

best *in class*

**More valedictorians (16)
from our community
chose FIU than any other
university in the country.**

Valedictorian



What it took to be the best in my class:

When I was in ninth grade, the teachers had us write an essay identifying one thing we wanted to do our senior year. I wrote that I wanted to be valedictorian. At that time, I was only a fair student, but I made it my goal and never lost sight of it. I wound up graduating from high school with all A's and 41 college credits.

On starting college at FIU:

The first time I was on campus, I looked around and thought, "Oh my gosh, this is really my school." It took me a moment. I breathed in and out and said to myself, "Wow, this is beautiful, it's amazing. What an opportunity."

Where I see myself in five years:

I will probably be in medical school, hopefully in the second or third class of the FIU College of Medicine.

My dream:

Professionally, my goal is to open a facility where anyone can be treated in reconstructive plastic surgery. Personally, I'd like to get to know everyone and everything. I want to travel the world.

Cindie Riera, 17 • Champagnat Catholic School
FIU Major: Chemistry
Going to school full-time and working this summer

"I'm sure that FIU will push me to develop my potential."



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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