



# STUDENT LIFE

The University provides a balanced student life program which contributes significantly to the total educational experience of its students. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of co-curricular activities designed to enhance their sense of community responsibility and their capacity for leadership. In addition to co-curricular activities, several University offices exist specifically to provide support and activities to increase student success levels.

Student Government, organizations, and publications, in particular, are not only a vital part of the operation of the institution but an important part of the total student educational experience. Students are advised to choose activities wisely and to balance academic activities with participation in service, spiritual, athletic, social, and recreational pursuits.

General administrative responsibility for the student life program rests with the Student Affairs Division; however, the major initiative in developing organizations and activities appropriate to the educational purposes of the University, as well as in implementation of programs that have been planned, is a shared responsibility of students, faculty, and staff.

## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to enhancing the student experience at Francis Marion University by providing services and support for students as they engage in their collegiate career and connect with the University community. Recognizing that the academic mission of the University is preeminent, programs and services are designed to support the academic success of FMU students. The divisional mission is to foster student development by engaging students in learning opportunities that encourage their personal, social, cultural, moral, physical, and cognitive growth.

Offices and departments with the Division of Student Affairs include Army ROTC, the Dean of Students Office, Multicultural and International Student Affairs, Student Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life and Student Government. Leadership for the Division of Student Affairs is provided by the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

**Student Handbook** – The Francis Marion University Student Handbook is designed to provide students, faculty, and staff valuable information regarding campus services, policies, and procedures that pertain to student life. Upon enrollment, FMU students agree to become aware of and abide by policies and procedures contained in the handbook. Because the handbook outlines The FMU Honor Code in detail, it is important that students review it carefully. Additionally, pertinent information relating to student organizations, University offices and services, and campus events can be found in the handbook.

The Student Handbook is available online at [www.fmarion.edu/students/handbook](http://www.fmarion.edu/students/handbook). Limited copies are available for students and offices by request.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

Upon enrollment, all full-time students automatically become members of the Student Government Association, the organization that represents all students in planning, organizing, and directing major campus programs for the student body.

The Student Government Association provides an early experience in self-government that serves as a useful background for later public service. Because the University encourages student participation in the affairs of the school, students are appointed to serve on many University committees. Such students are nominated by the Student Government Association Executive Council and the Office of Student Affairs and appointed by the president of the University. Leaders of Student Government work to represent the student body as well as to develop pride in and loyalty to their alma mater.

An elected Executive Council and Legislative Assembly perform most of the work of the Student Government Association. The Judicial Council studies and rules on interpretations of the Student Government Association Constitution.

The Student Government Association consists of three divisions:

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**, composed of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**STUDENT SENATE**, composed of the Vice President of the Student Government Association and 30 Senators elected at large. Five Senate seats are reserved for freshmen.

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL**, composed of five members who are full-time students and who have the grade point average required by the standard procedures for the operations of the Student Government Association as adopted by the Senate.

## STUDENT REGULATIONS

The University considers all students to be adults who are capable of recognizing their responsibility to the school they have chosen. Consequently, the University has adopted the FMU Honor Code which can be found in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is published annually and made available online to students. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain a copy, become familiar with the contents, and abide by the policies and procedures contained in the handbook. While detailed policies are in the handbook, the following are significant and should be noted:

1. The University reserves the right to refuse admission or to require withdrawal if such action appears to be in the best interest of the student, the student body, or the University.
2. In order to receive academic credits or a degree, a student's indebtedness to the University must be settled, and the student must account satisfactorily for all property entrusted to his/her care.