

School Profile 2008-2009

Florida Atlantic University High School

Assistant Dean, Pk-12 Schools & Programs: Mr. Glenn Thomas

Principal/Director: Dr. Patricia Hodge

Middle/High Asst. Principal: Mr. John Osbo

High School Counselor: Ms. Debra Reichenbach

High School Coordinator: Ms. Terri Watson

Background

Florida Atlantic University High School (FAUHS) is an innovative public school governed by Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Founded in August 2004, FAUHS offers students in grades 9-12 a highly intensive university-based dual enrollment program, in which high school students completing university courses receive both high school and university credit as provided in Florida statutes. The school sponsors a number of academic clubs including the National Honor Society, competes in state and national academic games, encourages the arts and provides a broad athletic program offering 16 varsity sports teams.

Students in Palm Beach and surrounding counties attend the highly selective FAUHS after successfully completing a rigorous interview by a joint committee of FAU associate deans, lead faculty from several colleges and FAUHS administrators and faculty. The committee evaluates potential students on reported academic achievement, standardized test results, writing samples and letters of recommendation.

Mission

The university school has a unique mission: (1) provide students a very challenging curriculum, balanced with innovative academic support; (2) demonstrate best practice for university teacher education; (3) innovate, develop and disseminate curricula; and (4) conduct and support emerging educational research.

After a very rigorous 9th grade year conducted in a small school within a school model, FAUHS students begin to attend regular university classes, labs and study sessions while taking a full undergraduate course load in 10th grade. In grades 11 and 12, the university coursework continues and most students select majors. FAUHS students graduate with all Florida high school graduation requirements exceeded and generally with over 90 university undergraduate hours of coursework also completed. Several members of the 2008-09 class will graduate from the FAU with a bachelor's degree in the same month they receive their high school diploma from FAU High School. Dual enrollment in Florida provides tuition and books to high school students at no charge. As a demonstration site, the school supports the College of Education's teacher education process, providing for teaching-learning observations, professional visitations, workshops, and demonstrations by undergraduates, graduate students, career-changers and practicing educators. The school provides clinical educator training statewide and the FAUHS faculty also serve as undergraduate and graduate instructors in the College of Education (FAU), the Schmidt College of Arts and Humanities (FAU), and the Palm Beach Community College. FAUHS has developed an innovative 9th grade curriculum and instructional delivery to strengthen the student transition from 9th grade high school to university success with promising results for other high schools. The school is also engaged in a multiyear longitudinal study with university researchers to determine the program's long term effects on students and to document what has been learned that could be useful to other students, high schools and postsecondary institutions.

Accreditation and Memberships

FAUHS is an A school, fully accredited by the Florida State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Its faculty is shared with A. D. Henderson University School which has been awarded the national Blue Ribbon Schools Award (grades k-8) within the past five years by the U.S. Department of Education. The school is a member of the NALS: The International Association of Laboratory and University-Affiliated Schools, the National Association of College Admissions and Counseling (NACAC), and the Florida High School Athletics Association (FSHAA).

School Calendar

The 9th grade school year runs from early August to early June and has a minimum instructional period of 180 days. Grades 10, 11 and 12 follow the regular university calendar. Students are required prior to the initiation of the 10th grade university experience to complete successfully an orientation to college life and academics course. FAUHS students may also attend summer terms at the university.

Curriculum

FAUHS 9th grade or "pre-collegiate" students complete two university-level Spanish dual enrollment courses and challenging Honors and/or Advanced Placement coursework in their core curriculum subject areas as well as elective courses. Grades 10-12 or "collegiate" students can complete up to 17 university credits per semester.

Students accepted into the high school must demonstrate advanced academic achievement, strong internal motivation, social maturity, and a persistent interest in mathematics, sciences, engineering, liberal arts and related areas. Over the four year high school experience, students complete 30 high school (Carnage) equivalent credits, various college placement tests and a minimum of 100 documented service learning hours. FAUHS graduates meet all curricular requirements for the State of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and Florida's state university system admissions. FAUHS students may also qualify for "guaranteed admission", course transfers and scholarship or financial aid opportunities.

Florida Atlantic University Schools provides students with challenging formal and community-based learning experiences to ensure graduates are college and/or graduate school ready. Upon completion of the 9th grade, all FAUHS students must have passed all sections of the College Placement Test. FAUHS 10th graders are required to take the PSAT. Students in grades 11 and 12 are encouraged to take the ACT and/or SAT once or twice each academic year. FAUHS requires and provides for one admission of the ACT and SAT per year for each 11th and 12th grader and for a maximum of two Advanced Placement exams per year for each 10th, 11th and 12th grade student each year.

FAU High School Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits <i>(3 must have a lab component)</i>
World History	1 credit
American History	1 credit
Economics	.50 credit
American Government	.50 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits <i>(in same language)</i>
Fine/Performing Arts	1 credit
HOPE (Health/PE)	1 credit
Practical Arts/Tech Ed/Exploratory Career	1 credit
Electives	10 credits <i>(4 must be in a Major Area of Interest-MAI)</i>
TOTAL	30 credits

100 hours of documented community service learning is also required for graduation

Class Rank

Class rank is computed at the end of the 4th quarter of the senior year, using a 4.0 weighted scale inclusive of all grades earned in all subjects, such as advanced, honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement and university dual enrolled courses. FAUHS issues a standard State of Florida transcript with high school courses and equivalents, grades and credits awarded as well as other student information typically transmitted electronically (FASTER). Additionally, the Florida Atlantic University issues each FAUHS graduate a transcript of university coursework, grades earned, credit hours completed and university-based grade point average.

Grading/Quality Points System

A (outstanding) =90-100%=4.0	B (above average) =80-89%=3.0
C (average) =70-79%=2.0	D (below average) =60-69%=1.0
	F (failing) =0-59%=0.0

College Acceptance

100% of FAUHS graduates matriculate to a college/university undergraduate or graduate/professional program. To date, graduates have been accepted to Abilene Christian University, Boston College, Clemson University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, Florida State University (Honors), Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College (FAU), Iowa State University, Notre Dame, Purdue University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Stetson University, Tulane University, United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy at West Point, University of Chicago, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (The Corps of Cadets), Wake Forest University, and West Virginia University

Academic Awards Class of 2009 (18 students)

- Two (2) National Merit Semifinalists
- One (1) National Achievement Semifinalist
- Five (5) National Merit Commended

Standardized Test Scores

CLASS OF 2009 (N=18)

Section	SAT I, by section (17 students)		ACT Composite (9 students)	
	Range	Median *	Range	Median
Critical Reasoning	460 - 710	577	22 - 31	27
Math	480 - 800	588		
Writing	450 - 800	566		

* Median = Middle 50% of scores