



UNIVERSITY PROFILE

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



FOUNDED IN 1963,

the University of Central Florida (UCF) is a metropolitan research university built to make a better future for our students and society. We solve tomorrow's greatest challenges through a commitment to academic, inclusive and operational excellence. Leveraging innovative learning, discovery and partnerships, we foster social mobility while developing the skilled talent needed to advance industry for our region, state and beyond.

These are some of the reasons why *U.S. News & World Report* ranks UCF as Florida's most innovative university — and one of the [nation's top 20 most innovative](#). UCF is also ranked as a best-value university by Kiplinger and The Princeton Review, as well as one of the nation's most affordable colleges by *Forbes*.

Located in one of the country's fastest-growing regions, UCF holds the Carnegie Foundation's highest designation in two categories: community engagement and very high research activity. Its deep community and industry partnerships ensure



UCF isn't just meeting Florida's needs today but helping to fuel future prosperity and discovery.

The university confers more than 16,000 degrees each year and benefits from a diverse faculty and staff who create a welcoming environment and opportunities for approximately 72,000 students to grow, learn and succeed.

With 13 colleges, including a College of Medicine, UCF offers more than 230 degree programs from its main campus, downtown campus, hospitality campus, health sciences campus, and through 11 UCF Connect centers located throughout the region. [UCF's fully online programs](#) include online bachelor's degrees, online master's degrees, online PhDs, online certificates and more.

ACADEMIC, INCLUSIVE AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

UCF aspires to be one of the nation's leading innovative research universities, with a focus on student success and contributing to the betterment of society. A different kind of university driven by its entrepreneurialism and optimism, UCF will not be defined by its contemporaries, and rather seeks to forge a new path with the potential to be a leading metropolitan research university that will help to define the future of higher education.

Following years of growth, the university will now focus on building the critical infrastructure that will support its pursuit of excellence. UCF will have a national, and in key areas, international reputation as a new kind of metropolitan public research university that is tightly coupled with its community and can work toward quickly becoming a top 50 public national university and ultimately be considered for membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities.

UCF will work to achieve these goals by meeting the following objectives; build a strong leadership team with a focus on improving administrative infrastructure and systems that drive operational excellence, efficiency and effectiveness, invest in academic excellence to drive greater student success and research outcomes, deliver action on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and become an example for how a community fully commits to inclusive excellence, build a culture of trust, engagement and accountability that also makes UCF one of the best places to work for our faculty and staff and elevate and promote UCF's excellence and its national reputation through our efforts in advancement, government and community relations, and communications and marketing efforts.



Since the signing of the legislative bill that established [a university in Central Florida](#) to being one of the largest universities in the United States, UCF has become a partnership university with groundbreaking research, innovative education and academic excellence.

1968 The first classes are held at Florida Technological University with 1,948 students enrolled, 90 instructors and 150 staff members. Fifty-five degree programs are offered.

1977 The Division of Student Affairs saw a need — to recruit, retain and support minority students at FTU — and established the Office of Minority Student Services.

1978 Central Florida Research Park is established next to the university's main campus. Today it is home to more than 120 companies and is the hub of the nation's military simulation and training programs.

FTU changes its name to University of Central Florida.

1980 UCF awards its first doctorate — in computer science.

1993 The [National Center for Simulation](#) forms with headquarters in Central Florida Research Park.

2004 The Rosen College of Hospitality Management opens its doors in the heart of Orlando's tourism district on International Drive.

2005 FIEA (the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy) holds its first classes at UCF's Center for Emerging Media in downtown Orlando.

2006 DirectConnect to UCF launches. It has become a national model of guaranteed admission to a four-year university after earning an associate degree from a partner college. In May 2019, UCF awarded its 50,000th degree as a result of the program.

The College of Medicine is established, part of the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona.

2013 UCF joins the American Athletic Conference.

2019 [UCF Downtown opens for classes](#). The innovative, urban campus serves more than 7,000 students in partnership with Valencia College.

2021 [UCF Lake Nona Medical Center](#), a partnership hospital between HCA Healthcare's North Florida Division and UCF Academic Health, will open.



ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

We attract and cultivate exceptional students and are committed to seeing them succeed in the classroom and after graduation. Our innovative approach to higher education improves social mobility and helps students of all socioeconomic backgrounds earn a degree.

EXCELLENCE

Our constant pursuit of excellence continually manifests in record GPAs for incoming freshman classes, record numbers of international scholars, nationally ranked academic programs, and cutting-edge research.

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Our vision is to position UCF as a center of excellence that is nationally recognized as a [higher education model for our diversity, inclusion and equity practices](#), policies and culture.

PARTNERSHIPS

By creating partnerships at every level that amplify our academic, economic, social and cultural impact and reputation, we create common goals and common ground both locally and globally.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

UCF transforms lives by leveraging our scale and pursuit of excellence to create greater cultural, economic, environmental and social impact for our students, community, region and beyond.

INNOVATION

Our success is no secret; we are driving innovative academic, operational and financial models that are [transforming higher education](#).



- #1 [Supplier of graduates to U.S. aerospace and defense industries](#)
Aviation Week Network

- #1 [Video game graduate program in North America](#)
The Princeton Review and PC Gamer

- #2 [Emergency management and homeland security graduate program in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #2 [University for boosting social mobility in the nation](#)
Education Reform Now

- #3 [State for higher education](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #4 [Hospitality and hotel management school in the world](#)
CEOWorld magazine

- #5 [Transportation science and technology programs in the nation](#)
ShanghaiRankings

- #5 [Nonprofit management graduate program in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #9 [Kinesiology doctoral program in the nation](#)
National Academy of Kinesiology

- #12 [Optics and photonics graduate program in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #13 [Counselor education graduate program in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #16 [Most innovative university in the nation — and No. 1 in Florida](#)
U.S. News & World Report



- #16 [Online undergraduate programs in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #17 [Online criminal justice graduate program in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #31 [Online graduate nursing programs in the nation](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #31 [Producer of patents among public universities in the nation — and among the top 100 in the world](#)
National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association

- #50 [For undergraduate research and creative projects](#)
U.S. News & World Report

- #40 [Public research universities in the nation](#)
Washington Monthly

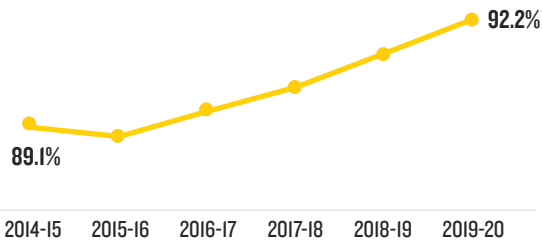


PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Over the past five years, UCF has continued to pursue excellence in all areas of student success. Our excellence comes from admitting high-quality students and keeping them on track to graduation.

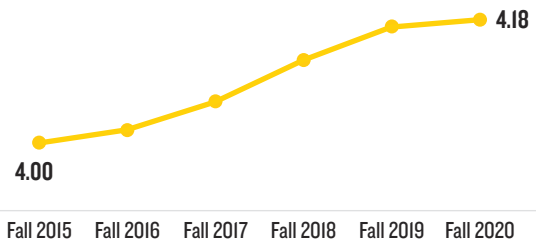
FIRST-YEAR RETENTION RATE

By FTIC Cohort (before drop for non-pay)



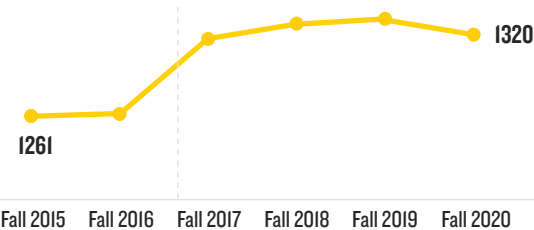
AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA

Incoming Fall FTIC



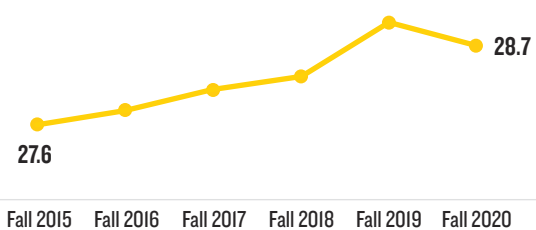
AVERAGE SAT

Incoming Fall FTIC



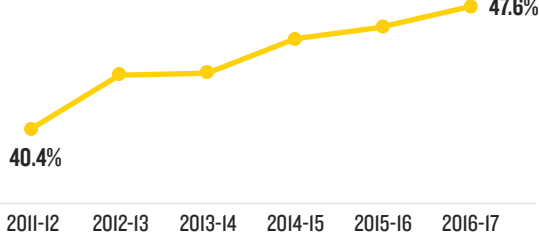
AVERAGE ACT

Incoming Fall FTIC



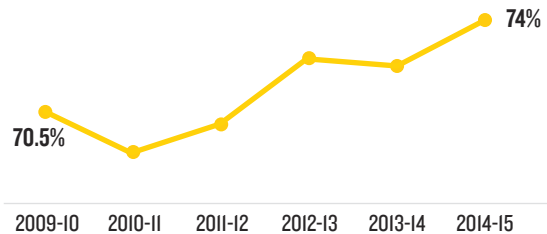
FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

By FTIC Cohort

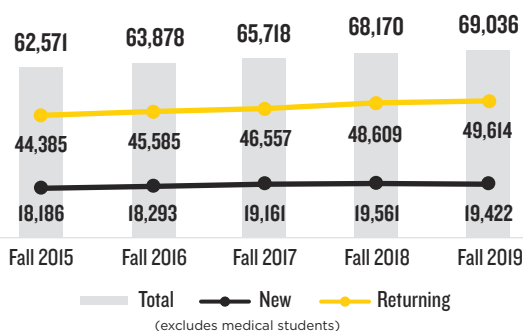


SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

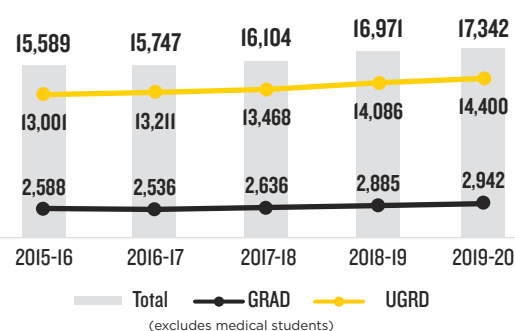
By FTIC Cohort



KEEPING MORE STUDENTS



AWARDING MORE DEGREES



DESIGNATIONS

Research University – Very High Research Activity

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

Community Engagement

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyberdefense

National Security Agency and Department
of Homeland Security

**HISPANIC
SERVING
INSTITUTION**
U.S. Department
of Education

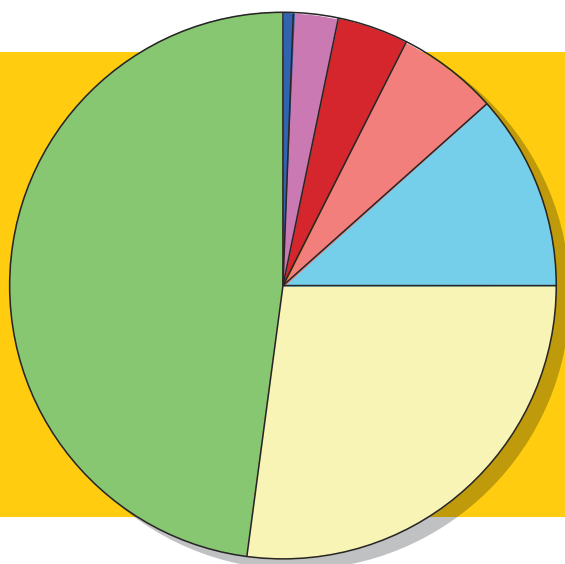


FALL 2020 ENROLLMENT

TOTAL	71,948
Undergraduate	61,456
Freshman (New Admit)	8,125
Transfer (New Admit)	7,942
Graduate	10,002
Medical Professional	490
UCF Online	6,646
Undergraduate	3,668
Graduate	3,978

335 National Merit Scholars enrolled
(Benacquisto Scholars)

106 National Hispanic Scholars enrolled



FALL 2020 FRESHMAN PROFILE

Average SAT Score	1320
Average ACT Score	28.7
Average High School GPA (Weighted)	4.18

Degree Programs

TOTAL	231
Bachelor's	103
Master's	91
Research Doctoral	31
Professional Doctoral	3
Specialist	3

321,215 Living alumni

DEGREES CONFERRED*

TOTAL	364,194
Bachelor's	299,350
Master's	57,848
Doctoral	5,564
Specialist/professional	1,432

*As of August 2020

RESEARCH FUNDING

2019-20	\$204.5 million
Endowment Assets	
June 30, 2020	\$162.8 million
Operating Budget	
2019-20	\$1.9 billion

EMPLOYEES

TOTAL	12,354
Faculty and Adjuncts	2,518
Staff Members	9,836

DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION

0.1%	American Indian/Alaska Native
0.1%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
1.0%	Not Specified
3.9%	Multiracial
4.3%	International
6.4%	Asian
10.3%	Black/African American
27.5%	Hispanic/Latino
46.3%	White

48.5%
of students are
members of
underrepresented
minority groups.

AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

MODELING AND SIMULATION

Located adjacent to UCF, Central Florida Research Park is recognized as one of the top 10 research parks in the world. This 1,027-acre corporate community provides an environment for industry and the university to share training facilities, pursue cooperative research, transfer existing technology to the marketplace, and provide internship

and career opportunities for UCF students. As the world's largest cluster of modeling, simulation and training companies, Research Park is home to the National Center for Simulation and Training as well as the nation's Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines simulation operations, which garner nearly \$4 billion in government contracts every year.

\$11.6 BILLION

Statewide sales activity

\$6 BILLION

Amount Research Park's organizations and businesses generate for the state's GDP

60,000

People employed in the park affiliated with the military

150

Companies housed in the park, ranging from heavy hitters such as Boeing, Leidos, Lockheed and Raytheon to start-ups

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Self-driving cars have become the next major frontier in transportation. At the forefront of this movement is Luminar, a company that recently went public that was co-founded by **Jason Eichenholz '95MS '98PhD**. The company, which is based in Silicon Valley and Central Florida Research Park, has developed more efficient and affordable methods for creating the technology behind these vehicles — earning partnerships with Audi, Toyota, Volvo and more than



a dozen other autonomous vehicle programs. Among its crowning achievement is its development of a new lidar sensor that can see almost 10 times farther than other sensors and sells for as little as \$500, compared with \$75,000 for the current industry leader.

As one of the most innovative universities in the country, we take a different approach to teaching and learning. We look to increase accessibility, offer more options and have a greater impact — so our students are prepared for meaningful lives and careers and to make an impact in their communities and around the world.

4.18

Average high school GPA of incoming first-year students

92.2%

First-year retention rate

UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

ACCLAIMED KNIGHTS

1

Rhodes Scholar

3

Truman Scholars

4

Pickering Fellows

10

Goldwater Scholars

9

Boren Scholars

20

Astronaut Scholars

49

Fulbright awards

93

National Science Foundation Scholars

COLLEGES

The College of Arts and Humanities enrolls more than 4,600 students and offers 35 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. It hosts [UCF Celebrates the Arts](#), one of the university's largest annual events, in which students and faculty showcase their work at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Orlando.

The Burnett Honors College enrolls more than 2,200 of the university's highest-achieving undergraduate students, offering everything from undergraduate research opportunities to approximately 200 honors-level general education courses every year. As part of the college, the [Office of Prestigious Awards](#) works closely with students from across campus to prepare and apply for major scholarships. Recent students include Astronaut, Boren, Goldwater, Fulbright, National Science Foundation, Pickering and Udall scholars.

The College of Business enrolls more than 8,900 students and offers 15 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, all of which are accredited by AACSB International. It houses the Kenneth G. Dixon School of Accounting and [the DeVos Sport Business Management program](#), which has been named one of the top five programs in the nation by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *ESPN the Magazine* and *Forbes*.

The College of Community Innovation and Education enrolls more than 13,000 students and offers 54 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Two of the college's graduate programs — Emergency and Crisis Management and Nonprofit Management — rank in the top 5 in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. It is also home to the [Lockheed Martin/UCF Academy](#), which is a partnership that aims to improve STEM education by offering scholarships to local public elementary and middle school teachers pursuing graduate degrees.



The College of Engineering and Computer

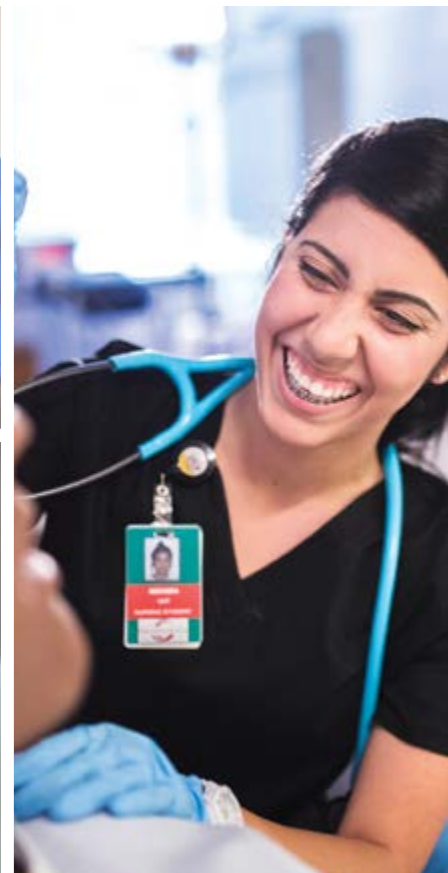
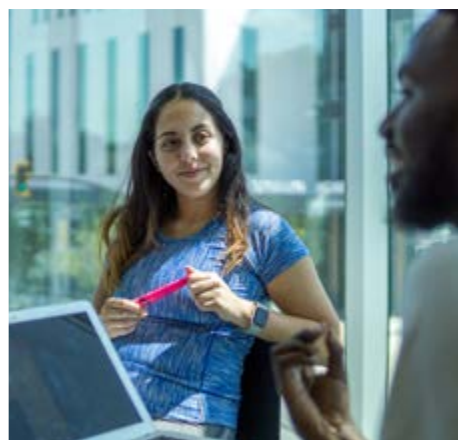
Science enrolls more than 12,000 students and offers 36 undergraduate and graduate degrees. The college ranks among the top 50 public graduate engineering colleges in the nation and its undergraduate engineering programs rank in the top 100, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. It benefits from major industry partnerships, including with L3Harris Technologies, Lockheed Martin and Siemens, and is home to national championship [cyberdefense](#) and [computer programming](#) teams.

The College of Graduate Studies enrolls nearly 150 students and offers five graduate degree programs, including master's and doctoral degrees in modeling and simulation.

The College of Health Professions and Sciences enrolls more than 7,000 students and offers 10 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. It is home to the Exercise Physiology doctoral program, which was [ranked No. 9 in the nation by the National Academy of Kinesiology](#), and [the largest clinical graduate education program for speech-language pathology in the nation](#).

The College of Medicine enrolls more than 3,700 students and offers seven undergraduate and graduate degree programs. A research-based medical school, it offers joint M.D. degree programs, where students can earn a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, an M.S. in Hospitality, an MBA, or an M.S. in Biomedical Engineering in addition to an M.D. In 2020, [graduates of the medical program matched with residencies across the region, state and nation at a rate of 97.5 percent](#) — higher than the national average of 93.7 percent.

The College of Nursing enrolls more than 3,000 students and offers four undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, UCF's nursing programs have ranked in the top 50 for best online programs and top 75 best nursing schools for both master's and doctoral programs, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. It is also home to the first healthcare simulation graduate program, and boasts six certified healthcare simulation educators.



The College of Optics and Photonics is one of the world's foremost institutions for research and education in optical and photonic science and engineering. Offering one undergraduate and two graduate degree programs and enrolling more than 250 students, it was the first graduate college in optics and photonics and [ranks No. 12 in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report](#).

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management is strategically located near the heart of one of the world's largest and most popular tourism destinations. Offering seven undergraduate and graduate degree programs and enrolling more than 3,000 students, it ranks among the top five best colleges for hospitality and tourism in the world, according to both [CEOWorld magazine](#) and [ShanghaiRankings](#).

The College of Sciences enrolls more than 15,500 students and offers 45 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. It is home to the [National Center for Forensic Science](#) as well as the [Lou Frey Institute](#), a nonpartisan foundation that engages in civic education for college and high school students, members of the Central Florida community and the general public. Its undergraduate and graduate video game design programs rank among the top 15 in the world, according to The Princeton Review and *PC Gamer* magazine.

The College of Undergraduate Studies enrolls more than 1,400 students and offers three undergraduate degrees. It administers the National Science Foundation-funded [EXCEL program](#) to increase success in the freshman and sophomore science and mathematics courses as well as facilitate experiential learning, undergraduate research and advising.



UCF Online

UCF offers more than [100 fully online undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs](#), which are ranked among the top 20 in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

HEALTHCARE

Fast becoming a leader in healthcare education, UCF brings together physicians, nurses, researchers and other health professionals through the Academic Health Sciences Center. UCF researchers are on the vanguard of cancer biology related to metastatic forms of breast cancer and prostate cancer, as well as rapidly progressing types of pancreatic, lung, ovarian and head and neck cancers.

The Aphasia House, based at UCF, is the only intensive program of its kind in Central Florida and offers speech-language therapy for individuals experiencing loss of speech due to a neurologic injury. And the College of Nursing's state-of-the-art simulation facilities prepare nurse leaders to meet the world's ever-changing healthcare needs.

1st

Medical school in U.S. to provide full scholarships to an entire class

97.5%

Match rate of medical school students in 2020 compared to 93.7 percent nationally

2021

Year UCF Lake Nona Medical Center set to open

175,000 SQ FT

Research and clinical space comprising the new UCF Lake Nona Cancer Center set to open in 2021

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

As head of the cancer research division, UCF Professor **Annette Khaled** is working to find a treatment for metastatic breast cancer thanks to grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. As a result of her research, she holds a patent for a cancer-killing agent that can be used to defeat cancer cells, bacterial cells and other microbial cells. She



is currently working with "liquid biopsies," which can analyze cancer cells in patients' blood to help identify those whose tumors would most benefit from therapy.

RESEARCH

UCF researchers drive intellectual capital and innovation to solve today's most pressing problems. As an emerging preeminent university, we promote economic development in the region by aiding in the transfer of technology and other discoveries between university and industry to create next-generation ideas and products. From nanoscience to optics, from simulation to forensic science, UCF researchers work together to have real-world impact, improving the lives of our students and community.

TOP 50

Public research university
in the nation
Top American Research
Universities Annual Report

\$204.5 MILLION

Research funding in fiscal
year 2020

#31

For patents issued by
public universities in the
nation — and among the
top 100 in the world

27

Licenses and options
executed (2019-20)

CREATE at UCF

The Center for Research and Education in Arts, Technology and Entertainment conducts multidisciplinary projects and research-driven initiatives in support of the Central Florida community.

FSEC Energy Research Center

Also known as the Florida Solar Energy Center, the FSEC Energy Research Center researches and develops energy technologies that enhance Florida's and the nation's economy and environment.

Institute for Simulation and Training

Located in Central Florida Research Park, the Institute for Simulation and Training is an internationally recognized research institute that focuses on advancing human-centered modeling and simulation technology and increasing our understanding of simulation's role in training and education.

Nanoscience Technology Center

Bringing together biologists, chemists, engineers and physicists, the Nanoscience Technology Center is a cutting-edge research program in materials and nanotechnology that provides high-quality training for students and facilitates the advancement of innovations to solve real-world technology challenges.

National Center for Integrated Coastal Research

The National Center for Integrated Coastal Research (UCF Coastal) is an interdisciplinary team of researchers and scientists committed to increasing the resiliency and sustainability of coastal communities.

National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyberdefense

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency have designated UCF a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyberdefense Education and Research, respectively. The honor recognizes the strength of the university's cyberdefense programs, curriculum, faculty and students.

Townes Laser Institute

Dedicated in honor of Charles Townes, 1964 Nobel Laureate in Physics and the inventor of the concept of the laser, the Townes Laser Institute is funded by the State of Florida to develop laser light engines for applications in medicine, advanced manufacturing and defense applications.



AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE

Nearby industry giants and the military make it easy for UCF researchers and students to work side-by-side with leading experts on projects in the sciences, engineering, photonics and optics, and modeling and simulation. These strong partnerships — combined with strong academic programs — is one of the reasons UCF received \$34.1 million from

the Department of Defense in 2018, for research projects ranging from making faster computers to developing more sophisticated security scanners. And by providing the necessary talent and brainpower to fuel industry partners such as Lockheed Martin, Siemens and NASA, UCF is fulfilling a demand for critical, high-value jobs across the state.

#1

Supplier of talent to the aerospace and defense industries for the sixth year in a row
Aviation Week Network

#1

[Hack@UCF's ranking in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition](#) in 2014, 2015 and 2016

#2

Homeland security and emergency management graduate program in the nation
U.S. News & World Report

30+

Years of partnerships with Siemens, resulting in the [Siemens Energy Center](#), which provides mentorship opportunities for students and access to the lab for Siemens experts

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Before even having his diploma in hand, **Dale Wagner '19** had a job lined up with Boeing working on a spacecraft that can exit and enter space daily. The mechanical engineering grad took every opportunity available to him as a student, from being a member of the College of Engineering and Computer Science's Dean's Advisory Board to the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the American



Society of Mechanical Engineers. And for his senior design project, he worked with Honda to develop a turbocharged boat engine that delivers more horsepower at less weight than standard commercial engines.

MAIN CAMPUS

As UCF's home since 1968, our 1,415-acre main campus in east Orlando is impressive in size and even bigger in potential. UCF's main campus is located 13 miles east of downtown Orlando and adjacent to one of the top research parks in the nation.

UCF DOWNTOWN

UCF Downtown, in partnership with Valencia College, is a game-changing campus that offers the opportunity for more than 7,000 students to live, learn and work in the heart of The City Beautiful. This transformational project, which kick-started Orlando's \$1 billion public-private Creative Village, increases access for students, provides pathways for in-demand career fields, fosters collaboration with our neighbors in meaningful ways and improves countless lives through the power of education. It also offers more than 20 academic programs, each geared to optimize educational opportunities, such as internships or research partnerships with nearby businesses, nonprofit organizations and governmental entities.

HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

The College of Medicine is located on the health sciences campus, which will soon house the Academic Health Sciences Center and bring together related academic, clinical and research programs and services such as the College of Nursing and College of Health Professions and Sciences. Its location in Lake Nona's Medical Center puts students and researchers in close proximity to esteemed neighbors, including Nemours Children's Hospital, the University of Florida Research & Academic Center, the VA Medical Center and the forthcoming UCF Lake Nona Medical Center. UCF Health, with locations in east Orlando, Lake Nona and Osceola County, provides primary and specialty care, delivered by doctors who are training the next generation of doctors at the UCF College of Medicine.

ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Located just minutes from some of the world's top-rated attractions, resorts, restaurants and convention spaces, the Rosen College of Hospitality Management provides students with an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the industry's market. Situated in the heart of hospitality, Rosen is a 159,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, Mediterranean resort-style campus and the largest facility ever built for hospitality management education.

Main Campus



UCF Downtown



Health Sciences Campus

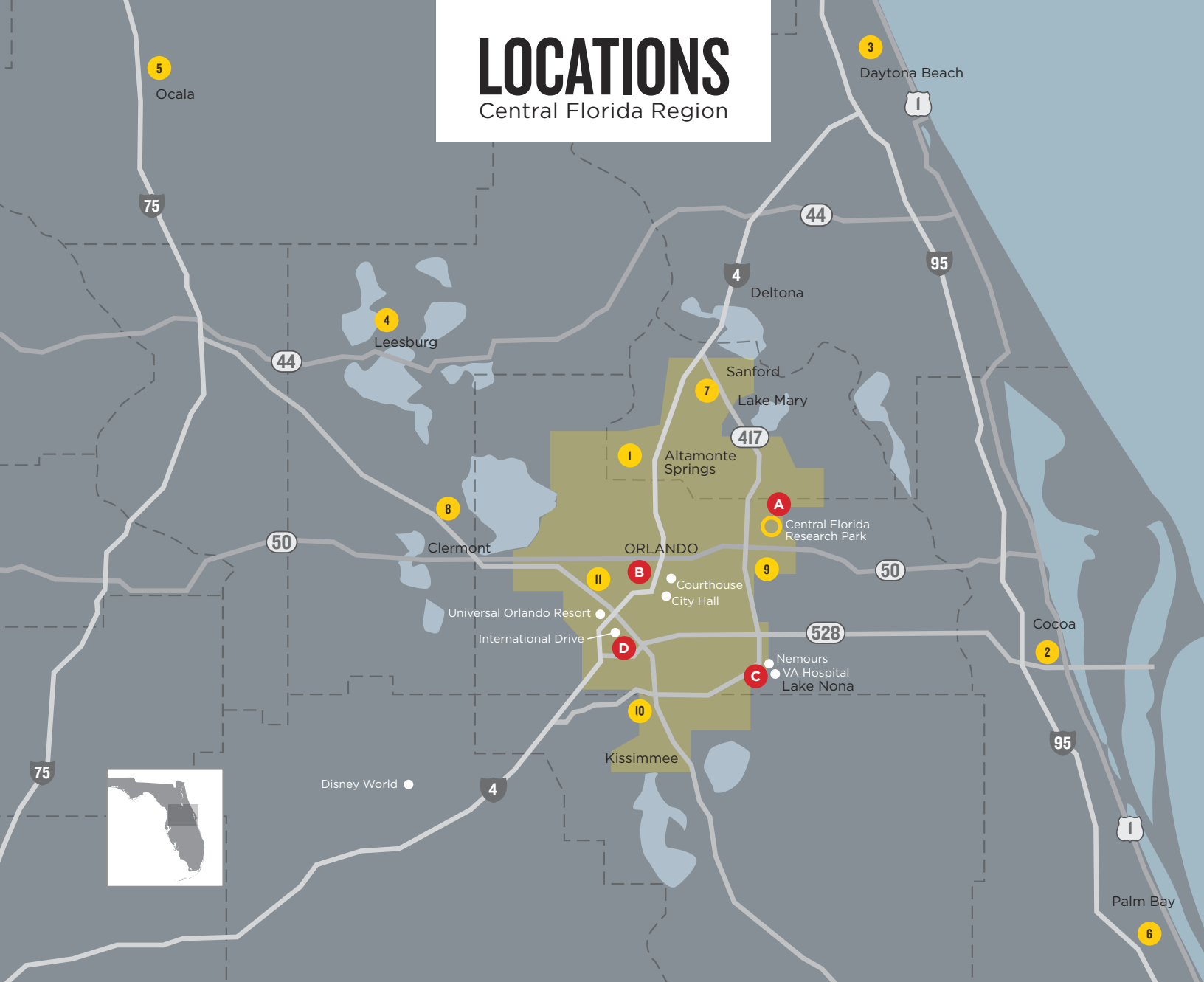


Rosen College of Hospitality Management



LOCATIONS

Central Florida Region



UCF CONNECT

With 11 regional campuses conveniently located throughout Central Florida, UCF Connect extends UCF's reach to communities in and beyond the region while providing access to quality continuing and higher education for students.

UCF CAMPUS LOCATIONS

- A** Main Campus
- B** UCF Downtown
- C** Health Sciences Campus
- D** Rosen College of Hospitality Management

UCF CONNECT LOCATIONS

- I** Altamonte Springs
- 2** Cocoa
- 3** Daytona Beach
- 4** Leesburg
- 5** Ocala
- 6** Palm Bay
- 7** Sanford/Lake Mary
- 8** South Lake
- 9** Valencia East
- 10** Valencia Osceola
- 11** Valencia West

CENTRAL FLORIDA RESEARCH PARK

Boeing
CAE
Collins Aerospace
Luminar Technologies
National Center for Simulation
Naval Air Warfare Center
Navy Base
Northrop Grumman
Raytheon
SAIC
U.S. Air Force Agency for Modeling & Simulation
U.S. Army Simulation and Training Technology Center

LIFE IS GOOD IN ORLANDO

UCF isn't just *in* Orlando, it's intricately woven into every aspect of the city. From researchers focused on solving the most pressing local issues to more than 100,000 alumni living in the area, the university's impact on the city's culture, economy and infrastructure is ever present.



Orlando is among the fastest-growing metros.

Living in America's most popular tourist destination has its perks, but there's a lot more to Orlando than theme parks and thrill rides. From our dynamic downtown to our eclectic neighborhoods and wide-open nature reserves, Orlando offers more reasons to explore than you can image. And with a growing economy and new developments popping up across the region, it's no surprise that *Forbes* recognized The City Beautiful as the fourth fastest-growing city in the nation.

Orlando is a top location for major international companies and entrepreneurs alike.

Walt Disney Company. Lockheed Martin. L3Harris Technologies. Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Electronic Arts. Northrop Grumman. They all call Orlando home, as do more than 150 international companies — including Siemens and Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems — representing nearly 20 countries. The region has a long history of entrepreneurial activity and is home to top-notch resources such as the National Entrepreneur Center (one of only two such centers in the nation), the UCF Business Incubation Program (ranked as one of the top incubators in the nation) and Rollins College Center for Advanced Entrepreneurship.

NO. 1 IN THE U.S. FOR JOB GROWTH FOUR YEARS IN A ROW

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015 – 2018

NO. 2 STATE FOR STARTUPS

Comparisun

NO. 3 BEST CITY TO FIND A NEW JOB IN U.S.

WalletHub

NO. 6 BEST BIG CITY FOR JOBS

Forbes

TOP 10 "AMERICAN CITY OF THE FUTURE"

fDi Magazine

NO. 11 LEADING METRO FOR PRIME WORKFORCE

Area Development

HIGHEST RATE OF STEM JOB GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY

Forbes

28 ORLANDO COMPANIES AMONG FASTEST GROWING PRIVATE COMPANIES IN U.S.

Inc. 5000



DIRECTCONNECT TO UCF

DirectConnect to UCF is a nationally renowned pathway for students to earn a four-year degree at UCF. The groundbreaking program guarantees admission to the university once a student has earned an A.A. or A.S. degree from one of our six partner institutions — the College of Central Florida, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Seminole State College and Valencia College.

Since the program's inception in 2006, UCF has awarded more than 50,000 degrees to DirectConnect students. The partnership expands access to all students, especially those who otherwise may not be able to pursue a university degree through traditional channels. Similar programs

have also been adopted by Arizona State University, Brigham Young University, Florida International University, James Madison University, Oregon State University and University of South Florida.

DirectConnect has long provided students with academic advising, student services and transfer support at community campuses by both college advisors and UCF success coaches, who are embedded at the state colleges. The results are better-prepared transfer students and a smoother transition experience, as witnessed by an 80 percent first-year retention rate for students in the program in 2018.



1st

2+2 program of its kind created in the nation

55%

Minority students enrolled

81%

Retention rate for first-year DirectConnect students

3,069

Pell eligible students enrolled

72,274

Total DirectConnect students enrolled since 2006

53,085

Students who have graduated through the program

LIMBITLESS SOLUTIONS

Started by UCF students in 2014, Limbitless Solutions is a nonprofit company that develops personalized prosthetics, bionic limbs and mobility devices for children and adults, free of charge. The company collaborates with experts from a variety of fields who share a vision of applying leading-edge research and development to meet the needs of people with physical challenges.

Now with a lab on campus, Limbitless has delivered 40 arms to 36 kids, launched the first clinical trial for 3D-printed prosthetics for children in the nation in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University, and developed a device to allow individuals with disabilities to move their wheelchairs using only their facial muscles. As a result of their groundbreaking work, they have forged partnerships with the Mayo Clinic, Adobe, Microsoft, Stratasy, Autodesk and several video game companies.



UCF RESTORES

Since its start in 2011, UCF RESTORES has become known nationally for its innovative PTSD treatment for veterans, active-duty military members, first responders and other victims of trauma. The program's unique approach to treatment — including its groundbreaking three-week intensive outpatient program — combines exposure therapy, emerging technology and group therapy sessions to treat patients.

Led by UCF researchers and backed by funding from generous private donors, the Florida Legislature, and grants from the Department of Defense and U.S. Army, UCF RESTORES has treated more than 500 veterans and active-duty personnel and more than 200 first responders for free. Treatments have resulted in 66 percent of military personnel and 76 percent of civilians no longer meeting the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, a success rate that is higher than more conventional therapies.



UCF ALUMNI

UCF Alumni serves to strengthen the connection between UCF and its alumni and friends. It now supports more than 300,000 living alumni, more than 78 percent of whom reside in the state of Florida and 34 percent of whom are under the age of 32.

NOTABLE UCF ALUMNI

Michelle Akers '89, who was named FIFA's Women's Player of the Century, is considered one of the best soccer players to ever play on the field. She won two World Cups and an Olympic gold.

Darin Edwards '97 '10MS '11PhD led the research and development of Moderna's mRNA-1273 vaccine. Moderna's vaccine has proven 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 and 100% effective in preventing severe cases of COVID-19.

Alan Eustace '79 '81MS '84PhD worked for companies such as Compaq and HP before joining Google as senior vice president of engineering and later retiring as SVP of knowledge. He also holds the world record for the highest-altitude free-fall jump.

Shaquem Griffin '16 is a linebacker for the Seattle Seahawks and is the first player to compete at that level with only one hand.

Glenn Hubbard '79 is dean emeritus and Russell L. Carson professor of finance and economics at Columbia Business School. He has previously served on boards for the U.S. Council of Economic Advisors, Committee on Capital Markets Regulation, the Economic Club of New York and the Study Group on Corporate Boards.

George Kalogridis '76 is president of segment development and enrichment for Disney parks, experiences and products, where he oversees strategic and operational business initiatives at Disney sites worldwide.

William W. Parsons Jr. '93MS is director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Angel Ruiz '78 is president and CEO of Ericsson's North American region.

Nicole Stott '92MS is a former NASA astronaut and aquanaut who is now a full-time artist and STEAM advocate.

UCF FOUNDATION

Founded in 1969, the UCF Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Led by a volunteer board of directors and staffed by more than 130 professionals including development officers, information experts, accountants, communicators and more, the foundation works with donors to help them maximize the impact of their gifts to the university.

In 2019, UCF completed a multi-year fundraising effort called IGNITE: The Campaign for UCF. Directed to three key points — student success, academic excellence, and growth and opportunity — the support of alumni, friends and corporate partners helped the university to raise more than **\$531 million** over an eight-year period.





DIGITAL ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Through the interdisciplinary department of Games and Interactive Media in the Nicholson School of Communication and Media, students can hone their expressive work across platforms, ranging from video games, mobile applications and websites to virtual and augmented reality experiments. At UCF's Communication and Media building in downtown Orlando, game designers, filmmakers and

digital artists are encouraged to collaborate on innovative projects across 120,000-square-feet of high-tech studio and classroom space, including Studio 500, one of the largest motion capture studios and soundstages on the east coast. And through UCF's new MFA and MS in Themed Experiences — among the first of its kind, students can make the most of living in the epicenter of the theme park industry.

#14

Undergraduate game design program in the world

230

Companies FIEA graduates work at around the world, including Apple, DreamWorks, Electronic Arts, Bungie, Zynga, RockStar, Disney, Microsoft and Nintendo

11

Years UCF's graduate game design program has been ranked among the top five in the world

2021

Year Electronic Arts video game company will relocate its Central Florida headquarters next to UCF Downtown

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

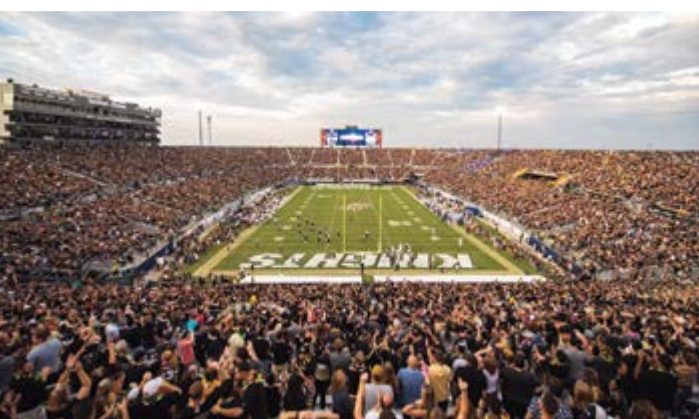
As a project manager for Walt Disney Imagineering, **Jacqueline (Cade) King '12** led the team behind *Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run*, a simulation ride at Disney's 14-acre *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* that allows up to six people to work together as pilots, gunners and engineers to complete a mission in real time. "I went to school to build bridges, and I ended up building spaceships,"



says King, who worked with Disney and Lucasfilm to ensure every aspect of the project — from major conceptual developments to the smallest painted details — was correct.

ATHLETICS

Knights athletic teams have earned impressive victories on state and national stages — from American Athletic Conference titles to two [New Year's Six bowl wins](#). But some of our student-athletes' most important triumphs have been in the classroom. For 26 straight semesters, [UCF student-athletes have collectively earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher](#).



Orlando's Hometown Team

Baseball
Men's Basketball
Women's Basketball
Cheerleading
Women's Cross Country
Football
Men's Golf
Women's Golf
Women's Rowing
Men's Soccer
Women's Soccer
Softball
Men's Tennis
Women's Tennis
Women's Track and Field
Women's Volleyball



As one of the few major cities without an NFL team, Orlando has adopted the Knights as their hometown team and fans can be found cheering them on in the stadium and at venues across Central Florida.

AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

SPACE

Founded to provide talent for Central Florida and the growing U.S. space program, UCF has been making an impact on our state, our nation — and outer space — ever since. UCF faculty are part of several NASA missions, including

OSIRIS-REx and New Horizons. The Florida Space Institute, based at UCF, is made up of researchers and educators from UCF and other State University System of Florida institutions. Together, we are truly reaching for the stars.

ucf.edu/space

5

Experiments sent to space in 2019 aboard rockets operated by Blue Origins, SpaceX and Virgin Galactic

336*

NASA awards
*As of Feb. 2019

\$167 MILLION

In public-private awards for space-related research since 1991

30%

Kennedy Space Center employees are UCF alumni

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

As part of NASA's New Horizons team, UCF Professor **Dan Britt** is exploring some of the most distant objects in our solar system, including Pluto and the Kuiper Belt. The team's work has been featured on the cover of *Science* magazine and received the 2019 Sir Arthur Clarke Award, one of the most prestigious space-exploration awards in the world. "We are creating a legacy of data and insights



that will provide guideposts for future generations of explorers," says Britt, who also provided the tools that helped make *Curiosity's* landmark photos of Mars possible.