

# The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

## What are the trends in upper division enrollments in Florida public higher education?

Florida’s public higher education system is working to increase access and attainment of postsecondary credentials, such as the baccalaureate degree, for its citizens. According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce report, “[The College Payoff: Education, Occupations, Lifetime Earnings](#),” obtaining a postsecondary credential typically results in higher earnings over a lifetime. Individuals with college credentials earn more over time than those who have a high school diploma. On average, a worker with a bachelor’s degree will earn \$2.3 million over a working lifetime whereas someone with a high school diploma can expect to earn \$1.3 million over their lifetime. The College Board’s report, “[Education Pays 2013: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society](#)” reminds the reader that while individuals benefit directly from earning a postsecondary credential, benefits also extend to federal, state, and local governments who receive increased tax revenues from college graduates elevated earnings.

**Table 1. FCS and SUS Upper Division (UD) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment, 2002-03 through 2012-13**

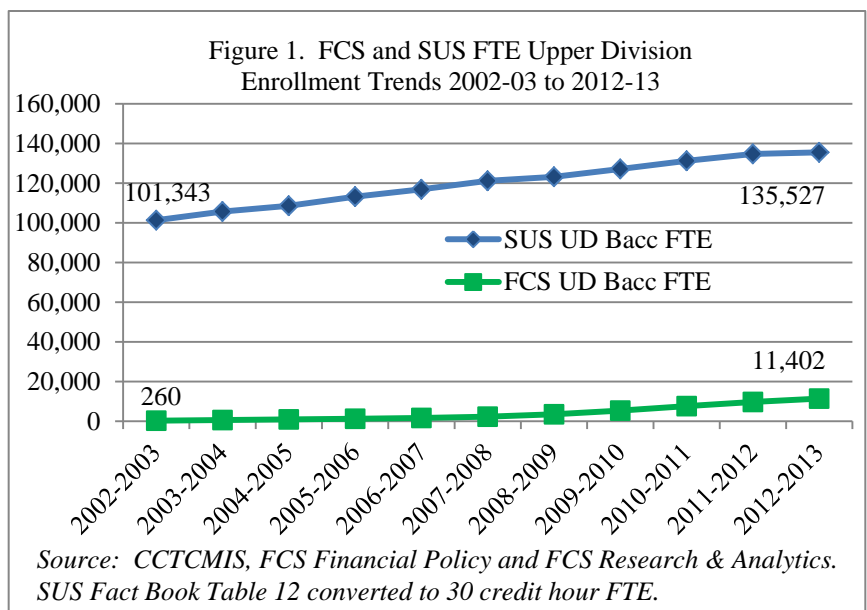
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
FCS UD FTE	260	596	922	1,269	1,667	2,290	3,521	5,377	7,584	9,722	11,402
% Change	---	129.2%	54.8%	37.5%	31.4%	37.4%	53.8%	52.7%	41.1%	28.2%	17.3%
SUS UD FTE*	101,343	105,628	108,551	113,198	116,888	121,165	123,182	127,154	131,243	134,655	135,527
% Change	---	4.2%	2.8%	4.3%	3.3%	3.7%	1.7%	3.2%	3.2%	2.6%	0.6%

Source: CCTCMIS, FCS Financial Policy, and FCS Research & Analytics; SUS Fact Book Table 12. \*Note that SUS figures have been converted based on a 30 credit FTE to align with the approach used by FCS and in national FTE calculations across higher education institutions.

For over eleven years, the Florida College System (FCS) has delivered baccalaureate programs to Floridians. Table 1 shows Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) baccalaureate enrollment trends for both the FCS and State University System of Florida (SUS). “[FTE](#) provides a count of one student attending full-time for a full academic year but is, in reality, a measure of instructional effort—the total credit hours taken by students.” For the FCS, baccalaureate FTE is calculated by dividing the total upper division undergraduate credit hours by 30 (which represents the number of credits traditionally required in a year to be full-time). SUS FTE is calculated the same way but SUS publications historically use 40 credit hours in the conversion. In keeping with national reporting standards, SUS figures in Table 1 have been recalculated to a 30 credit-hour-based FTE to create a level playing field when comparing across systems. **Table 1 documents that both SUS and FCS have experienced substantial growth in upper division (UD) FTE since the FCS began offering baccalaureate programs. Figures for 2012-13 show SUS UD FTE enrollments are 11.9 times higher than FCS. In fact, FCS baccalaureate coursework generates just 3.3 percent of the combined FCS upper and lower division FTE. FCS baccalaureate offerings are a small and important part of FCS’s mission to provide access and serve regional workforce needs.**

Figure 1 shows that in 2012-13 FCS UD FTE enrollments totaled 11,402 – up 1,680 FTE over last year. With 135,527 UD FTE enrolled in 2012-13, SUS UD FTE increased 10.0 percent over the past five years and 0.6 percent (+872 FTE) since last year (short term). While the latest FCS FTE enrollments continue to be dwarfed by SUS FTE enrollments; short term FCS is outpacing upper division FTE growth compared to SUS. In the latest figures, the rate of UD FTE growth slowed for both systems.

The [Commission on Higher Education Access and Attainment](#) acknowledged, “To increase the number of Floridians who go to college within the state, it makes sense to expand baccalaureate capacity in the Florida College System. If any growth should also occur within the Florida College System, the ability of the state to produce the bachelor’s degrees it needs for high demand occupations would be assured” (p. 16). To locate a Florida College System institution, please visit the [directory of colleges](#). The State University System of Florida’s [directory](#) of institutions provides additional baccalaureate and above options.



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