



THE UNIVERSITY

PURPOSE - MISSION STATEMENT

Francis Marion University is a four-year public institution established by the state of South Carolina. It is located in the northeastern part of the state near the city of Florence and has nearly 4,000 students. Its purpose is threefold: to provide students with an excellent education, stimulate inquiry and research, and serve the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina.

Francis Marion University adheres to the primary purpose for which it was established as a college in 1970: to make available excellent educational programs for the people of the region and the state. The University offers bachelor's degrees in a wide range of liberal arts disciplines, as well as in the health sciences, education, and business. The University also offers professional degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and specialist levels, and a professional doctorate. While maintaining high standards, we serve students with a broad range of preparation and ability. We seek a wide variety of students, primarily from the Pee Dee region, but also from the entire state, other states, and foreign countries. We believe that a student body diverse in age, ethnic background, and country of origin enriches the education of all students. To achieve its educational goals, the University has outstanding faculty members, distinguished by high achievement and diverse academic backgrounds. We provide traditional and, when appropriate, non-traditional instruction, access to an excellent library as well as electronic resources, and staff members committed to student learning and success. A low student-faculty ratio, along with faculty concern for the individual student help us to achieve our goals. The University recognizes the importance of the out-of-the-classroom experience and offers opportunities for students to engage in activities that promote personal growth. In addition, the University provides students with special learning opportunities, such as an honors program, internships, study abroad destinations and cooperative degree programs.

Since our highest priority is excellence in teaching and learning, we believe that intellectual inquiry and analysis by students and faculty members are essential. We encourage all scholarly pursuits, including student research for courses and faculty research for presentation, publication and for use in the classroom. The University provides faculty members with support for professional development through resources for innovative teaching, scholarship and service. Our goal of an academic experience built on inquiry and research as well as the transmission of information allows students to develop their ability to think and communicate, to gain knowledge and skills, to pursue a career or further study, to appreciate the creativeness of the human mind, to be aware of the human and natural environment of the world and to have the capacity to pursue a life of learning and understanding.

The University also serves the needs of Florence and the surrounding area in ways beyond formal education. Numerous artistic and cultural activities, athletic programs, health initiatives and outreach efforts benefit our students and the community. To foster the economic development of the region, we offer consulting services to business, industry and government. Academic and practical assistance to area schools is basic to our endeavors. Faculty and staff members participate in and contribute to a wide range of community activities.

Francis Marion emphasizes liberal arts education while offering new academic programs with innovative technology. It is small enough to provide attention to each student, and large enough to offer a variety of academic and cultural resources. It thus combines the advantages of a liberal arts college with the resources and programs of a public university.

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Francis Marion University is one of South Carolina's 13 public, co-educational universities. As one of the state's six comprehensive institutions, FMU prides itself on providing a strong liberal arts education.

The University offers a broad range of undergraduate degrees and a select number of graduate programs in serving the needs of communities, businesses and industries of the Pee Dee region. Francis Marion is the only state university located in the Pee Dee region, and many of its students are the first in their families to attend college.

As a comprehensive public university, FMU provides a high-value educational experience in an excellent learning environment with personal attention from faculty and staff. All faculty members have advanced degrees, and more than 85 percent of the full-time faculty hold doctoral or terminal degrees.

While 95 percent of its students are from South Carolina, the University enrolls students from 33 states and 21 foreign countries, allowing students to experience the diversity of people from other cultures. The student-faculty ratio is 15 to 1, and the average class size is 21. The average age of undergraduates is 21, while the average age of graduate students is 34.

Located about six miles east of Florence, FMU's 468-acre campus is known for its beautiful foliage and landscaping. The campus includes hundreds of acres of mixed pine-hardwood and bottomland forests accessed by a series of trails. Several acres have been set aside as an arboretum that is being developed into a resource with many of the native species of the area.

The University's modern classroom buildings, laboratories, and residence facilities provide a safe, comfortable learning environment for students. The campus also features a number of recreational facilities that are available for use by students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and for use in intramural and intercollegiate athletic competition.

Most buildings have been constructed or renovated since 1970. Facilities are equipped with ramps, and those of more than one story are equipped with elevators. Though each building has its own unique design, all are planned for architectural harmony.

One of the busiest places on campus is James A. Rogers Library, the largest library in northeastern South Carolina. It serves as a valuable resource for individual citizens, businesses, and industries in the entire region.

The Pee Dee Education Center is located on the south end of the FMU campus. The Center is a regional educational consortium serving 17 area school districts, 70,000 students and 4,500 teachers. FMU works closely with the Pee Dee Education Center to provide resources and services to school districts in the Pee Dee, such as the Pee Dee Mathematics and Science Regional Center which is housed in the facility. Additionally, the Center provides early childhood services to schools and services