



FY 2024-2025

BUDGET HEARING

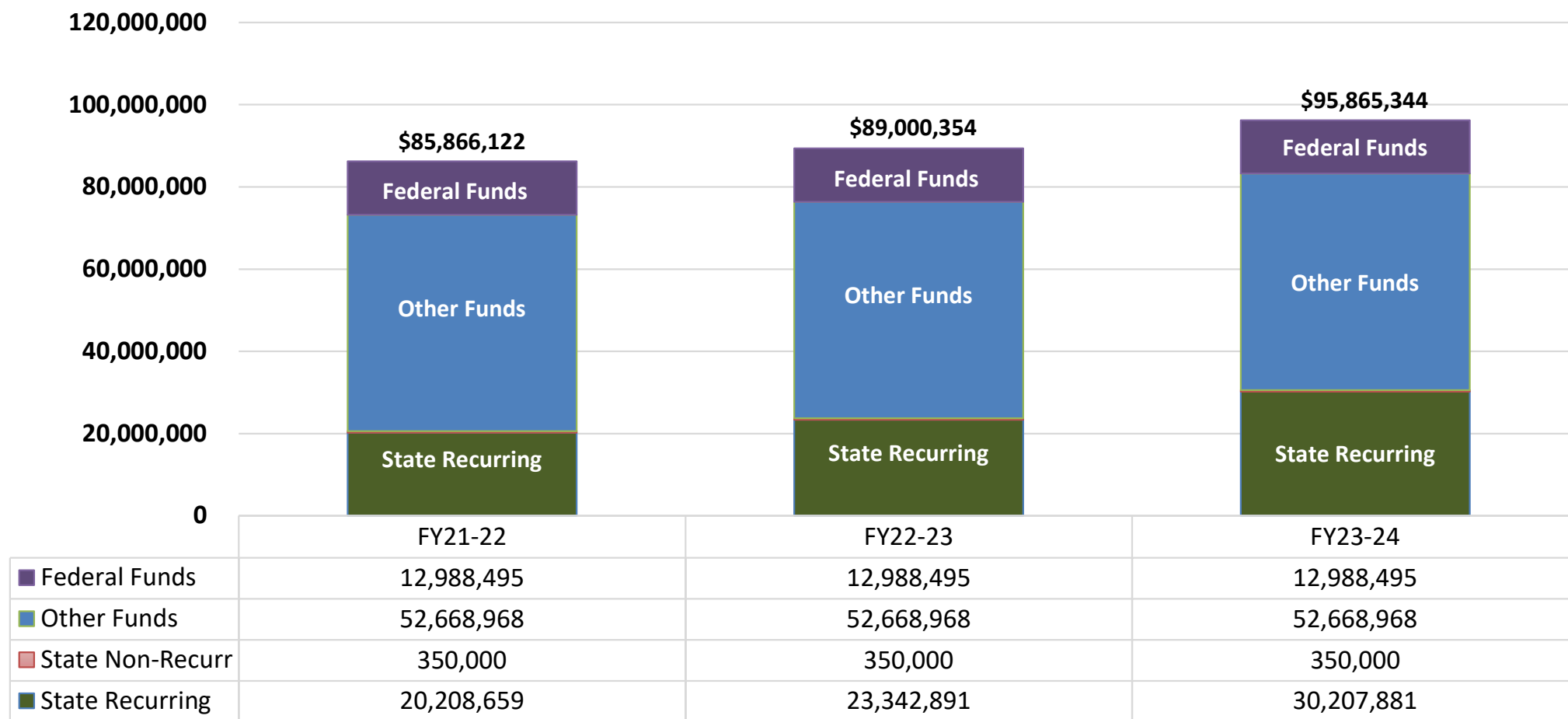
House Ways & Means

**Higher Education & Technical
College Subcommittee**





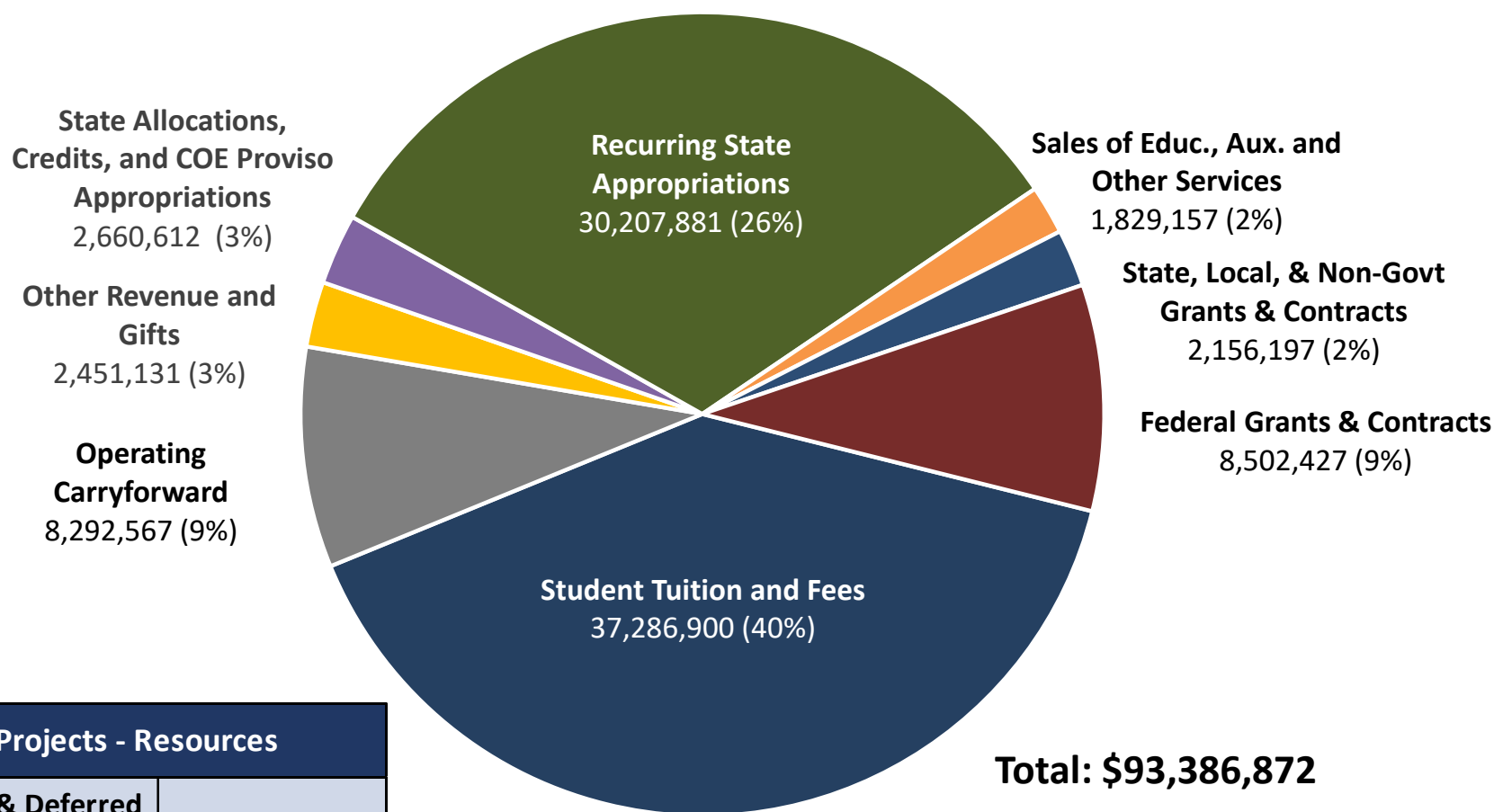
Appropriations History



FY23-24 Note: The chart above does not include retirement credit [\$303,449], police officer retirement credit [\$5,200], recurring state allocation increases for pay plan totaling \$1,257,721, health insurance totaling \$368,681, and retirement totaling \$170,933.



Projected Current Revenue FY23-24

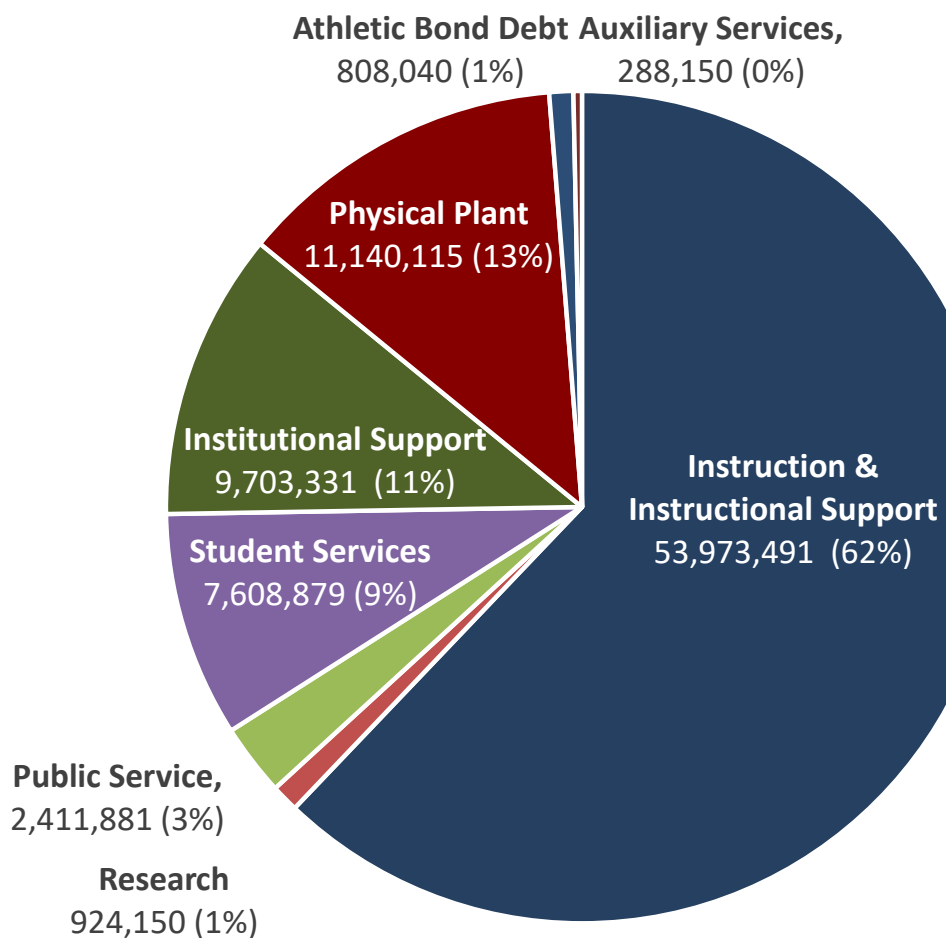


Capital-Related Projects - Resources

Capital Renewal & Deferred Maintenance Projects	9,708,394
Capital Projects	66,455,337
Total	76,163,731



Projected Current Expenses FY23-24



Operating Expenses	86,858,036
Carryforward & Reserves	6,896,595
Total Operating	93,754,631



Recurring Budget Request

Request	Amount	Summary
Tuition Mitigation Funding	\$4,750,310	FMU tuition and required fees have remained at the same level for the past six years. Despite inflationary pressures, FMU has successfully absorbed increased base costs, even with the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) for 2023 forecasting a 4.4% rate. This funding is essential to maintain current tuition levels with no increases for students and parents.



Capital Budget Request

Request	Amount	Summary
Leatherman Science Facility/ McNair Science Building Renovation	\$9,000,000	<p>The adjoined Robert E. McNair Science Building and Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Science Facility have served as core academic facilities for the natural sciences since 1972 and 1994, respectively. Housing biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, the McNair Center, and advanced research labs, the buildings provide essential classroom, laboratory, and office spaces.</p> <p>This request will fund necessary upgrades including mechanical system replacements, life safety and regulatory compliance improvements, and classroom renovations to support contemporary teaching methods while extending the useful life of these facilities.</p> <p>The mechanical upgrades will improve energy efficiency, air quality, and climate control. Life safety enhancements will ensure the facilities meet modern fire, electrical, and accessibility codes. Classrooms will be refreshed with furniture, collaboration technology, and other features to promote contemporary teaching strategies.</p>



Non-Recurring Budget Request

Request	Amount	Summary
Upfit an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic	\$1,000,000	<p>These funds will be allocated to upfit space in the ABA clinic located in the Leatherman Medical Education Complex including costs to purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, equipment, software, and assessment instruments that are needed to maintain a successful ABA clinic.</p> <p>These funds will also be used to provide professional training to ABA clinic staff to maintain current best practices in autism treatment. Funding will allow the clinic to maintain treatment success and vastly increase the number of autistic children receiving services in the community, while simultaneously serving as a hands-on training site for FMU students preparing for careers with autistic individuals (e.g., teachers, clinicians, psychologists, and other health care professionals)</p>



Provisos

Proviso #	Disposition	Purpose & Justification
1A.32	Keep	<p>Center of Excellence for Teachers of Children of Poverty</p> <p>This proviso provides an allocation of \$350K to the FMU Center of Excellence for Teachers of Children of Poverty to equip educators who teach children from low-income families. This funding is of particular significance for the Pee Dee region, where K-12 educators are far more likely to teach students living in poverty.</p> <p>Through the targeted development of teachers in schools with high rates of poverty, the University's objective is to elevate the academic achievements of marginalized students in the Pee Dee area and beyond.</p>



Provisos

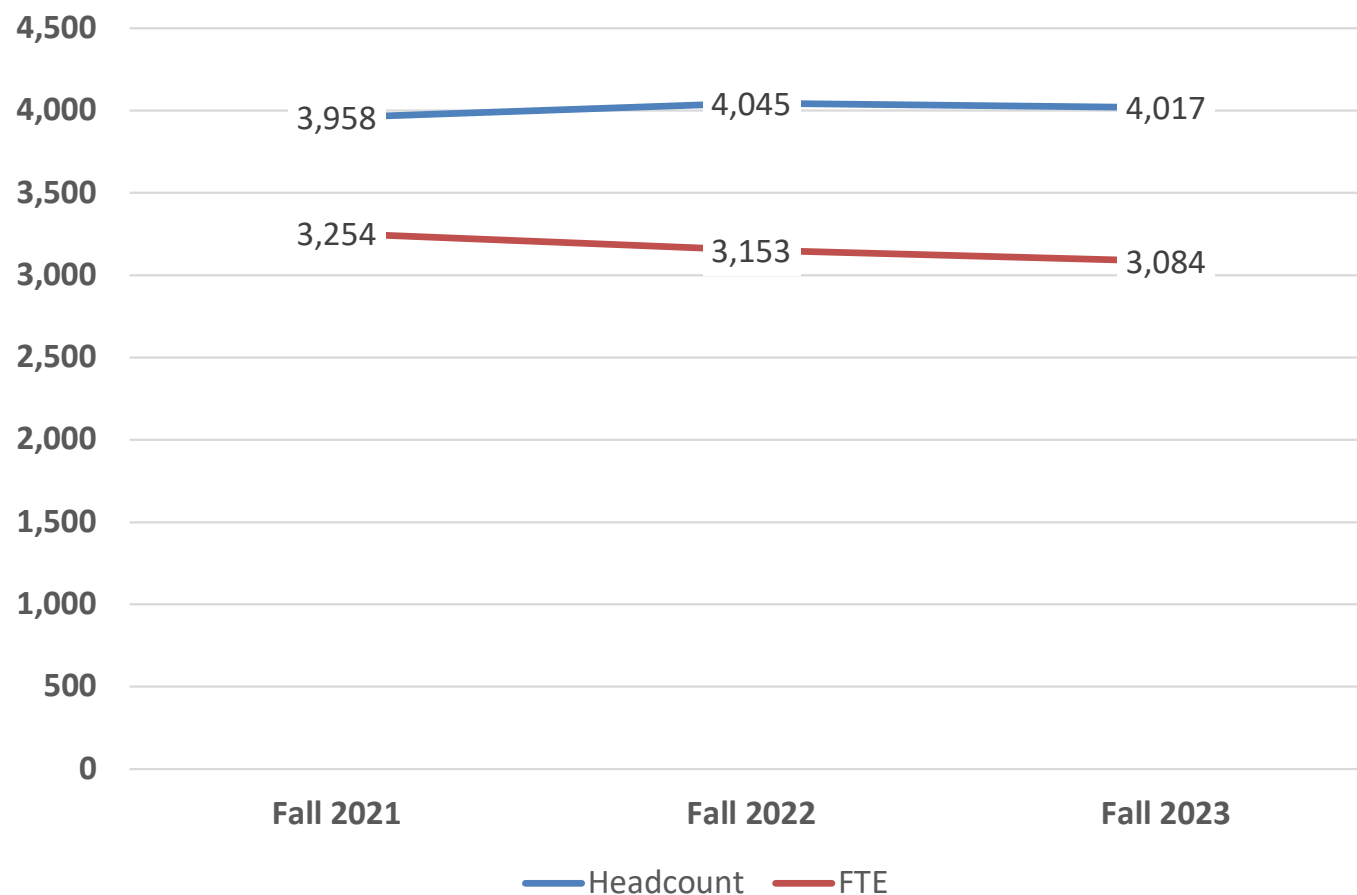
Proviso #	Disposition	Purpose & Justification
117.15	Amend	This proviso permits designated personnel of certain South Carolina state agencies to reside in agency-owned housing without charge. Request is to add Francis Marion University to the agencies listed.

“That the following may be permitted to occupy residences owned by the respective departments without charge: the Farm Director, Farm Managers, and Specialists employed at the Wateree River Correctional Institution; the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry fire tower operators, forestry aides, and caretaker at central headquarters; the Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Management Area Personnel, Fish Hatchery Personnel, and Heritage Trust Personnel; Director of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School; President of the School for the Deaf and the Blind; houseparents for the Commission for the Blind; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control personnel at the State Park Health Facility and Camp Burnt Gin; Residence Life Coordinators at Lander University; Residence Life Directors, temporary and transition employees, student interns, and emergency personnel at Winthrop University **and Francis Marion University**; Farm Superintendent at Winthrop University; Residence Hall Directors at the College of Charleston; the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs' physicians and other professionals at Whitten Center, Clemson University Off-Campus Agricultural Staff and Housing Area Coordinators; and TriCounty Technical College's Bridge to Clemson Resident and Area Directors; and housing maintenance night supervisors, residence life directors, temporary and transition employees, and emergency medical personnel occupying residences owned by the University of South Carolina.”





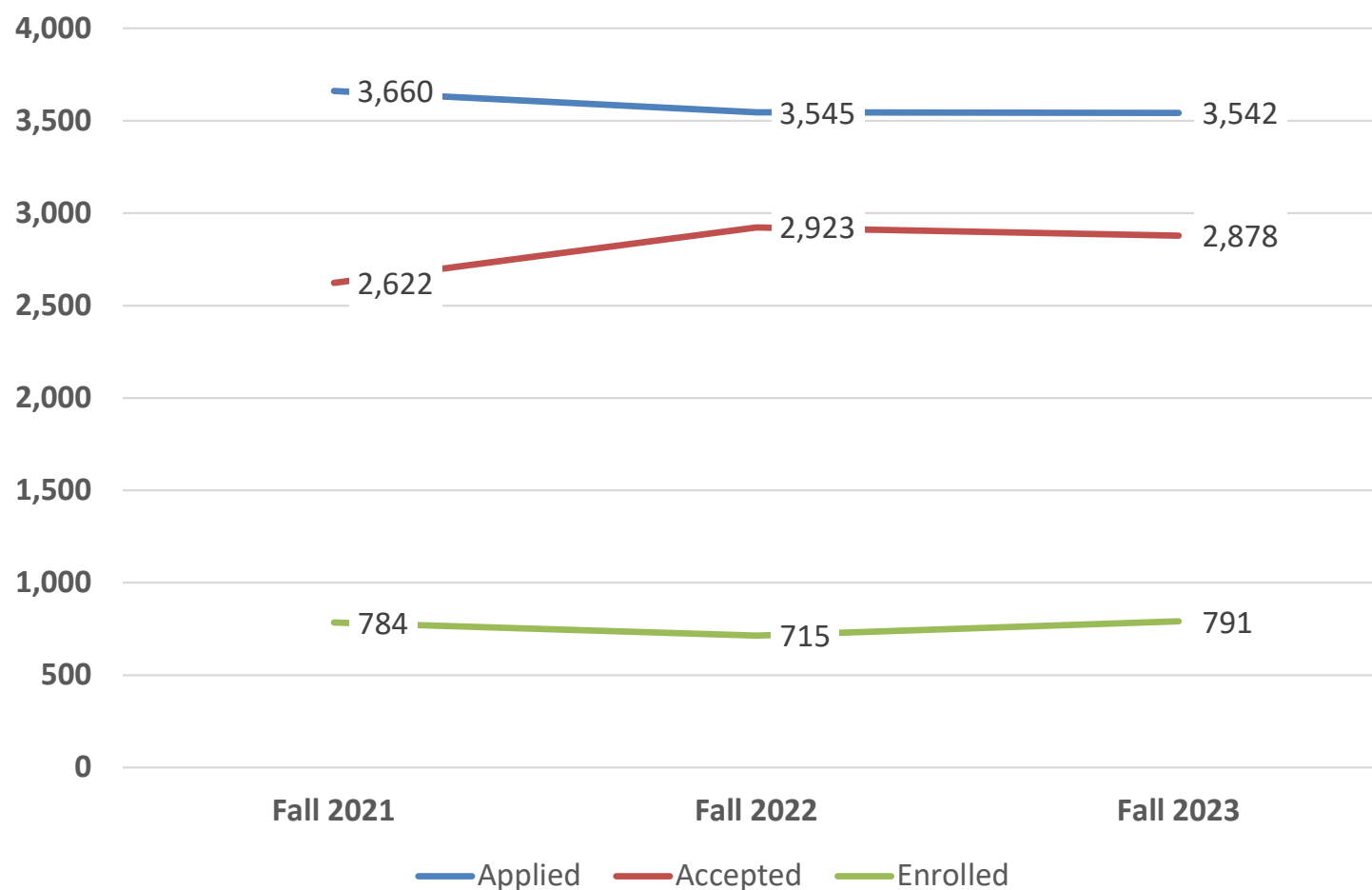
Student Enrollment





Student Enrollment

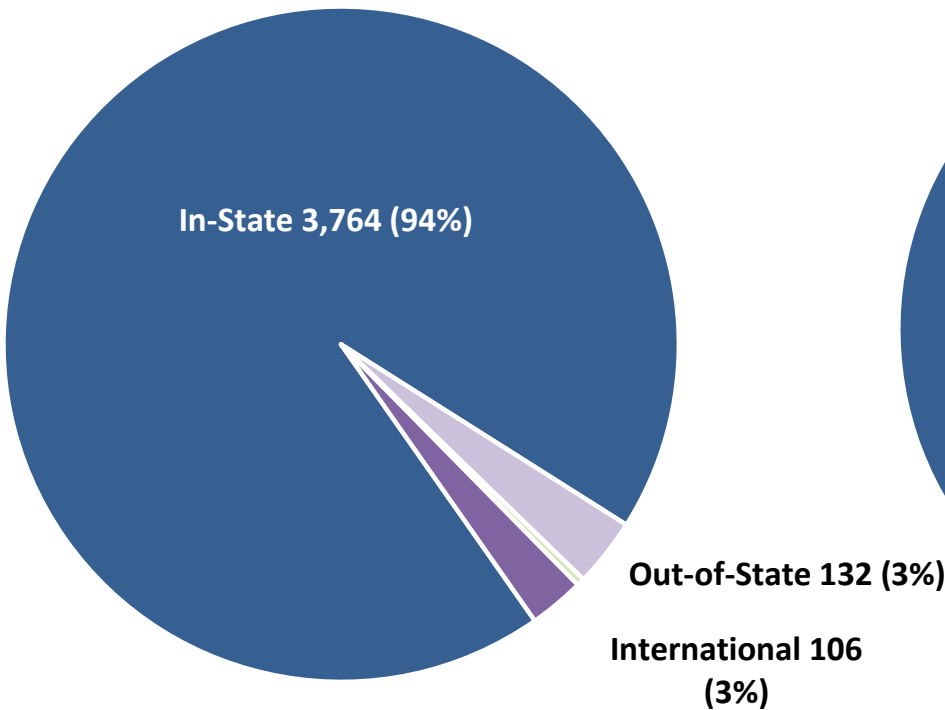
New Students – Applied, Accepted, & Enrolled



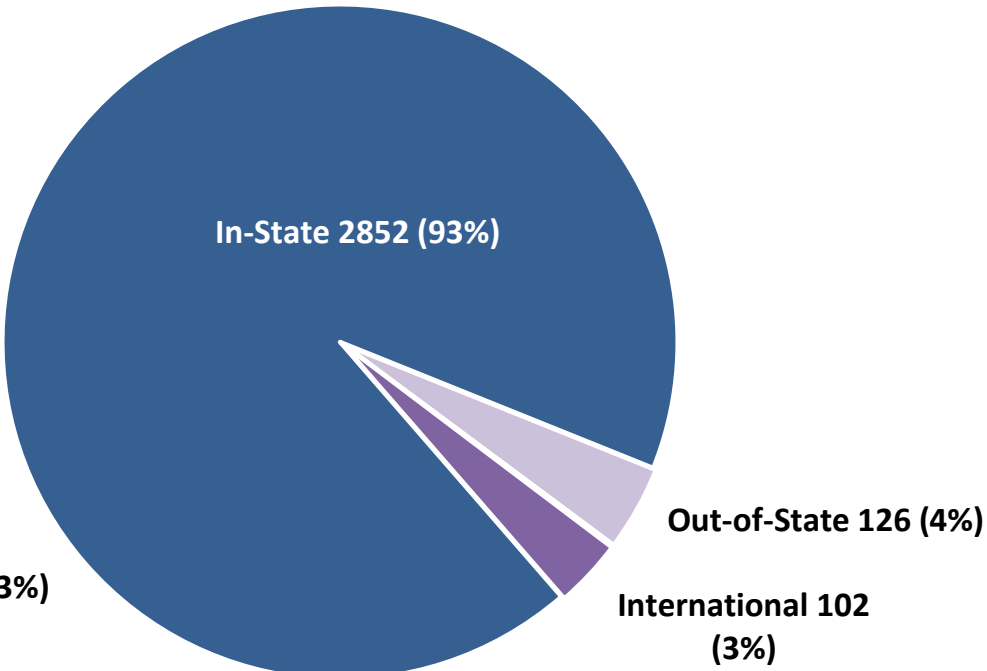


Student Enrollment

Headcount



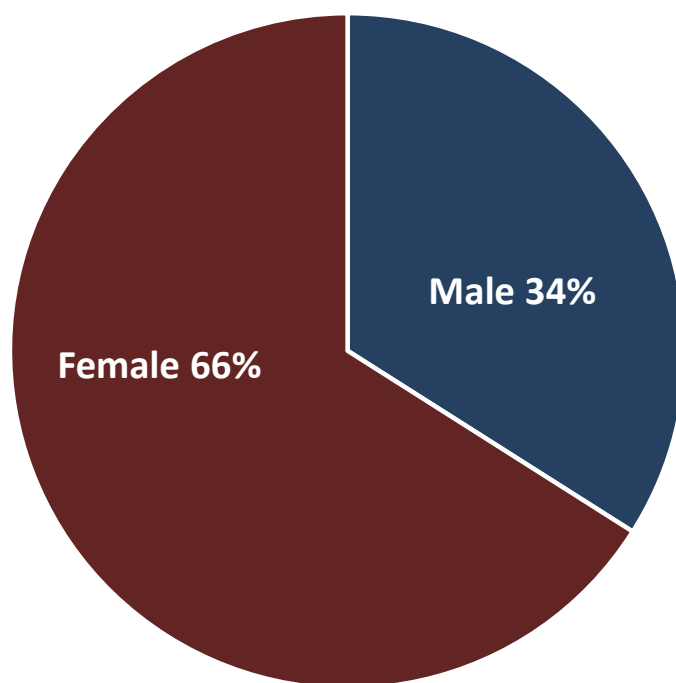
FTE



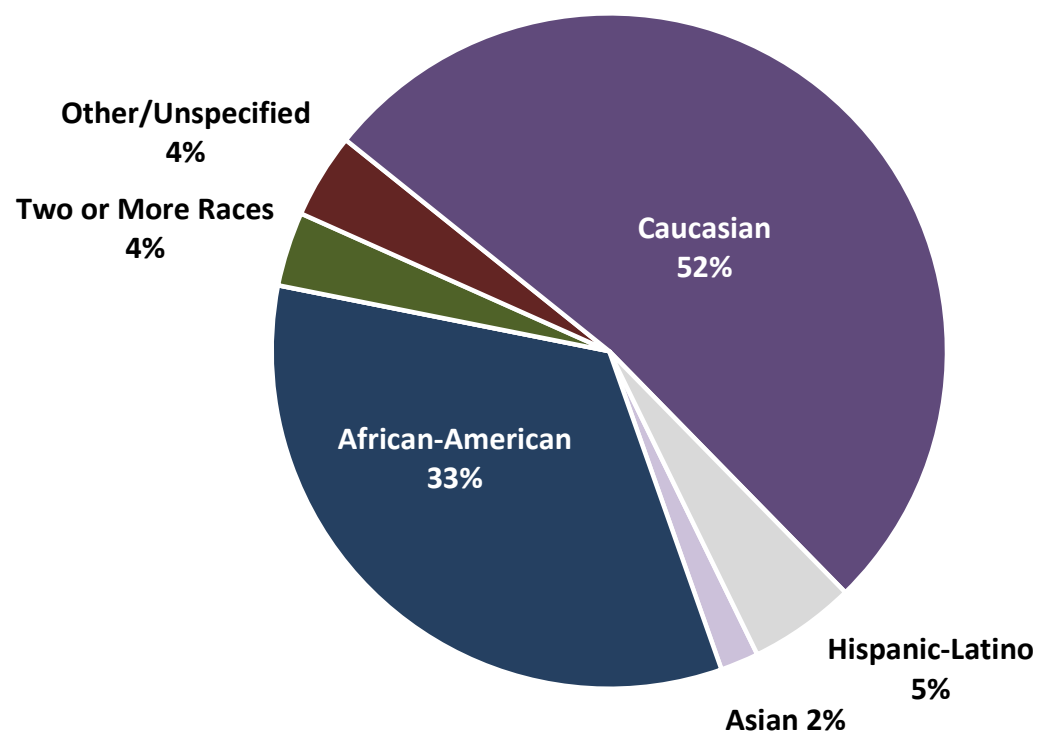


Student Demographics

Gender

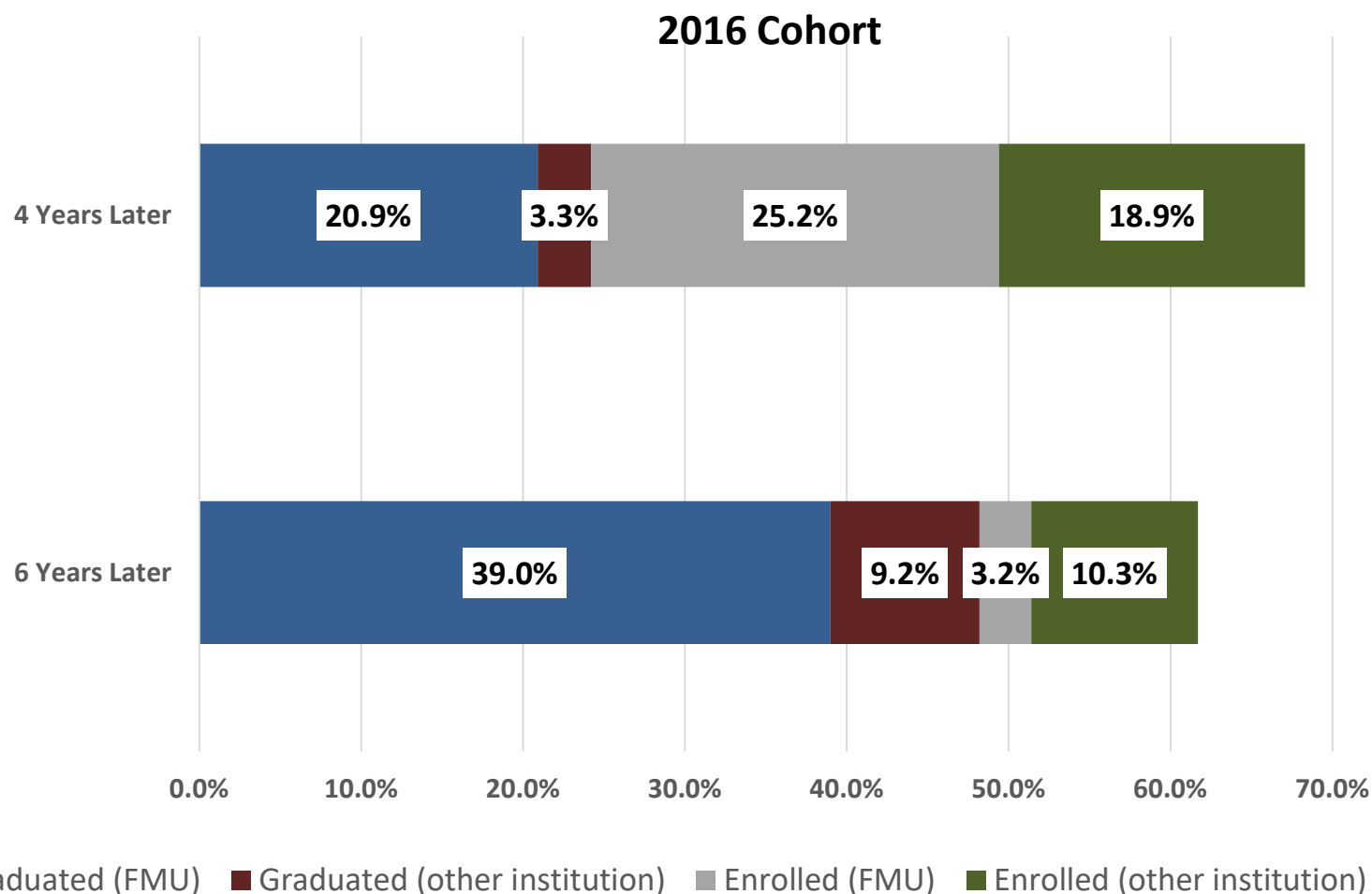


Race or Ethnicity





Student Success Rate



Total Success Rate
(Graduated or still Enrolled)

FMU	Total
-----	-------

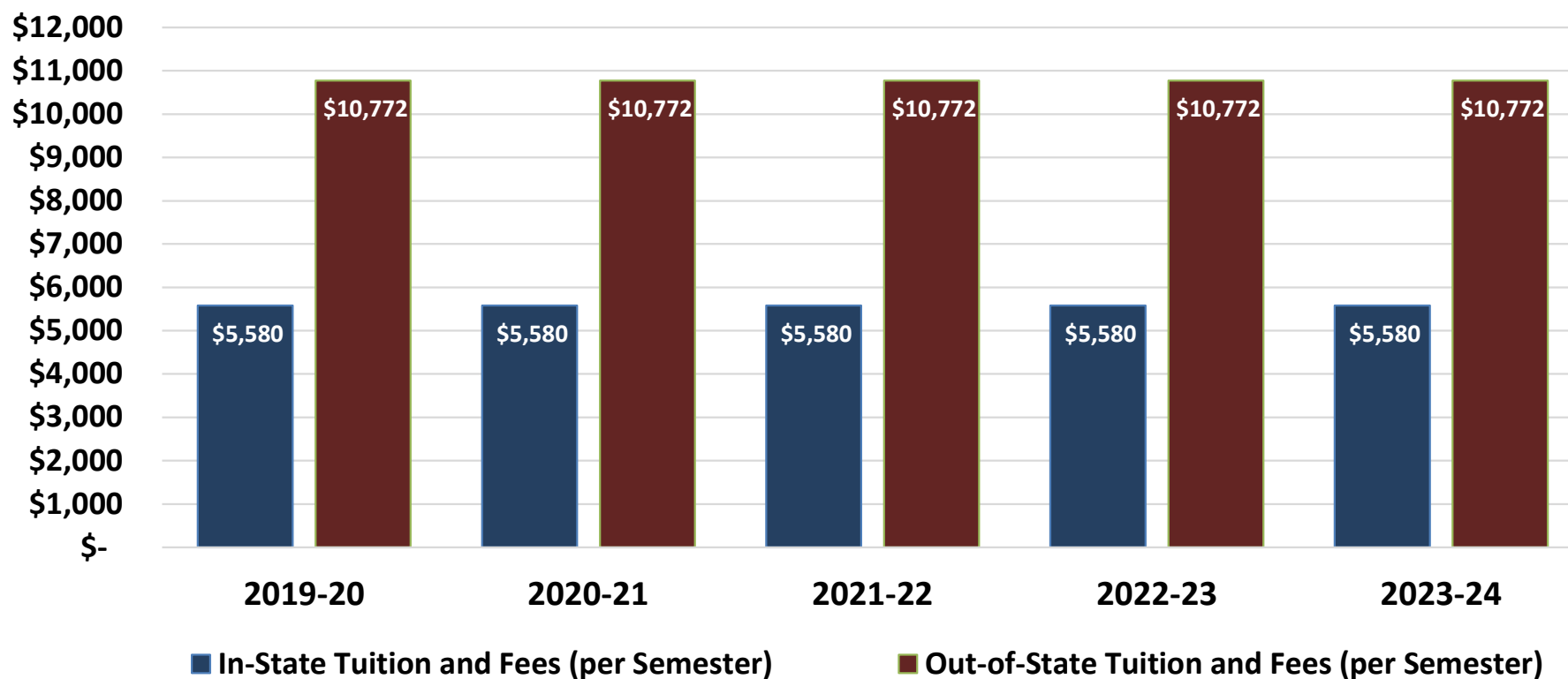
46.1%	68.3%
-------	-------

42.2%	61.7%
-------	-------



Undergraduate Tuition & Required Fee History

	FY2019-20 Increase	FY2020-21 Increase	FY2021-22 Increase	FY2022-23 Increase	FY2023-24 Increase
Tuition	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tuition and Required Fees	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%





Tuition & Required Fees

Fall 2023 Tuition & Required Fees	Undergraduate		Graduate		Nursing & Engineering Upper Division- Undergrad		Nursing - Graduate		Speech Pathology	
	In State	Out-of- State	In State	Out-of- State	In State	Out-of- State	In State	Out-of- State	In State	Out-of- State
Tuition										
Education & General	5,072	10,264	5,186	10,492	7,998	16,116	8,112	16,344	9,644	19,408
Capital Maint. Reserve	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Programs Enhancement	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Total	5,192	10,384	5,306	10,612	8,118	16,236	8,232	16,464	9,764	19,528
Required Fees										
Registration	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Student Activity	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156
Information Tech	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
Facility	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388	388
Grand Total	5,580	10,772	5,694	11,000	8,506	16,624	8,620	16,852	10,152	19,916



Scholarships & Grants

FY 22-23 Aid	In-State		Out-of-State		Totals	
	Students	Amount	Students	Amount	Students	Amount
Federal Grants and Scholarships						
Federal Pell Grant	1,455	7,658,158	34	192,065	1,489	7,850,223
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	267	195,674	6	4,000	273	199,674
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant	15	50,816	0	0	15	100,917
Subtotal	1,737	7,904,648	40	196,065	1,777	8,150,814
State Grants and Scholarships						
LIFE, Hope Scholarship and LIFE Enhancement	1,207	5,767,470	0	0	1,207	5,767,470
Palmetto Fellows/Palmetto Fellows Enhancement	75	623,143	0	0	75	623,143
National Guard Assistance Grants	71	547,653			71	547,653
SC Need Based Grant	1,121	3,556,940	0	0	1,121	3,556,940
Subtotal	2,474	10,495,206	0	0	2,474	10,495,206
FMU Scholarships, Outside Scholarships and Grants						
Subtotal	906	2,566,776	148	812,549	1,054	3,379,325
Total Grants and Scholarships						
Total Above	5,117	20,966,630	188	1,008,614	5,305	22,025,345

On average, 96% of scholarship funding goes to support in-state students.



Outstanding Debt

Series 2022 Athletic Facilities Revenue Bonds

Issued in 2022 to fund the renovation of the Smith University Center (an Athletic Facility) and to refinance the outstanding Series 2009A Athletic Facilities Revenue Bonds.

Total Debt	\$10,528,759
Total Principal	\$8,610,000
Total Interest	\$1,918,759
Interest Rate	3.18%
Average annual debt service expense	\$809,905
Average annual principal expense	\$662,308
Average annual interest expense	\$147,597
Pay Off Date	2034

Note: Information as provided in Outstanding Debt Report per Proviso 11.16



Employees

Employee Headcount	
Full-time Faculty	230
Part-time Faculty	101
Full-time Staff	257
Part-time Staff	22
Total	610

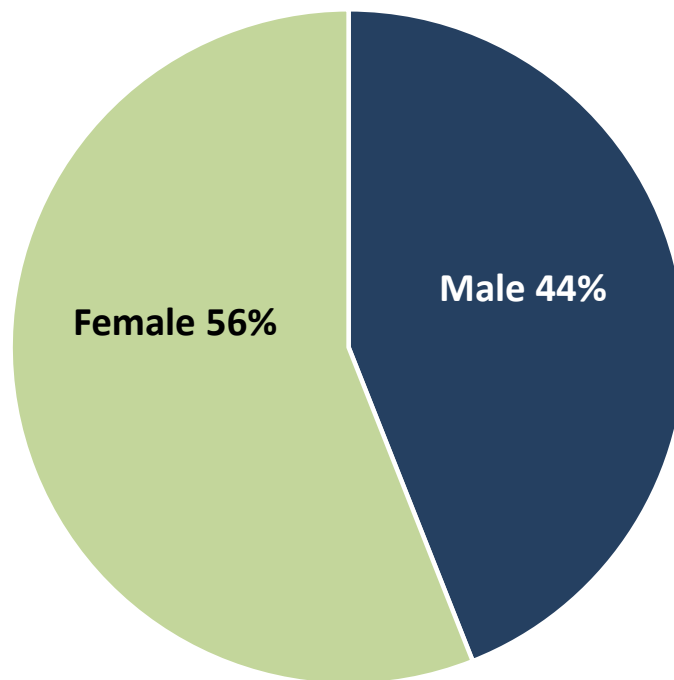
FY23 Total payroll: \$36,935,840

FTEs		
	Authorized	Vacant
State	300.18	21.17
Federal	0.75	0
Other	190.43	17.77
Total	491.36	39.94

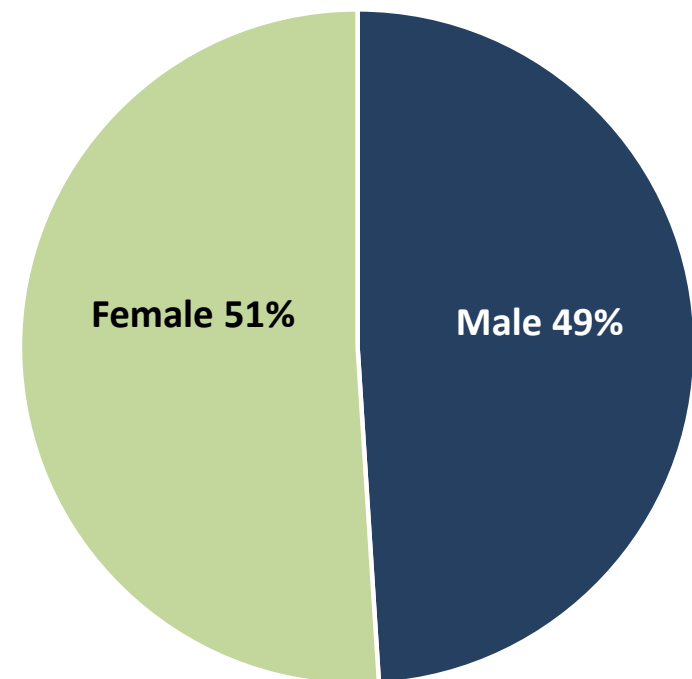


Employee Gender

All Employees



Administration

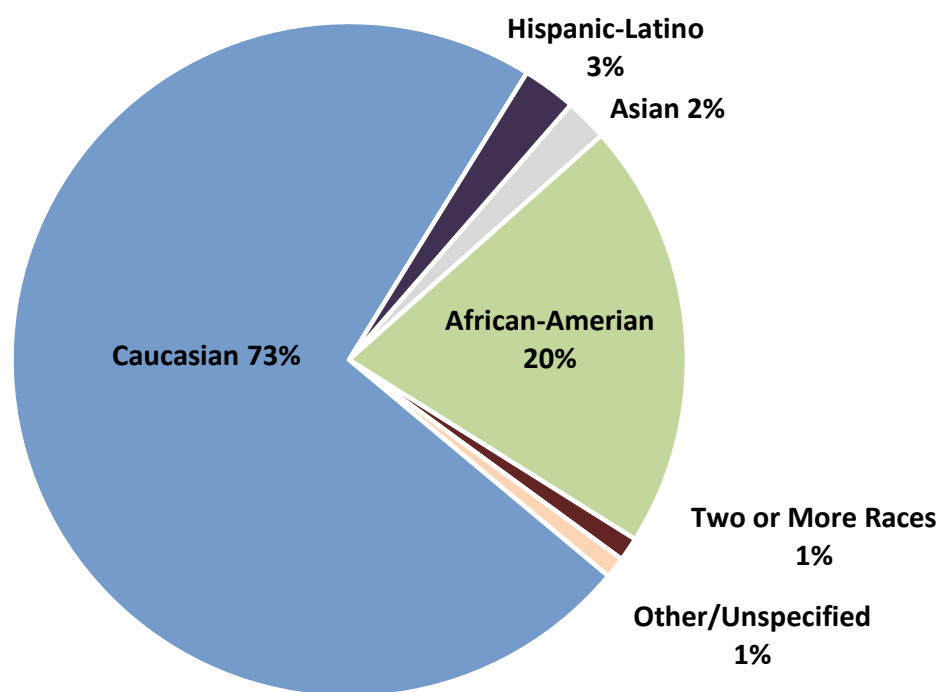


Note: Administration includes Senior Staff, Deans, and Chairs.

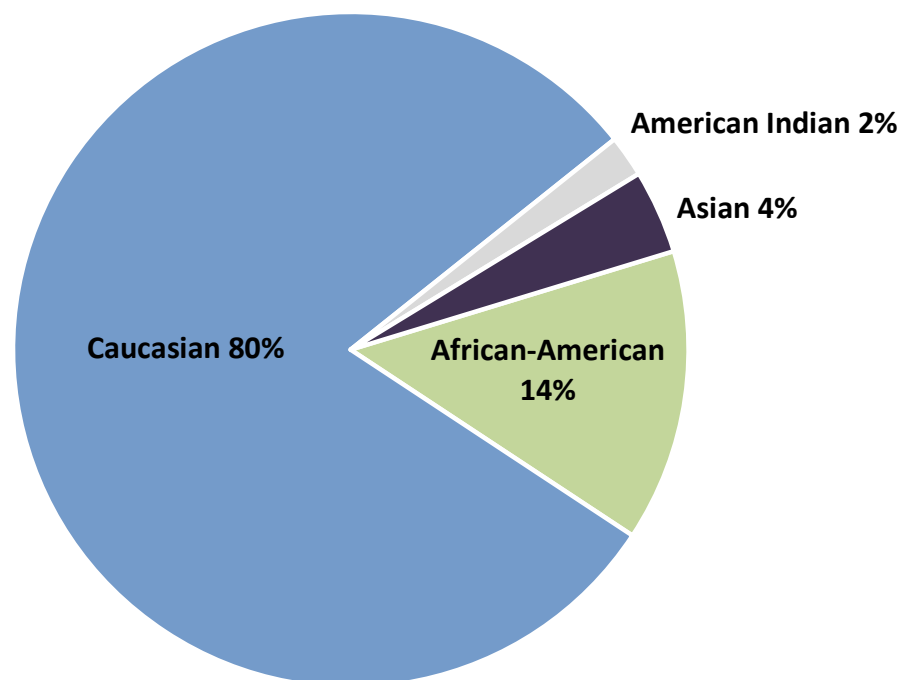


Employee Race or Ethnicity

All Employees



Administration



Note: Administration includes Senior Staff, Deans, and Chairs.



4% Tuition Waivers & Abatements

	Level	FY20-21			FY21-22			FY22-23		
		Resident	Non-Res	Total	Resident	Non-Res	Total	Resident	Non-Res	Total
4% Waivers	Freshman	64	3	67	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Sophomore	26	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Junior	20	2	22	3	0	3	3	0	3
	Senior	14	1	15	9	1	10	5	1	6
	Other	10	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	134	9	143	13	1	14	8	1	9
	Level	FY20-21			FY21-22			FY22-23		
		Resident	Non-Res	Total	Resident	Non-Res	Total	Resident	Non-Res	Total
Full Abatements	Freshman	0	25	25	0	6	6	0	8	8
	Sophomore	0	27	27	0	22	22	0	36	36
	Junior	0	47	47	0	30	30	0	40	40
	Senior	0	32	32	0	73	73	0	53	53
	Other	0	11	11	0	16	16	0	25	25
	Total	0	142	142	0	147	147	0	162	162

Notes: 4% tuition waivers are awarded based on academic merit or financial need. These waivers supplement FMU's scholarship programs. FMU has not offered partial abatements in the three-year period covered.



Capital Projects

Project Name	Number	Status	Budget	Balance
School of Education / School of Business Building	9538	A-1 Phase II approved. Construction underway.	\$23,494,068 \$17M - FY21-22 Proviso 118.18 (B)(14) \$6M – 2021 Capital Reserve Act	\$15,344,846
Smith University Center	9582	A-1 Phase II approved. Construction underway.	\$5,865,000 \$4M - Athletic Bond Revenue bonds \$1.865M – FMU Capital Maintenance Reserve	\$2,069,796
Medical Education Consortium Building	9590	Phase I A-1 is complete. Programming and design work in progress.	\$21,000,000 FY21-22 Proviso 118.18 (B)(14)	\$21,000,000
Forestry & Environmental Sciences Building	9591	Land transfer completed. Phase 1 A-1 submitted.	\$18,000,000 \$8M – 2022 Appropriation Act \$10M – 2022 Capital Reserve Act	\$18,000,000
Founders Hall Renovation	9587		\$9,000,000 2023 Capital Reserve Act	\$9,000,000



Deferred Maintenance/Capital Renewal Projects

The Campus Development Plan, approved by the FMU Board of Trustees in November 2022, serves as a consolidated strategy for capital renewal and maintenance of University facilities.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, Francis Marion University allocated \$2,708,014 towards general maintenance requirements for campus facilities and infrastructure. The University has also prioritized several projects to address capital renewal and deferred maintenance needs in order to extend the useful life of assets through repairs, renovations or replacements. Recently, a \$1.9 million federally-funded stormwater abatement project was completed to prevent flooding of campus roadways and infrastructure during severe storms. The following projects are either in progress or scheduled to begin soon:

Project Name	Number	Status	Budget	Balance
Campus Wide Renovations	9583	Construction in progress.	\$2,895,000 FY21-22 Proviso 118.18	\$1,979,005
Roads, Parking Lots, and Sidewalks	9584	Construction in progress.	\$3,178,113 FY21 Capital Reserve Act	\$1,954,634
McNair & Leatherman Roof	9586	A-1 Phase II Approved	\$1,156,000 FY21-22 Proviso 118.18	\$1,150,200
HVAC Systems	9588	Construction in progress.	\$1,185,000 \$821,887 - FY21 Capital Reserve Act \$363,113 - FY21-22 Proviso 118.18	\$1,185,000



Awards & Accolades



Agency Name: Francis Marion University
Agency Code: H180

Section: 17



Fiscal Year FY 2024-2025

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

**OPERATING
REQUESTS**

(FORM B1)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING
REQUESTS**

(FORM B2)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**CAPITAL
REQUESTS**

(FORM C)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS

(FORM D)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.



**PRIMARY
CONTACT:
SECONDARY
CONTACT:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Darryl Bridges	(843) 661-1201	dbridges@fmarion.edu
Eric Garris	(843) 661-1136	egarris@fmarion.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2024-2025 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE:

**TYPE/PRINT
NAME:**

<u>Agency Director</u>  9/18/23	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>  9/18/23
Luther F. Carter	Herbert R. Dozier

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University
Agency Code:	H180
Section:	17

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation Support	4,750,310	0	0	0	4,750,310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	C - Capital	Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building Renovation	9,000,000	0	0	0	9,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B2 - Non-Recurring	Upfit an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			14,750,310	0	0	0	14,750,310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University		
Agency Code:	H180	Section:	17

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Tuition Mitigation Support

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$4,750,310

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$4,750,310

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DTO during development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # |

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports Goal 1 of the University's FY23-24 Strategic Plan, as outlined in the 2023 Accountability Report. The goal is to provide high quality higher education to students from South Carolina and the Pee Dee Region. This request supports the University's ongoing commitment to deliver a quality educational experience at a relatively low cost. Funds will be evaluated based on the University's ability to freeze tuition rates for FY24-25.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Continuing the freeze on tuition rates benefits students and parents substantially. Funds will be allocated internally to support University instructional and operational objectives which are supported through tuition.

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Francis Marion University remains committed to providing a quality education for South Carolinians at the most affordable rates in the State. For the past six years, tuition mitigation funding has provided the resources for FMU to meet increased costs while maintaining tuition levels with no increases for students and parents. With inflation driving costs even higher, this funding is more critical than ever in maintaining accessibility.

As it has for the last two decades, FMU continues to have one of the lowest tuition rates statewide which is vital given that 95% of FMU students are South Carolina residents and many are first-generation college attendees. By keeping costs down, FMU sustains access and opportunity for the citizens of our region.

The current economic climate has created financial uncertainty which impacts lower-income students and families disproportionately. This appropriation, combined with private fundraising for needs-based aid and support directed to first-generation students, will permit the University to meet its anticipated obligations and sustain existing levels of institutional support necessary to provide instruction and services.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University		
Agency Code:	H180	Section:	17

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building Renovation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

\$9,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

This request will be included in the 2023 CPIP for the FY2024-25 plan year. Without state funding, the University would need to defer the project to later plan years on future CPIP submissions. The University remains hopeful that adequate funding can be secured so this important project can move forward as planned next year.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

The University will request approvals to proceed with this capital project once adequate funding has been secured.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Routine operations and maintenance will continue to be supported by the University's general operating funds. The proposed renovations will extend the useful life of these vital facilities by approximately 40 years, though they will likely remain active beyond that timeline. This investment will ensure the buildings can support education and research for decades to come.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

The adjoined Robert E. McNair Science Building and Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Science Facility have served as core academic facilities for the natural sciences since 1972 and 1994, respectively. Housing biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, the McNair Center, and advanced research labs, the buildings provide essential classroom, laboratory, and office spaces.

This request will fund necessary upgrades including mechanical system replacements, life safety and regulatory compliance improvements, and classroom renovations to support contemporary teaching methods while extending the useful life of these facilities.

The mechanical upgrades will improve energy efficiency, air quality, and climate control. Life safety enhancements will ensure the facilities meet modern fire, electrical, and accessibility codes. Classrooms will be refreshed with furniture, collaboration technology, and other features to promote contemporary teaching strategies.

SUMMARY

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University		
Agency Code:	H180	Section:	17

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Upfit an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

\$1,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- ☐ Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
- ☐ Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
- ☐ Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
- ☐ Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
- ☐ Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
- ☐ Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
- ☐ Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
- ☐ IT Technology/Security related
- ☐ Consulted DTO during development
- ☒ Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
- ☐ Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
- ☐ Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- ☒ Education, Training, and Human Development
- ☐ Healthy and Safe Families
- ☐ Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
- ☐ Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
- ☐ Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request primarily supports Goal 1 of Francis Marion University's 2023 Accountability Report - to provide high quality education to students in South Carolina and the Pee Dee region. The Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) clinic aligns with the University's continued commitment to maintain an enriching educational experience at a relatively low cost.

Specifically, the experiential learning opportunities afforded by the clinic will enhance student preparation in clinical psychology as well as fields like special education, speech pathology and occupational therapy to assist and educate children with autism spectrum disorder and their families. Hands-on training in ABA therapy techniques will produce graduates uniquely qualified to meet workforce demands. Beyond student outcomes, the clinic's provision of ABA services supports the community and the entire Pee Dee Region.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The funds would be allocated to Francis Marion University to upfit space in the ABA clinic located in the Leatherman Medical Education Complex. These funds will be utilized to purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, equipment, software, and assessment instruments that are needed to maintain a successful ABA clinic. These funds will also be used to provide professional training to ABA clinic staff to maintain current best practices in autism treatment. Funding will allow the clinic to maintain treatment success and vastly increase the number of autistic children receiving services in the community, while simultaneously serving as a hands-on training site for FMU students preparing for careers with autistic individuals (e.g., teachers, clinicians, psychologists, and other health

care professionals).

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Most evidence-based research supports the assumptions that the symptoms of ASD can be treated by Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) which can produce substantial gains in communication and social skills while also reducing challenging behavior to manageable levels. The funds would be allocated to Francis Marion University to upfit space in the ABA clinic located in the Leatherman Medical Education Complex. These funds will be utilized to purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, equipment, software, and assessment instruments that are needed to maintain a successful ABA clinic. ABA based treatments begin with extensive data collection on the events that precede and follow behavior and identification of reinforcers that can be used to promote social and communication skills. These data are then used to identify the function of problem behaviors (the antecedents and / or consequences that maintain these behaviors) and to then develop function-based interventions. A lack of access or delays to effective treatment for individuals diagnosed with ASD is associated with lower quality of life for the autistic individual, decreased personal and professional well-being of their families, and large increases in long-term healthcare costs. Integrated into the autism studies program, the ABA clinic allows students pursuing psychology, special education, speech pathology, and occupational therapy to receive hands-on training in ABA, expanding the pipeline of skilled therapists. Additionally, research at the clinic would advance ABA science and enhance outcomes.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University		
Agency Code:	H180	Section:	17

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
--------------	---

AMOUNT	\$906,236 <i>What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.</i>
---------------	---

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None <i>How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?</i>
--------------------------------------	--

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>The University would apply the reduction to its other operating budget within the I.A. E&G unrestricted general funds category. Specifically, the reduction would come from reducing operating expenditures, adjusting the scope of community engagement activities, evaluating and adjusting non-essential travel expenses, and delaying the hiring of select positions.</p> <p><i>What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?</i></p>
--------------------------------------	---

SUMMARY	<p>The University would apply the reduction to its other operating budget within the I.A. E&G unrestricted funds category. Specifically, this would come from reducing operating expenditures, adjusting the scope of community engagement activities, evaluating and adjusting non-essential travel expenses, and delaying the hiring of select positions. FMU would seek to minimize impacts upon instruction, academics, and services supporting students. However, the university would need to utilize other funds generated by student tuition and fees to offset the reduction.</p>
----------------	--

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

The University routinely reviews operations to identify savings opportunities and extraneous costs are phased out whenever possible. Savings that are identified are used to maintain student affordability by offsetting increases in fixed or essential costs and providing essential support for the student body. These efficiency measures are evidenced by the reduction of the number of university employees, primarily staff positions, by 5% during the past five years.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University		
Agency Code:	H180	Section:	17

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Clinical Placement Programs: Students in Action, Making a Difference Now

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

Francis Marion University seeks to benefit students, parents, and citizens through efficient operations that result in affordable educational opportunities that support regional and state workforce needs. The University has focused on establishing programs based upon the needs expressed by employers and industry leaders throughout the region. FMU has not increased tuition or required fees for the last six years in an effort to maintain one of the lowest university tuition rates in the state.

1. Consolidation of the following curricular offerings in recent years reduced expenses and streamlined educational opportunities for students providing easier matriculation: Fine Arts, Modern Languages, Economics, and Mass Communication. Programs in German, Middle Grades Education, and Mass Communications/Sports Information were eliminated.
2. Substantially enhanced institutional scholarship support. During the past few years, FMU has substantially enhanced financial aid support focusing on need-based criteria which leads to a reduced financial burden upon students and families.
3. Expanded private and external scholarship support. FMU continues to increase private scholarship support through the FMU Education Foundation as evidence by the Darla Moore scholarship program. Additionally, FMU successfully seeks and obtains federal support for student programs when eligible.
4. Establishment of the First Generation Fund that provides financial assistance for new students who are in the first generation of their family to seek a college degree.
5. Establishment and expansion of CASA (Center for Academic Success & Advising). CASA provides structured support through academic advising, tutoring support, and career advising through personal interaction and structured programs with over 50% of our student body benefiting directly from these services. The increased student success leads to higher eligibility rates for financial assistance therefore reducing financial burdens upon families.
6. Establishment of academic programs to meet regional employment needs including: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, MSN; Master of Applied Psychology in Applied Behavioral Analysis; Multi-Categorical Special Education, MAT; Montessori Elementary Education, MED; Master of Speech-Language Pathology, MSLP; Early Childhood Education Accelerated Program, MAT; Doctor of Nursing Practice, DNP; Doctor of Psychology, Psy-D; Doctor of Occupational Therapy; Environmental Science, BS; Environmental Studies, BA; Mass Communication BS; Mechanical Engineering, BS; and Management Information Systems, BBA.
7. Proposed new academic programs to meet regional employment needs including: Master of Arts in Writing (professional/technical); Physical Therapy, Doctoral; Physician Assistant Studies; Autism Studies, BS; Criminal Justice, BS; Forestry, BS; Social Work, BS; Veterinary Studies, BS; Evening College Certificate. For example, the Forestry Program is in direct response to expressed needs from corporations and legacy landowners within the Pee Dee and Low Country Regions.
8. Establishment of a Speech-Language Pathology Clinic and a Behavioral Health Clinic that are available to the public. These labs provide required clinical opportunities for graduate students to provide services to community members at a low cost, including speech therapy and treatment for autism spectrum disorders. Once the Occupational Therapy program is operational, FMU will consider establishing a clinic to provide these services as well.
9. Revised the graduate programs in Education and Business to provide higher accessibility and more efficient course delivery through online instruction and streamlined curricular requirements.
10. Establishment of the Freshwater Ecology Center that provides support to local jurisdictions relating to water testing and facilitates applied research opportunities for students. In collaboration with DHEC and DNR, the FMU FEC is helping address issues related to the environment, climate, and flood mitigation.
11. Tuition free academic courses with additional instructional support during the summer for students with potential to maintain their eligibility for financial assistance needed to continue their educational pursuits.
12. Expanded student employment opportunities on campus providing students both experience and financial opportunities.

13. Student Health Care Plan in collaboration with HopeHealth, the local federally qualified community health center. This plan provides tier-one health services at no cost to students, faculty, and staff. FMU is negotiating an expansion of this collaboration to include Behavioral Health Services.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Repeal or revision of regulations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other |

**METHOD OF
CALCULATION**

N/A

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

**REDUCTION OF
FEES OR FINES**

N/A

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

**REDUCTION OF
REGULATION**

N/A

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY

Francis Marion University has implemented a variety of cost-saving initiatives and affordability measures to reduce the financial burden on students and families, including consolidating and eliminating certain academic programs, expanding scholarship and financial aid opportunities, establishing and expanding support services to improve student success, establishing and proposing new academic programs to meet regional employment needs, providing experiential learning clinics, and expanding student employment support. Through disciplined fiscal management and a focus on the core academic mission, FMU continues to mitigate tuition increases while enhancing the quality and value of the educational experience.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect

agency operations?

FY 24-25 Budget Request Summary

Priority 1: Tuition Mitigation Support

- Request Type: Recurring
- Amount: \$4,750,310
- Justification: Request continues 6-year tuition freeze to maintain affordability and accessibility. Funds mitigate increased operating costs without raising tuition rates. Supports FMU's continued low in-state tuition rate.

Priority 2: Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building Renovation

- Request Type: Capital
- Amount: \$9,000,000
- Justification: Funding supports necessary facilities upgrades including mechanical system replacements for improved energy efficiency/climate control, life safety and accessibility improvements, and classroom technology upgrades. Extends useful life of facilities and enhances instructional spaces.

Priority 3: Upfit Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic

- Request Type: Non-Recurring
- Amount: \$1,000,000
- Justification: Funds establish clinic providing clinical psychology students with hands-on experience in ABA therapy. Clinic provides services to children with autism spectrum disorders. Provide multidisciplinary opportunities for psychology, education, speech pathology students.

Other Funds Request: No increase requested.

Federal Funds Request: No increase requested.

FTE Request: No increase requested.

Proviso Request 1: Request to retain Proviso 1A.32. This proviso provides \$350K to FMU's Center of Excellence to equip educators who teach children from low-income families, impacting education in high poverty in the Pee Dee region and beyond.

Proviso Request 2: Request to amend Proviso 117.15. This amendment request seeks to add Francis Marion University to current proviso that allows certain personnel (Residence Life Directors, temporary/transition employees, student interns, emergency personnel) to occupy university residences without charge, similar to other state institutions.

**Francis Marion University
Key Officials
December 2023**

President Dr. Luther F. Carter
Provost Dr. T Alissa Warters
Executive Vice President Mr. Darryl Bridges
Vice President for Administration & Planning Dr. Charlene Wages
Vice President for Construction & Facilities Mr. Ralph Davis
Vice President for Enrollment Management Dr. John Rowan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mrs. Lauren Stanton
Vice President for Student Life Dr. Chris Kennedy
Vice President for University Communications Mrs. Anna Todd

**South Carolina House of Representatives Ways & Means Higher Education Subcommittee
Budget Hearing, January 9, 2024**

FMU Attendees

Dr. Luther F. Carter, President

lcarter@fmarion.edu

(843)661-1210

Mr. Darryl Bridges, Executive Vice President

dbridges@fmarion.edu

(843)661-1201

Mr. Graham Tew

jgrahamtew@gmail.com

(803)429-1711

