are the same sessions offered on multiple dates; you do not need to attend both sessions.*

## Designing for Learning Workshop

- January 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., via Zoom, OR
- January 22, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Strozier Library Bradley Reading Room
- *These are the same sessions offered on multiple dates; you do not need to attend both sessions.*

## A Few More Topics....Details Coming Soon!

- Project-Based Learning Workshop
- Gathering & Responding to Student Feedback Workshop
- Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement Event

# How Do I Learn About CAT Programming?

CAT promotes services through several platforms:

- CAT Website: [teaching.fsu.edu](http://teaching.fsu.edu)



## CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

HOME FOR FACULTY FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS RESOURCES FOR TEACHING LA PROGRAM STAFF

- Canvas announcements (if you are enrolled in any of our programs)
- University-wide emails for graduate students
- Department staff
- When in doubt, email us! ☺
  - [teaching-assistants@fsu.edu](mailto:teaching-assistants@fsu.edu)



# Thank You & Welcome to FSU!

Feel free to email us at  
[teaching-assistants@fsu.edu](mailto:teaching-assistants@fsu.edu)





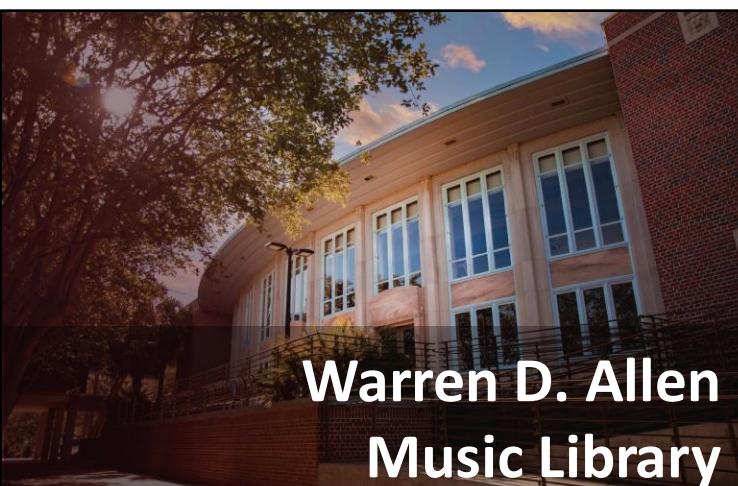
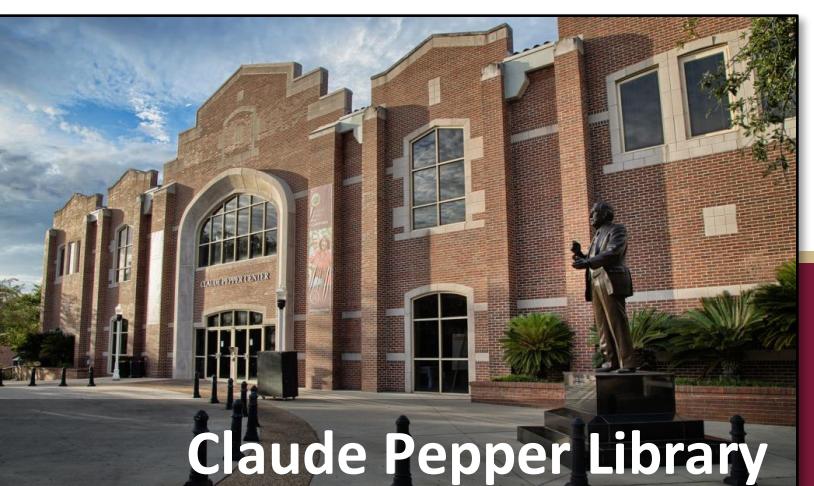
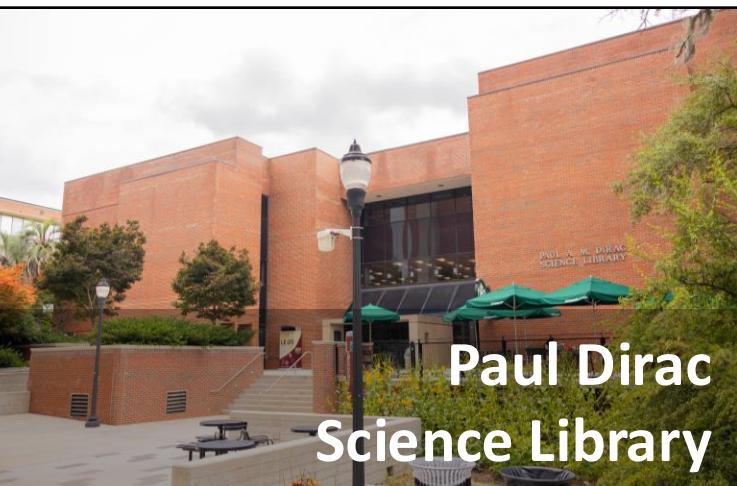
**2026 Graduate Student  
Orientation**

# Welcome new graduate students!

- Over 2.3 million print volumes and hundreds of databases
- Over 80,000 e-journals, and millions of e-books.
- 8 Locations
- Librarians and research specialists



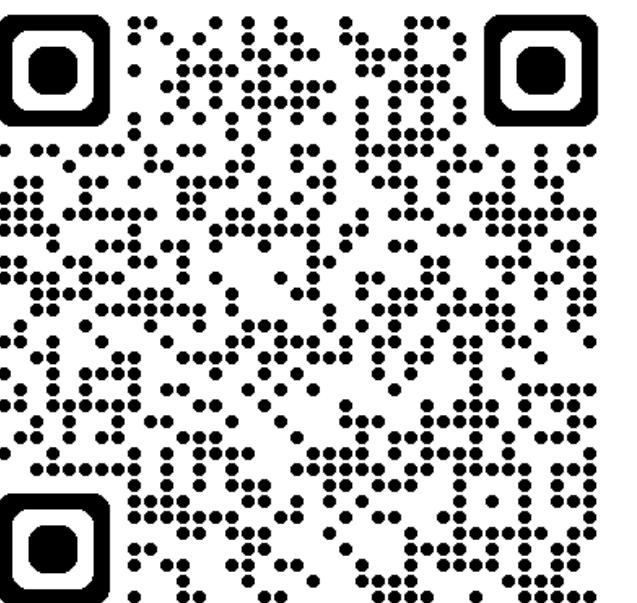
# Campus Libraries



# Collaborative or Quiet Study

- Quiet study areas, collaborative spaces, research-oriented technology tools, and more
- Conference rooms and study rooms for faculty and grad students only

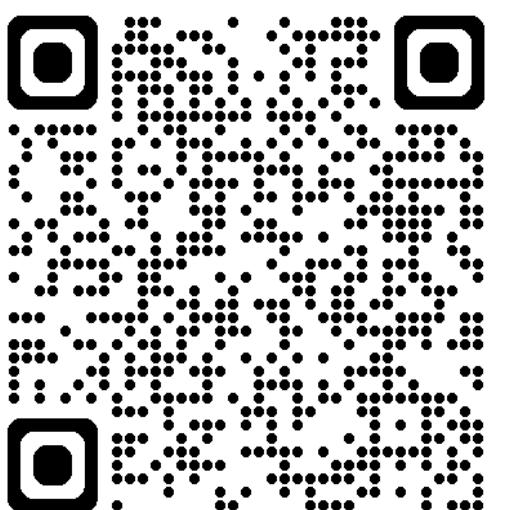
[Reserve conference rooms and study rooms online ->](#)



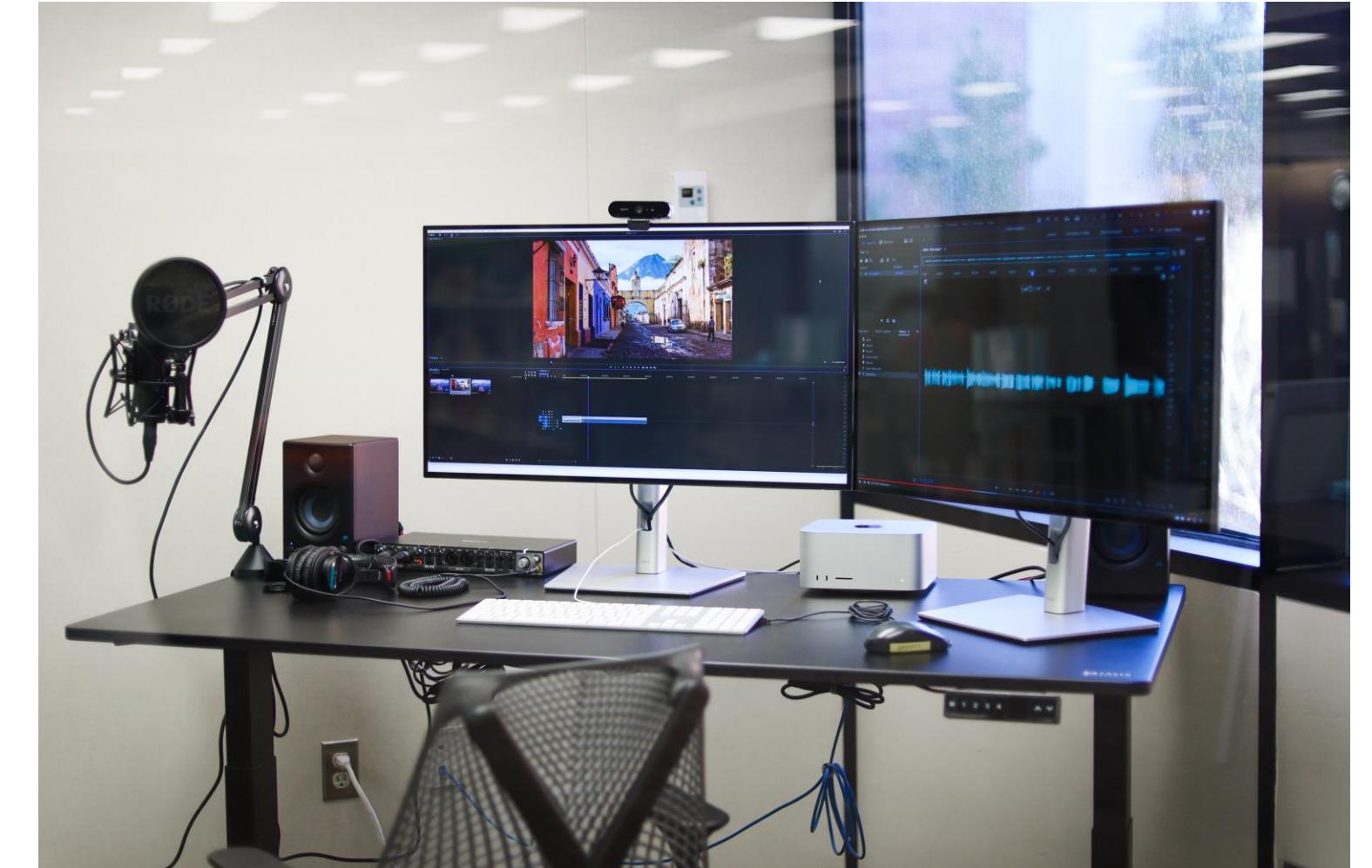
# Technology & Equipment

- Laptops
- Cameras
- Action Cameras
- Audio Recording
- Tripods
- Headphones
- Projectors
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Binoculars
- Calculators

[Search for all tech & equipment and availabilities ->](#)



# Creative Media Services

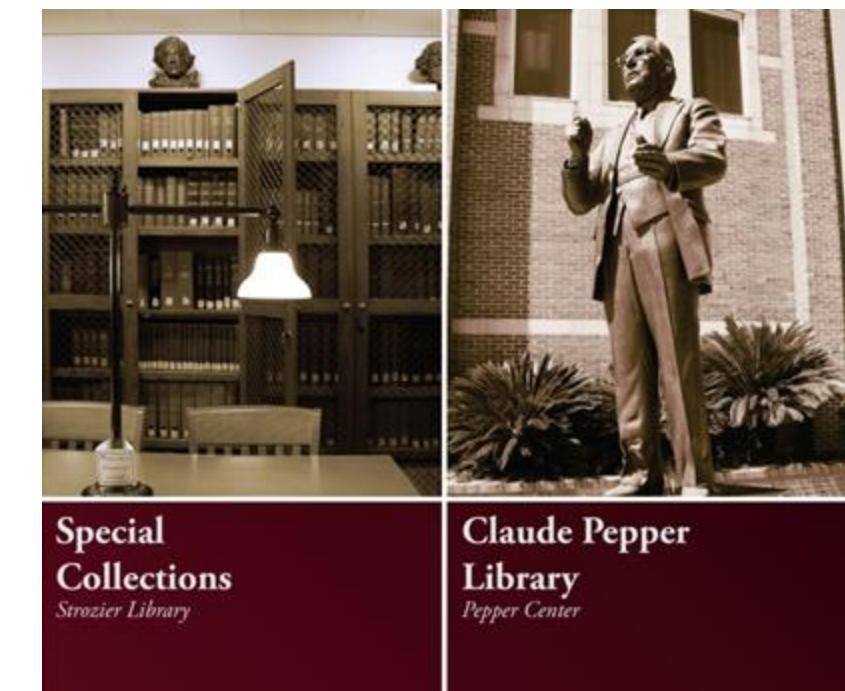
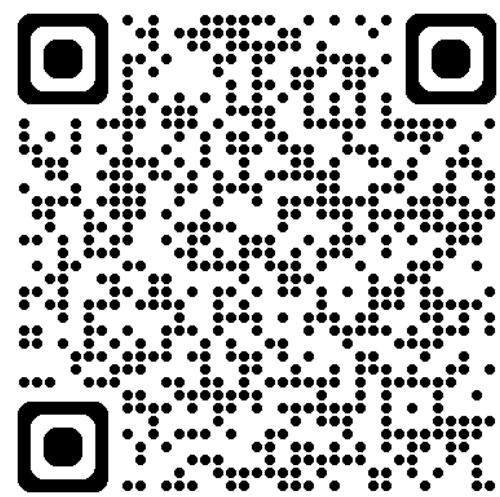


- Full-service production studio
- Self-service media suite

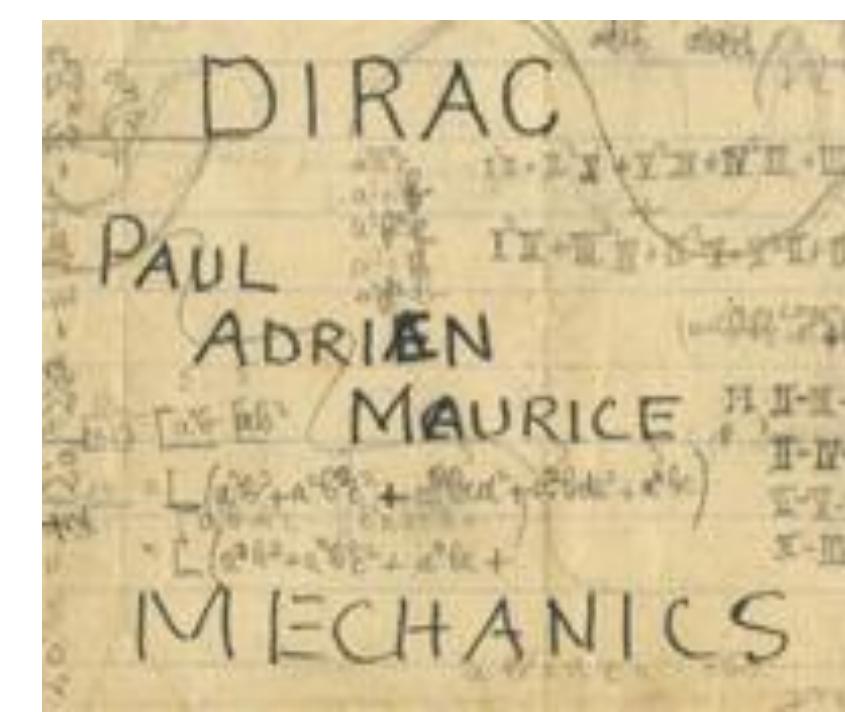
- On-location recording & streaming
- Media services consultations

# Special Collections & Archives

- Over 800,000 rare or unique items
- Digital Library Center
- University Archives and Museum
- Pepper Library and Museum
- [More info on Special Collections & Archives](#) ->



Emmett Till Archives



Paul Dirac Collection



Florida History and Heritage

# Library Express Delivery Service



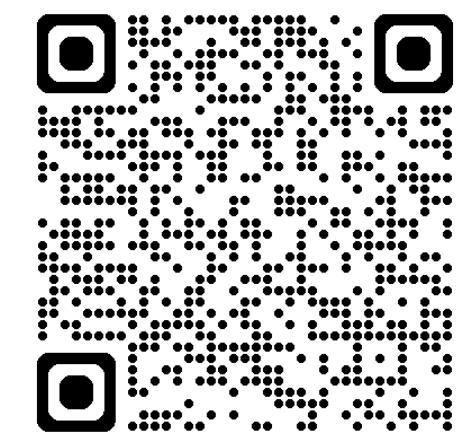
LEDS Lockers at Strozier Library

**Request materials directly from the catalog!**

- Office delivery & pick up
- Hold requests at all campus libraries
- Article & chapter scans sent right to your email

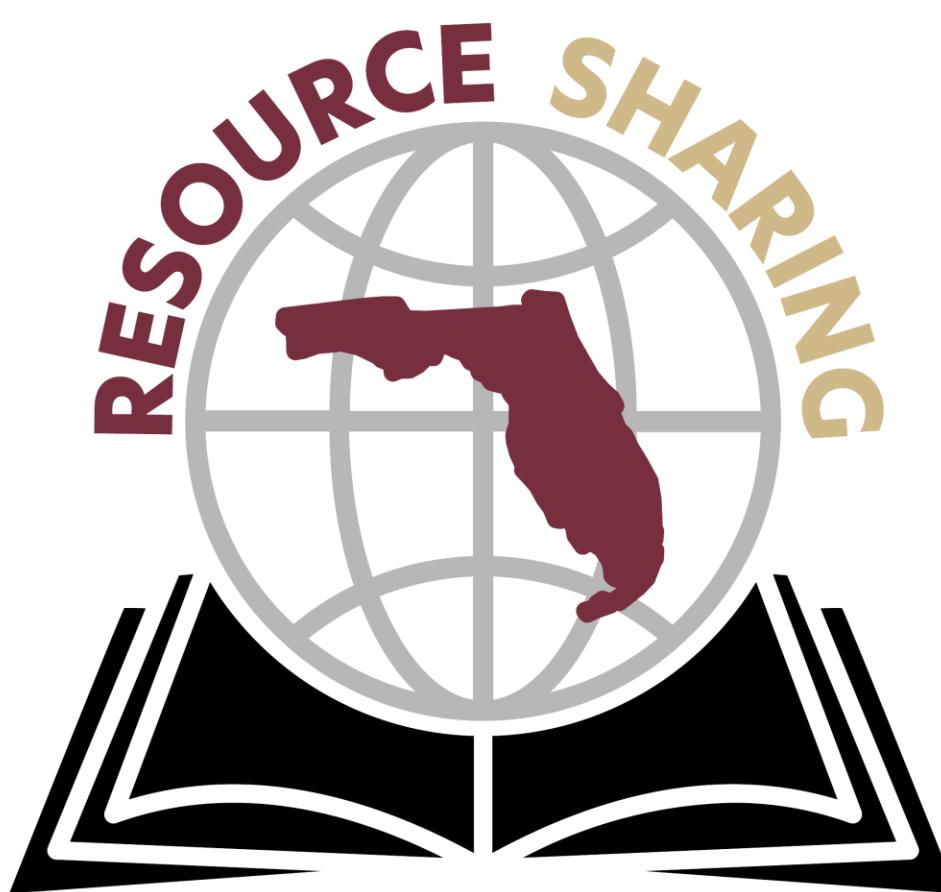
**Available to all faculty, graduate students, and staff**

**[LEDS information and registration](#)** ->



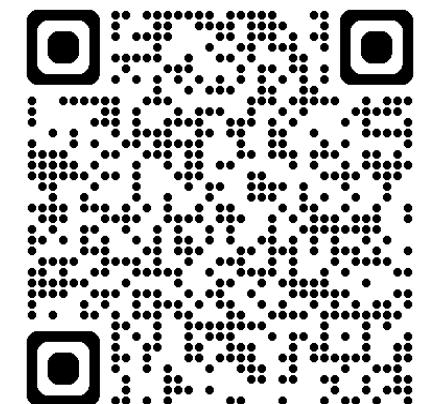
# Resource Sharing: Interlibrary Loan

Get research publications from anywhere in the world!



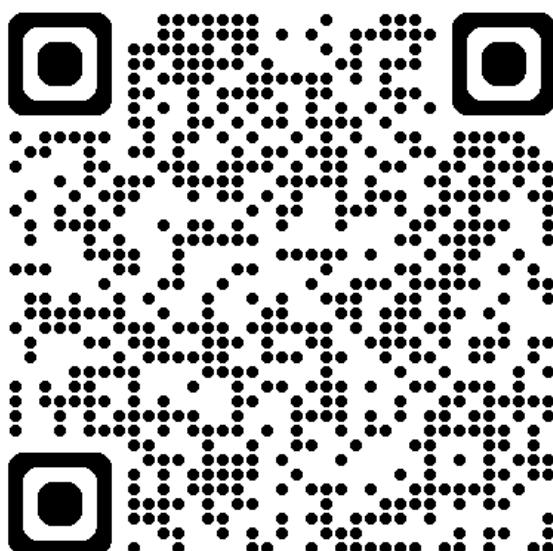
- Request books or articles not available at FSU Libraries
- Search and request books directly from [OneSearch](#) or [WorldCat](#)
- Grad students received **4,079** items through Resource Sharing last year!
- Monitor your requests online through [My Account](#) (UBorrow+) or [ILLiad](#) (ILL requests)

[Learn more about Resource Sharing! ->](#)

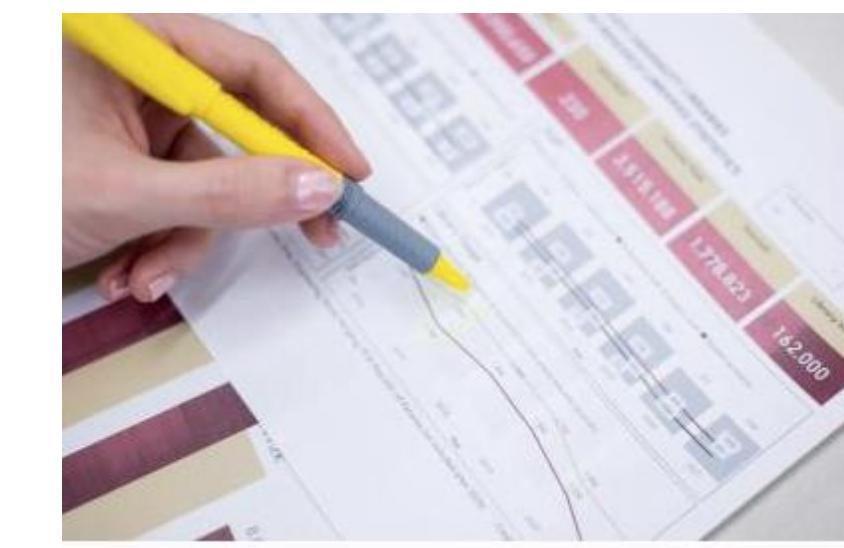


# Research & Publishing Support

- Evidence Synthesis & Literature Reviews
- Manage & Share data
- Publish & publish research
- Measure & enhance research impact metrics



FSU Libraries offers support in evidence synthesis to all FSU students, faculty, researchers, and staff. These services extend to methods used in systematic reviews, meta-analyses, scoping reviews, systematic mapping reviews, rapid reviews, and other systematic or structured approaches to literature reviews.



## What are Research Impact Services?

Unlock the full potential of your research with our comprehensive Research Impact Services. Our dedicated team provides personalized support to researchers, offering expert guidance on maximizing the visibility and influence of your scholarly work. From crafting impactful dissemination strategies to leveraging social media and citation analytics, we empower you to enhance the reach and significance of your research within the academic community and beyond.

# Research Data Services

- Performing and understanding statistical analyses
- Using data analysis software
- Creating data visualizations
- Data management planning and creating DMPs
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Humanities data curation, analysis, and visualization
- Data Services @ FSU Libraries ->



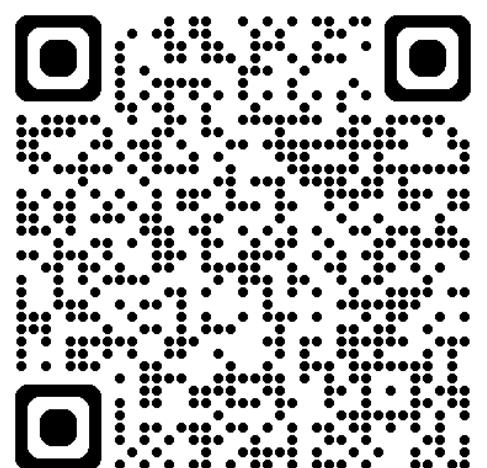
FSU Libraries offers support in data visualization and analysis to all FSU students, faculty, researchers, and staff. We offer consultations on cleaning, wrangling, tabulating, graphing, and using statistical methods to extract useful information from your data.



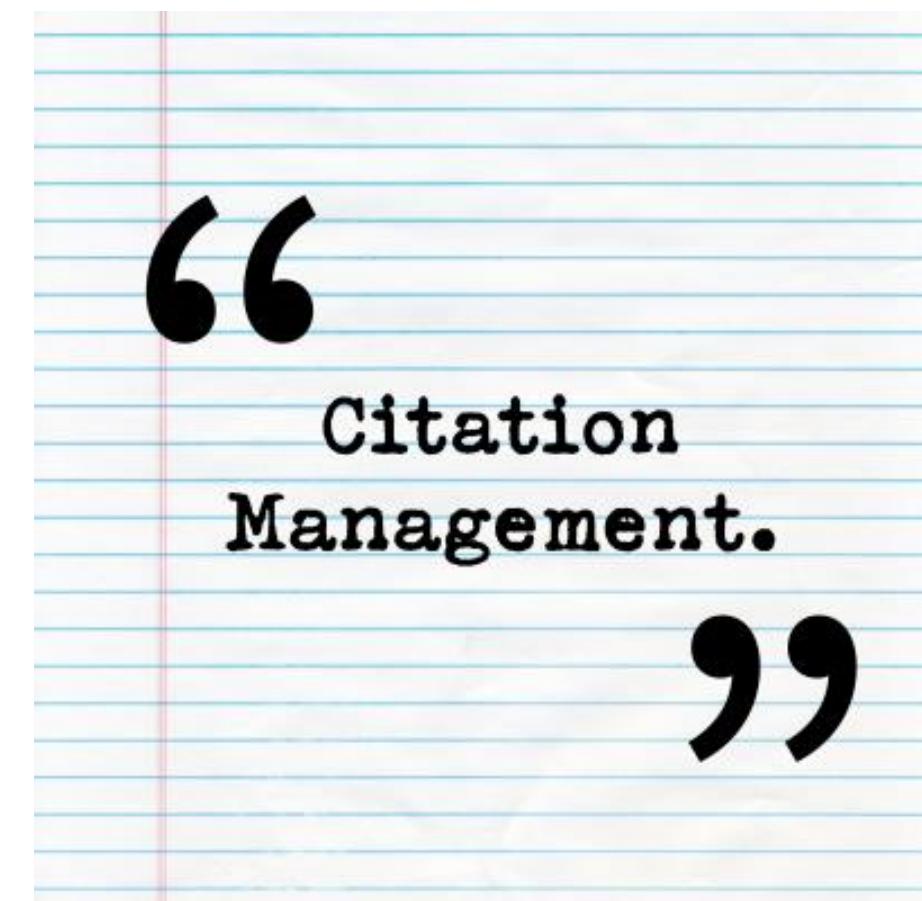
# Liaison Librarians

- Liaison librarians are assigned to each academic department or college
- Subject expertise and relationships within assigned areas
- Acquire materials for teaching and research
- Provide integrated instruction and learning objects
- Help with citation management strategies and tools
- Provide research and data consultations

List of subject librarians and contact info ->



# Graduate Skills Workshops



Workshops offered every semester on Zoom and in person

Workshops count toward doctoral grant credit

[Workshop descriptions, dates, and registration](#)

FSU



# FSU CAREER CENTER

# What do we do?

## Vision

*The Florida State University Career Center strives to be the preeminent career center model for designing and delivering comprehensive, innovative, and inclusive career and employment services.*



## Mission

*Our values of Inclusion, Compassion, and Respect play a critical role in our mission to:*

- *Provide comprehensive career services*
- *Train career service practitioners*
- *Conduct life/career development research*
- *Disseminate information about life/career services and issues to the University community, the nation, and the world caring for and improving human life*

# Helpful Resources

<https://career.fsu.edu/>



Career Guides



Self Knowledge  
Assessments



Job & Internship  
Databases



Nole Network



Mentor  
Database



Job  
Shadowing



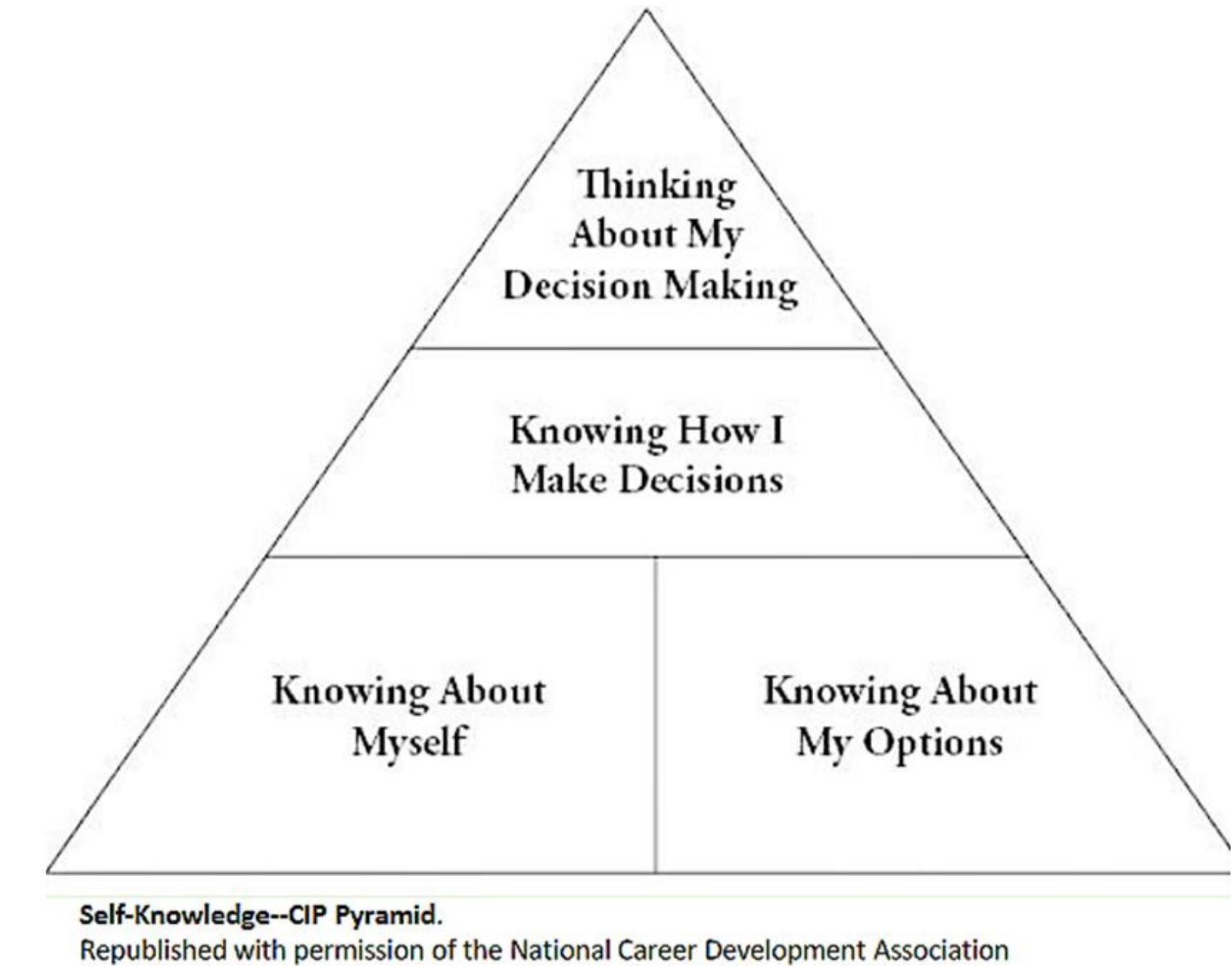
Interview  
Prep



Clothing  
Closet

# Where do you want to go?

- Know YOUR why for obtaining your advanced degree
- What are you interested in?
- What skills do you have or do you want to build?
- What values are important to you?
- What external forces are influencing your career decisions?



# Build Employability Skills

- Earn Micro-credentials & Badges
  - [LinkedIn Learning](#)
  - [Career Center](#)
  - [Sage Campus](#)
- Internships/shadowing
  - Time limited experiences
- Research job openings
  - Learn trends and most common skills



- Complete a Mock Interview
  - Set up your [Nole Network](#) account
- Other Academic Options
  - [Certificate Programs](#)
  - [Preparing Future Faculty](#)

# Build Network

- 70-80% of jobs are found through person-to-person networking
- Utilize [MentorFSU](#)
  - Longest running program connecting FSU students to alumni & friends of FSU
  - Match with mentor of your choice based on discipline, industry, company affiliation, or geographic area
  - Graduate students can also serve as a mentors to undergraduates
- Create and maintain LinkedIn profile
  - Employers use to promote brand and recruiter employees
  - Job seekers use to market their skills and expand professional connections



# Career Resources for Master's Students

- **Graduate Student Resource Center**
- **Interview Practice**
  - <https://career.fsu.edu/resources/big-interview>
- **University Libraries**
  - [Graduate Skills Workshop Series](#)
- **Center for the Advancement of Teaching**
  - [Teaching Development Program](#)



Use this link to access platform:  
<https://career.fsu.edu/students/graduate-students>

# Career Resources for Doctoral Students

- **Graduate Student Resource Center**

- **University Libraries**

- Graduate Skills Workshop Series

- **Center for the Advancement of Teaching**

- Teaching Development Program

- **Doctoral Career Accelerator Badge**

- Set of lessons from Beyond the Professoriate **AND** use of Quinnacia for AI resume and interview practice as well as LinkedIn page review

## BEYOND THE PROFESSORIATE

Use this link to access platform:  
<https://career.fsu.edu/students/graduate-students>

# Prepare for your Job Search

- Résumé/CV reviewed each semester
- Connect with a mentor outside of FSU
- Attend Career Fairs
  - Engineering - Feb 10
  - Seminole Futures - Feb 12
  - Virtual Career Expo (Master's and Doctorates ONLY) - Mar 4
  - HELPS (Healthcare, Education, Law enforcement, & Public Service) - Mar 11
- Read job openings
- Get involved with student organizations in your department



# Academic Area Liaisons

- College of Arts & Sciences (3 areas)
- Anne Spencer Daves College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences
- Center For Global Engagement
- College of Fine Arts, College of Music, College of Motion Picture Arts
- College of Social Science & Public Policy
- College of Communication & Information
- College of Social Work
- Dedman College of Hospitality
- FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
- College of Medicine, College of Nursing

Visit:

<https://career.fsu.edu/about-us/career-liaisons>  
for the most updated list  
of liaisons and their drop-  
in hours

# **Career Liaison for the Graduate School**

**Nicole Lilly**

nlilly@fsu.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicolealilly>

850-644-4026

<https://career.fsu.edu/>

## **We Are Here For YOU!**



# Student Ombuds Office

Grant Escue | January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Student Ombuds Director  
Student Ombuds Office

# Mission Statement

The Student Ombuds Office is committed to fulfilling Florida State University's mission by cultivating a campus climate grounded in respect, honesty, and integrity. As an independent, informal, impartial, and confidential resource, the Student Ombuds Office serves students by offering a safe place to seek counsel, obtain resources, and ask questions about FSU policy. The Student Ombuds Office welcomes all visitors from the FSU student body.

# Services

- **Objective:** Provide students with the resources & skills to advocate for themselves.
- **Clarify the student ombuds' role & explain the cornerstone principles.**
  - **Confidentiality:** Circumstances will not be disclosed without the visitor's consent, absent compelling reasons (e.g., court order/Title IX).
  - **Informality:** May not overturn a decision made by faculty/staff.
  - **Impartiality:** May not advocate for students or the university.
  - **Independence:** Independent from any FSU administrative structure.

# Services

- **Listen**
  - Provide a safe environment where students know they will be heard.
  - Gather facts to understand the student's circumstances.
- **Ask insightful questions**
  - Ask questions to help the student explain their perspective and priorities.
- **Clarify policy and provide options**
  - Explain university policies, processes, and procedures.
  - Present all options to the student.
    - Encourage a discussion of all available options.

# Services

- **Assist with decision-making**

- Ask the student to re-affirm their priorities and goals.
- Ask additional insightful questions that encourage critical thinking.
- Help students evaluate various options.
- It is the student's responsibility to decide which option to pursue.

- **Provide coaching**

- Help students prepare to express themselves persuasively & respectfully.
- Role play situations and discuss conflict mitigation.

- **Clarify next steps**

- Clarify what will happen next and who is responsible for each task.

# Common Issues

- Common issues the Student Ombuds Office can assist with include:
  - Grade Appeals
  - Academic Honor Policy Appeals
  - General Academic Appeals
  - Medical/Mental Health Course Drops & Withdrawals
  - Alleged FERPA Violations
  - Student Conduct and Community Standards Matters
  - Tuition & Fee Appeals
- The Student Ombuds Office will assist with any university policy related matter.

# Thank You!

## **Contact Information:**

**Work Email:** [jescue@fsu.edu](mailto:jescue@fsu.edu)

**Student Ombuds Email:** [studentombuds@fsu.edu](mailto:studentombuds@fsu.edu)

**Phone:** 850-644-4475

**Office Location:** Westcott Building, Suite 407

- Appointments are encouraged
- Office hours: 8:00am-5:00pm

**Student Ombuds Webpage:**

[studentombuds.fsu.edu](http://studentombuds.fsu.edu)

- Please scan the QR code to visit our website.



# Questions?

Please scan the QR code to save my contact information in your phone.



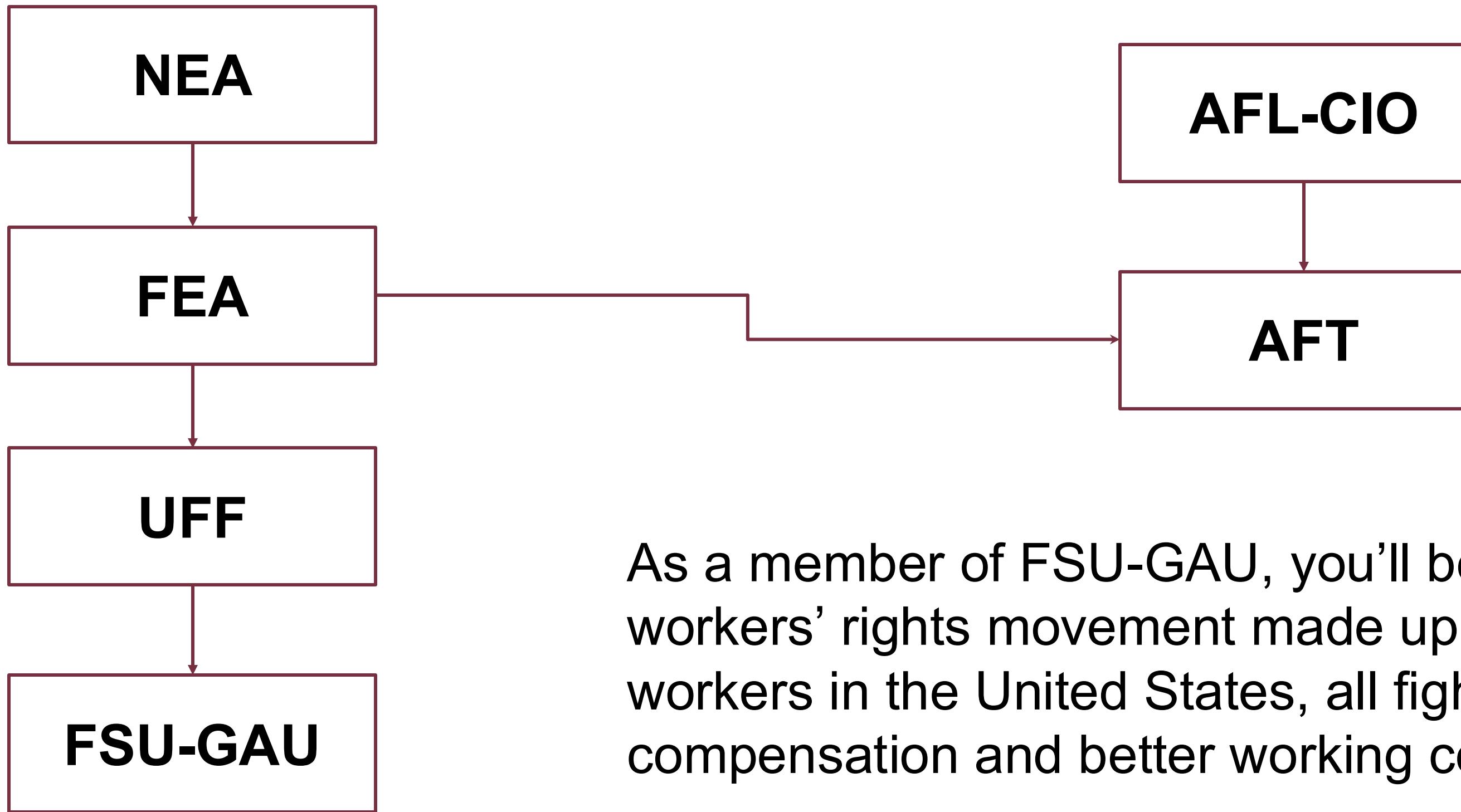


FSU works  
because we do!

# Who we are and what we do

- **GAU is the sole labor union for all graduate assistants (GAs) at FSU**, including all teaching assistants and research assistants (but not MD and JD students).
- Together, we bargain for:
  - **Better wages**
  - **Better working conditions**
- **and we're responsible for:**
  - **Protecting members' rights**
  - **Contract enforcement**
- Additionally, we:
  - Engage in nonpartisan legislative advocacy
  - Aid community organizations
  - Contribute to the broader labor movement

# Nationwide Solidarity



As a member of FSU-GAU, you'll be a part of a workers' rights movement made up of *millions* of workers in the United States, all fighting for fair compensation and better working conditions.

# Before GAU...

- Before we had a union, compensation for GAs was gut-wrenchingly low:
  - Health insurance lottery
  - No protections from overwork
  - No contract enforcement process
  - No right to collectively bargain (so GAs got wrecked by inflation every year)
- You'll notice that, even today, FSU's management tends to run the university like a for-profit corporation. **They don't give us anything; we have to fight for it, and we're always stronger together.**

# What has GAU done for you?

Here's what we have now compared to GAs 10 years ago:

## 10 years ago

- \$8100 minimum stipend
- \$700/year health insurance premium contribution
- No right to protest factually incorrect evaluations
- No relief from per-credit-hour fees

## Now

- \$18,700 minimum stipend
- \$2359/year health insurance premium contribution
- Right to remove factually incorrect evaluations from student file
- \$500 per year (\$250 for 0.25-time) of fee relief

# What do I get for being a member?

The following benefits are **only available to dues paying members**:

- Contract enforcement through the grievance process
  - This may include:
    - Late or missing paychecks
    - Inappropriate behavior from a supervisor
    - An unsafe workspace
    - Being required to work longer hours than your contract stipulates
  - Simply email [grievance@fsugau.org](mailto:grievance@fsugau.org) to begin the process with our grievance chair
- Participate in socials!
  - We have socials almost every month, where we give GAs free food, drinks, and access to activities like bowling!
- 2 free consultations with a lawyer!
- Discounts on travel/insurance/credit cards through FEA/NEA

# Our Union is in Danger

In 2023 the FL Legislature passed Senate Bill 256/House Bill 1445, which requires all public-employee unions to sign up 60% of the people they represent as dues-paying members. **Failing to meet this threshold could mean the end of the union's ability to protect you and nullify our contract with FSU.**

For us, that's 60% of ~3000 Graduate Assistants.

**If you choose not to join, you are *choosing* to go back to unfair compensation, no grievance process, and few (if any) contractual protections from harassment and bias.**

# Costs

**Are dues expensive?** Not at all! Dues constitute only 1% of your paycheck.

Dues usually cost less than \$15 a paycheck, but depends on your stipend!

- We use FEA eDues, a system that sets up automatic ACH deductions with your bank. Once you've completed the easy setup process, you never have to worry whether you're up-to-date.
- Canceling is as simple as emailing [membership@fsugau.org](mailto:membership@fsugau.org)
- Our dues serve our organization and our parents and affiliate organizations. Your money directly contributes to state and nation wide action which benefits all laborers, especially educators. It helps to fund things like lawyers and legislative action, which is becoming increasingly important under the current state and federal administrations.

# Get involved

...and if you want to do more to help your fellow grad assistants (and yourself!), you can always:

- **Become a department representative**
- Respond to calls for political action
- Come to bargaining sessions and share your experience as a grad assistant
- Contact [info@fsugau.org](mailto:info@fsugau.org) for more information
- Join our discord!
  - Best way to keep in contact and join one of our committees!
    - Organizing, Bargaining, Diversity
    - Executive Committee



# Join!

Joining is easy and takes only a few minutes. Simply visit:

[fsugau.org/join](http://fsugau.org/join)

Make sure to have your **EMPLID** at the ready (found at [my.fsu.edu](http://my.fsu.edu)).

After signing up, you should receive an email from FEA eDues within a few days.

All eDues transactions are completely safe and are conducted through **Plaid**, the same service used by *Paypal* and *Venmo*.





FSU works  
because we do!

# Thank You!

FSU | THE GRADUATE  
SCHOOL