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The Florida Institute for National Security (FINS), based in the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, ignites innovation in applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data science to fortify the nation’s security operations.

As a core contributor to the University of Florida’s AI initiative, FINS weaves advanced AI research to neutralize threats across defense, intelligence, law enforcement and critical infrastructure. The institute unites the brainpower of experts from a constellation of disciplines to deliver an arsenal of mission-driven technologies and innovations.

FINS advances technology transfer by moving applied AI solutions from the lab and into operational environments, supporting government and industry partners. Through focused workforce programs, FINS develops a robust talent pipeline, preparing students with technical skills and a hands-on foundation for careers in national security.

By forging links between education, research, and industry needs, FINS serves as UF’s hub for national security innovation. The institute’s melting-pot approach ensures that its work remains relevant and impactful in the nation’s evolving security landscape.

21 AFFILIATED RESEARCH LABS

Applied Artificial Intelligence Group (AAIG)

Bureau of Economic and Business Research Lab

Cyber-Physical System Security Lab

Machine Learning and Sensing Lab

Natural Language Processing and Culture Lab

Nonlinear Controls and Robotics Lab

Optical Science and Nonproliferation Lab

Violence, Conflict, and Security Lab

And Others

FACTS & FIGURES

\$37M+

GRANTS

90+

PATENTS

~100+

ACTIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

178

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

THE APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS



FINS partners with national security-oriented entities through Educational Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Cooperative Research & Development Agreements (CRADAs). These collaborations drive research innovation and unlock pathways for UF students to gain hands-on experience, advancing their careers in defense and intelligence while supporting national priorities.

RESEARCH



FINS research centers on applied AI with the goal of developing solutions that transition from the lab to real-world deployment, edge to cloud. This multidisciplinary focus taps into the wellspring of expertise at UF to find footing on the shifting ground of today’s national security environment.

TALENT



The FINS Talent Pipeline (FTP) program is UF's FIRST and ONLY workforce development initiative specifically created to grow national security talent. FTP nurtures engineering students to thrive in AI-driven national security roles and plants the seeds for a skilled workforce ready to serve the nation.