



Information BRIEF

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SUS Research Overview

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Research, along with teaching and service, comprises the tripartite mission of a university and is what sets it apart from other forms of postsecondary education. Specific goals in the State University System (SUS) of Florida's 2012-2025 Strategic Plan include increasing total Research & Development (R&D) expenditures to over \$3 billion, doubling the number of faculty designated as Highly Cited Scholars, and ensuring the involvement of at least 50% of undergraduate seniors in faculty research by 2025 in order to improve national competitiveness and reputation.¹

In order to track these goals, it is important to examine the current state of research in the SUS.

Research Growth

Over the last decade the SUS has experienced a 28% increase in total research expenditures, growing from nearly \$1.4 billion in 2003 to nearly \$1.8 billion in 2011. The national growth rate for this time period, matching the SUS at 28%, signifies a national trend toward greater university research spending.

Chart I² illustrates this growth in total SUS R&D expenditures using 2011 dollars.

Chart I: Total SUS R&D Expenditures in 2011 Dollars (in Billions)

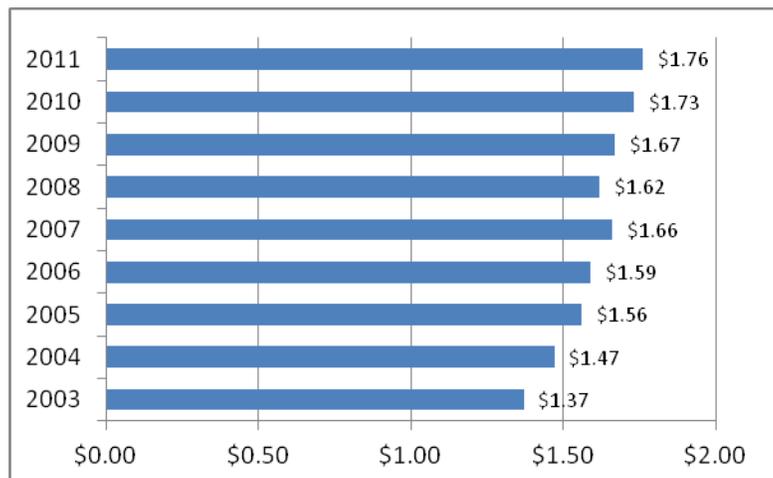


Table I: Top 10 States for Public University R&D Expenditures

Dollars in Billions

Rank	State	2005-06	2010-11	% Growth
1	California	\$4.77	\$5.80	22%
2	Texas	\$2.81	\$4.03	43%
3	Michigan	\$1.55	\$2.14	38%
4	Pennsylvania	\$1.28	\$1.85	45%
5	Florida	\$1.42	\$1.76	23%
6	Ohio	\$1.23	\$1.70	38%
7	Washington	\$1.03	\$1.56	51%
8	New York	\$1.06	\$1.34	27%
9	North Carolina	\$0.89	\$1.33	50%
10	Colorado	\$0.83	\$1.27	53%

Table I³ compares Florida's five-year growth rate with the top ten states for public university research.

When both public and private universities are considered, Florida is ranked 11th in the nation. This is because 83% of Florida's university research is performed by public universities (compared to the 57% average for public university research among the top ten states).

¹ Strategic Plan 2012-2025, The State University System of Florida Board of Governors.

² National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education R&D Survey, 2011.

³ NSF Survey of R&D Expenditures at Universities and Colleges for Total Academic R&D Expenditures. Retrieved June 10, 2013 from <https://webcaspar.nsf.gov/>.

Research Awards

Total research awards for 2011-2012 were over \$1.6 billion, with awards coming from a number of sources delineated in the table to the right. Note that the total research awards are always slightly different from the total research expenditures for any given year.

Percent	Source
49%	Federal Government
8%	State and Local Governments
27%	Private Sources
16%	Flow Through Sources ⁴

Chart II provides a breakdown of federal research dollar sources. As illustrated, a very large portion comes from the Department of Health and Human Services. Roughly equal proportions are granted from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education. The Department of Defense accounts for 9% of awards, with lesser amounts coming from the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Veterans Administration. All other agencies make up 13% of the dollars received.

Chart II: Awards by Federal Agency, 2011-2012

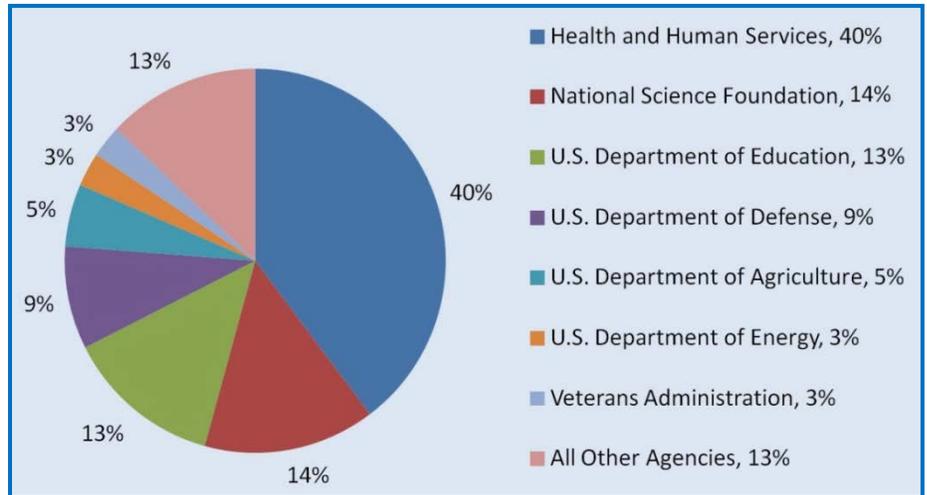
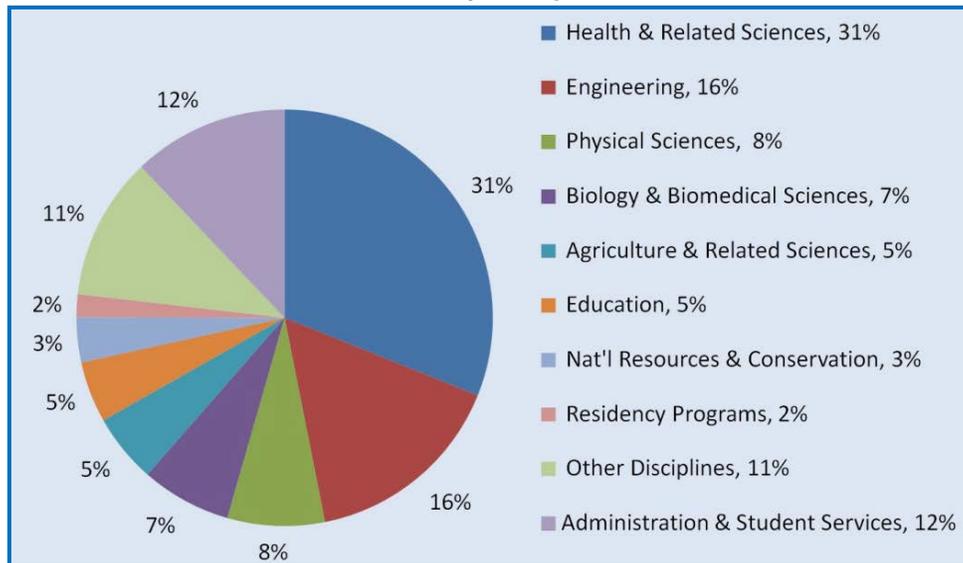


Chart III: Awards by Discipline, 2011-2012



Similarly, **Chart III** shows into which disciplines these dollars flow. As expected, health and related sciences receive the largest portion, and a major portion goes to SUS colleges of engineering. Lesser amounts go toward academic units associated with the physical and life sciences, natural resources and conservation, education, and agriculture.

Research is not only a significant part of a university's mission but also a cornerstone of economic development, leading to job creation, commercialization, academic innovation, and quality student experience. The SUS must aim to expand its efforts in research in order to increase national competitiveness.

⁴ "Flow Through Sources" are defined as other agencies in Florida, agencies outside of the state, and other SUS institutions. Source: Raw data obtained from survey of individual universities, November 2011, BOG Office of Budget and Fiscal Policy.