



# Florida Institute of Technology

# Campus Master Plan

# Executive Summary

May 2025



Dear Florida Tech Community,

Our university is poised for a new era of impact and influence. As we navigate the opportunities and challenges to come, this Campus Master Plan provides an important roadmap and is a key component of our *Forward Together, Boundless Potential* Strategic Plan. It is designed to align our physical environment with the university's vision to be recognized as a premier institution for improving the human condition and solving the challenges of tomorrow.



The Campus Master Plan is built on a firm foundation of commitment to student success. People and places come together to create the distinctive environment that defines who we are as a community. It also recognizes that Florida Tech is more than a collection of buildings; it is a living and learning space that fosters bright futures.

Developed in partnership with Credo—a firm with a longstanding history in strategic and master planning—this plan reflects the insights and perspectives gathered through extensive discussions with hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other supporters and partners. It is also informed by data and best practices across higher education, from classroom design and technology integration to sustainability and green space planning.

Unlike traditional master plans that serve as rigid project lists, this plan is a dynamic and adaptable framework allowing us to remain flexible as needs evolve. While we anticipate that it will guide Florida Tech for the next decade and beyond, its purpose is to provide a thoughtful and strategic guide to campus development. Our short-term focus will be on advancing Tier 1 priorities while continuing to evaluate and adapt longer-term strategies.

This Campus Master Plan is a clear statement of our confidence in the future of Florida Tech and its people. As we move forward together, we do so with clarity of vision and unwavering resolve.

John Nicklow, Ph.D.  
President

## Florida's STEM University

Located in the heart of Florida's Space Coast, Florida Tech is embedded in a landscape of innovation and discovery. Founded in 1958—the same year as NASA—the university continues to serve as a vital partner to the space industry and a leader in STEM education and research. As a Carnegie Research 2 institution, Florida Tech offers comprehensive undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees across four colleges: Aeronautics, Business, Engineering and Science, and Psychology and Liberal Arts.

Students engage in hands-on experiences from day one—from aviation students flying in their first semester to research and applied learning opportunities across marine biology, computing and engineering. Division II athletics, esports, performing arts and more than 100 clubs and organizations enrich the student experience and foster Panther Pride.



## Strategic Direction

Beginning in 2023, Florida Tech launched an inclusive strategic planning process that included more than 1,200 participants—students, faculty, staff, board members, employers and peers. A central outcome was the reaffirmation of Florida Tech's distinctive identity and its commitment to becoming a leading national research university.

The strategic plan, *Forward Together, Boundless Potential*, is built on four pillars that guide this Campus Master Plan:

- **People of Excellence**—Empowering students, faculty and staff to achieve their highest potential.
- **Programs Driven by Innovation**—Advancing research and learning across all disciplines.
- **Transformative Partnerships**—Expanding relationships with industry and community partners.
- **Optimized Learning and Social Environments**—Creating a collaborative, student-centered campus culture.

Building on this vision, Florida Tech embarked on a comprehensive master planning effort to translate strategic priorities into physical form. Through an inclusive process involving students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners, the university identified the spaces, connections and environments needed to achieve its goals. The result is a forward-looking plan that reflects the aspirations of our community and positions Florida Tech for the next decade of growth and innovation.



## Community Insights and Planning Themes

Throughout the master planning process, members of the Florida Tech community shared their hopes for the campus of the future—expressing pride in the university’s progress and enthusiasm for its continued growth. Their feedback revealed a shared vision for spaces that foster connection, creativity and belonging, and directly shaped the guiding principles of this Campus Master Plan.

Key aspirations included:

- **More inviting places to connect.** Vibrant indoor and outdoor gathering areas that bring the Florida Tech community together.
- **A unified campus experience.** A stronger sense of arrival, wayfinding and visual identity that celebrates Florida Tech’s innovation and spirit.
- **Spaces for collaboration and discovery.** Flexible classrooms, labs and common areas that support interdisciplinary learning and research.
- **Enhanced student living and wellness.** Comfortable, modern residential spaces that foster engagement and support academic success.
- **Sustainability and beauty.** Continued protection of the university’s natural assets—especially the Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden—paired with sustainable, future-ready design practices.

From these insights emerged three central planning themes—the framework through which the university’s physical growth will continue to reflect its mission and identity:

- **Opportunity**—Aligning capacity and quality to support growth in enrollment, research and student experience.
- **Identity**—Strengthening the visibility, character and sense of place that define the Florida Tech experience.
- **Organization**—Enhancing arrival, circulation and connectivity to create a unified, accessible and inspiring campus.

Together, these aspirations and themes define a forward-looking vision for Florida Tech’s physical environment—one that celebrates its strengths and positions the university for decades of innovation, impact and excellence.



## Planning Parameters and Campus Character

Florida Tech's 130-acre campus offers a quintessential Florida environment with palms, flowering shrubs and waterways. The Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden and surrounding wetlands are among its most treasured features, embodying sustainability and natural beauty.

The campus is organized into academic, residential and student life zones, all closely connected. Planned improvements will enhance key gateways, strengthen pedestrian and vehicular flow, and create inviting spaces that foster collaboration and community. Upcoming projects will prioritize a sense of arrival, efficient use of space and vibrant gathering areas while maintaining respect for the university's natural environment.



## Enrollment and Academic Growth

Florida Tech continues to experience steady enrollment growth, particularly in undergraduate and doctoral programs. This growth underscores the need for expanded instructional space, student housing and research facilities to support the next generation of learners and scholars.

The plan calls for the optimization of classroom capacity—ensuring spaces are right-sized, flexible and technology-enhanced. It also anticipates future growth in research activity, particularly in emerging areas of strength across science, engineering, aviation and psychology.



## Student Housing and Campus Life

Expanding and modernizing on-campus housing is a central focus of the master plan. New apartment-style residences will enhance the student experience, promote engagement and support higher levels of on-campus living. Future phases will introduce additional beds and amenities, ensuring every student has access to high-quality residential options.

The plan also strengthens the campus's social fabric through more spaces for recreation, collaboration and informal gathering. New dining, study and outdoor areas will encourage interaction and connection across the university community.





## Foundational Projects

Foundational projects set the stage for transformation and growth:

- **Student Apartments:** Construction of 555 new apartment-style beds at Babcock and University to meet immediate residential demand.
- **Pedestrian Bridge:** A new elevated bridge connecting housing to the main campus, ensuring safe and seamless movement.
- **Athletics Master Plan Integration:** Enhancing access, facilities and fan experience through a cohesive athletics gateway.
- **Outdoor Commons:** Creation of shaded, comfortable outdoor spaces that celebrate the beauty of campus and promote gathering.





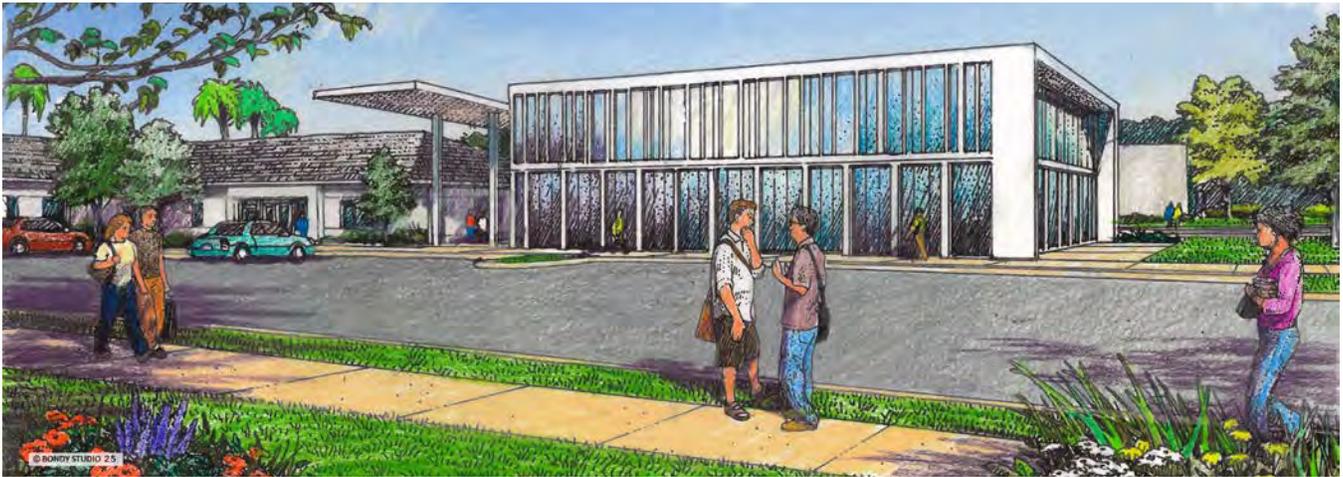
## Tier One Projects

The Tier One initiatives represent the university's most visible and immediate opportunities for growth and impact:

- **Admissions and Student Services**  
**Welcome Center:** A new signature facility at the Babcock-University gateway that unites admissions, student support and academic advising in one inspiring environment.
- **Research, Design and Fabrication Complex:** A state-of-the-art facility co-locating research, design and innovation spaces to elevate Florida Tech's hands-on learning culture.
- **Phase Two Housing Expansion:** Additional residential facilities and parking improvements to meet ongoing demand.

These projects will define Florida Tech's front door and symbolize its commitment to innovation and excellence.





## Tier Two Projects

Tier Two projects expand academic excellence and community engagement across campus:

- **New Student Housing Village:** Replacing legacy residential units with modern, community-oriented first-year housing designed to encourage connection and belonging.
- **School of Psychology:** Renovation and expansion of the Henry Building to bring together psychology faculty, students and research centers.
- **Bisk College of Business:** Construction of a new, prominent home for the College of Business within the campus core, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Academic Promenade:** A continuous, shaded pedestrian corridor connecting major campus destinations from Denius Student Center to Crawford Hall.
- **Aeronautics Expansion:** Addition to Skurla Hall to support aviation research and technology learning.

## Tier Three Projects

Looking ahead, Tier Three projects envision the continued evolution of a dynamic and inspiring campus:

- **Music and Performance Center:** A dedicated facility for music instruction, rehearsal and performance, enriching the cultural life of campus.
- **Central Campus Plaza and Parking Improvements:** Redesigning central areas to prioritize pedestrians and create event-ready spaces.
- **Anchorage Waterfront Facility:** A new boathouse and research facility at the mouth of Crane Creek, expanding access for marine and ocean engineering programs.

## The Road Ahead

The Florida Tech Campus Master Plan reflects a clear and confident vision for the university's future—a modern, connected and inspiring campus that supports learning, research and community. It is an invitation to dream boldly and build purposefully, uniting our people, places and programs in service of excellence.

Each initiative represents an investment in the heart of Florida Tech—its students, faculty and future. Together, we will create an environment that embodies our relentless pursuit of greatness and propels the university into its next extraordinary chapter.

“The future of Florida Tech is being built today—together.”





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