

## FLORIDA

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Geography programs exist at seven Florida institutions, U Florida, Florida State, U South Florida, U Miami, Jacksonville U, Stetson U and Florida Atlantic U. In addition, geography is a strong component for economics and business majors at U North Florida, and is on an upswing in the Environmental Studies program at U West Florida, where there are many geography minors and plans are advancing to reinstate the geography major. At Stetson U, the Department of Geography & Environmental Science joined the Division of Natural Sciences this year, reflecting the department's emerging focus on environmental science. The program will probably become more physical and environmental over the next 5 years.

Graduate degrees are offered at FAU, SFU, FSU and UF, with doctoral programs at UF and FSU. U South Florida is moving toward an applied geography and environmental studies doctoral program in the near future. U Miami is teaching graduate students through an International Studies program, but with 3 new faculty hires in the past 2 years, they hope to reinstate a graduate program by 2003. Martin Bosman joined the faculty at USF this year, Xiaojun Yang joined UWF and FSU had three new hires: Jason Hackworth, Dan Klooster and Tony Stallins. Ed Jackiewicz is visiting at FAU. New hires are anticipated at Stetson, Miami and UF in 2001, and at FAU and UWF in the near future. This puts the number of full-time faculty at geography degree granting institutions at 54, up 2 from last year. Of a total of 66 faculty at all institutions, only 9 are female. The Committee on the Status of Women in Geography requested this information; unfortunately, surveys were sent out before the request to break down students into male and female categories was received. These data will be collected next year.

Approximately 330 geography courses were offered last year, to total enrollments of about 14,000 students, at least 324 of them majors. The number of majors is a decline from 1999-2000, and is reflected in comments from departments. However, graduate student numbers are up by 5 to 142, with 69 graduate courses offered (an increase of 10) to a record 700 students (up from 316 last year).

The majority of geography graduates obtain positions at state and federal agencies, in public and private sector environmental work, at non-profit organizations, and in finance, planning and business; as expected, there is a growing emphasis on GIS. A large number appear to go on to graduate school, and the two doctoral programs indicate that most of their graduates go into academia.

Several programs appear to be offering certificate programs in GIS. UWF has expanded its GeoData Center to become the hub of university-wide GIS capabilities, UNF established a new GIS lab, UF is growing at the graduate level in part because of its increased commitment to enhance course offerings in technology classes, and, as stated above USF plans to expand its applied course offerings. USF also has new computerized meteorology lab & weather station. FAU established a Center for Geographic Information Science and a Hydrological Research Center in 1999-2000.

Grants have been received by Melvin Droubay (UWF) for Brownfield mapping, identification and education, from state and federal agencies. Dan Jacobson (FSU) has NSF funding and a National Institute for Disability Merit Fellowship. Johan Liebens (UWF) and a colleague received an award to develop an honors program course on human and physical processes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. John Harlin (FAU) has been successful in attracting funding for GIS-related research. Stuart Corbridge (Miami) was elected to a Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professorship at the University of Bristol. Jim Elsner (FSU) co-authored a book titled *Hurricanes of the North Atlantic*, published by Oxford University Press in 1999. Peter Muller (Miami) is book review editor for the AAG and Professional Geographer and Jon Leib (FSU) continues as editor of the *Journal of Geography*.

In general, departments have a positive outlook, with increased course enrollments reported in most institutions. Slow growth of programs, perhaps seen as a reduction in the number of majors, may relate to state government funding, and is frustrating to many. However, most institutions reported probable growth in the near future. Establishment of a permanent endowment at FSU for the *Florida Geographic Alliance* is seen as very positive, promising more stable support for K-12 geography education in the future.