



University Major Gifts Program

What is the University Major Gifts Program?

The University Major Gifts Program provides the opportunity for each institution in the State University System (SUS) to have private donations for the establishment of permanent endowments matched by state appropriations.¹ The donations and state matching funds must be invested and the proceeds of the investment used to enhance university libraries and instruction and research programs.²

Which entity administers the program?

The Board of Governors (BOG) is required to specify: the process for submission, documentation, and approval of requests for state matching funds; accountability measures for endowments and proceeds of endowments; the process for making allocations to universities; restrictions on the use of the proceeds from endowments; and the criteria used in determining the value of donations.³

Each university foundation is responsible for the maintenance and investment of the major gift funds and for the administration of the program at its respective university pursuant to procedures specified by the BOG.⁴

How are state matching grants determined?

Each year, the BOG submits a request for state matching funds for the SUS as part of its Legislative Budget Request.⁵ Private donations are eligible for state matching funds based on the following match rates:⁶

Amount of Private Donation		State
In Excess of	But Not More Than	Matching Grant
\$100,000	\$599,999	50%
\$600,000	\$1 Million	70%
\$1 Million	\$1.5 Million	75%
\$1.5 Million	\$2 Million	80%
\$2 Million	---	100%

¹ Section 1011.94, F.S.

² Section 1011.94(1), F.S.

³ Section 1011.94(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 1011.94(5), F.S.

⁵ See State University System, 2010-2011 Legislative Budget Request Development Board of Governors' Policy Guidelines, at 1, available at <http://www.flbog.org/about/budget/legbudgetrequest.php>.

⁶ Section 1011.94(3)(b), F.S.

Statutory provisions do not specify a maximum amount for eligible private donations; however, the BOG does not request state matching funds for contributions to a single endowment that exceed \$15 million.⁷

Each SUS institution is required to notify all donors of private funds when there is a substantial delay in the availability of state matching funds for this program.⁸

Are there restrictions on the use of the donations, state matching funds, or proceeds from the endowments?

Yes. Donations must be made for the purpose of supporting the libraries and instruction and research programs of the recipient SUS institution⁹ and must be for projects that benefit academic functions of the university and are consistent with the university's mission as defined by the BOG Strategic Plan.¹⁰

Additionally, the donations, state matching funds, and proceeds from endowments established under the University Major Gifts Program may not be used for the construction, renovation, or maintenance of facilities or to support intercollegiate athletics.¹¹

What is an Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair?

A private donation of at least \$600,000 and associated state matching funds may be used to designate an Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair.¹² Proceeds from the endowment may be used for the salary or salary supplements for the chair holder and individuals directly associated with the chair holder's scholarly work and for expenses directly related to that scholarly work.¹³

How much funding has the state provided for the program?

State matching funds were not appropriated for the program for the 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 FYs. The last state appropriation was for the 2007-08 FY in the amount of \$74,336,964.¹⁴ The state has appropriated a total of \$689,793,029 in matching funds¹⁵ for the program since its establishment in 1979.¹⁶

⁷ Florida Board of Governors Regulation 9.019(3)(d) (March 27, 2008).

⁸ Section 1011.94(7), F.S.

⁹ Section 1011.94(1), F.S.

¹⁰ Florida Board of Governors Regulation 9.019(3)(a) (March 27, 2008).

¹¹ Section 1011.94(6), F.S.

¹² Section 1011.94(5)(c), F.S.

¹³ Florida Board of Governors Regulation 9.019(2)(b)3. (March 27, 2008).

¹⁴ Specific Appropriation 20, s. 1, ch. 2007-72, L.O.F.

¹⁵ State University System, *Major Gifts Executive Summary*, at 1 (June 30, 2009).

¹⁶ Section 123, ch. 79-222, L.O.F., *codified at* s. 240.2605, F.S. (1979), *subsequently renumbered as* s. 1011.94, F.S.

Where may I obtain additional information?

Board of Governors

State University System of Florida

(850) 245-0466

<http://www.flbog.org>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>