

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



UCF SCHOLAR

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

CONGRATULATIONS

on being named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. At the University of Central Florida, we recognize and reward your type of talent. It's one reason why UCF is ranked among the top 30 universities in the nation for National Merit Scholar enrollment.

Orlando's innovation economy is flourishing, and our industry partnerships create opportunities for internships, cooperative learning and research. And at UCF, research isn't just for graduate students. Undergraduates benefit from connections to faculty and peer mentors, and enjoy opportunities to pursue original and innovative research at the Burnett Honors College.

The best way to experience our modern campus is to visit. I can help you organize a personalized experience and introduce you to the many benefits of our Scholars Program. By visiting, you'll have the opportunity to:

- **Speak with faculty in the Burnett Honors College and your academic areas of interest**
- **Meet current UCF National Merit Scholars**
- **Take a private, personalized golf cart tour of campus**
- **Explore exclusive housing for honors students in the Towers at Knights Plaza**
- **Enjoy lunch in one of our on-campus dining halls**

Please contact me to schedule your visit. I look forward to welcoming you to campus.



Luke van Blaricom

*Director of the Scholars Program
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
407.823.6179*

Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu



BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

The Burnett Honors College combines the intimacy of a small liberal arts college with the benefits and academic resources of a metropolitan research university. In classes limited to 20 or fewer students, you'll study, conduct research and connect with a close-knit community of UCF student scholars and expert faculty. The college offers a scholarly environment where you'll have access to upper-division honors classes, interdisciplinary seminars, service-learning opportunities and additional one-on-one time with faculty and advisors.

The college's state-of-the-art facility houses a computer lab, reading room, multimedia classrooms and a meditation garden. Honors students also get priority registration, scholarship opportunities, invitations to special events and dedicated on-campus housing.

To learn more about the college, call **407.823.2545** or visit **honors.ucf.edu**.

LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The LEAD Scholars Academy is a leadership development experience for select students to learn in and out of the classroom. In this two-year program, participants pursue the academic study of leadership, study how to use it in their careers and develop ways to use their skills to give back to peers and the community.

To join a group of active and motivated people who cover all the necessary elements for leadership growth — people who try as hard and care as much as you do — apply to the LEAD Scholars Academy. Call **407.823.2223** or visit **lead.sdes.ucf.edu** to learn more.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

While you have many colleges to choose from, more students each year are putting UCF at the top of their list. One reason is the strong support UCF offers its most talented students. Outlined below are the opportunities available to National Merit qualifiers:

SEMIFINALISTS

- Expedited admission decision
- Priority consideration for merit scholarships

FINALISTS

If you are named a finalist and designate UCF as your first choice by the deadline, you will receive scholarships valued at:

Florida Residents — UCF Cost of Attendance

The following awards will be stacked to total your Cost of Attendance and include:

- Benacquisto Scholarship
- Florida Bright Futures
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award

Non-Florida Residents — UCF Cost of Attendance

The following awards will be stacked to your Cost of Attendance and include:

- Benacquisto Scholarship
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award

All finalists who are first choice designees also receive:

- Expedited admission decision to UCF
- Guaranteed admission to the LEAD Scholars Academy (upon application)
- Guaranteed admission to the Burnett Honors College (upon application) with benefits that include:
 - Priority registration
 - Special orientation program
 - Faculty mentoring
 - Exclusive research and internship opportunities
 - Access to honors housing in the Towers at Knights Plaza
- Guaranteed on-campus housing for four years with available housing preference (upon application)
- Laptop computer



ALUM

BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Brandt Dietry '19 chose to attend UCF because of the significant academic and real-world opportunities he would have access to here — a choice that would prove to be quite rewarding. While earning his degree in economics and minor in legal studies at UCF, the National Merit Scholar was hand-picked by a professor to intern at a law firm. Today Brandt is working in Wisconsin as a consultant and government affairs strategist for healthcare companies, and he plans to attend Harvard Law in Fall 2020.

"I always knew I wanted to go to a big school for the types of opportunities they can provide, and I think if you rise to the top in a big school that's more valuable than rising to the top in a smaller school."



ALUM

FINDING LIKE MINDS

Annalicia Burns '14 knew UCF was the right place to start her future because of the university's energetic atmosphere and diverse opportunities. With the encouragement of faculty, the biomedical sciences major balanced her intense pre-med coursework with personal interests as she double-majored in anthropology. Between studying abroad in the Caribbean, conducting research on campus and involvement with the Burnett Honors College, Burns' academic journey at UCF was rewarding beyond the classroom and helped prepare her to complete her residency at Duke's pediatric program.

"Whatever interest you may have, however obscure it may be, I feel like you can always find people at UCF who share that interest."



CHECKLIST NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces semifinalists
In September, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists.

Submit your application early in the fall semester
Submit your application online at apply.ucf.edu early in the fall semester. Include a short essay, and select the “mail in” option for your application fee, but **don’t** include the \$30 application fee with your submission. Instead, contact Luke van Blaricom at **407.823.6179** or email Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu to have the application fee waived. UCF also accepts the Common Application. However, the application fee cannot be waived if submitting using this method.

Visit UCF
To see if UCF is right for you, come visit us. Contact us to get a personalized campus tour, where you’ll have the chance to:

- Meet with faculty in the Burnett Honors College and your area(s) of interest
- Meet current UCF National Merit Scholars
- Take a golf cart tour of the campus
- Explore honors housing
- Enjoy lunch on campus

Complete the NMSC application
To be considered for finalist standing, every semifinalist must complete the NMSC application. In addition, your high school must submit an official transcript and a letter of recommendation. The NMSC also requires SAT or ACT scores for consideration.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

Apply to the Burnett Honors College
To be eligible for the many benefits of the Burnett Honors College, you must submit a completed paper application. No portion of the college’s application is waived. All sections must be completed in full (including the essay) and submitted as soon as possible.

Apply to the LEAD Scholars Academy
If you wish to participate in the LEAD Scholars program, you must submit a completed application by May 31.

NMSC announces finalists
The NMSC notifies finalists in February. More than 90 percent of semifinalists advance to finalist standing. All finalists who designate UCF as their first choice by the NMSC deadline are guaranteed the UCF National Merit finalist scholarship.

Designate UCF as your first-choice institution
This is an ongoing process with the first available notification provided in early March and continuing in subsequent notification rounds. If you are “undecided” with the NMSC, the last opportunity to designate UCF as your first choice is May 31.

MARCH – JUNE

NMSC notifies finalists of awards
Beginning in March, the NMSC will offer finalists one of three awards:

- National Merit-sponsored
- Corporate-sponsored
- College-sponsored

These awards are in addition to your UCF merit scholarship, and this process is handled directly through the NMSC.

Return the UCF merit scholarship acceptance form
Finalists who designate UCF as their first choice with the NMSC by the May deadline will officially be awarded their UCF merit scholarship in writing. Once the form is submitted, the award will be indicated on your myUCF account under “Financial Aid.”

Apply for UCF Housing
Determine whether to sign an academic or annual agreement housing contract. Then submit your contract through your myUCF account along with the \$250 prepayment.

Complete the FAFSA
All National Merit Scholars receiving a UCF merit scholarship are encouraged to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to the UCF Office of Financial Assistance every year by May 1.

Register for Orientation
Orientation registration is available in mid-spring. Go online through your myUCF account to select the orientation session you would like to attend (these also are posted on the orientation website). National Merit finalists are encouraged to attend the honors orientation; however, you may select any orientation to attend.

Submit the UCF enrollment deposit
Submit the \$200 enrollment deposit, which is applied toward your first semester tuition and is not waived as part of your scholarship, by May 1.

Select UCF as first-choice institution by May 31
If you have “undecided” listed as your first choice, you must designate UCF as your first choice with the NMSC by May 31, to be guaranteed the UCF merit scholarship award.



SCHOLAR

BALANCING INTERESTS

For **Aidan Lakshman**, coming to UCF meant experiencing the big opportunities of a diverse campus, developing research expertise and pursuing his dream of becoming a college professor. As a junior mathematics major, his involvement with the Burnett Honors College and work in UCF's Evolutionary Computation Lab helped him earn a research internship with Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute. And with help from advisors, Lakshman has been able to create a class schedule that balances his technical pursuits with his interest in music through his jazz minor.

"I like being a part of research because it feels good to have your ideas recognized as something worth investigating."



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I be considered for a National Merit Scholarship at UCF?

First you must qualify as a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist. You should then apply for admission to UCF. National Merit Semifinalists are eligible for scholarship consideration. Students advancing to National Merit Finalist standing are eligible for sponsorship as a National Merit Scholar if they select UCF as their first-choice institution and adhere to the deadlines specified by NMSC. Finalists who designate UCF as their first choice with the NMSC by their deadline automatically receive a UCF merit scholarship. Please visit nationalmerit.org for more information.

How do I select UCF as my first choice with the NMSC?

Students are responsible for indicating their first-choice college or university with the NMSC. Be careful to complete all required documentation in accordance with NMSC guidelines and deadlines. If you have questions or concerns, contact NMSC officials at **847.866.5100** or visit nationalmerit.org.

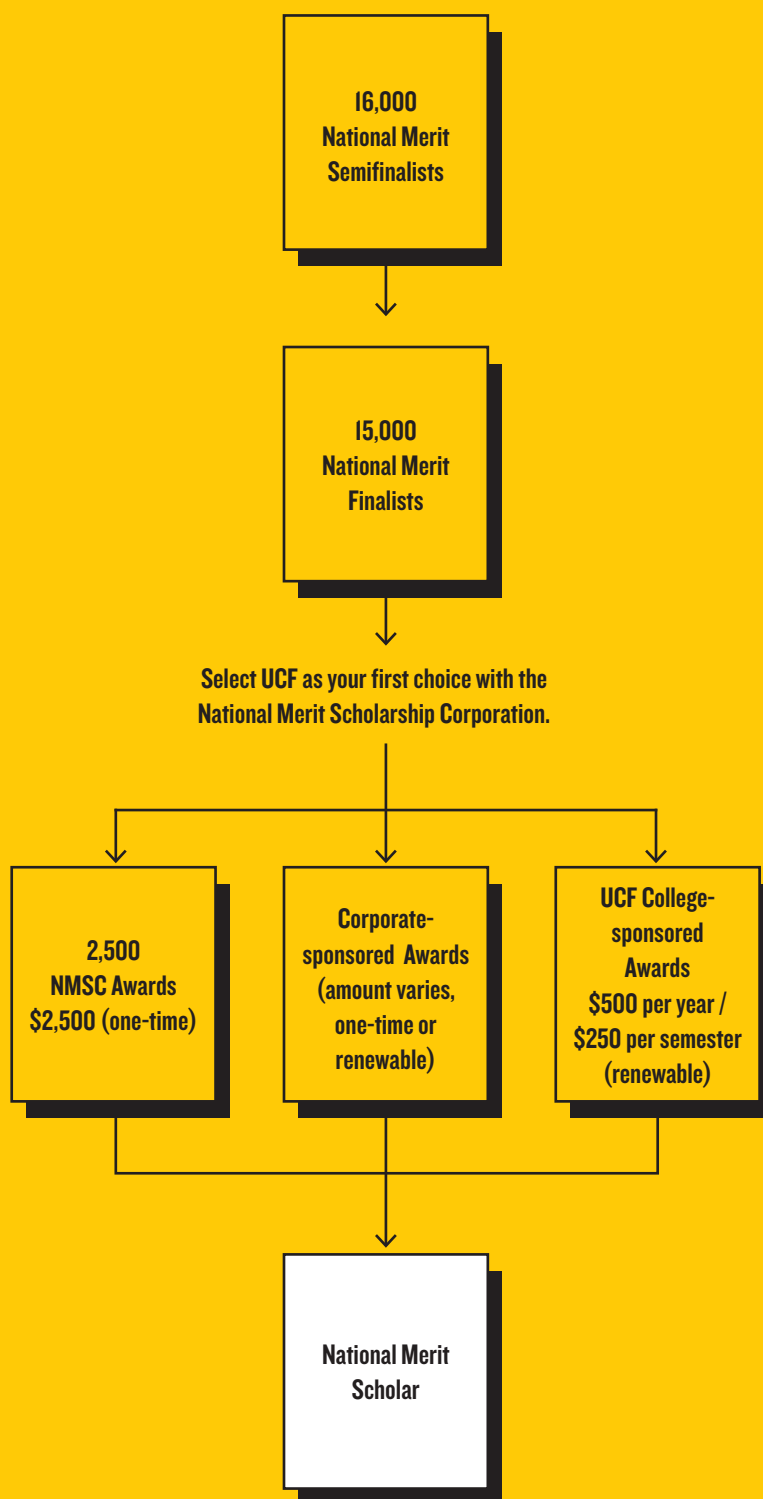
How can the National Merit Scholarship be used?

The scholarship may be used in addition to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Florida Prepaid College Plans, private scholarships and, in some cases, need-based assistance. It will be applied to tuition and fees first, but can also cover part, or all, of the cost of on-campus housing when combined with other awards.

Is the UCF National Merit Scholarship a “full-ride” award?

The UCF scholarship for National Merit Finalists (who designate UCF as their first choice) is a “Cost of Attendance” award. It is designed to cover a majority, if not all, of a student’s expenses at UCF. However, UCF does not “waive” expenses (e.g., tuition, housing). We fund at a level that helps to cover these expenses. This allows individual students to tailor their educational experiences to fit their budgets.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION





YOU'RE INVITED: THE DIRECTOR'S FORUM FOR NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

UCF will host an on-campus event to share information about scholarship opportunities, academic programs and benefits available to National Merit Scholars. We look forward to speaking with you and your family during this invitation-only gathering.



The Scholars Program hosted an awards dinner on campus celebrating the achievements of 2019 National Merit Finalists.

JOIN FELLOW SEMIFINALISTS

and UCF students, faculty and staff for this event.

**FRIDAY
NOV. 15, 2019
3 - 9 p.m.**

Dinner will be served.

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ORLANDO, FL 32816

*Please RSVP no later than Nov. 8 to
407.823.6179 or
Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu.*

THE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Admissions
Burnett Honors College
Housing and Residence Life
LEAD Scholars Academy
Office of Student Involvement
Orientation
Student Financial Assistance
Student Health Services

admissions.ucf.edu
honors.ucf.edu
housing.ucf.edu
lead.sdes.ucf.edu
osi.ucf.edu
orientation.ucf.edu
finaid.ucf.edu
studenthealth.ucf.edu

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