

UF Tops Half-Billion Mark In Research Funding

The University of Florida received a record \$518.8 million in research funding in 2006, driven by cutting-edge biomedical research and a growing relationship with private industry.

UF passed half a billion dollars for the first time in the fiscal year that ended June 30, thanks in large part to a \$13.4 million increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health. Overall, federal funding rose to \$324.4 million. Other major federal sponsors include the National Science Foundation, \$39.6 million; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, \$33.3 million; and the Department of Defense, \$23.1 million.

“It’s a testimony to the quality of our faculty that UF’s NIH funding continues to increase at a time when the agency’s budget has leveled off and the competition for funding has increased considerably,” said Win Phillips, UF’s vice president for research.

About 20 percent of some 47,000 NIH proposals were funded last year, down from about 32 percent in 2000.

UF’s Institute on Aging received two of the largest NIH awards in 2005-06: \$2.7 million to study how exercise can prevent disability in the elderly and \$2.7 million to study rehabilitation techniques designed to improve walking in the first year after a stroke.

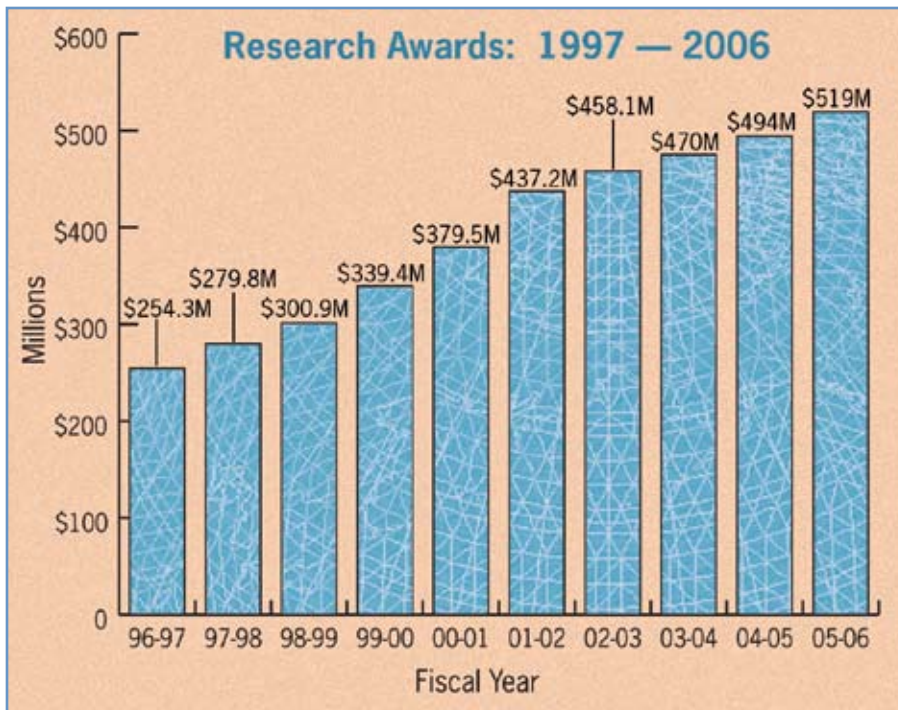
UF’s industry funding rose from \$49.7 million in 2005 to \$62.4 million last year.

“The initiatives the university has undertaken in recent years in areas like genetics and nanoscience are attractive to industrial partners,” Phillips said. “The University of Florida’s research strategy makes it a natural partner for growth industries.”

“Growth in research has a ripple effect across all of the university’s missions,” UF President Bernie Machen said. “Our faculty are the engine of a robust research enterprise that increases economic development collaborations, provides unique opportunities for students and enhances the university’s reputation among its peers.”

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Joseph Kays



UF Top Public University In Tech Transfer

The University of Florida is the top-performing public institution at transferring its research to the marketplace, according to a major new study by the prestigious Milken Institute.

In a report by the California-based economic think tank titled *Mind to Market: A Global Analysis of University Biotechnology Transfer and Commercialization*, UF ranked fifth on the institute’s University Technology Transfer and Commercialization Index. Only the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the nine universities of the California system, the California Institute of Technology and Stanford scored higher than UF on the index, which measured four components of technology transfer: patents issued, licenses executed, licensing income and startups.

Milken Institute researchers compared university technology transfer processes around the world; studied the common characteristics to successful commercialization; and measured the role of the university offices of technology transfer, or OTT.

David Day, director of UF’s Office of Technology Licensing, said the university made a commitment about six years ago to expand its commercialization efforts.

“Now we have the people and resources necessary to identify promising technologies, pursue patents and negotiate fair licenses,” Day said. “We’ve also worked hard to nurture our startups so they can develop their products and become financially successful.”

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