

New complex increases housing at Florida Tech



“A great deal of thought ... has gone into this building, its design, its construction, to shape it and to mold it to purpose,” Florida Tech President John Nicklow said about the Crimson Crossing complex on Aug. 12. MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

Six-story Crimson Crossing features 556 beds

Rick Neale

Florida Today USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Standing alongside a gray couch in a freshly furnished living room, Lee Myers surveyed the surrounding four-bedroom suite inside the Florida Institute of Technology’s six-story Crimson Crossing student housing complex.

“We have granite countertops, fullsize fridge, range stove and dishwasher,” said Myers, the university’s associate vice president of facilities, pointing out the adjacent kitchen.

On Aug. 12, Florida Tech hosted a Crimson Crossing ribbon-cutting ceremony in the east courtyard of the newly constructed Melbourne landmark overlooking the intersection of Babcock Street and University Boulevard. Students will move into the \$96 million, 556-bed building on Aug. 14.

In his remarks, Florida Tech President John Nicklow referenced the 1943 World War II-era quote by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who spoke about rebuilding the House of Commons after a bombing: “We shape our buildings, thereafter our buildings shape us.”

“A great deal of thought — of best practices, of cutting-edge technologies and so much more — has gone into this building, its design, its construction, to shape it and to mold it to purpose,” Nicklow told an outdoor crowd of about 200 people.

“Because we understand that the young people who call this residential complex home are doing nothing less than launching their adult lives from here,” he said.

In December 2024, FLORIDA TODAY broke the news that Florida Tech officials planned to build a six-story, 84-foot-tall student housing complex atop the Southgate Intramural Field. The developer is Servitas, which previously built Florida International University’s nine-story, 410-bed Bayview Student Living residence hall.

Florida Tech’s student-housing supply of 2,048 beds has been pushed to capacity on the Melbourne campus. During a seven-year span, fall semester in-person and online enrollment ballooned 27.4%, according to data submitted to the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System:

● 2019: 7,863 students. ● 2020: 8,478 students. ● 2021: 9,291 students. ● 2022: 9,545 students. ● 2023: 9,587 students. ● 2024: 9,807 students. ● 2025: 10,021 students. Students moved on campus this past weekend for the 2026 fall semester. University spokesperson Wes Sumner said final numbers are not in — but officials expect enrollment to surpass 10,000 students for the second straight year.

Biggest housing project in Florida Tech history

Crimson Crossing represents Florida Tech’s largest student housing complex — and the biggest student-life capital investment in university history.

The 556-bed facility boosts on-campus housing space by 27%. For reference, the Columbia Village freshman complex contains about 350 beds, while seven-story Roberts Hall has 250 beds.

Spanning 212,237 square feet, Crimson Crossing contains 125 four-bedroom units, 15 three-bedroom units, two two-bedroom units and seven one-bedroom units. Construction required 801 doorknobs, 768 windows and 30 53-foot-long semi-trailers filled with furniture.

Next year, Nicklow said crews will construct an elevated pedestrian bridge above Babcock Street linking Crimson Crossing with the bulk of campus. In October 2025, Florida Tech’s Board of Trustees Finance Committee recommended spending up to \$5.9 million on the project.

Crimson Crossing represents the first — and potentially largest — building unveiled as part of Florida Tech’s future campus master plan. Future facilities include a student welcome complex, an on-campus home for the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business, an athletics fieldhouse, a Gleason Performing Arts Center expansion and more.

A short distance from Crimson Crossing, demolition crews razed the former 7-Eleven facing Babcock Street last week to clear room for student parking. This property is slated to someday house a portion of the student welcome complex, which will offer admissions, financial aid and other campus services.

In a post-speech interview, Nicklow said fundraising and planning for that facility may take three to five years. He said future plans also call for new student housing to replace the aging Southgate Apartments — next door to Crimson Crossing — in a multiphased approach.

Rick Neale is a Space Reporter at FLORIDA TODAY, where he has covered news since 2004. Contact Neale at Rneale@floridatoday.com. Twitter/X: @RickNeale1.