



UNIVERSITY *of* WEST FLORIDA

Presidential Search

PROSPECTUS





About the University of West Florida

The University of West Florida was established in 1963 and is a top-choice institution of higher education. Based in Pensacola with additional locations in the region, UWF is home to four academic colleges, offering a variety of bachelor's and master's degree programs, as well as specialist degrees, a doctorate in education and a Ph.D. in intelligent systems and robotics. With a student population of more than 14,000 and an average class size of less than 40, UWF provides an inclusive academic experience with world-class faculty and is consistently ranked as a top regional university by U.S. News and World Report. UWF is dedicated to serving the military community, having numerous designations including Gold-level Military Friendly, Military Spouse Friendly, Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus and Best for Vets. The University has awarded more than 121,000 degrees to over 100,000 alumni. UWF also maintains a culture of excellence in athletics, leading the Gulf South Conference in all-time championships and all-sports trophies. A driver of economic impact in Northwest Florida and beyond, UWF generates approximately \$1.4 billion in total annual sales across the Florida economy.

About the University of West Florida

Mission

UWF delivers a learner-focused university education that enables students from varied backgrounds to meet their career and life goals. UWF research and community partnerships advance the body of knowledge and enhance the prosperity of the region and the state.

Vision

A fully engaged university recognized for the strength of our graduates, responsiveness to the needs of the state, and an unrelenting competitive spirit.

Locations

PENSACOLA CAMPUS

The UWF Pensacola campus spans 1,600 acres and is located just minutes away from historic Pensacola and some of the world's most beautiful beaches. It features state-of-the-art facilities, comfortable residence halls and a beautiful landscape that offers a variety of recreational activities.

UWF EMERALD COAST

UWF Emerald Coast extends the University of West Florida's academic reach throughout Northwest Florida, offering high-quality programs in Fort Walton Beach and surrounding areas. With strong community partnerships and flexible learning options, UWF Emerald Coast provides students with access to a UWF education close to home, combining academic excellence with regional relevance.



UWF at a Glance



14,800+ STUDENTS

UWF has defied national trends by achieving record enrollment every year since 2021, marking a 14% increase over the past five years. This growth reflects our efforts to create a welcoming and dynamic academic environment.



**121K DEGREES
CONFERRED**

TOP 3 UNIVERSITY

in the
Florida State
University
System

105K ALUMNI

UWF alumni reside in every corner of the world, with representation in more than 70 countries across the globe and 10 alumni chapters in the U.S.

\$1.4B ECONOMIC IMPACT

UWF is an economic driver for the eight counties that comprise Northwest Florida, including Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay and Gulf.

R2 DESIGNATION

UWF was designated a Research 2: High Spending and Doctorate Production institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This is the first time the University has received this reputable classification.

110+ PROGRAMS

From Florida's first Ph.D. in intelligent systems and robotics, to uncovering forgotten treasures in archaeology, UWF has a variety of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Top Undergraduate Programs

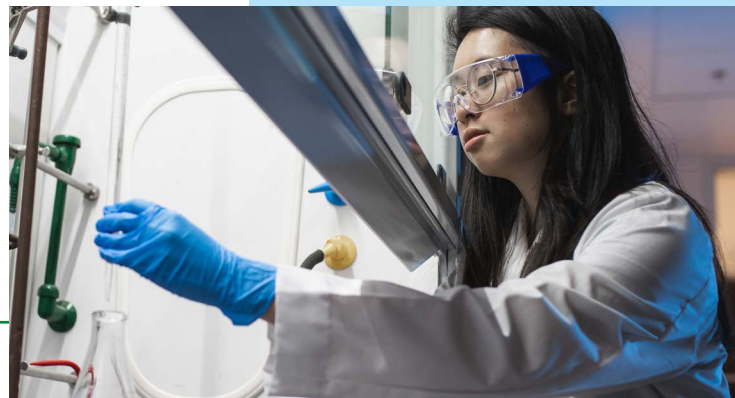
Accounting
Finance
Nursing
Mechanical Engineering
Computer Science

Top Graduate Programs

Special Education
(Applied Behavior Analysis)
Business Administration and Management
Social Work
Data Science

11,592 JOBS

UWF supports approximately 11,592 jobs in the region that are directly or indirectly related to the University.



UWF at a Glance



National Rankings



#10 Top Public School - Regional Universities South

U.S. News & World Report



Gold-level Military Friendly® School - Large Public School

Military Friendly®



#9 Best Colleges for Veterans - Regional Universities South

U.S. News & World Report



Great Colleges to Work For

Chronicle of Higher Education / ModernThink



An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Tree Campus Higher Education

Arbor Day Foundation



Military Spouse Friendly® School

Military Friendly®

Colleges

UWF is home to four academic colleges and one school, offering a variety of bachelor's and master's degree programs, as well as specialist degrees, a doctorate in education and a Ph.D. in intelligent systems and robotics. Each college is deeply integrated with industry and community partnerships, ensuring students graduate workforce-ready and equipped to lead.



College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Programs: 28
Enrollment: 1,875

The College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities offers a rich academic foundation through programs in the visual and performing arts, humanities and social sciences, encouraging students to explore culture, creativity and civic engagement.

Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering

Programs: 33
Enrollment: 3,753

The Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering is a regional leader in STEM education, offering nationally recognized programs in cybersecurity, computer science, marine biology and mechanical engineering. HMCSE houses the state's first bachelor's in cybersecurity designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense and accredited by ABET.



Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business

Programs: 15
Enrollment: 2,833

The Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business, accredited by AACSB, prepares students for competitive careers with strong offerings in accounting, supply chain logistics, finance and MBA pathways. Students benefit from faculty with industry expertise, experiential learning and strong connections to regional business sectors that prepare them for leadership in a global economy.

Colleges



Usha Kundu, MD College of Health

Programs: 21

Enrollment: 3,976

The Usha Kundu, MD College of Health supports high-demand fields through programs in nursing, public health and clinical lab sciences. With an interprofessional curriculum and hands-on clinical experiences, UKCOH equips graduates to meet pressing regional and national demands in health care delivery and industry innovation.

School of Education

Programs: 13

Enrollment: 1,921

The School of Education is a key regional provider of teacher preparation and leadership development, offering immersive, hands-on training that equips graduates to make an immediate impact in classrooms and communities across Florida.



Centers

Much of UWF's community and economic engagement is performed by various centers and institutes on the Pensacola campus and throughout the Northwest Florida region.

Archaeology Institute

Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Center for Leadership



The Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Center for Leadership is a premier leadership education resource in the Southeast for executive and developing leaders across the business, government and public spectrum.

Center for Asian Studies

Center for Behavior Analysis

Center for Cybersecurity



The Center for Cybersecurity is the regional hub for cybersecurity education and research, including multidisciplinary programs and certificates, research opportunities, outreach activities and industry partnerships.

Center for Entrepreneurship

Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation

Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice

Center for Supply Chain Management Excellence

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology

Florida Public Archaeology Network

GeoData Center

Gulf Islands Research and Education Center

Haas Center



The Haas Center supports the region and the state with workforce and survey research, economic impact modeling and industrial innovation. The Haas Center partners with UWF students, faculty and external experts to deliver optimal results to our customers — telling stories centered around economic data and human experience.

Institute for Analytics and Industry Advancement

Marine Research Center

Reubin O'D. Askew Institute for Multidisciplinary Studies

Sea3D Additive Manufacturing Laboratory

Small Business Development Center

Wright Family Institute for Global and Population Health



The Wright Family Institute for Global and Population Health engages in high visibility externally funded public health research and global health education efforts to influence public policy, foster new partnerships, and to expand current health knowledge by leveraging UWF resources.



UWF Historic Trust

The University of West Florida Historic Trust preserves and shares the rich history of Pensacola — America’s first settlement — through its museums, historic properties and educational programs. As a direct support organization of UWF, the Historic Trust enhances the University’s mission while engaging the community and visitors in immersive experiences that bring history to life. From Colonial archaeology to Civil War-era landmarks, the Trust safeguards more than 450 years of heritage. The UWF Historic Trust ensures that Pensacola’s diverse past remains a vital part of its vibrant present and future.



Properties

- Pensacola Museum of History
- Pensacola Children’s Museum
- Museum of Commerce
- Museum of Industry
- Voices of Pensacola
- Old Christ Church
- Tivoli High House
- Lavalle House
- Lear/Rocheblave House
- Dorr House
- Manuel Barrios Cottage
- Julee Cottage
- Barkley House
- John Appleyard Cottage
- Fountain Park
- Colonial Archaeological Trail
- Pensacola Museum of Art
- Arcadia Mill



Above: Pensacola Museum of History
Below: POP Mural at the Voices of Pensacola





Athletics

The University of West Florida's Athletics program is dedicated to building champions for life — on the field, in the classroom and throughout the community. With a tradition of excellence that includes multiple national and conference championships, UWF Athletics fosters leadership in its student-athletes while uniting the campus and region in Argo pride.

15 varsity athletic programs competing in the NCAA Division II

130 Conference Championships

11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.37 cumulative student-athlete GPA

\$49.7M average annual economic output



Darrell Gooden Stadium Rendering

BUILDING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

The University of West Florida is planning the construction of a new football stadium and recently opened the Sandy Sansing Sports Medicine Center, a \$6 million state-of-the-art facility dedicated to enhancing the quality of care for UWF student-athletes. In addition, UWF has launched the Argonaut Center for Excellence, a new academic facility designed to support student-athlete success. The center provides a centralized space for required study hours, group tutoring, and meetings for student-athletes, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, as well as collaboration around the Building Champions for Life initiative.



The Opportunity

Reporting to the UWF Board of Trustees and working closely with the Florida Board of Governors, the President serves as the chief executive officer of the University, responsible for setting a bold vision, stewarding its resources, building strong community and legislative relationships, and furthering UWF's trajectory as a student-centered, forward-looking institution.

The ideal candidate will be an inspiring and collaborative leader with a demonstrated ability to navigate the complexities of higher education with strategic insight, political savvy, and a strong commitment to public service, research and academic excellence.



Position Criteria

Leadership Qualities and Experience

The ideal candidate for the UWF Presidency will demonstrate the following qualities and experiences:

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The ability to work collaboratively to articulate and implement a bold and innovative mission-aligned vision for UWF's future, ensuring continued growth and expanding regional impact.

COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

An understanding of the academic enterprise including teaching, research, and faculty development.

STRATEGIC FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Proven ability to lead successful fundraising campaigns, build partnerships, and ensure responsible financial management to support a growing university.

STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH

Commitment to enhancing student success, improving retention and graduation rates, and ensuring accessibility and affordability.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Experience in engaging with local, state, and federal officials, as well as strengthening relationships with the Northwest Florida community.

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

A record of successful leadership in a complex organization, preferably in higher education, government, or a large nonprofit entity.

Position Criteria

Key Institutional Priorities

The next President of UWF will be responsible for advancing several key priorities:

1. ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS AND EXPERIENCE

- a. Improve student retention, graduation rates, and career placement opportunities.
- b. Promote initiatives that provide targeted support for military and other students.

2. CONTINUING TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND FACULTY RESEARCH

- a. Continue to align academic programs with regional need while also supporting the R2, Community Engaged research mission.

3. DEEPENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

- a. Foster meaningful partnerships with businesses, local government, military, and nonprofit organizations.
- b. Strengthen UWF's status as a school of choice in the region and beyond.

4. STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- a. Develop and implement strategies to diversify revenue streams and optimize resource allocation.
- b. Work with government and well as private industry to pursue grant and public-private partnership opportunities.
- c. Lead capital campaigns and philanthropic initiatives to support scholarships, faculty endowments, and infrastructure improvements.

5. ALIGNING WITH THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA STRATEGIC PLAN

- a. SUS 30, Extraordinary Impact lays out five pillars led by a One System principle encompassing the 12 distinct institutions in the state. The other four are Elevating student success; Operational excellence; World-Class talent; and Innovative Research and Development. The next President will lead UWF to continue moving forward with a thoughtfully tailored role in pushing forward on those principles.

Desired Qualifications

Candidates should possess:

- A relevant graduate degree is preferred but not required.
- A distinguished record of leadership, preferably in higher education, public service, or business.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with experience working with diverse stakeholders to achieve local, regional, and national goals.
- A deep appreciation for UWF's mission, culture, and role in the state of Florida and beyond.
- A passion and excitement for the university's ability to change the lives of its students.



UNIVERSITY *of* WEST FLORIDA

Applications, nominations, and inquiries should be directed to the search firm contact listed below. Review of candidates will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. While applications and nominations will be accepted until a new President is selected, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials to our consultant at the address below by October 31, 2025 for full consideration. Application materials must include a current CV and letter of interest.

UWF President Search

Funk Associates

2911 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 300 Dallas, Texas 75219

Email: Krisha.Creal@funkassociates.com

Fax: 214/523-9067

For more information on the UWF Presidential search, please visit uwf.edu/presidentialsearch.

For more information about the University of West Florida, please visit uwf.edu.

The University of West Florida is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Disabled/Veteran employer. Any individual who requires special accommodations to apply is requested to advise UWF by contacting the UWF Human Resources Department at 850.474.2694 (voice) or 850.857.6158 (TTY). A criminal background check is required for successful candidates. E-Verify requirements may apply for employment in certain positions. All records submitted in support of employment applications may be subject to Florida public records law. To reach the Equal Opportunity Office or Title IX Coordinators, please visit the Equal Opportunity Office and Title IX websites for contact information.

