

Agency Name: Francis Marion University  
 Agency Code: H180 Section: 17



**Fiscal Year FY 2024-2025  
 Agency Budget Plan**

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

**OPERATING  
 REQUESTS**  
 (FORM B1)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING  
 REQUESTS**  
 (FORM B2)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**CAPITAL  
 REQUESTS**  
 (FORM C)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.



**PROVISOS**  
 (FORM D)

For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Darryl Bridges	(843) 661-1201	dbridges@fmarion.edu
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Eric Garris	(843) 661-1136	egarris@fmarion.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2024-2025 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>	 9/18/23	 9/18/23
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	Luther F. Carter	Herbert R. Dozier

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Francis Marion University
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BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation Support	4,750,310	0	0	0	4,750,310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	C - Capital	Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building Renovation	9,000,000	0	0	0	9,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B2 - Non-Recurring	Upfit an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			14,750,310	0	0	0	14,750,310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



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## FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	1
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Tuition Mitigation Support
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$4,750,310</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$4,750,310</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This request supports Goal 1 of the University's FY23-24 Strategic Plan, as outlined in the 2023 Accountability Report. The goal is to provide high quality higher education to students from South Carolina and the Pee Dee Region. This request supports the University's ongoing commitment to deliver a quality educational experience at a relatively low cost. Funds will be evaluated based on the University's ability to freeze tuition rates for FY24-25.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>Continuing the freeze on tuition rates benefits students and parents substantially. Funds will be allocated internally to support University instructional and operational objectives which are supported through tuition.</p>
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**FUNDS**

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

Francis Marion University remains committed to providing a quality education for South Carolinians at the most affordable rates in the State. For the past six years, tuition mitigation funding has provided the resources for FMU to meet increased costs while maintaining tuition levels with no increases for students and parents. With inflation driving costs even higher, this funding is more critical than ever in maintaining accessibility.

As it has for the last two decades, FMU continues to have one of the lowest tuition rates statewide which is vital given that 95% of FMU students are South Carolina residents and many are first-generation college attendees. By keeping costs down, FMU sustains access and opportunity for the citizens of our region.

The current economic climate has created financial uncertainty which impacts lower-income students and families disproportionately. This appropriation, combined with private fundraising for needs-based aid and support directed to first-generation students, will permit the University to meet its anticipated obligations and sustain existing levels of institutional support necessary to provide instruction and services.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*



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## **FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST**

**AGENCY PRIORITY**

2

*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

**TITLE**

Leatherman Science Facility/McNair Science Building Renovation

*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

**AMOUNT**

\$9,000,000

*How much is requested for this project in FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

**CPIP PRIORITY**

This request will be included in the 2023 CPIP for the FY2024-25 plan year. Without state funding, the University would need to defer the project to later plan years on future CPIP submissions. The University remains hopeful that adequate funding can be secured so this important project can move forward as planned next year.

*Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.*

**OTHER APPROVALS**

The University will request approvals to proceed with this capital project once adequate funding has been secured.

*What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)*

**LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Routine operations and maintenance will continue to be supported by the University's general operating funds. The proposed renovations will extend the useful life of these vital facilities by approximately 40 years, though they will likely remain active beyond that timeline. This investment will ensure the buildings can support education and research for decades to come.

*What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?*

The adjoined Robert E. McNair Science Building and Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Science Facility have served as core academic facilities for the natural sciences since 1972 and 1994, respectively. Housing biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, the McNair Center, and advanced research labs, the buildings provide essential classroom, laboratory, and office spaces.

This request will fund necessary upgrades including mechanical system replacements, life safety and regulatory compliance improvements, and classroom renovations to support contemporary teaching methods while extending the useful life of these facilities.

The mechanical upgrades will improve energy efficiency, air quality, and climate control. Life safety enhancements will ensure the facilities meet modern fire, electrical, and accessibility codes. Classrooms will be refreshed with furniture, collaboration technology, and other features to promote contemporary teaching strategies.

## **SUMMARY**

*Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.*



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## **FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	3
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Upfit an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$1,000,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding request primarily supports Goal 1 of Francis Marion University's 2023 Accountability Report - to provide high quality education to students in South Carolina and the Pee Dee region. The Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) clinic aligns with the University's continued commitment to maintain an enriching educational experience at a relatively low cost.</p> <p>Specifically, the experiential learning opportunities afforded by the clinic will enhance student preparation in clinical psychology as well as fields like special education, speech pathology and occupational therapy to assist and educate children with autism spectrum disorder and their families. Hands-on training in ABA therapy techniques will produce graduates uniquely qualified to meet workforce demands. Beyond student outcomes, the clinic's provision of ABA services supports the community and the entire Pee Dee Region.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	<p>The funds would be allocated to Francis Marion University to upfit space in the ABA clinic located in the Leatherman Medical Education Complex. These funds will be utilized to purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, equipment, software, and assessment instruments that are needed to maintain a successful ABA clinic. These funds will also be used to provide professional training to ABA clinic staff to maintain current best practices in autism treatment. Funding will allow the clinic to maintain treatment success and vastly increase the number of autistic children receiving services in the community, while simultaneously serving as a hands-on training site for FMU students preparing for careers with autistic individuals (e.g., teachers, clinicians, psychologists, and other health</p>
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care professionals).

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

Most evidence-based research supports the assumptions that the symptoms of ASD can be treated by Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) which can produce substantial gains in communication and social skills while also reducing challenging behavior to manageable levels. The funds would be allocated to Francis Marion University to upfit space in the ABA clinic located in the Leatherman Medical Education Complex. These funds will be utilized to purchase necessary furniture, fixtures, equipment, software, and assessment instruments that are needed to maintain a successful ABA clinic. ABA based treatments begin with extensive data collection on the events that precede and follow behavior and identification of reinforcers that can be used to promote social and communication skills. These data are then used to identify the function of problem behaviors (the antecedents and / or consequences that maintain these behaviors) and to then develop function-based interventions. A lack of access or delays to effective treatment for individuals diagnosed with ASD is associated with lower quality of life for the autistic individual, decreased personal and professional well-being of their families, and large increases in long-term healthcare costs. Integrated into the autism studies program, the ABA clinic allows students pursuing psychology, special education, speech pathology, and occupational therapy to receive hands-on training in ABA, expanding the pipeline of skilled therapists. Additionally, research at the clinic would advance ABA science and enhance outcomes.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*



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**FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$906,236 <i>What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.</i>
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<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	None <i>How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?</i>
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<b>PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	The University would apply the reduction to its other operating budget within the I.A. E&G unrestricted general funds category. Specifically, the reduction would come from reducing operating expenditures, adjusting the scope of community engagement activities, evaluating and adjusting non-essential travel expenses, and delaying the hiring of select positions. <i>What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?</i>
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<b>SUMMARY</b>	The University would apply the reduction to its other operating budget within the I.A. E&G unrestricted funds category. Specifically, this would come from reducing operating expenditures, adjusting the scope of community engagement activities, evaluating and adjusting non-essential travel expenses, and delaying the hiring of select positions. FMU would seek to minimize impacts upon instruction, academics, and services supporting students. However, the university would need to utilize other funds generated by student tuition and fees to offset the reduction.
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*Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.*

**AGENCY COST  
SAVINGS PLANS**

The University routinely reviews operations to identify savings opportunities and extraneous costs are phased out whenever possible. Savings that are identified are used to maintain student affordability by offsetting increases in fixed or essential costs and providing essential support for the student body. These efficiency measures are evidenced by the reduction of the number of university employees, primarily staff positions, by 5% during the past five years.

*What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?*



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## **FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS**

### **TITLE**

Clinical Placement Programs: Students in Action, Making a Difference Now

*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

### **EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS**

Francis Marion University seeks to benefit students, parents, and citizens through efficient operations that result in affordable educational opportunities that support regional and state workforce needs. The University has focused on establishing programs based upon the needs expressed by employers and industry leaders throughout the region. FMU has not increased tuition or required fees for the last six years in an effort to maintain one of the lowest university tuition rates in the state.

1. Consolidation of the following curricular offerings in recent years reduced expenses and streamlined educational opportunities for students providing easier matriculation: Fine Arts, Modern Languages, Economics, and Mass Communication. Programs in German, Middle Grades Education, and Mass Communications/Sports Information were eliminated.
2. Substantially enhanced institutional scholarship support. During the past few years, FMU has substantially enhanced financial aid support focusing on need-based criteria which leads to a reduced financial burden upon students and families.
3. Expanded private and external scholarship support. FMU continues to increase private scholarship support through the FMU Education Foundation as evidence by the Darla Moore scholarship program. Additionally, FMU successfully seeks and obtains federal support for student programs when eligible,
4. Establishment of the First Generation Fund that provides financial assistance for new students who are in the first generation of their family to seek a college degree.
5. Establishment and expansion of CASA (Center for Academic Success & Advising). CASA provides structured support through academic advising, tutoring support, and career advising through personal interaction and structured programs with over 50% of our student body benefiting directly from these services. The increased student success leads to higher eligibility rates for financial assistance therefore reducing financial burdens upon families.
6. Establishment of academic programs to meet regional employment needs including: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, MSN; Master of Applied Psychology in Applied Behavioral Analysis; Multi-Categorical Special Education, MAT; Montessori Elementary Education, MED; Master of Speech-Language Pathology, MSLP; Early Childhood Education Accelerated Program, MAT; Doctor of Nursing Practice, DNP; Doctor of Psychology, Psy-D; Doctor of Occupational Therapy; Environmental Science, BS; Environmental Studies, BA; Mass Communication BS; Mechanical Engineering, BS; and Management Information Systems, BBA.
7. Proposed new academic programs to meet regional employment needs including: Master of Arts in Writing (professional/technical); Physical Therapy, Doctoral; Physician Assistant Studies; Autism Studies, BS; Criminal Justice, BS; Forestry, BS; Social Work, BS; Veterinary Studies, BS; Evening College Certificate. For example, the Forestry Program is in direct response to expressed needs from corporations and legacy landowners within the Pee Dee and Low Country Regions.
8. Establishment of a Speech-Language Pathology Clinic and a Behavioral Health Clinic that are available to the public. These labs provide required clinical opportunities for graduate students to provide services to community members at a low cost, including speech therapy and treatment for autism spectrum disorders. Once the Occupational Therapy program is operational, FMU will consider establishing a clinic to provide these services as well.
9. Revised the graduate programs in Education and Business to provide higher accessibility and more efficient course delivery through online instruction and streamlined curricular requirements.
10. Establishment of the Freshwater Ecology Center that provides support to local jurisdictions relating to water testing and facilitates applied research opportunities for students. In collaboration with DHEC and DNR, the FMU FEC is helping address issues related to the environment, climate, and flood mitigation.
11. Tuition free academic courses with additional instructional support during the summer for students with potential to maintain their eligibility for financial assistance needed to continue their educational pursuits.
12. Expanded student employment opportunities on campus providing students both experience and financial opportunities.



13. Student Health Care Plan in collaboration with HopeHealth, the local federally qualified community health center. This plan provides tier-one health services at no cost to students, faculty, and staff. FMU is negotiating an expansion of this collaboration to include Behavioral Health Services.

*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST**

<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other

**METHOD OF CALCULATION**

N/A

*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

**REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES**

N/A

*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

**REDUCTION OF REGULATION**

N/A

*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

**SUMMARY**

Francis Marion University has implemented a variety of cost-saving initiatives and affordability measures to reduce the financial burden on students and families, including consolidating and eliminating certain academic programs, expanding scholarship and financial aid opportunities, establishing and expanding support services to improve student success, establishing and proposing new academic programs to meet regional employment needs, providing experiential learning clinics, and expanding student employment support. Through disciplined fiscal management and a focus on the core academic mission, FMU continues to mitigate tuition increases while enhancing the quality and value of the educational experience.

*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect*



*agency operations?*