The University of Florida Health Science Center — the most comprehensive academic health center in the Southeast — is dedicated to high-quality programs of education, research, patient care and public service. The Health Science Center encompasses the colleges of Dentistry, Public Health and Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine, as well as the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and an academic campus in Jacksonville offering graduate education programs in dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy. Patient-care activities are provided by UF and Shands through teaching hospitals and a network of clinics in Gainesville and Jacksonville. The Health Science Center also has a statewide presence through satellite medical, dental and nursing clinics staffed by UF health professionals, and affiliations with community-based health-care facilities stretching from Hialeah and Miami to the Florida Panhandle. The colleges teach the full continuum of higher education from undergraduates to professional students to advanced postdoctoral students.


The College of Medicine has ranked in the top 50 medical schools for the past 6 years.
Research

The Health Science Center also includes 5 major research institutes focused on health issues of importance to Floridians, more than 100 specialized research centers and a vibrant regional campus in Jacksonville, in which clinical research is growing rapidly. From the time of the health center’s founding in 1956, an effort led by our namesake, UF President J. Hillis Miller, we have operated as a single academic enterprise dedicated to training a variety of professionals side by side and to introducing new knowledge that will safeguard the health of Florida’s citizens. The HSC is a world leader in interdisciplinary research. The McKnight Brain Institute, the UF Shands Cancer Center, the UF Genetics Institute, the UF Institute on Aging and the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute are designed to create synergies and collaborative research opportunities that follow the continuum from fundamental research to clinical research to patient care. In the summer of 2009, UF became the only university in Florida to receive the National Institutes of Health’s Clinical and Translational Science Award. This $26 million five-year grant is geared toward accelerating scientific discovery, enhancing medical care, producing highly skilled scientists and physicians and fostering partnerships with industry. In addition, the UF Institute on Aging received a $64 million grant last year to study the effects of exercise in the elderly. This was the largest grant ever awarded by the National Institute on Aging.

Patient Care

The HSC is closely affiliated with Shands HealthCare, part of the University of Florida Academic Health Center. The Shands system comprises two major teaching hospitals, Shands at UF in Gainesville and Shands Jacksonville, as well as specialty hospitals focused on children, cancer, rehabilitation and mental health. The University of Florida HSC comprises more than 1,300 faculty in Gainesville and Jacksonville who work in close collaboration with Shands. Together with clinical programs and services across all HSC colleges, UF and Shands are helping to create Florida’s future health-care workforce. UF provides Level 1 trauma care for north central Florida in Gainesville and Jacksonville and highly specialized cancer treatments through the UF Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville and the Shands Cancer Hospital at UF. The HSC also maintains strong ties to the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.