



FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Hope, Knowledge, and Opportunity

ATHLETIC QUICK FACTS

- FIU competes in NCAA Division I and the Sun Belt Conference.
- FIU sponsors 15 sports programs: Baseball, Basketball (men and women), Cross Country (men and women), Golf (women), Indoor Track and Field (men and women), Outdoor Track and Field (men and women) Soccer (men and women), Softball (women), Tennis (women), and Volleyball (women).
- The nickname Golden Panthers was adopted in 1987. After FIU opened its doors in 1972, its athletic teams were known as the “No-Names.” On campus, more than 60 suggestions were submitted and it was finally decided that the Sunblazers would be the nickname. In 1987, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique felt a mascot that would more accurately portray the pride and dignity of the school was needed, one that could be identified easily and would highlight the school’s close ties with Florida’s natural environment.
- The Sun Belt Conference has four teams that participate in football: Arkansas State (Division I), Louisiana Tech (Division I), Southern Louisiana (Division I), and Western Kentucky (Division I-AA).
- FIU has 200 student-athletes (55 percent female, 45 percent male) FIU, competed in NCAA Division II until 1987, when it joined Division I. In 1991, the Golden Panthers joined the Trans America Athletic Conference and in 1998 joined the Sun Belt Conference, where in its first season, finished in second place in overall athletic excellence.
- FIU has the largest enrollment (more than 30,000) in the nation competing in Division I athletics without a football program.