

## Section 2: Mission

**2.1 The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement that is specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service. (*Institutional mission*) [CR]**

### Judgment

☒ Compliance   ☐ Non-Compliance   ☐ Not Applicable

### Narrative

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) has a clearly defined mission appropriate for higher education that aligns with the structure and functions of 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant institutions and addresses the tripartite functions – teaching, research, and service – of an institution of higher education. The current mission of FVSU, as approved by the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BoR) on June 9, 2009, is defined and reads as follows:

### Mission Statement

The mission of Fort Valley State University is to advance the cause of education with emphasis upon fulfilling commitments that our community members have undertaken collectively. As an institution of the University System of Georgia, Fort Valley State University naturally embraces the principles articulated by the Core Mission Statement for State Universities as approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The university's primary commitments include, among others, enhancement of teacher training programs grounded upon a liberal arts foundation, as reflective of over 110 years of experience and tradition. Additionally, the university recognizes with great pride and desires to further its responsibilities as Georgia's only 1890 Land Grant institution by offering programming excellence in agriculture, agribusiness, family and consumer sciences, extension, technology and military science and leadership, as well as to further its traditions of excellence in programs in the liberal arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences.

The university's primary commitments extend, as well, to:

1. community outreach through the concept of the communiversity, an approach that highlights the interdependence of community and university;
2. expanding service beyond the campus, as well as within, so that the institution addresses in a meaningful manner the broad diversity—human and technical—of needs in our home region and state, as well as nationally and internationally;
3. sparking within our students an enduring interest in learning and providing the tools and skills necessary to maintain that interest through life;
4. preparing students through a mentoring approach for the opportunity to serve their fellow man while enjoying the opportunity provided by hard work and achievement to live the quality of life inherent in the American dream;
5. encouraging and supporting creative expression, innovation, honesty, and integrity as endeavors of lasting and intrinsic merit;
6. providing a productive environment for cutting-edge academic and practical research in, among other fields, agriculture, aquaculture, animal science, biotechnology, energy, environment, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities; and
7. otherwise acting to enlighten, enrich, and inspire by example those whom FVSU serves.

### **A Mission Specific to the Institution**

The mission of FVSU remains unique to the institution, identifying it as the 1890 Land-Grant institution in Georgia. Founded in 1895 as a normal and industrial school, FVSU and its precursor institutions have always viewed the mission of the institution as providing educational opportunities to the underserved in the rural communities surrounding the institution, research to inform practice in the agricultural sciences, and extension services to assist in the development of the community beyond the campus. As the institution has grown and expanded its enrollment, program offerings, research funding, and outreach initiatives, it has remained true to its historical mission, while addressing current issues and challenges within the state, region, across the nation, and around the globe.

### **A Mission Appropriate for Higher Education**

The appropriateness of FVSU's institutional mission to higher education is ensured by the fact that it was reviewed and [approved](#) on June 9, 2009 by the state's constitutionally established governing board for the 26 public colleges and universities, which includes four research universities, four comprehensive universities, nine state universities, and nine state colleges. [Section 2.8 of the BoR Policy Manual on Institutional Mission](#) defines the core characteristics of the state universities tier of public colleges and universities, which includes FVSU. FVSU's mission statement references the institution's alignment with the BoR mission policy for a state university.

### **A Mission Committed to Excellence in Teaching & Learning**

As stated in the first paragraph of the mission statement, FVSU aspires to advance the cause of education through the cornerstones of excellence in teaching and learning. In keeping with the tradition of Land-Grant institutions created by the Morrill Acts, and specifically the 1890 Land-Grant sector of which FVSU is a member institution, FVSU exists, in part, to further its responsibilities as Georgia's 1890 Land-Grant institution. These responsibilities include offering programming excellence in agriculture, agribusiness, family and consumer sciences, teacher education, extension, military science, and leadership, as well as furthering its traditions of excellence in programs in the liberal arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences.

To ensure faculty are not only educated and prepared in their teaching disciplines but are also aware of and utilize best practices in teaching and learning, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) was established in 2008 to provide training for faculty to improve instruction and cultivate instructional leadership. The CTL continues to provide faculty and staff the opportunity to enhance their skills in a variety of ways that positively impact teaching, research, and service. The opportunities provided are not only beneficial for the enhancement of faculty and staff professionally, but they also benefit students academically.

FVSU recognizes that teaching and learning are not confined to the classroom. Collaborations between academic and student support units provide for [extra- and co-curricular activities](#) that enhance the holistic learning process for students.

### **A Mission Committed to Research**

As stated in its mission, FVSU is committed to providing a productive environment for cutting-edge academic and practical research in the areas of agriculture, aquaculture, veterinary medicine, biotechnology, energy, environment, social and behavioral science, and the humanities. While a significant amount of the research conducted is focused on agriculture-related fields due to FVSU's Land-Grant mission, research in the area of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management has steadily increased since fiscal year (FY) 2016. There was an increase of 61.62% in FY2017 and an additional 24.74% increase in FY2018. Other areas have shown moderate increases.

Table 2.1 Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Fiscal Year	Award Amount
2015-2016	847,151.00
2016-2017	\$1,369,199.50
2017-2018	\$1,707,974.50
Source: Office of Sponsored Programs	

### **A Mission Committed to Community Service**

FVSU has always placed great emphasis on service to the community. In addition to the Cooperative Extension Services the institution is committed to providing as a function of its 1890 Land-Grant status, it is equally important that the institution be a good neighbor to the community and that the resources of the community be utilized to enhance learning and experiential opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.










The philosophy of community outreach that the current administration supports is known as “communiversity,” which is a term that reflects the seamless meshing of the university and community to enhance the quality of life on campus and in the communities FVSU serves. This concept is stated explicitly as a primary commitment in FVSU's mission.

### **Consistent Publication of FVSU's Mission**

The mission of FVSU is disseminated through several electronic and hard copy sources, including the [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) catalogs, the [Faculty Handbook](#), the [Student Handbook](#), and via the FVSU [website](#). Further, freshmen are introduced to the mission of the institution in the

mandatory freshman orientation course, [FVSU 0100](#). The current mission statement is consistently presented in each of these publications.

### **Supporting Documentation**

-  [University System of Georgia \(USG\) Board of Regents \(BoR\) Meeting Minutes June 9-10, 2009. Approval of FVSU's Current Mission Statement](#)
-  [Section 2.8 of the BoR Policy Manual on Institutional Mission](#)
-  [Extra- and co-curricular activities](#)
-  [Undergraduate Catalog's Publication of the Mission Statement](#)
-  [Graduate Catalog's Publication of the Mission Statement](#)
-  [Faculty Handbook's Publication of the Mission Statement](#)
-  [Student Handbook's Publication of the Mission Statement](#)
-  [Mission Statement on the FVSU Website](#)
-  [FVSU 0100 Course Syllabus](#)