

WHAT WE OFFER

The USF Pearls program offers a student centered strengths-based approach with the student's holistic well-being as a key focus.

Program staff provides education, advocacy and collaboration with campus and community partners to assist students emerging from foster care through:

- ▶ **Individualized Support**
Each Pearl will have a dedicated support coordinator.
- ▶ **Mentorship**
Each Pearl will be assigned a mentor (faculty, staff, or alumni).
- ▶ **Programming**
Pearls will be invited to goal-oriented programs with skill building learning objectives.
- ▶ **Financial Support**
Pearls will have access to both campus and community resources for needs that may arise.



PROGRAM HISTORY

In 2020, the USF Pearls program began as St. Pete Pearls on the St. Petersburg campus, which is known for its nautical atmosphere along with being within driving distance of our beautiful Gulf Coast beaches. One of the most precious treasures that the ocean creates is a pearl. Just as the pearl is impacted by the environmental factors that contribute to its existence, so do our students who have had experience in foster care. Our goal is to cultivate each pearl to thrive at USF. The program that initially served 36 students has now expanded to serve over 250 students on all three campuses.



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ABOUT US

The University of South Florida Pearls is a uniquely designed program to support students emerging from the foster care system. USF Pearls offers individualized mentorship, dedicated coaching, exclusive programming and signature events.

MISSION

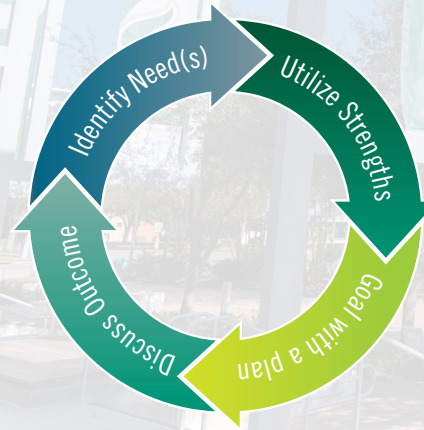
The Pearls team supports students emerging from foster care by providing unique opportunities to identify and develop foundational knowledge of self, gain leadership skills, and build a sense of community to prepare each Pearl for lifelong achievement.

VISION

Our vision is to provide intentional goal-directed programming focused on academic success, leadership development, healthy boundaries and building positive relationships while cultivating accountability, ensuring equitable experiences as well as access to success throughout the university for each Pearl.

HOW WE SUPPORT

Our dedicated staff are trained and have adapted the core skills from the Fostering Success Coaching Model.



- **Identify Needs (Assess)**
Together we will identify a need(s).
- **Utilize Strengths (Prioritize)**
We will help the student identify their own strengths and assist them to identify ways their strength(s) can be used to address the need(s).
- **Goal with a Plan (Teach)**
Together we will establish a goal to resolve the need and develop a plan to achieve success.
- **Discuss the Outcome (Learning)**
Together the student and staff will discuss the outcome and identify uncovered need(s).

ELIGIBILITY

- Be an active student on any USF campus
- Have lived in the foster care system at some point in your life
- Have used or currently utilize the DCF waiver (out-of-state students are exempt from this requirement)

EACH PEARL'S SUCCESS IS OUR MISSION!

YOU PICK THE DESTINATION
AND TOGETHER **WE'LL** GET
YOU THERE!

