

<b>Section 2 Institutional Purpose</b>			
	<i>Every accredited institution of higher education <b>publishes</b> a statement which describes its mission. This mission is the institution's reason for being; it provides a framework within which all of the institution's programs and activities exist.</i>	It is the mission of the University of Florida to offer broad-based, inclusive, public education, conduct leading edge research, and provide service to the citizens of Florida, the nation, and the world. The fusion of these three endeavors stimulates a remarkable intellectual vitality and generates a synthesis that promises to be the university's greatest strength.	Section 4.1
2.1	<i>An institution <b>must</b> have a clearly defined purpose or mission statement appropriate to collegiate education as well as to its own specific educational role. This statement <b>must</b> describe the institution and its characteristics and address the components of the institution and its operations.</i>	<p>The University of Florida is a public, land grant and sea grant research university, one of the most comprehensive in the United States. The University of Florida encompasses virtually every academic and professional discipline. It is the oldest and largest of Florida's eleven universities and is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Its faculty and staff are dedicated to the common pursuit of the university's threefold mission: teaching, research, and service.</p> <p>In April of 2001, the University of Florida Faculty Senate crafted a new academic mission statement in which the faculty renewed their commitment to serve the citizens of Florida and educate students so they are prepared to make significant contributions within an increasingly global community. The complete text of this mission statement can be found in the university's most recent Comprehensive Master Plan posted on the world wide web. The faculty senate formally adopted the new mission statement in September 2001.</p>	<p>UF Master Plan documents, Academic Affairs <a href="http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html">http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html</a></p> <p>Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs <a href="http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/">http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/</a> and <a href="http://gradschool.reg.ufl.edu/gradcat">http://gradschool.reg.ufl.edu/gradcat</a></p>
2.2	<i>The official posture and practice of the institution <b>must</b> be consistent with its purpose statement.</i>	<p>The university's mission is shaped by its land grant and sea grant status as well as the broader responsibility to provide higher education to the citizens of Florida and to ensure that this education results in an ability to participate more fully in a global society. The university values teaching, scholarship and research, and service to others; these three interrelated elements span all academic disciplines and multidisciplinary centers.</p> <p>As one of the leading institutions of higher education in the United States, the University of Florida uses its wealth of human talent and experience to seek solutions to the problems of Florida, the nation, and the world. Every field of study is affected by global developments, and as an institution we are committed to fulfilling our mission in an ever-expanding world.</p>	<p>UF Master Plan documents, Academic Affairs <a href="http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html">http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html</a></p> <p>Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs <a href="http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/">http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/</a> and <a href="http://gradschool.reg.ufl.edu/gradcat">http://gradschool.reg.ufl.edu/gradcat</a></p>
2.3	<i>Appropriate publications <b>must</b> accurately cite the current statement of purpose.</i>	Various university documents publish the mission statement including the Master Plan referred to previously. Additional print based or web based publications of the mission statement include the undergraduate catalog and the graduate catalog. Other more unit specific publications also include elements of the university mission statement that are consistent with their stated mission.	UF Master Plan documents, Academic Affairs <a href="http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html">http://www.masterplan.ufl.edu/comprehensive.html</a>

		The colleges and schools also have crafted their own mission statements designed to support the overall university mission and purpose. These mission statements appear in a variety of publications as well as on their websites.	<a href="#">hensive.html</a> Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs <a href="http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/">http://www.reg.ufl.edu/01-02-catalog/</a> and <a href="http://gradschool.rpg.ufl.edu/gradcat">http://gradschool.rpg.ufl.edu/gradcat</a>
2.4 2.5	<i>The formulation of a statement of purpose represents a major educational decision. It should be developed through the efforts of the institution's faculty, administration and governing board. It <b>must</b> be approved by the governing board.</i>  <i>An institution <b>must</b> study periodically its statement of purpose, considering internal changes as well as the changing responsibilities of the institution to its constituencies.</i>	The university's mission statement was developed through the efforts of faculty and administration and was included in the University of Florida Master Plan in April 2001. At that time, the Florida Board of Regents was still in place and the BOR approved the Master Plan including the revised mission statement. The full Faculty Senate endorsed the statement in September 2001.  During the preparation of this document, the university was changing from an SUS Board of Regents to a University of Florida Board of Trustees (BOT). The BOT is developing a new strategic plan for the University of Florida and will likely modify the mission statement and statement of purpose in this process. Modification of the statement, however, will not alter UF's commitment to teaching, research, and service that is the hallmark of our land grant and sea grant mission.	
2.6	<i>The statement of purpose serves as the foundation for all institutional operations, programs and activities. Consequently, the institution <b>must</b> demonstrate that its planning and evaluation processes, educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.</i>	Throughout this document the University of Florida has attempted to demonstrate the relationship between our activities and stated mission and purpose. Supporting evidence is provided in other sections of this report to demonstrate that the University of Florida's educational programs, educational support services, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to meet and achieve its stated purpose.  In the year preceding the last affirmation of accreditation in 1993, the University of Florida's state dollar funding declined about 20%. Since 1993 the University has experienced a decline of about 4 percentage points of the total budget funded from state appropriations and student fees (based on 2000-2001 data). Our situation is not significantly different from many other institutions of higher education in this state as well as others. UF has been fortunate to have excellent support from alumni and friends and to have a faculty who are successful in securing external funding. Over this same 10 year period total sponsored research awards have grown nearly 150 percent.	2001-2002 SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report, Volumes 1 and 2  Institutional Research <a href="http://www.ir.ufl.edu/factbook/fiscal.htm">http://www.ir.ufl.edu/factbook/fiscal.htm</a>  Division of Sponsored Research Annual Report