The University of Florida College of Pharmacy was established in 1923 and is the oldest of six health science colleges at UF. Consistently ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the top pharmacy college in Florida and one of the top 5 schools nationally, the college prides itself on training the next generation of pharmacists through its Pharm.D., Ph.D. and master's programs. Faculty in the college are annually recognized among the elite educators in the country with recent awards from organizations such as the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

The Pharm.D. program annually enrolls over 225 students across the college's three campuses in Gainesville, Jacksonville and Orlando. Each campus features the same Pharm.D. curriculum. Through its team-based and interprofessional Pharm.D. curriculum, the college is preparing students to be 21st-century pharmacists ready to provide patient-centered care. The curriculum emphasizes personal and professional development that are key to students being highly effective clinicians.

Research activities in the college span a broad range of interests and generated $32.4 million in research funding in 2022-23 and is placed third nationally in total research and NIH funding among colleges of pharmacy. The college has five research centers: the Center for Drug Evaluation and Safety, the Center for Pharmacogenomics and Precision Medicine, the Center for Drug Discovery, the Center for Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology, and the Center for Integrative Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases. The most recent initiative to advance the research and graduate missions is the establishment of the interdisciplinary Institute of Therapeutic Innovation for Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology at the Lake Nona campus, which focuses on regulatory sciences, drug-modeling simulation, and translational science. The college is recognized internationally for its scientific contributions in the areas of pharmacogenomics, pharmacometrics, pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, and drug design and discovery research.

The college has extensive affiliations, partnerships and collaborations to support practice excellence. A key contributor to UF Health, the Southeast's most comprehensive health system and the nation's only academic health center with six health-related colleges located on a single, continuous campus, the college offers a wealth of interdisciplinary educational, research and clinical partnerships. The close relationship with UF Health has forged successful development of interprofessional educational and innovative advanced pharmacy practice experiences, strong involvement in the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, other interdisciplinary research, and service that has improved patient safety. To meet the continuing professional development of pharmacy practitioners, the college has a PGY1 community pharmacy residency program with three sites in Florida and four fellowship programs.

Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy

Training: The department contributes to the college's teaching mission professional education (PharmD program) and has one of the oldest graduate programs in pharmaceutical outcomes research, with an average of 35 enrolled Ph.D. students, 10 residential and more than 150 online MS students. The department offers a weekly seminar series and journal club as well as more than 20 graduate courses in the department specialty areas.
Research facilities: The Department has excellent research facilities that support studies involving big data and statistical modeling. Core facilities include a large conference-style room dedicated to ongoing research studies and a research office that allows hardwired access to the department’s research server. The department also provides an array of hardware, software, and personnel resources to support quantitative research including access to IBM Truven MarketScan data, Medicaid Extract (MAX) files, and Medicare national 15% sample data totaling more than 300 million lives, and the UF Health Clinical research data warehouse. The department is staffed by 2.5 Statistical Research Coordinators who serve as both database query specialists and statistical consultants and maintain its high-speed computational infrastructure. The Department also serves as the academic home for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Outcomes Research, which was created through state appropriation to generate and disseminate evidence on the outcomes of the medical use of marijuana to inform clinical and policy decisions.

The University of Florida

The University of Florida is an American public land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant research university located on a 2,000-acre campus in Gainesville, Florida. The university traces its historical origins to 1853 and has operated continuously on its present Gainesville campus since September 1906. The University of Florida is ranked 6th overall among all public national universities in the current U.S. News & World Report rankings, and consistently ranks within the top 100 universities worldwide. It is considered a “Public Ivy,” a designation reserved for the top public universities in the United States. Since 1985, UF has been a member of the Association of American Universities, the higher-education organization comprising the top 62 public and private institutions in North America. It is one of three "research flagship universities" within the State University System of Florida, as designated by the Florida Legislature. UF has more than 4,000 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research, and service, including 37 Eminent Scholar chairs and 40 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is the seventh largest single-campus university in the United States with almost 50,000 students enrolled. The University is home to sixteen academic colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes. It offers multiple graduate professional programs, 123 master’s degree programs and 76 doctoral degree programs in eighty-seven schools and departments.

UF faculty received more than 11,000 new and continuation awards in research and training grants in 2020-21, and research funding reached a record $861 million, placing UF among the nation’s leading institutions. The UF Library System consists of the main research library and eight branch libraries throughout the campus. The library and its extensions form the largest information resource systems within Florida, containing more than 6.3 million print volumes, 1.5 million e-books, 197,000 full-text electronic journals and 1,160 electronic databases.

University of Florida Health Science Center

The University of Florida Health Science Center (HSC) celebrated its 60th year in 2016, although its oldest college, the College of Pharmacy, was founded in 1923. It is one of the country’s few academic health centers with six health-related colleges located on a single, contiguous campus. The colleges, including Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine, teach the full continuum of higher education, enrolling more than 6,900 students and 1,100 interns and residents each year. The UF HSC generated over 50% of UF’s total research awards, over $450 million in
grants and contracts in FY 21. In addition to the six colleges, there are nine major health-related research centers and institutes (e.g., Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Institute on Aging, UF Shands Cancer Center, Institute for Child Health Policy) designed to create synergistic and collaborative research opportunities.

The HSC is closely affiliated with UF Health, part of the University of Florida Health System, with seven hospitals including two academic medical centers in Gainesville and Jacksonville, a children’s hospital, three community hospitals, two specialty hospitals, and also includes primary care and specialty practices throughout North Central and Northeast Florida, as well as Southeast Georgia, all linked through a fully integrated electronic health record system. UF Health is the state’s leading healthcare referral system and one of the Southeast’s most respected health-care providers and manages more than 3 million inpatient and outpatient visits each year. More than 1,500 UF faculty and community physicians representing more than 100 medical specialties work to provide patient care not only within UF Health Shands HealthCare but also at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center located right across the UF Health campus.

Community

Gainesville, Florida has a population of over 141,000, with the surrounding population of Alachua County exceeding 270,000. Gainesville is an easy drive to Florida’s beaches on coasts, as well as Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville. Gainesville has been ranked as a top place to live and boasts a vibrant arts and cultural community that includes the Florida Museum of Natural History, the Harn Museum of Art and the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The climate is mild, with more than 2,800 hours of sunshine annually and average temperatures of 65 degrees in January and 89 degrees in June. The local economy derives from agriculture to manufacturing and higher education and health care. UF, UF Health and the VA hospital are the leading employers in the region. The presence of UF has led to numerous start-up companies in the community, and the recent creation of the Florida Development Hub and Innovation Square. While the cost of living is low, Gainesville offers an excellent public school system. More information about the city, its attractions, economy and its excellent school system can be found at: www.cityofgainesville.org.