

The Swamp Fox Club – Recognizing the nickname of the University's namesake, the Swamp Fox Club is the fund-raising arm of the Francis Marion University Athletics program. The mission of the organization is to provide a quality college experience for student-athletes as well as scholarship support for each team as established under NCAA guidelines. Members include faculty, staff, alumni, friends, businesses, and local supporters.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – The Public Affairs Office is responsible for communicating information pertaining to FMU. The office serves as the official communications channel through which the University disseminates information internally and externally. The office has four major functions: (1) external media relations, (2) internal communications, (3) production of official University publications for off-campus audiences, and (4) marketing and communications support for University initiatives. The office distributes news and feature stories about University programs, activities, and people as well as hometown releases about student achievements. A monthly newsletter, *The Crier*, informs faculty and staff about campus activities. The office is also responsible for campus printing and mail functions.

STUDENT AFFAIRS – The division of Student Affairs is responsible for creating learning opportunities for growth and development of students outside the classroom. The goal is to promote individual student development and leadership through fostering community involvement of students in their intellectual, cultural, spiritual, emotional, and physical development. Services, offices, and programs within the division include Student Activities (fraternities, sororities, student activities, and special events), the Smith University Center, Campus Recreation Services, Residence Life, Multicultural and International Student Affairs, and the Dean of Students Office.

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH – The University recognizes that its mission reaches beyond the borders of the campus to the surrounding region and the state. The University touches many facets of community life and serves as a catalyst for development of a regional approach to solving problems in education, economic development, the environment, cultural opportunities, social issues, and the quality of life. Faculty, staff and students have made a significant impact on the region through research, public service, involvement in the arts and literature, and the delivery of government and social services.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS – The University considers intercollegiate athletics to be an integral part of the educational environment. FMU's goal is to provide an outstanding, well-balanced athletic program with oversight from the faculty. From the training that improves physical fitness of athletes to the teamwork and competition that provide excitement for students and fans, intercollegiate athletics complements academic pursuits when held in proper perspective. FMU is a member of the NCAA and the Peach Belt Conference. Two sports programs currently compete as Division I independents while the other 12 programs are members of the NCAA Division II Peach Belt Conference. Coaches and student-athletes are held to high standards and are expected to exemplify the same leadership roles on campus and within the community as in athletic competition.

ACCREDITATION

Francis Marion University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, and specialist level degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the status of Francis Marion University. Upon request, accreditation documents may be viewed in the Office of the Provost during normal business hours.

In addition, several individual academic programs have been recognized by specialized accrediting organizations. The business programs are accredited by AACSB International - The Association to Advance

Collegiate Schools of Business. The teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approved by the South Carolina Board of Education. The chemistry program is approved by the Committee on Professional Training of the American Chemical Society. The graduate psychology program is accredited by the Master's in Psychology Accreditation Council (MPAC) and meets the standards of training approved by the Council of Applied Master's Programs in Psychology (CAMPP). Additionally, the specialist degree in school psychology is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The graduate physician assistant studies program is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The theatre arts program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). The visual arts and art education programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). The nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Francis Marion University is committed to the continuous evaluation and improvement of each and every component of the University from its educational programs to the administrative and support offices that serve them. The University now has, in effect, a comprehensive institutional effectiveness program that routinely monitors continued program and office alignment with institutional mission, the identification of salient process outcomes, the measurement of meaningful quality indicators, and the implementation of improvements. The faculty of the University, through its Institutional Effectiveness Committee, accepts the ongoing evaluation of the institutional effectiveness system as an important component of its responsibilities to the institution.

Students are frequently asked to participate in the assessment of the University's services through focus groups, surveys, writing samples, academic inventories, interviews and other appropriate assessment methods. Prospective students, parents, alumni, and constituents in the local and regional business and service communities are also asked for their input. Throughout this process, FMU stresses to its students and other participants that FMU is assessing the quality of its educational programs and support services and not the individual participating in the assessment effort. Reacting to the input from our students and other constituencies by constantly improving the ability of the University to accomplish its mission is the primary purpose of FMU's institutional effectiveness system.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Francis Marion University is dedicated to equal opportunity through affirmative action within the University community. The University's affirmative action program is designed to provide equal consideration of all applicants for faculty and staff positions, for all faculty members in the tenure and promotion process, and for administrators and other staff members seeking promotions and upgrades, as well as for students seeking admission, financial aid, and equality in academic and athletic programs.

It is the policy of FMU to recruit, hire, train, and promote employees without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, physical disability, sexual orientation, or age. Furthermore, it is FMU's policy to implement affirmative action to prevent any disparate effects of discrimination because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age. Hiring, training, promotion, pay scales, and benefits practices are based on qualifications, demonstrated ability, and meritorious performance. The University actively recruits students from protected categories and provides opportunities for the growth and development of those students.