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Campus Facts : 1992

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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A vision for the future

Campus plans include a new $15-million library and a $22-million marine science research facility that will jointly serve USF's marine science department and the Florida Marine Research Institute.

Both projects represent a significant investment in the redevelopment of downtown St. Petersburg.

Library facts

The new library will be one of the most technically advanced libraries in the Southeast. It will feature:

- A 350,000 book capacity.
- Fiber optic technology.
- Extensive computer catalogs.
- Long-distance learning and teleconference center.
- Media production center.
- Special collections in local history, marine science, children's books, and the Poynter Papers.
- Extensive video collection of foreign, American classics, educational, opera, symphonies and art films.

Marine Science Center

The new center will include technology for receiving, processing and modeling optical data from U.S. satellites surveying the ocean.

This capability will be critical to USF scientists because only satellites can monitor hundreds of square miles of sea surface on a nearly continuous basis.

The technology will enable USF marine scientists to expand their research on Florida's vital coastal waters and the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Science Foundation is funding a special electron microscope facility for USF that will enhance biological and geological research.

The new facility will give scientists:

- Advanced laboratories for studying radioactive substances and trace metals in the sea.
- An expanded capacity to conduct aquaria research on the behavior and physiology of marine organisms, ranging from microscopic plankton to small fish.
A great university ...

The University of South Florida’s St. Petersburg campus is located on a 24-acre site surrounding Bayboro Harbor in downtown St. Petersburg. It is the only public university offering bachelor’s and graduate degree programs in Pinellas County, an area of 900,000 people.

USF St. Petersburg is the largest of USF’s regional campuses, and was the prototype regional campus for the state’s university system. USF St. Petersburg opened its doors in 1965 to 257 freshmen. Since 1968, the campus has served only junior, senior and graduate students.

Campus facilities evolved from the original merchant marine training base into nine modern buildings. Besides classrooms and offices, the campus houses a 141,000-volume library and media resource center, bookstore, marine research laboratories, gymnasium and fitness center. The U.S. Geological Survey’s national Center for Coastal Geology, the Florida Institute of Oceanography and the Florida Marine Research Institute, a branch of the state’s Department of Natural Resources, also are located on campus.

The campus is surrounded by a medical, research and cultural complex. Campus neighbors include the Salvador Dali Museum, Bayfront Medical Center, All Children’s Hospital, American Stage Company, Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Pier Aquarium, Tampa Bay National Estuary Program, St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, Bayfront Center and Mahaffey Theater.

The campus has received substantial support from the Pinellas County community. The city of St. Petersburg has led the way by donating an additional 24 acres for the continued growth of the campus.

Individuals and corporations have contributed generously to the campus with gifts exceeding $10 million during a recent capital campaign.

USF St. Petersburg

The campus now holds three endowed chairs, including one in ethics, one in media ethics and press policy, and one in marine science.

The two colleges with the largest student enrollment are the College of Education and the College of Business Administration. Both offer graduate degree programs.

The campus offers a progressive graduate program in journalism and USF students and faculty cooperate on projects with the faculty of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

The Bishop Program for Ethical Leadership Studies features courses, workshops and public lectures designed to develop students’ ethical leadership skills. The program is supported by private gifts.

The campus is recognized nationally for its graduate marine science program, which in 1978 was designated as a “Center of Excellence” by the Florida Board of Regents.

The campus dean is Dr. H. William Heller, whose early training and teaching focused on the education of children with mental and physical disabilities. Heller also is a professor of special education.

About 100 faculty members conduct research and teach classes at the campus; 70 of those are resident faculty. USF St. Petersburg has about 300 employees.

The campus’s operating budget is approximately $20 million. The value of campus buildings and land is approximately $60 million.

There is no “typical” student on USF’s St. Petersburg campus. Perhaps the only common denominator among our students is that they work, raise families, volunteer for civic causes and remain in the Tampa Bay area after graduation.

The average age is 31.

72% are female.

91% live in Pinellas County.

91% take all their classes at and graduate from the St. Petersburg campus.

90% are white; 4% are black; 3% are Hispanic; and 3% are Asian or American Indian.

44% work full time.

43% are married; 24% have children.

63% will seek employment locally.