University of Florida President

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th President of the University of Florida in January 2015. Building on many years of excellence and focused on leadership, the university has since reached its goal of joining the nation’s top-ten public research universities.

Dr. Fuchs has set UF on a path to joining the top-five public research universities and becoming the nation’s number one university for comprehensive excellence. UF is working toward those goals through 600 new faculty positions, the addition of advanced and beautiful university facilities, a nearly complete $3 billion fundraising campaign and a university wide artificial intelligence initiative.

Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs was provost of Cornell University. He has served in academic leadership positions and as a faculty member of electrical and computer engineering at Cornell, Purdue and the University of Illinois.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.

President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian. The Fuchses have three sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School.

College of Dentistry Dean

Dr. A. Isabel Garcia

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H., joined the University of Florida College of Dentistry as its seventh permanent dean on February 16, 2015.

Dr. Garcia’s career spans 39 years in public health, clinical practice, research, teaching and administration at the local, state and national levels. She retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in 2014 as a rear admiral, lower half.

Prior to joining UFCD, she was the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health, directed dental care and public health programs in Virginia and Ohio, and worked in private practice in Richmond and Hopewell, Virginia.

She received a doctorate in dental surgery in 1980 from Virginia Commonwealth University, a master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1988 and completed a residency in dental public health at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in primary care policy from the U.S. Public Health Service.

A fellow of the American College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy, Dr. Garcia is a Diplomate and past president of the American Board of Dental Public Health and an active member of the American Dental Education Association, the International Association for Dental Research and the American Dental Association.
On behalf of the University of Florida, our faculty and our entire university community, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to you, the Doctoral Graduates of the historic year of 2021.

Today’s ceremony celebrates your remarkable accomplishment in earning a doctoral degree from one of the world’s leading education and research institutions. I applaud you for your years dedicated to in-depth scholarship — and for bringing these efforts to completion while overcoming the hardships of a historic pandemic. I join you in thanking your faculty, mentors and the family and friends who supported you in your journey to reach this day.

Today is a day for celebration, and also for reflection of your future. Whether you choose to pursue a career in academe, the private sector, government or the nonprofit world, I am confident that the skills you honed and knowledge you acquired at the UF College of Dentistry will serve you well. The complexity and global nature of today’s professional opportunities demand nothing less.

The university has benefitted from your work, patient care, insights and discoveries, and we are grateful to you for your time here. You are a unique class, and though we know your experience has been different, we hope that you will look back on it with fondness and appreciation, and that you will remain connected to UF as active members of our distinguished alumni.

Best wishes, and Go Gators!

W. Kent Fuchs
University of Florida Leadership

State Board of Education
Richard Corcoran
Commissioner of Education
Andy Tuck
Chair
Marva Johnson
Vice Chair

Florida Board of Governors
Marshall M. Criser III
Chancellor
Richard Corcoran
Commissioner of Education
Sydney Kitson
Chair
Brian Lamb
Vice Chair

University of Florida
Board of Trustees
Morteza “Mori” Hosseini
Chair
Thomas G. Kuntz
Vice Chair

Deans of the University
R. Elaine Turner, Ph.D.
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Onye P. Ozzu, M.F.A.
College of the Arts
Sabyasachi Mitra, Ph.D.
Warrington College of Business
A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
College of Dentistry
Chimay Anumba, Ph.D.
College of Design, Construction and Planning
Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.
College of Education
Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D.
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
Henry T. Frierson, Ph.D.
The Graduate School
Michael Reid, Ph.D.
College of Health and Human Performance
Thomas A. Obreza, Ph.D.
Interim, IFAS Extension
Robert Gilbert, Ph.D.
IFAS Research

President and Vice Presidents of the University
W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.
President
Joseph Glover, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President - Academic Affairs
Chris Cowen, M.B.A.
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Charles E. Lane, D.P.A.
Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer - Administration
David R. Nelson, M.D.
Senior Vice President - Health Affairs
J. Scott Angle, Ph.D.
Vice President - Agriculture and Natural Resources
Elias G. Eldayrie, M.B.A.
Vice President and Chief Information Officer - Information Technology
Zina Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Provost and Vice President - Enrollment Management
Jodi Gentry, M.A.
Vice President - Human Resource Services
Amy M. Hass, J.D.
Vice President - General Counsel
Mark E. Kaplan, J.D.
Vice President - Government and Community Relations
Thomas J. Mitchell, M.S.
Vice President - Advancement
D’Andra Mull, Ph.D.
Vice President - Student Affairs
David Norton, Ph.D.
Vice President - Research
Nancy Paton, M.S.
Vice President - Strategic Communications and Marketing
Curtis Reynolds, M.B.A., MSEE
Vice President - Business Affairs

Leonardo Villalón, Ph.D.
International Center
Spiro Kioussis, Ph.D.
College of Journalism and Communications
Laura A. Rosenbury, J.D.
Fredric G. Levin College of Law
David E. Richardson, Ph.D.
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Colleen G. Koch, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.
College of Medicine
Anna M. McDaniell, Ph.D., R.N.
College of Nursing
Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.
College of Pharmacy
Michael G. Perri, Ph.D.
College of Public Health and Health Professions
Dana Zimmel, D.V.M.
Interim, College of Veterinary Medicine
Judith C. Russell, M.S.
University Libraries
Heather White, Ph.D.
Dean of Students
Commencement Agenda – Friday, May 14

Presiding A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H

National Anthem

Welcome & Introductions A. Isabel Garcia

Academy of Alumni & Friends Remarks Thomas A. Brown Jr., D.M.D., M.S.

Senior Class Address Victor C. Chan

Presentation of Doctoral Candidates A. Isabel Garcia
Conferring of Degrees
Presentation of Master’s Candidates Conferring of Degrees

Presentation of Doctoral Hoods and Graduates A. Isabel Garcia
Luisa F. Echeto, D.D.S., M.S.
Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S., M.S.

Florida Dental Association Remarks & Dentist’s Pledge Jolene Paramore, D.M.D.

Closing Remarks A. Isabel Garcia

Alma Mater

ADDITIONAL COPIES of this commencement program will be available in the Office of Academic Affairs after commencement and you can download it from the college website here: dental.ufl.edu/education. A video of the ceremony is also available at a link on our website here: dental.ufl.edu/education.

Photographs of the graduates as they cross the stage or receive their diploma are available from University Photography, PO Box 2454, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2454, 205-391-9500.
College of Dentistry Leadership

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Dean

Abimbola Adewumi, B.D.S., FDSRCS
Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry

Ikramuddin Aukhil, B.D.S., M.S.
Chair, Periodontology

Donald Cohen, D.M.D., M.B.A., M.S.
Chair, Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences

Mary Ellen Davey, Ph.D.
Interim Chair, Oral Biology

Deborah Dilbone, D.M.D.
Chair, Restorative Dental Sciences

Calogero Dolce, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Chair, Orthodontics

Richard Donatelli, D.M.D., M.S.
Program Director, Orthodontics

Wagner Duarte, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Program Director, Periodontology

Danielle Freburg-Hoffmeister, D.D.S., M.D.
Interim Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Micaela B. Gibbs, D.D.S., M.H.A.
Interim Chair, Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science
Program Director, Community Based Programs

Anita Gohel, B.D.S., Ph.D
Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology

Valeria V. Gordan, D.D.S., M.S.
Interim Associate Dean for Research

Lauren Governale, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Director, Pediatric Dentistry – Naples

Marcio Guelmann, D.D.S.
Chair, Pediatric Dentistry

James E. Haddix, D.M.D.
Assistant Dean for Continuing Education

John H. Hardeman, D.D.S., M.D.
Interim Chair, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Nadim M. Islam, B.D.S., D.D.S.
Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology

William C. Martin, D.M.D., M.S.
Director, Fellowship in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in the Center for Implant Dentistry

Edgar O’Neill, D.D.S., M.S.
Program Director, Prosthodontics

Patricia Pereira, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Program Director, Operative & Esthetic Dentistry

Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S., M.S.
Director, School of Advanced Dental Sciences
Associate Dean for Advanced & Graduate Education
Chair, Endodontics
Program Director, Endodontics

Thomas C. Porter, D.M.D.
Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry – Seminole

Joseph L. Riley III, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Pamela R. Sandow, D.M.D.
Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid

Rodrigo Souza, D.D.S.
Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry – Hialeah

Patricia Xirau-Probert, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Student Advocacy & Inclusion

Panagiotis Zoidis, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs & Quality
2020-2021 Teaching Awards

The Teachers of the Year are selected by the sophomore, junior and senior D.M.D. students. The Excellence in Dental Education Awards recognize the incredible impact our faculty teachers have on the education of tomorrow’s dentists. The winners have demonstrated excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences.

Teachers of the Year

Mateus Garcia Rocha, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Basic & Behavioral Sciences
Teacher of the Year

Ana P. Dias Ribeiro, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Clinical Sciences
Teacher of the Year

Excellence in Dental Education Awards

Sustained Exemplary Teaching Award
Annetty Soto, D.M.D.

Exemplary Teaching Awards
Christopher Connell, D.M.D.
Carlos Soucy, D.D.S., M.S.

Special Commencement Speakers

Jolene Paramore, D.M.D., earned her dental degree in 1988 and completed a residency in periodontology in 1990, both at UFCD. She was the 2019 FDA Dentist of the Year and served as president of the Florida Dental Association from June 2018 to June 2019. She is a periodontist in Panama City and she and her husband, John, live in Alford.

Thomas A. Brown Jr., D.M.D., M.S., is a “double Gator.” He earned his bachelor’s degree from UF and is a member of our DMD Class of 2008. He then completed a residency in endodontics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He practices endodontics in Orange Park and lives in Ponte Vedra Beach with his wife, Taylor, and their two daughters.
The Doctor of Dental Medicine candidates selected faculty members Maria G. Caraballo, D.D.S., and Alex J. Delgado, D.D.S., M.S., to perform their hooding unless a candidate has a family member, who is a dentist, present to hood that candidate.

Candidates names will be read in alphabetical order as shown on this page.
Advanced & Graduate Education

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Endodontics**

Dr. Joshua David Allore  
Dr. Michael Gonsky  
Dr. Jenna Hart  
Dr. Claire Krueger Martucci

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Operative & Esthetic Dentistry**

Dr. Snigdha Gummadi  
Dr. Carlos Kose Jr.

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Orthodontics**

Dr. Kelsey Anne Ebach  
Dr. Katherine Nicole Kapernaros  
Dr. Gjergj Mara  
Dr. Nathan Reuter

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Periodontics**

Dr. Victoria Adams Brady  
Dr. Erick E. Di Matteo  
Dr. Ross Andrew Hauer  
Dr. Juliana Sardenberg

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Prosthodontics**

Dr. Muhammad S. Alsafadi  
Dr. Alonzo C. Blackmon  
Dr. Anthony J. Farmer
Advanced & Graduate Education

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
Dr. Saja Abdullah Alramadhan
Dr. Maram Mohammed S. Bawazir
Dr. Austin N. Belknap
Dr. Shankar Venkat

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology
Dr. Abrar Ahmed H. Alamoudi
Dr. Raghd Abdulrahman M. Alansari
Dr. Christopher D. Matesi

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Michael A. Abraham
Dr. Jayson Kirchhofer
Dr. Jeffrey Knittel

Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry – Gainesville
Dr. Catherine Graham
Dr. Snigdha Kalvakolanu Adabi
Dr. Nicolet Smith
Dr. Richard O. Williams
Dr. Zara Zahid

Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry – Naples
Dr. Aneesha Rao Amarnath
Dr. Karen Ben-Elazar
Dr. Ashley Daniels
Dr. Samantha Marie Graffeo Gardner
Dr. Emily Alexandra Ross
Advanced & Graduate Education

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY – HIALEAH

Dr. Vanessa Borgenicht
Dr. Ana Bujila
Dr. Ahmed Elgalady
Dr. Yelisbet Fernandez
Dr. Lynda Gonzalez
Dr. Ruwa Irsheid
Dr. Kathleen Yuruani Kamel Rivero
Dr. Jose Antonio Khawam Franjie
Dr. Hardik Patel
Dr. Eilyn Rivero Sanes
Dr. Alina Rodriguez Aguila
Dr. Ivonne M. Vasquez

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY – SEMINOLE

Dr. Hanan Izzat Beck
Dr. Cody P. Bertoch
Dr. Jordan Alexander Brown
Dr. Sachell Calderon
Dr. Bhumi Patel Dharia
Dr. Juan J. Fajardo
Dr. Sarah Houle
Dr. Paul Benjamin Lewis
Dr. Anna Eenas Shahrour
Dr. McKenzi M. Taylor
Dr. Ricardo A. Ullrich
Dr. Boyd M. Wilson

Class of 2022 Honor Marshals

Brooke Cicero
Griffin Creekmore
Catherine King
Robert Nusbaum
Daniella Pareja
Laura Van de Water
David Wiggins
Walker Wiggins
DMD Class of 2021 Awards

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society

Zoey A. Barrett  
Taelor Lynn Chaney  
Hannah Rosemarie Eder  
Courtney Lynn Fridella  
Brandon A. Gervasi  
Dila Kaya  
Anthony Ryan Lima  
Jonathan Lucas  
Karla Cristina Matamoros  
Elizabeth Grace Morrison  
Daniela Perez  
Rachel Shepard Smith

Clinical Excellence and Professionalism Award

Brandon Stone Brue  
Courtney Lynn Fridella  
Ashley Brooke Heller  
Anthony Ryan Lima  
Elizabeth Grace Morrison  
Dhara Dipak Patel  
Rachel Shepard Smith  
Hoa Trong Tran

Scholastic and Professional Awards

AAF – A. Lewis Leo Outstanding Student Award  
Anthony Ryan Lima

AAWD Eleanor Bushee Senior Women Dental Student Award  
Jessica Renee Brewer

Academy of Dentistry International  
Daniela Perez

Academy of General Dentistry  
Dila Kaya, Elizabeth Grace Morrison

Academy of Operative Dentistry  
Reece Jacob Miller

Academy of Osseointegration  
Mykolas Varkalis

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry  
Megan M. Guerra

American Academy of Implant Dentistry  
Catherine Baitinger

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
Dila Kaya

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
Anthony Ryan Lima

American Academy of Oral Medicine  
Victor C. Chan

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Ashley Brooke Heller

American Academy of Periodontology  
Blake Alexander Crosby

American Association of Endodontics Student Award  
Katia M. Perez Hernandez

American Association of Orthodontics  
Marco Eladio Irimia

American College of Dentists Ethical Dilemma Essay Award  
Audrey D. Bridge
DMD Class of 2021 Awards

Scholastic and Professional Awards

American College of Prosthodontics Society  Karla Cristina Matamoros
American Dental Society of Anesthesiology - Horace Wells Senior Student Award  Daniela Perez
American Equilibration Society  Jessica Renee Brewer
American Prosthodontics Society  Katia M. Perez Hernandez
American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence  Vrinda Dharmendra Shah
Class of 2021 Highest Ranking Scholar Award  Joshua Adam Roeder
Dennis/Foerster Award  Joshua Adam Roeder
Dr. Carroll Bennett Award for Academic Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry  Victor C. Chan
Dr. Charles Fain Award/Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  Kathryn Joyce Kiskaddon
Dr. J. Frank Collins Professionalism Award  Elizabeth Grace Morrison
Dental Services Group Award  Laura A. Vergara Campero
Hanau Excellence in Prosthodontics (Whip Mix)  Anthony Ryan Lima
Hu-Friedy Golden Forceps Award  Jacob Andrew Carlton
Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award  Rachel Shepard Smith
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian  Dhara Dipak Patel
International College of Dentists - Leadership  Blake Alexander Crosby
International Congress of Oral Implantologists  Daniel Overfelt
LD Pankey Award  Elizabeth Grace Morrison
Pierre Fauchard Academy  Blake Alexander Crosby
Psi Omega Fraternal Achievement Award  Joshua Adam Roeder
Psi Omega Scholastic Achievement Award  Joshua Adam Roeder
Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontology  Daniel Overfelt
Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry  Brett M. Birch
Research High Honors  Blake Alexander Crosby
SNDA Leadership and Community Service Award  Chemika St. Juste
Spirit of UFCD  Christina Nicole Bukata
SPIT Award  Garrett B. Crawford
The Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics  Siera Marie Reiner

Outstanding Senior in Prosthodontics

Spirit of UFCD  Christina Nicole Bukata
SPIT Award  Garrett B. Crawford

The Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics  Siera Marie Reiner
DMD Clinical Care Groups

Clinic Care Group 2
Andrew J. Corsaro, D.M.D., M.S.
W. Stephen Howard, D.M.D., FAGD
Rosalia Rey, D.D.S.

Geena Addison Valdes
Catherine Baitinger
Zoey A. Barrett
Brett M. Birch
Brandon Stone Brue
Oliver Zico Bsirini
Christina Nicole Bukata
Blake Alexander Crosby
Chione Daniel
Dila Kaya
Reece Jacob Miller
Dhara Dipak Patel
Kevin C. Powers
Gabriella Kristina Quevedo
Crystal Charmaine Ramdeo
Siera Marie Reiner
Vrinda Dharmendra Shah
Spencer L. Smith
Michael Sofianos Jr.
Laura A. Vergara Campero
Kirsten N. Vieira-Martinez
Qi Wang
Zachary C. Youngblood

Clinic Care Group 3
Larry J. Cook, D.M.D., M.S., FACD, FICD
Fernando J. Haddock, D.D.S.

Omar A. Akileh
Audrey D. Bridge
Giovanna Vanessa Bermudez Quiroz
Jacob Andrew Carlton
Julio M. Cervantes
Taelor Lynn Chaney
Anna Anh Dao
André Edwards
Meghan B. Gaitens
Megan M. Guerra
Ryan Neil Jaffe
Anthony Ryan Lima
Elizabeth Grace Morrison
Brianna Atul Patel
Katia M. Perez Hernandez
Adrian Alejandro Reyes
Arianne Gaspar Rick
George C. Ringhoff
Megan L. Salzlein
Irvin Paul Singh
Sivakumar Venkatachalam
Allen Dee Wang

Clinic Care Group 4
Nicholas G. Kaleel, D.M.D.
Annetty Soto, D.M.D.

Jessica Renee Brewer
Katharina C. Buckley
Victor C. Chan
Ember M. Courtney
Garrett B. Crawford
Jacob Alexander Fant
Courtney Lynn Fridella
Shannon K. Gardner
Brandon A. Gervasi
Abraham Khalil
Kathryn Joyce Kiskaddon
Melinda Lian
Jonathan Lucas
Truc Thuy Nguyen
Daniel Overfelt
Karley Osborne Post
Joshua Adam Roeder
Rachel Shepard Smith
Chemika St. Juste
Mykolas Varkalis

Clinic Care Group 5
Carlos Camargo, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Richard Kelowitz, D.D.S.

Alexis Gabrielle Byers
Katherine M. Cardelles
Brooke A. Denton
Logan A. Dubnick
Hannah Rosemarie Eder
David Guirguis
Jacob E. Harrison
Ashley Brooke Heller
Hai Duc Huynh
Marco Eladio Irimia
So Hyun Lim
Cody J. Lowe
Karla Cristina Matamoros
Mina Nashed
Ruchi R. Patel
Daniela Perez
Aaron Allen Price
Adeleydis Quintana Fernandez
Miseanne N. Tang
Hoa Trong Tran
Melissa Ann Tyer
Emily Katherine Waikem
UF Alma Mater

Florida, our Alma Mater,
thy glorious name we praise.
All thy loyal sons and daughters,
a joyful song shall raise.

Where palm and pine are blowing,
where southern seas are flowing.
Shine forth thy noble Gothic walls,
thy lovely vine-clad halls.

‘Neath the Orange and Blue victorious
our love shall never fail.
There’s no other name so glorious,
all hail, Florida, hail!

~ Composed in 1925 by Milton Yeats

The Dentist’s Pledge

I, as a member of the dental profession, will keep this pledge and these stipulations. I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence. Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations.

I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession, and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.

I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession.

All this I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public which it serves.
Chain of Office

This custom-made ornament is worn with the president’s regalia, symbolizing the authority and responsibilities of the office. The chain is engraved with the names and service years of the university presidents. The medallion’s centerpiece is a 1.3-carat diamond.

Academic Mace

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the mace symbolizes strength and authority. The UF ceremonial mace was created for the university’s sesquicentennial celebration in 2003. The 70-inch staff features an alligator sitting atop a globe. The four pillars supporting the globe represent the four original colleges: Agriculture, Engineering, Law, and Liberal Arts. The staff is carved from cherry wood. The university’s chief marshal, who leads all academic processions, carries the mace.

Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty in commencement ceremonies evolved from a style of dress worn by members of guilds and religious orders in medieval times. The academic gown is worn by individuals who have earned a degree in higher education. In addition, hoods are worn by graduate degree candidates, but not by undergraduate degree candidates.

At the University of Florida, the lining of the hood has a blue chevron on an orange background to represent the university colors. University faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater.

The velvet edging on the academic hood is the color that represents the particular degree held by the wearer. Dentistry is lilac. Distinctions among sleeves indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates a bachelor’s degree, while a long, closed sleeve with a slit near the upper part of the arm designates a master’s degree. A round, open sleeve identifies a doctoral degree.

The doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including crossbars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates’ caps indicate a candidate’s school or college.
Alma Mater

Florida, our Alma Mater
Thy glorious name we praise
All thy loyal sons and daughters
A joyous song shall raise.
Where palm and pine are blowing,
Where southern seas are flowing,
Shine forth thy noble Gothic walls,
Thy lovely vine-clad halls.
Neath the Orange and Blue victorious
Our love shall never fail.
There’s no other name so glorious—
All hail, Florida, Hail!

Milton Yeats