

FLORIDA COLLEGE

FIRST YEAR FAMILY GUIDE

At Florida College, we follow a path to God in higher education. It's a place where education is more than knowledge. It's about shaping character and equipping students to serve God and others. Join us in our pursuit to seek truth in all we do.



2026 / 2027

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WELCOME MESSAGE

DR. JOHN B. WEAVER
President

Dear Parent,

Congratulations on arriving at this important milestone in your child's life. I want to provide my assurance that all the faculty and staff at Florida College take seriously and gratefully the commitment and sacrifice that this transition means in your family's life. We seek not only to be teachers and guides to your child during college, but also guardians of the Christian values and beliefs that I know are part of the reason that you are bringing him/her here.

I truly believe your child is enrolling in a school unlike any other. We're not about indoctrinating young people into a Christian denomination's piety and doctrine, unlike many religious colleges today. We're not only focused on the classical teachings of ancient wisdom and time-tested traditions in the modern academic disciplines, and although this is an important part of our mission, it is not our sole focus like it is at other institutions of higher learning.

Many universities today are completely dedicated to scientific research, and many schools are seemingly fixated with conveying ideologies about social justice and identity politics. And while the life of the mind and concern for neighbor and self are part of our effort here, we are a different type of school where student character and citizenship are the focus of our curriculum and campus. This concern for character and citizenship is rooted in a Biblical worldview and serious tutelage in how to follow Christ in every aspect of life.

I hope that this is what you and your student are here to experience, and I want to promise you that we are prepared for and passionate about our mission to educate every member of the incoming class of students for their service to God and others.

In Him,



Dr. John B. Weaver
President
Florida College



**FIRST YEAR
EXPERIENCE**



FOLLOWING CHRIST IN HIGHER EDUCATION

FC
WE ARE

As parents bringing your child to Florida College, you are joining a community dedicated to more than academics—this is a place where faith, learning, and service to God are at the heart of everything we do.

At Florida College, your student will experience an education that extends beyond the classroom, prioritizing spiritual growth alongside academic excellence. Surrounded by a supportive community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who share their faith and values, your student will be encouraged on their path to God through higher education. Whether they choose to study business, psychology, liberal studies, or one of our 20+ undergraduate degree programs, your child will be challenged to think critically and lead with purpose. With small classes, mentorship opportunities, and individualized academic advising, our 100% Christian faculty are here to guide your student every step of the way. Our dedicated staff will support them in exploring internships and post-graduation opportunities, guiding them holistically.

For over 75 years, Florida College has remained committed to providing a biblically based Christian education. Faith is not simply a part of the curriculum—it shapes the entire campus experience. In our top-rated residence halls, your student will form friendships that last a lifetime. They'll cheer on our Falcons, dive into campus life, and grow through involvement in our 35 student organizations. From daily chapel services and Bible studies to service projects, your child will have countless opportunities to live out their faith while discovering new ways to connect, lead, and serve.

In an ever-changing world, the enduring value of a Christian education provides graduates with the foundation to lead lives of integrity, faith, and purpose. At Florida College, our faith-based perspective is integrated into every discipline, guiding students to better serve both their Creator and humanity.

Welcome to the Florida College family. Together, **We Are FC. We Are Following Christ.**

PARENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS



WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA COLLEGE FAMILY

At Florida College, we recognize the important role families play in supporting their students' success. Our goal is to keep you connected and informed, providing resources and opportunities to help you encourage your Falcon's intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth. Together, we'll support your student as they navigate new experiences, grow in independence, and prepare for a life of service to God and others. Please reach out to Deborah Brewer, brewerd@floridacollege.edu, for additional information.

STAY CONNECTED

Families are encouraged to search the Florida College website for helpful resources and updates. You can also connect with us through our social media channels on Facebook and Instagram. Additionally, there are parent-specific Facebook groups for each class cohort (e.g., Florida College Parents Class of 2030) where you can connect with other parents and stay informed.

ACCESS STUDENT INFORMATION

Students can grant their parents access to view their schedule, grades, and/or financial information on the Florida College portal, myFC.floridacollege.edu





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INFO:



THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Florida College has unique ways to support first year students, from Orientation to finding their God-given strengths through the Clifton Strengths Assessment. These initiatives are designed to ensure your student feels confident, supported, and ready to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually while they work toward their ultimate goal of completing a bachelor's degree.

ORIENTATION: YOUR STUDENT'S JOURNEY BEGINS

Orientation is a one and a half day, required introduction to life at Florida College. It provides a glimpse into the experience that will define the next four

- Begin the day with praise alongside new classmates.
- Tour our state-of-the-art library, media lab, and residence halls.
- Learn about student organizations and peer support services.

As part of their first week, your student will also attend a Hospitality Night, where they'll be invited into a faculty or staff member's home, fostering community and connection.

FOUNDATIONS FOR A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Incoming students are encouraged to take Foundations for a Biblical Worldview, a Bible course designed to ground them in understanding God, humanity, and morality. This course provides a strong biblical foundation and practical applications, influencing their studies and campus life while helping them grow in faith and service to God and others.

STAYING INFORMED

Your student will receive a weekly email, the Falcon Beat, from the Dean of Students every Sunday evening, keeping them informed about campus events and opportunities. Additionally, daily announcements during chapel (held Monday through Friday at 10:15 a.m.) ensure students stay up-to-date on all campus happenings.

ONGOING SUPPORT

The transition to college life can present challenges, but Florida College offers an array of resources to help students navigate their new environment. From peer mentors and academic advisors to the guidance of faculty and staff, your student will find support at every turn.

At Florida College, your student's academic journey is about more than preparing for a successful career—it's about building a foundation of faith and wisdom. Professors integrate Christian principles into every subject, guiding students to connect their faith to their field of study and all aspects of life. Whether pursuing a career in nursing, business, or education, your student will grow academically and spiritually, as we believe, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10).

GUIDANCE AND ADVISING

Florida College's shared advising model ensures that students receive personalized guidance every step of the way:

Florida College uses the Clifton Strengths Assessment to help students identify and develop their natural talents, starting before they arrive on campus. Integrated throughout all four years, this approach supports academic success, personal growth, and improves student retention.

-**Academic Advisors:** Students begin their journey with advisors specializing in their area of interest, focusing on prerequisites and foundational courses.

-**Faculty Advisors:** Once students enter their upper division coursework, they transition to the faculty chair of their program, gaining expert mentorship for their specific field.

For more information, please reach out to Holly Cabina, Director of the Academic Advising Center, cabinah@floridacollege.edu

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

At Florida College, we provide a variety of resources to help students achieve their academic goals:

-**The Academic Advising Center:** This resource equips students with tools for success, offering services like planning for graduate school or careers.

-**Knack Tutoring:** Florida College partners with Knack to offer on-demand peer tutoring for every course, providing flexible, year-round academic support. Trained and paid student tutors gain valuable experience while the college continuously monitors and improves the system.

-**Academic Labs:** One-on-one support in writing, communication, and math, with opportunities for extra credit from many professors.

GRADES AND SCHEDULING

Students can view their grades through Canvas and meet with advisors to schedule their classes. Florida College's hands-on advising model ensures every student has the support they need to plan their academic journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

Florida College offers accommodations to students who qualify as specific-needs students. These accommodations are designed to help students overcome physical differences or other circumstances that may limit their ability to succeed academically. For more information on qualifying and applying for accommodations, please visit our [Accommodations page](#).

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEXT

At Florida College, your student will develop not just as a learner but as a person of faith, wisdom, and integrity. For more information, visit [Florida College Academics](#).

LIVING AT FC

At Florida College, residential life offers students a unique opportunity to thrive socially, excel academically, and grow spiritually in a safe and supportive environment. With 90% of our students living on campus, the residence halls are a central part of the Florida College experience.

WHERE WILL MY STUDENT LIVE

Florida College has several residence halls, each fostering a close-knit community:

- Boswell Hall** houses all male students.
- Hinely Hall** is home to freshman girls, though upper-division girls may also choose to live here
- College Hall** and **Jennifer Hall** accommodate sophomore and upper-division girls.

Each hall features on-site Dorm Parents and Resident Assistants (RAs) who provide 24/7 support and a home-like atmosphere. Laundry is easy with on-site facilities and CleanPay Mobile. Learn more about our [residence halls](#) on our website.

AFTER CURFEW HANGOUTS

Campus life doesn't slow down when the clock strikes 11 PM! With a curfew of 11 PM on school nights and midnight on weekends, students often gather for late-night chats, games, and snacks in their halls, creating friendships that last a lifetime.



MEALS AT FLORIDA COLLEGE

Zest Dining Systems provides delicious, nutritious meals at two on-campus locations:

- Henderson Dining Hall** offers a variety of options, from classics to international cuisine.
- The Coffey House** serves Starbucks coffee, sandwiches, wraps, and bottled beverages.

All first-year resident students are required to have a 20-meal-per-week plan during their first semester. Visit our webpage for more info on [campus dining](#).

STUDENT MAIL & PACKAGES

The Riverview Center, located below Henderson Dining Hall, is the hub for mail and package deliveries. Students can stop by after chapel to check their mail, hang out with friends, or play a game of ping pong. Additionally, the **Holden Amazon Locker** near the library provides a convenient option for receiving packages.

HELPING YOUR STUDENT NAVIGATE DORM LIFE

Living with peers is an exciting and transformative experience that can also present challenges. Whether it's adjusting to a roommate, managing homesickness, or resolving conflicts, these moments are part of the growth process. Encourage your student to communicate openly and seek help when needed. RAs and dorm parents are always available to assist with any concerns.

LIVING THE MISSION



“ TO EDUCATE THE
WHOLE PERSON
TO IMITATE CHRIST
IN SERVICE TO GOD
AND OTHERS .



At Florida College, our mission is to **educate the whole person to imitate Christ in service to God and others**. This commitment shapes every aspect of campus life, offering students opportunities to grow spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially while preparing for lives of service. For more about our mission and values, visit our [webpage](#).

SERVICE TO GOD AND OTHERS

Through initiatives like FC Serves, students support local nonprofits in the Tampa Bay Area, gaining a deeper appreciation for community service and its lasting impact. In 2023, our inaugural Impact Day brought students and faculty together to serve over 30 local organizations, engaging in activities like meal packaging, park cleanups, and creating care packages for veterans. These experiences instill a lifelong passion for Christ-centered service. Learn more about FC Serves on our [webpage](#).

DAILY CHAPEL

Every weekday morning, the campus gathers in Hutchinson Auditorium for chapel, beginning the day with song, prayer, and Bible study. On Fridays, student-led devotionals encourage peer-to-peer growth in faith, providing opportunities for young men to share insights and inspire their classmates. Chapel is live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

ANNUAL LECTURESHIP WEEK

The first week of February brings our annual Lectureship Week, a time for alumni, students, and friends of the college to connect and learn from inspiring speakers. This week is a meaningful opportunity to grow spiritually and enjoy fellowship with the Florida College community. Learn more [here](#).

LEADERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Student organizations like Sowers provide leadership opportunities for young men, while encouraging spiritual discussions and fostering community through bi-weekly gatherings. Woven is a weekly Bible study opportunity for the young women on campus to study and serve together. Additionally, the Alpha Club offers leadership opportunities to a select group of students, serving as ambassadors for the college throughout the academic year. Membership in Alpha Club is a distinct honor, granted after a comprehensive selection process.

Through service, worship, and shared experiences, Florida College helps students live out their faith and grow into leaders who reflect Christ in all they do.



EXPLORING

FC

At Florida College, we believe in the holistic development of our students – intellectually, spiritually, socially, and physically. Opportunities to get involved on campus not only enhance the college experience but also foster personal growth, lifelong friendships, and valuable skills.

SOCIETIES: MORE THAN JUST CLUBS

Florida College's six societies—Arete, Kappa Omicron (KO), Omega Chi, Phi Sigma Chi, Psi Beta Gamma, and Zeta Phi Epsilon—offer students a unique blend of camaraderie, competition, and service. These societies foster bonds between upper and lower classmen through activities like intramural sports, weekly devotionals, and service projects.

The highlight of the year is the Society Cup, awarded to the society with the most points earned in categories such as meeting attendance, GPA, and service hours. Whether cheering for Arete's red pepper mascot, "rolling" with KO, or embracing the panda pride of Zeta, there's a society for everyone to call home.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

With over 35 service-oriented, academic, and artistic organizations, students can channel their passions into productive, encouraging environments. From academic societies to student-led initiatives, there's an opportunity for every interest. Learn more about these opportunities [here](#).

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

The Florida College music and fine arts department offers extensive opportunities for creative expression. Students can participate in fully staged musicals, plays, and one-act festivals, or join ensembles like Wind, Jazz, Strings, Accents, and the renowned Chorus Ensemble.

Performance groups such as Friends and Unplugged allow students to showcase their talents while representing Florida College at events across the country. Learn more about fine arts [here](#).

STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SBGA)

The SBGA enhances campus life by organizing a variety of weekly and weekend events, from concerts to tournaments. They also offer a discount card available for purchase with discounts at local restaurants, and FC-sponsored events, making college life both enjoyable and affordable.

FITNESS AND RECREATION

Students have access to workout rooms in Boswell Hall (for boys) and Jennifer Hall (for girls), offering a variety of fitness equipment to stay active. Intramural sports, organized through societies, provide fun and competitive outlets for students of all skill levels.

Through societies, organizations, the arts, and recreational activities, Florida College students have countless opportunities to explore their talents, grow as individuals, and build memories that last a lifetime.



STAYING HEALTHY AND SAFE

At Florida College, we prioritize the well-being of our students by providing a range of services and resources to ensure their physical, mental, and emotional health.

WAYS WE SUPPORT STUDENT WELLBEING

- Mental Health Specialists:** Through the generosity of donors, Florida College offers students five free confidential appointments with a licensed mental health professional. Additional sessions are available at the student's expense.
- On-Call Nurse:** A registered nurse is available to assist students with medical concerns. Students can contact the nurse through the Student Portal.
- Hurricane/Tropical Storm Safety:** Student safety is paramount during severe weather. Florida College actively monitors storm conditions and follows a detailed Hurricane/Tropical Storm Preparations Plan. Updates are sent through email, text, myFC, and the FC website.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students must bring a health insurance card for their family's plan. Please note any medical conditions or medications on the student health form for our records.

CAMPUS SAFETY

- Security Personnel: Patrol campus to support student safety-Residence Hall Access: Restricted entry for added security.
- Warnings of Imminent Danger: Students are alerted promptly of a threat.
- Curfew and Crime Prevention: Policies ensure a secure environment while fostering community awareness.

Visit our [Campus Safety page](#) for details on reporting crimes, emergency protocols, and safety programs.

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

Florida College works closely with the Temple Terrace Fire Department to ensure campus-wide fire safety compliance through annual inspections and improvements.

DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICIES

Florida College is a drug-free and alcohol-free campus. Any violation of these policies is grounds for suspension as outlined in the student handbook.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Florida College complies with Title IX, ensuring a safe environment for all students.

- Emergency Help: Call 911 or the Temple Terrace Police Department
- On-Campus Support: Stacy Butler at butlers@floridacollege.edu and Julie Sanchez at sanchezj@floridacollege.edu
- Off-Campus Support: Crisis Center of Tampa Bay at 211

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NAVIGATING NECESSITIES

FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING

Our Financial Aid Office is here to assist with any questions or concerns.

-Contact us: Call 813.988.5131 or email financialaid2@floridacollege.edu.

-Student Jobs: On-campus jobs are available! Submit applications to the Financial Aid Office by July 15 to be considered. Late applications will be kept on file for future openings. Learn more: [Student Jobs at Florida College](#).

-Billing Statements: Parents receive billing statements in the mail or can view them on the Parent Portal at myFC.floridacollege.edu.

STUDENT ID & CAMPUS RESOURCES

Students will receive their Student ID during the Move-In Market on move-in day. This ID grants access to:

- Residence halls
- Meal plans in the cafeteria or Coffey House
- Printing and copying in the library
- The bookstore for purchases during the first two weeks of classes (charged to their student account)

Additionally, the library provides a computer lab, reservable study rooms, and printing resources for academic success.

WIFI AND TECHNOLOGY

Students can connect multiple devices to the campus Wi-Fi, providing access for academic and personal needs. We strongly recommend each student to bring a laptop with them. Contact the I.T. Helpdesk with any issues, helpdesk@floridacollege.edu.

VEHICLES AND PARKING

Students must register their vehicles with the Dean of Students Office. A valid driver's license, proof of liability insurance, and a vehicle decal are required. Learn more: [Vehicles & Parking at Florida College](#).

CAREER PLANNING

Florida College's Center for Experiential Learning equips students to succeed during and after their time on campus.

-Internships: Gain hands-on experience in your field before graduation. 70% of Florida College's class of 2026 reported they completed internships or other experiential learning experiences that prepared them for their careers.

-Career Guidance: Network with professionals and connect with employers through seminars, career fairs, and events.

-Resume and Interview Preparedness: Florida College partners with platforms like Big Interview that provide students resume and interview skills support.

-Handshake: Florida College provides access to Handshake, the leading career platform for college students.





TAMPA AREA DINING AND ACTIVITIES

We're excited to welcome you to Florida College, whether you're coming for Move-In Days, Parent Weekend, or the Annual Lectureship. While you're here, there's plenty to explore in the vibrant city of Tampa. For ideas on how to make the most of your visit, from scenic spots to delicious dining and fun activities, check out our [Tampa Life page](#).

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR YOUR STAY

For your convenience, we've partnered with some local hotels offering discounted rates for our guests. Below is a list of accommodations near campus:

Hilton Garden Inn

The Hilton Garden Inn is offering a discounted rate for Florida College guests. This rate includes cooked to order breakfast for up to 2 people per room. You may ask for the Florida College rate over the phone or you may use the corporate rate code 2767799 and book [online](#).

13305 Tampa Oaks Blvd., Temple Terrace, FL 33637 | 813-342-5000
Contact Mindy.Jarvis@Hilton.com or Diamond.Carter@Hilton.com

Fairfield by Marriott Tampa North

Fairfield by Marriott Tampa North is offering a discounted rate for Florida College guests. This rate includes breakfast. You may ask for the Florida College rate over the phone or you may use this [link](#).

12260 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace, FL 33637 | 813-989-0007
Contact Kayla Kelley kaylak@immhotels.com

Holiday Inn Express N I-75 University Area

The Holiday Inn Express is offering a discounted rate for Florida College guests. This rate includes a hot breakfast. You may ask for the Florida College rate over the phone or you may use the corporate rate code IPSKJ and corporate ID 100285052 and book [online](#).

13294 Telecom Drive, Tampa, FL 33637 | 813-972-9800
Contact person: Kristi Smith ksmith@gillissales.com

Alternatively, consider using Airbnb for affordable and convenient accommodations nearby.

WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOUR FAMILY TO FLORIDA COLLEGE!

We hope this guide has answered many of your questions as you prepare for your student's journey at Florida College. We understand that there's always more to learn, and we're here to help every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need further information or have any additional questions, alumnirelations@floridacollege.edu. We look forward to seeing your student thrive in our community.

We are FC. We are Following Christ.

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+813-988-5131
www.floridacollege.edu
119 N Glen Arven Ave, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

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