

# Remote Reference Clinics: Supporting a new Physician Assistant Program in Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Courses.

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The logo for Florida International University (FIU), consisting of the letters "FIU" in a bold, blue, serif font.

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# Introduction

## **Problem:**

How to support students in an off-site Physician Assistant program with their EBM courses and related capstone project.

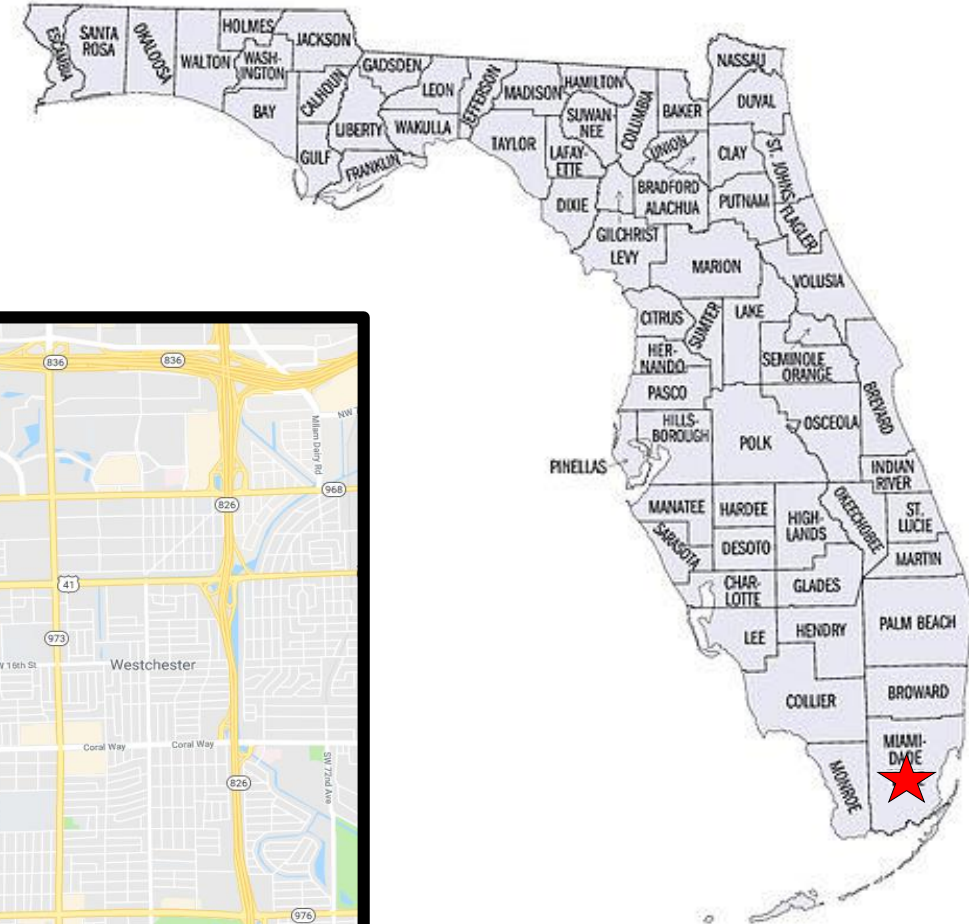
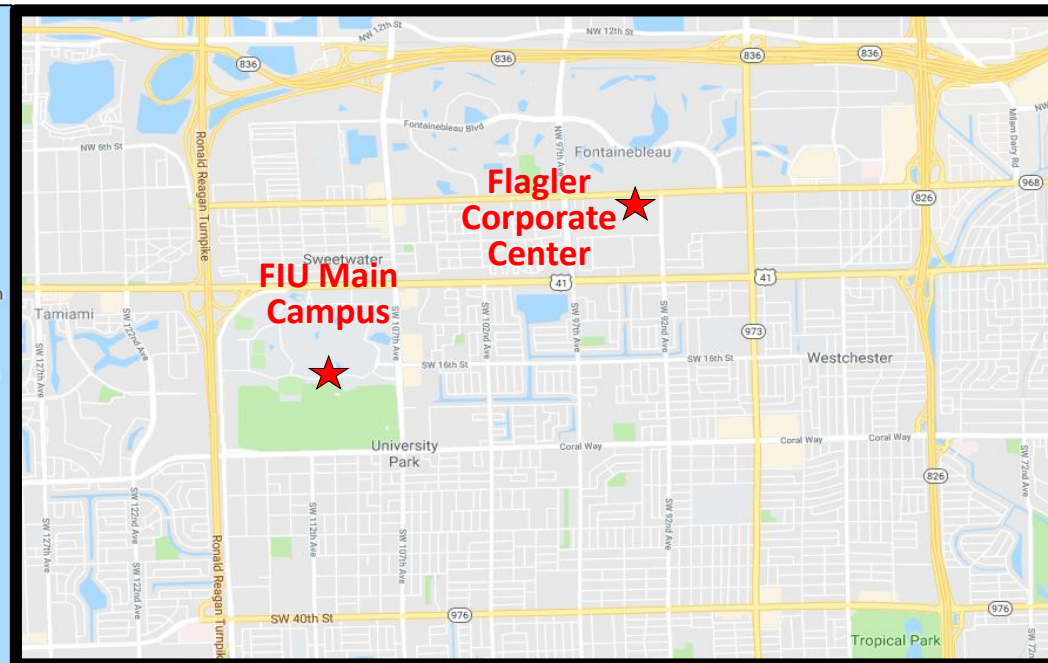
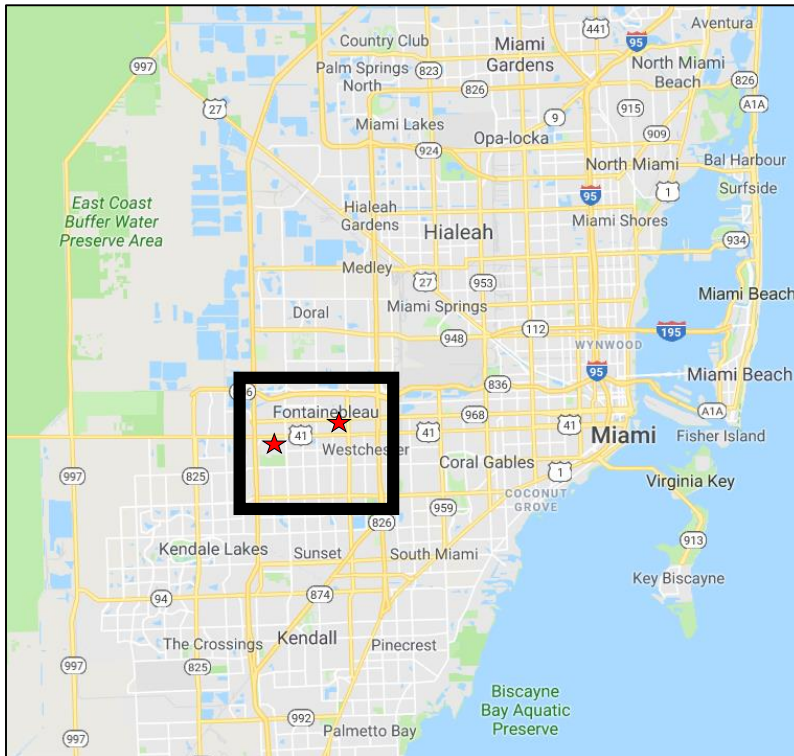
## **Some Background**

- Master's Program
- Established in 2015
- Provisionally accredited by the ARC-PA
- 45 Students/Class
- 1<sup>st</sup> "Year": 15 months of classes (mostly) on satellite campus
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: 12 months supervised clinical rotations all over the Florida

# Geography

The HWCOP MPAS program is a 27-month curriculum. The first 15 months are dedicated to didactic education. Almost all classes take place at the off-site campus on in the Flagler Corporate Center.

In the last 12 months, students do there clinical rotations (4 weeks per rotation) across Florida



# Background

## **Some Background**

- EBM Skills I – March
- EBM Skills II – November
- Capstone Project: following December
  - Literature Review (Pass/Fail) Master's Program
  - MPAS Faculty serve as graders

# Challenges

- Location
  - Most of their time is spent on the satellite campus
- Student Schedules
  - Writing the paper during their clinical rotations
  - They barely get to breathe between them
  - Location and length of the rotations – could very well be in Tallahassee
- It's hard to have a reference interview via e-mail

# Methods

## ~~CO 2018 EBM Skills 1 (late March 2017)~~

## CO 2018 EBM Skills 2 (late October 2017) - Flagler

- PowerPoint: (EBM, PICO)
- Hands-on searching in five databases
- **Attended a class each month** – a chance for students to ask us about their Capstone topics
- Several groups came to campus for help with the assignment

## CO 2018 Capstone (due December 2018) - Flagler

- LibGuide (medical library)
- **“Call Back Day” in February**
- Several students came to campus for help with their capstone
- Citation Management tools
- One virtual reference session (Skype for Business)

## CO 2019 EBM Skills 1 (late March 2018) – Main Campus

- Lecture: Intro to EBM, PICO, Boolean Logic, PubMed, Anatomy of an article
- Attended two classes (to answer follow-up questions)

## CO 2019 EBM Skills 2 (late October 2018) - Flagler

- PowerPoint (EBM, PICO)
- Hands-on searching in five databases
- Will demo *all* of the databases before asking students to search with them
- Will attend classes to help with
  - Group assignments
  - Choosing capstone topics

## CO 2019 Capstone (due December 2019) - Flagler

- LibGuide (medical library)
- Attend more “Call Back Days”
- Offer more virtual reference sessions

# Results

- **Waiting on the 2018 Capstone Projects to be submitted**
  - So far, positive feedback from graders
- **Using multiple methods to reach students**
  - In Person
    - Dedicated/protected class time
    - Call back days
  - Skype for Business
- **No formal evaluation**

# Going Forward

- **New crop of EBM I students this fall**
  - First class next Tuesday (October 30<sup>th</sup>)
- **Planning with the EBM skills & capstone faculty coordinator**
  - Also, a new faculty member from the school of education (brought in to consult)
- **Formal evaluation**
  - Measure progress between EBM I and II
  - Feedback form