Our First 100 Years

A Century of Innovation

Since 1906, the College of Education at the University of Florida has been a nationwide leader in education. Our faculty have been pioneers in the community college and middle college movement and its science and curriculum extension, as well as in their teaching children with special needs and in perfecting methods of education. Our five-year programs for teacher preparation were among the first of their kind and remain among the best.

Each year, our 84 full-time faculty help prepare some 330 teachers, counselors, administrators and school psychologists for middle-level education. They teach more than 9,000 education undergraduates and graduate students and produce nearly 250 publications. Their outreach extends to schools and classrooms throughout Florida and provides professional leadership to organizations and agencies with national and international missions.

Success of our great, national recognition of our programs, our historical significance and our promise for future achievements: These are all sources of our pride – past, present and future.

Points of Pride

• UF teacher candidates have a perfect pass rate on the Florida teacher certification examination nearly every year.

• Don Davis, UF’s first African-American professor, was appointed to the UF College of Education in 1948.

• The Florida Union for Minority Teachers, created to attract and retain minority teachers to Florida, was founded by the UF College of Education.

• Our elementary teacher education program received an international award in 2006 for distinctive achievement in integrative technology into the curriculum.

• Our Counselor Education department was the nation’s top-ranked program in its discipline in 1997, according to the Florida teacher certification examination nearly every year.

• The states’s new Florida Fund for Marginal Students, which focuses on needy and at-risk students, is the first of its kind in the nation.

• UF’s ProTeach program was one of the first teacher-preparation programs requiring an additional fifth year of study for teacher certification.

• UF education graduates have a perfect pass rate on the Florida teacher certification examination nearly every year.

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Outreach Scholarship

Outreach Scholarship, or scholarship that contributes to the public good, is the core principle of a transformation the College of Education is implementing in its research, teaching and service projects. Here are some recent examples:

• UF professors partner with public school educators to design more meaningful and authentic learning experiences for students.

• A UF professor leads fieldwork for students to support new teacher certification in South Florida to study their culture and educational opportunities.

• UF’s ProTeach program helps attract promising minority students into teaching careers.

• UF ProTeach program formed, linking UF to help at-risk children in K-5.

• University of Florida is implementing in its research, teaching and service projects.

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Celebrating the Past; Educating for the Future

Our First Century

In 1909, founding dean, John A. Thackston, and other early leaders of the University of Florida College of Education envisioned a future in which the state’s public schools would be staffed by professionally prepared teachers. With the backing of the Florida Legislature and a small group of visionary educational leaders, they established the University of Florida’s College of Education, whose mission was to prepare teachers of academic competence and character to lead Florida’s rapidly expanding public schools.

The Early Years

The 1909-10 academic year marked the beginning of a new educational era for the state of Florida. In 1909, the Florida legislature passed the State School Act, which established a system of public schools in the state. The act authorized the establishment of a normal school, which would train teachers for the state’s public schools.

In 1909, John A. Thackston was appointed as the first dean of the College of Education at the University of Florida. Thackston was a strong advocate for teacher education and was instrumental in the establishment of the college. Under his leadership, the college began to offer programs in education, including teacher training.

The Early Research Years

The college’s research activities grew over time, and the college became known for its contributions to the field of education. One of the early research activities of the college was the establishment of the Florida State Teachers College, which provided an alternative to the traditional teacher training program.

The Later Transition Years

The college encountered several challenges during this period, including a decline in funding and a decrease in enrollment. Despite these challenges, the college continued to offer programs in education and to conduct research in the field.

The Program Years

During the 1950s and 1960s, the college continued to expand its programs and research activities. The college’s research activities included projects on the evaluation of educational programs and the study of teacher education.

The Contemporary Years

In the 1980s and 1990s, the college continued to grow and expand its programs and research activities. The college’s research activities included projects on the evaluation of educational programs and the study of teacher education.

The College of Education at the University of Florida is now recognized as one of the top education colleges in the nation. The college continues to offer a wide range of programs and research activities, and it is a leader in the field of education.

The Future

Looking to the future, the College of Education at the University of Florida is poised to lead the way in the field of education. The college is well-positioned to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and it is committed to preparing educators who will be able to meet the needs of the future.

The College of Education at the University of Florida is a leader in the field of education, and it continues to grow and expand its programs and research activities. The college is well-positioned to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and it is committed to preparing educators who will be able to meet the needs of the future.