

## **1.0 ACADEMIC MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY ELEMENT**

### **(2) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS**

#### **a) Change In University's Mission Since Its Inception**

In 1972, FIU opened its doors to 5,667 students enrolled in upper division undergraduate and graduate programs and began its mission:

“... To serve the people of southeast Florida, the state, the nation and the international community by imparting knowledge through research and fostering creativity and its expression.” Nine years later, in 1981, lower division classes for freshmen and sophomore level students were added to the university. Soon after this, doctoral level degree programs were added.

The mission of the University is reviewed every year following the "Florida International University internal planning process". As with other state universities, modifications of the University mission can be made every five years, following the process established by the Florida Board of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities for the five-year planning process.

Since opening in 1972, the university has developed into a "comprehensive, multi-campus urban research institution—that offers 195 baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs. It provides programs for full and part time degree seeking students and addresses the needs of the lifelong learners, both by traditional and distance learning methods. This expansion of educational programs is a reflection of the University's current mission statement approved by the Florida Board of Education in 2002:

Florida International University is an urban, multi-campus, research university serving south Florida, the state, the nation and the international community. It fulfills its mission by imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, promoting public service, discovering new knowledge, solving problems through research, and fostering creativity.

#### **b) Change In The University's Mission Since The Last Master Plan Was Prepared**

The University mission, approved by the Florida Board of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities in September 1993 reads as follows:

Florida International University (FIU) is an urban, multi-campus, doctoral-granting institution located in Miami, Florida's largest population center, with campuses at University Park [Modesto A Madique] and North Miami, selected programs offered in Davie and Fort Lauderdale, and off-campus continuing

education programs. The mission of this state University is to serve the people of Southeast Florida, the state, the nation and the international community by imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, creating new knowledge through research, and fostering creativity and its expression.

The current University mission, approved by the Florida Board of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities in the Fall of 2002, is more streamlined and identifies South Florida as the service area. Specific information on location and degree programs were eliminated to make the statement more concise. The new mission now embodies five strategic themes to guide the University's development: International, Environmental, Florida and Local Economic Development, Health, Arts, Culture, and Diversity and Learning Opportunities, with a commitment to quality management and cultural diversity.

**c) University Response To Roles Established By The Board Of Governors For The State University System**

FIU's rapid increases in student enrollments and academic programs is evidence that FIU fulfills its role to become a major public university serving the diverse urban community of South Florida. Its current mission allows communities in Southeast Florida to have access to as full and complete a range of higher educational opportunities and experiences at undergraduate, graduate and professional levels as may be available at other public universities in Florida.

Under the leadership of Dr. Modesto A. Maidique from 1986 through 2008, the University has been guided by the Florida Board of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities Master and Strategic Plans, the University Mission Statement and the *FIU Millennium Strategic Plan*, the University's strategic plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As a result, the University has grown at the lower division, the upper division and graduate level; academic programs have increased to meet the demands of this growth.