

# 2019

## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT



UCF



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# DEAN'S WELCOME

## Dear Colleagues,

The College of Graduate Studies plays a significant role at UCF. They help our graduate students navigate and successfully achieve their academic dreams. From initial interest to commencement, we are there every step of the way. However, many outside the college may not realize the behind-the-scenes work that goes on.

That's why I'm pleased to share our first College of Graduate Studies Annual Report. I have various goals in sharing this with our community. First is to educate UCF about what our college does, and second to summarize our successes each year. The report will not only serve to educate our community, but it will help us look back and reflect on how we are doing and how we can keep enhancing the student experience.

Graduate school has certainly changed since I earned my doctorate. Gone (and good riddance) are the days when graduate students would run personal errands for their faculty mentor or asked to do things unrelated to their education. Today, we aim to create a graduate experience embedded in mutual learning, collaboration, and innovation. Good communication between mentor and mentee

is critical to being successful. Professional and ethical behavior help encourage intellectual debate and growth. We are part of that evolution. Our annual reports moving forward will provide snapshots of the journey.

For example, in 2019, we achieved one of our Collective Impact strategic goals of enrolling more than 10,000 students last Fall, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our numbers look solid for 2020. We also had a record 15 National Science Foundation Fellows, and we have more than 1,600 full-time graduate students we support through GTAs, GRAs, and GAs. That's in addition to the 140 doctoral fellows we help through a variety of programs and financial assistance. We also have helped our graduate faculty with information about mentoring best practices, and we've worked with our colleges to ensure we help recruit the best candidates to UCF.

Enjoy the report, and I look forward to working with each of you to grow the graduate student environment at UCF.



**Liz**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Klonoff'.

**Elizabeth Klonoff**

Vice President for the Office of Research  
Dean of the College of Graduate Studies





# GRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

Growth with Quality and Diversity



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Timothy Hill

Ten years ago, if you told Timothy Hill that he would go on to be the first black male in his family to not only receive his bachelor’s, but also a dual master’s degree of [Public Administration and Criminal Justice](#), he would not have believed you. Hill pushed through the many early mornings and late nights to leave his mark and lasting impact on the UCF community through his involvement and memorable experiences.



**This award symbolizes the perseverance of my village who lifted me during times when I simply could not press forward. This award is for my ancestors who were not provided equal opportunity for voting and education. Most importantly, this award is an open door and call to action for future minority students to achieve their dreams despite presented adversities.**



Hill’s participation in different student organizations such as, Student Government Association, President’s Leadership Council, and the 2020 Presidential Search Committee, afforded him the opportunity to help students and faculty alike in providing a student perspective to different areas throughout the university. His excellence in education and service led him to receiving the most prestigious student award at UCF, the 2020 Order of Pegasus. “This award symbolizes the perseverance of my village who lifted me during times when I simply could not press forward. This award is for my ancestors who were not provided equal opportunity for voting and education. Most importantly, this award is an open door and call to action for future minority students to achieve their dreams despite presented adversities,” he says. This award is given to students based on academic

achievement, service, leadership, and publication or research.

Hill believes it has truly taken a village to get him to this point in his education and extends his gratitude to those who have surrounded him and pushed him forward to reach new heights in his life and education. “My faith, family, mentors, friends, personal, and professional goals keep me inspired,” he says.

During his time at UCF, Hill was involved in research on job design and organizational structure analysis within AmeriCorps VISTA. This focuses on the dysfunctions within this federal program and provides recommendations to resolve organizational issues. After graduation, he plans on staying connected to UCF through alumni associations and giving back to programs and groups who have helped him succeed. Offering advice to students on being involved he says, “Believe in yourself and your strength. You can do this! I recommend getting involved within your program, talk to your professors, talk to your advisors, attend networking events. Becoming involved is how you will meet people that will propel you towards your goals.” Hill also plans to move to Los Angeles, California to continue exploring his career aspirations in the public service industry.

### Highlights:

- 2020 Order of Pegasus
- SGA College of Graduate Studies Senator
- UCF Legislative Scholar
- Central Florida 49 Fund Scholar
- Pi Alpha Public Service Honor Society
- Member of University Tech Fee Committee
- 2019-2020 President’s Leadership Council
- 2020 UCF Presidential Search Committee



**Hometown**  
Hollywood, FL

**College**  
College of Community  
Innovation and Education

**Degree Programs**  
Criminal Justice MS, Public  
Administration MPA Dual Degree

**Research Focus**  
Job design and organizational  
structure analysis within  
AmeriCorps VISTA.



# WHO WE SERVE

## Our Mission

The UCF College of Graduate Studies provides leadership and services to create high-quality learning environments for graduate students.

## Our Vision

The College of Graduate Studies provides the leadership, vision, and support services necessary for the university to achieve its goal of international prominence in selected areas of graduate studies and research. The College of Graduate Studies is a leader in defining the image for graduate education at UCF as one of quality, one that has key programs of true excellence, and one that is focused on community partnerships.

- **Integrity** – We will exercise the highest standards of integrity in everything we do. We will practice and defend academic and personal honesty. Our job performance will be characterized by truthfulness, dependability, and responsibility. We will seek to be known by our clients as trustworthy and dependable.
- **Excellence** – We will strive toward the highest standards of performance in all aspects of our operation. We will perform every task at an exemplary level of quality. We will seek to exceed the expectations of those we serve, always delivering more than we promise and setting a high standard for our hard work, knowledge, and problem-solving skills.
- **Respect** – We will respect the rights of others in order to promote an open and supportive campus environment. Students will always be treated with respect and courtesy. Staff members will be valued for the diverse contributions that they make to the College of Graduate Studies and the university. Diversity will be respected and celebrated. We will treat everyone with respect and civility.
- **Service** – We are primarily a service organization. As such we will recognize the importance of “customer relations” and meeting the needs of our clients. We will be recognized for quality and promptness of our service.
- **Continuous Improvement** – We will continuously evaluate existing policies and practices searching for ways to improve our operations. All operational initiatives will be routinely examined as a basis for refining, replacing, or eliminating less effective strategies. We will review and implement new technologies that will enhance our operations and service. We will seek to be a leader in the application of advanced practices and technologies.

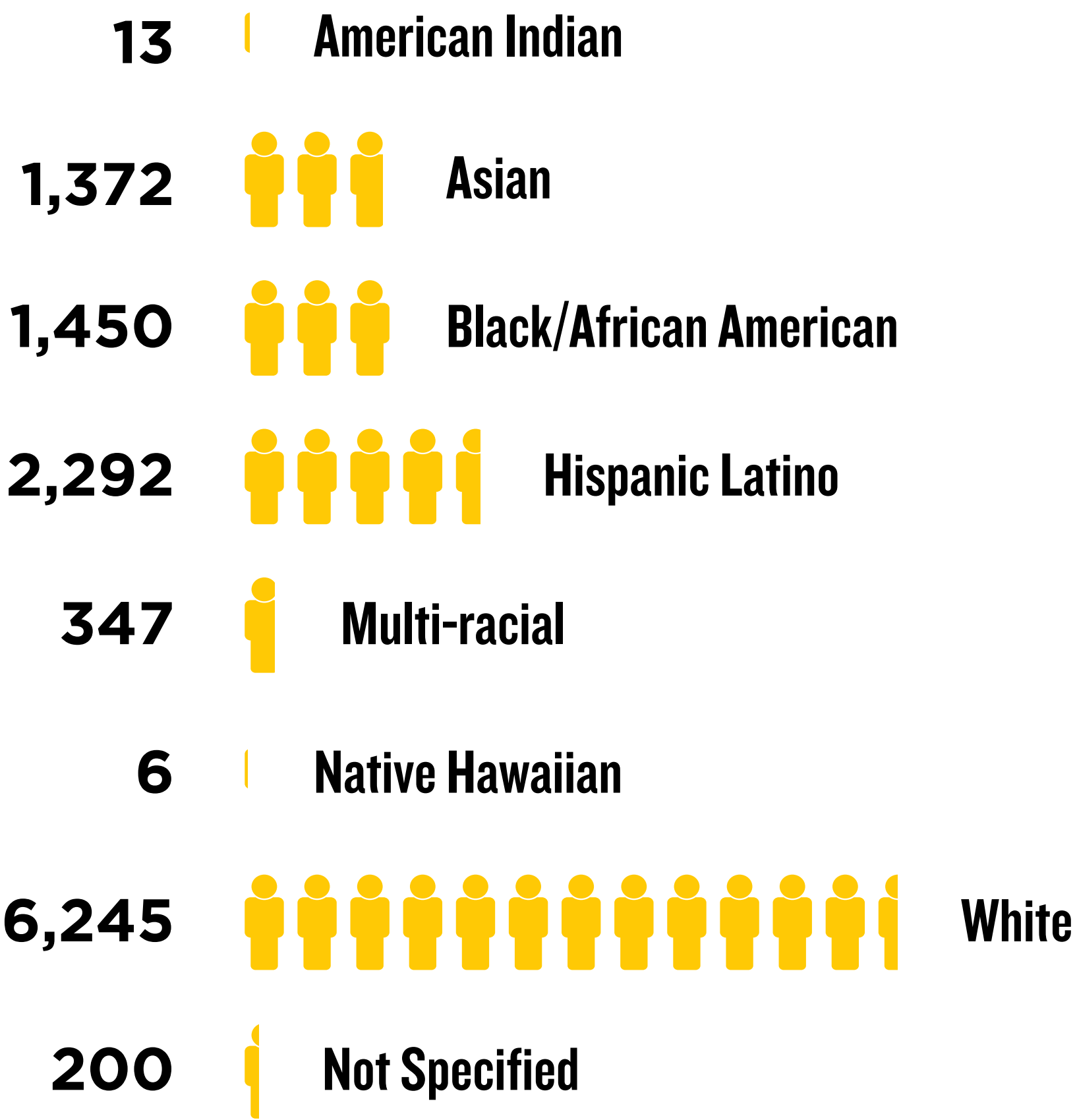




# WHO WE SERVE

## Student Demographics

Total Enrolled in 2019-2020 Fall, Spring, and Summer terms





# WHO WE SERVE

ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE OR SCHOOL			
ACADEMIC UNIT	ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF CHANGE	PERCENT OF TOTAL
College of Arts and Humanities	469	+3.8%	3.9%
College of Business Administration	1,066	-4.8%	8.9%
College of Community Innovation and Education	4,035	+4.9%	33.8%
College of Engineering and Computer Science	2,097	+6.1%	17.6%
College of Graduate Studies	181	+14.5%	1.5%
College of Health Professions and Sciences	1,115	+2.3%	9.3%
College of Medicine	173	+7.5%	1.5%
College of Nursing	640	+11.5%	5.4%
College of Optics and Photonics	154	+4.0%	1.3%
College of Sciences	833	-2.2%	7.0%
Nicholson School of Communication and Media	248	+11.2%	2.1%
Non-Degree	504	-5.6%	4.2%
Rosen College of Hospitality Management	414	+28.9%	3.5%
TOTAL	11,927		

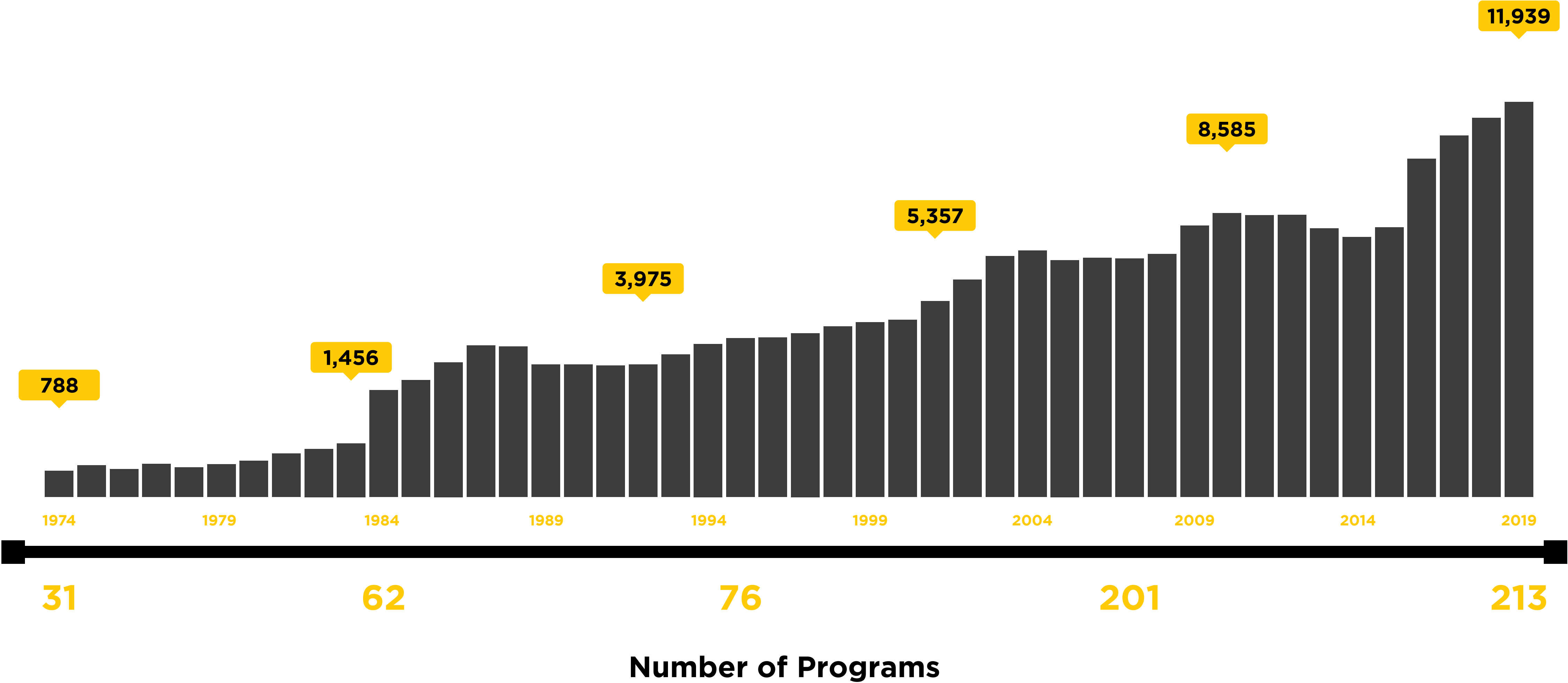
ENROLLMENT BY DEGREE LEVEL			
DEGREE	ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF CHANGE	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Doctoral	2,546	+7.1%	21.3%
Masters	8,152	+4.25%	68.3%
Certificates	652	+1.4%	5.3%
Specialist	58	+9.4%	0.5%

Total Enrolled Data For AY 19/20





# Graduate Enrollment by Year





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Danielle Worrell

The diversity of a campus was the drawing factor for Danielle Worrell when searching for a place to pursue her [Biomedical Sciences PhD](#). To find the right place for her, she took part in the [Diverse Academic Opportunities Program](#) (DAOP) hosted by UCF for underrepresented students (like women in STEM or Hispanic/Latino populations) to learn more about the programs they’re interested in before applying to the university. “Looking at other programs, I was kind of a lone face in a crowd. When I came to UCF, I saw that we were diverse within the program, but then we walked out and were visiting people and seeing that the diversity was everywhere,” she says.



**Looking at other programs, I was kind of a lone face in a crowd. And when I came to UCF, I saw that we were diverse within the program, but then we walked out and were visiting people and seeing that the diversity was everywhere.**



The DAOP is a two-day event where students are able to see the campus and facilities that UCF has to offer. The tour includes meeting the programs of interest including their faculty and staff, learning from current graduate students about success in your studies, workshops on submitting a competitive application to a graduate school, and panel presentations on being a diverse graduate student. For Worrell, the DAOP gave her the chance to see UCF’s diversity in action. “Everybody is so different. I’ve learned so much about different cultures and different people while I’ve been here. I was drawn to that immediately - oh, this is actually diverse, they mean what they say,” she says.

In addition to being able to see UCF’s diversity first-hand, the program also enabled Worrell to meet other students from her program, which made her feel more comfortable when applying and interviewing to the university after receiving her bachelor’s and master’s in Biology from Tuskegee University. While earning her doctorate, she is also involved in research at UCF that is focused on lipid modifications in Actinobacteria.

Worrell’s favorite part of her program is the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Association (BSGSA) because she appreciates how supportive everyone is of each other and has made friends and relationships through the events at the BSGSA. The atmosphere of support and sharing is also what she enjoys about the Biomedical Sciences program. Worrell says that the faculty and staff are always willing to listen to the students and seeks their feedback.

After graduating, Worrell hopes to go into the industry and do research and development. She is also considering becoming a professor in the future, so that she can spread the knowledge she has learned to other students. She offers future graduate students advice to get involved with the people around you saying, “Those are the people who are going to have lunch with you, who are going to talk to you when you’re having bad days, and make sure that you’re okay. Don’t seclude yourself - bloom into a flower and become as friendly as possible, and meet new people,” says Worrell.

### Highlights:

- Inaugural Class of the [Diverse Academic Opportunities Program](#)
- Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Association Member
- Research focuses on on lipid modifications in Actinobacteria



### Hometown

Columbia, SC

### College

College of Medicine

### Degree Programs

PhD Biomedical Sciences

### Research Focus

Lipid modifications in Actinobacteria





# PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATION

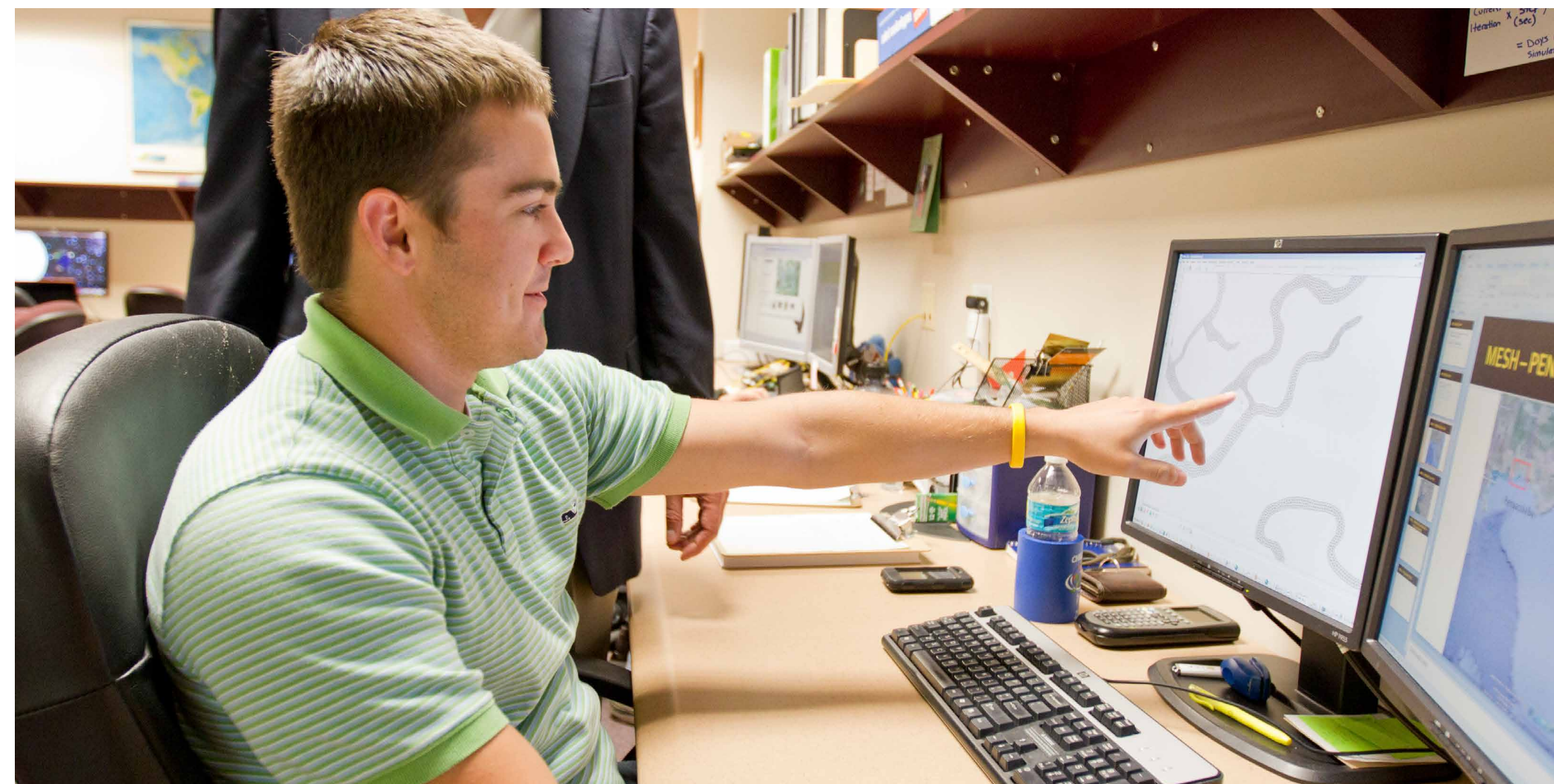
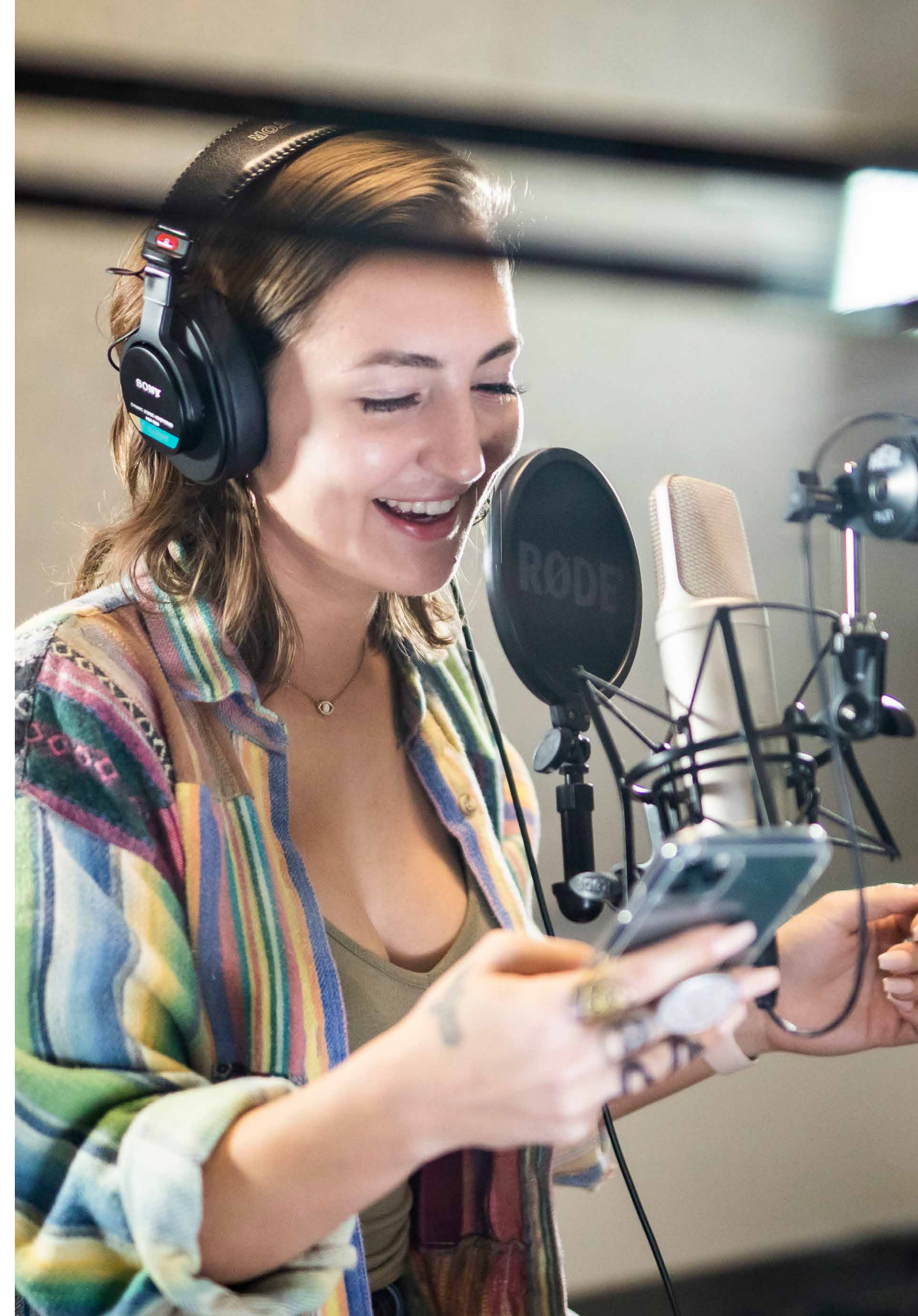
Thirteen Colleges. Unlimited Possibilities



# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The interdisciplinary nature of graduate study and research has a longstanding presence in UCF graduate education. Faculty and students reach beyond organizational structures to engage with others who share similar research interests yet can provide complementary expertise and perspective to the research work. The College of Graduate Studies houses six graduate programs ranging from [Interdisciplinary Studies](#), [Modeling and Simulation](#), [Nanotechnology](#) and [Geographic Information Systems](#).

The Interdisciplinary Studies master's program includes an incubator model that supports the testing of student interest in new degree programs or those that cross multiple colleges and departments. The College of Graduate Studies has hired new faculty members to support the cross-campus efforts to create twenty-first century research/education fields such as the UCF Faculty Cluster Initiatives in computer security, energy systems, medical engineering, and sustainability.





# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Graduate education plays a prominent role at UCF with more than **10,000** students and over **200** graduate degree program and certificates. The university offers innovative corporate partnerships, world-renowned faculty, and cutting-edge research. The reputation of any educational institution is best reflected in the accomplishments of its students, faculty, and alumni—and for a university that’s now more than 50 years old, UCF has moved rapidly from promise to academic prominence.

## University Graduate Accomplishments

- For the third year in a row, UCF has been recognized as one of the Most Innovative Schools by *U.S. News & World Report* (2020 Best Colleges).
- Twenty-seven UCF graduate programs were ranked in the top 100 in their respective fields by *U.S. News & World Report’s Best Graduate Schools of 2021*.
- UCF is 1st in Florida and 3rd nationally for coveted National Science Foundation CAREER Grants.
- UCF’s Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy was named the No. 1 graduate-level video game design school in North America by *The Princeton Review* and *PC Gamer* magazine.
- The Rosen College of Hospitality Management is ranked No. 2 in the world and No. 1 in the nation as best hospitality schools according to ShanghaiRankings.
- The college enrolls 15 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) students.
- Fulbright Scholars from around the world choose UCF graduate programs to do their research.

\*by enrollment during Academic Year 2019

## TOP Doctoral Programs\*

1. Nursing Practice DNP
2. Physical Therapy DPT
3. Electrical Engineering PhD
4. Computer Science PhD
5. Education PhD

## TOP Master’s Programs\*

1. Business Administration MBA
2. Social Work MSW
3. Health Administration MHA
4. Public Administration MPA
5. Criminal Justice MS

## TOP Graduate Certificate Programs\*

1. Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate
2. Initial Teacher Professional Prep Graduate Certificate
3. Event Management Graduate Certificate
4. Dual Language Graduate Certificate
5. Public Administration Graduate Certificate

## TOP Feeder Schools in Florida

1. University of Central Florida
2. University of South Florida
3. Florida State University
4. University of Florida
5. Florida International University

## TOP Feeder States

1. New York
2. Pennsylvania
3. Georgia
4. Arizona
5. Ohio



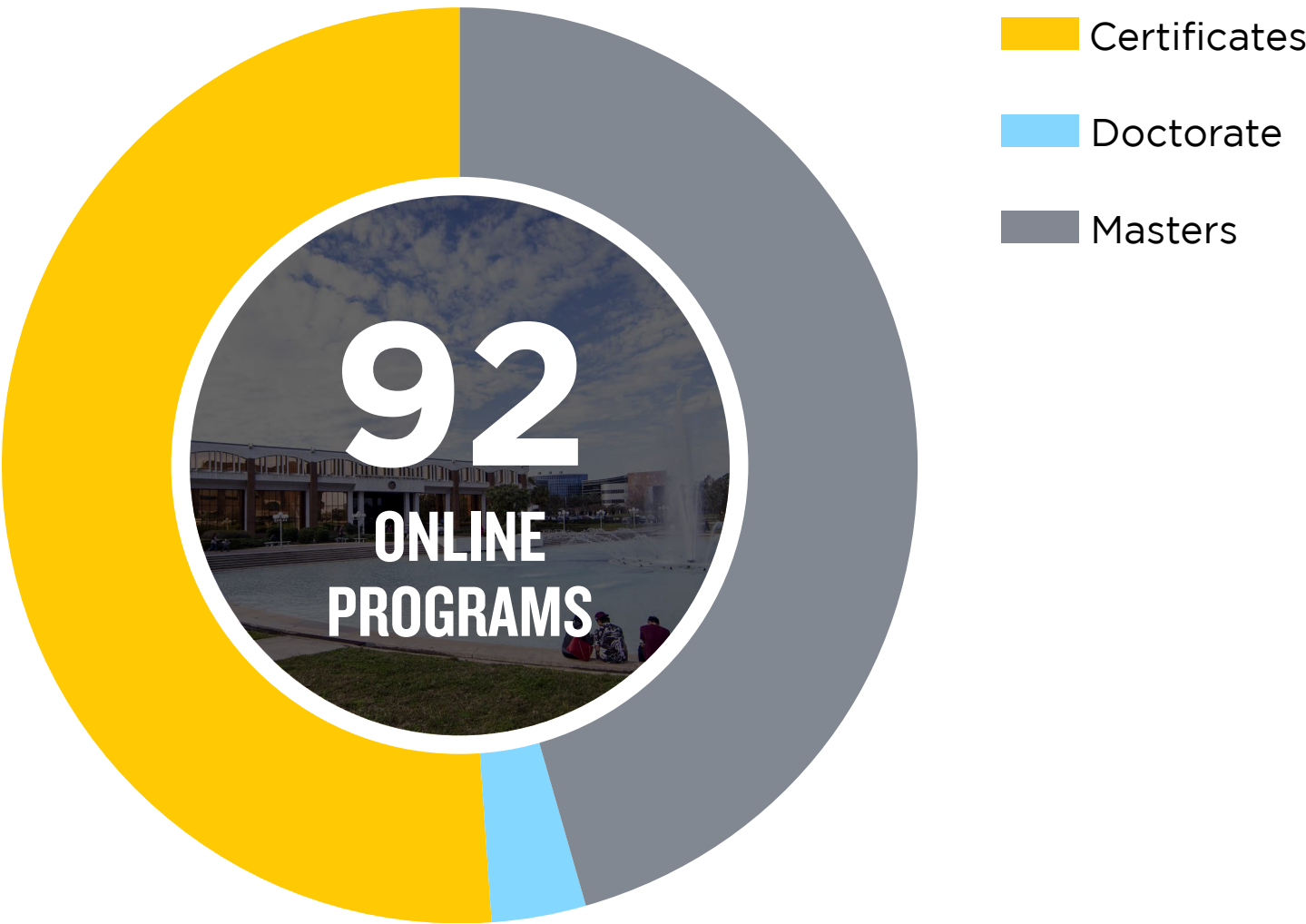


# UCF ONLINE

## Online Programs

UCF offers high-quality online graduate programs for those students who are unable to physical attend our main or regional campuses. Currently, nine of the 13 colleges offer a total of **92** online graduate programs: **3** doctoral programs, **47** master’s programs, and **42** graduate certificates.

The College of Graduate Studies informs colleges and programs on state and national developments in online graduate programs, assists graduate programs with program and curriculum development to expand online offerings at UCF, and works with the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) to ensure academic policies are followed for these programs and to identify potential areas for development.





# REGIONAL CAMPUSES

## 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. Modern facilities and state-of-the-art technology keep students connected to classwork and social communities, while 800 acres of woodlands, lakes and an arboretum help students reconnect with nature.

Whether you're inside a classroom or outside exploring, our campus is an exciting place to learn — and an easy place to love.

## Rosen College of Hospitality Management

Located in the heart of Orlando's hospitality corridor next to world-famous attractions, resorts, restaurants and convention spaces, our 159,000-square-foot building is the largest and most advanced facility ever built for hospitality management education.

## Health Sciences Campus

The UCF Health Sciences Campus is a 50-acre state of the art is educating future doctors and scientists in a new and better way for the 21st century. Located in Lake Nona's Medical City, with esteemed neighbors including Nemours Children's Hospital, UCF Lake Nona Medical Center, UCF Lake Nona Cancer Center, the University of Florida Pharmacy College, a Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Johnson & Johnson, is unrivaled and ensures we'll continue to epitomize innovation and transform healthcare for generations to come. The campus is home to the UCF College of Medicine Medical Education Program and Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences and will house the UCF College of Nursing in the near future.

## UCF Connect Campuses

UCF Connect centers provide the same programs and services as UCF's main campus, in addition to smaller class sizes, personalized advising and expert faculty. There are 11 centers strategically located throughout Central Florida within an 80-mile radius of the main campus.

## Downtown Campus

UCF Downtown is a 15-acre campus located in Orlando's Creative Village. Made up of several buildings, the new shared campus incorporates innovative technology to create a 21st-century learning environment for digital media, communication, public service and health-related programs. The campus' proximity to Orlando's Central Business District places students within walking distance of job and internship opportunities and makes it easy for faculty to invite guest speakers to campus or collaborate with professionals in their field of study.





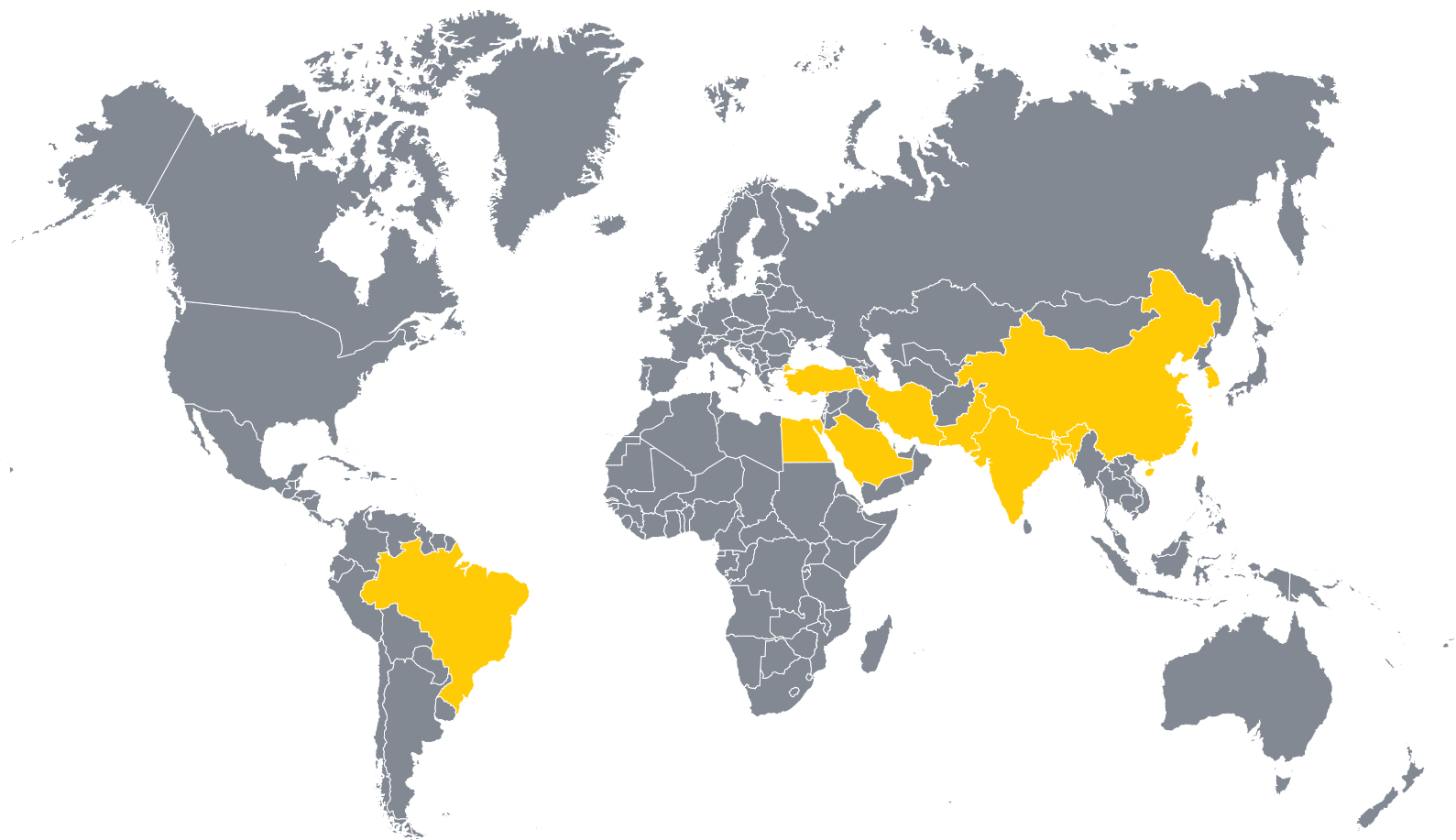
# INTERNATIONAL

UCF is home to students from more than **130** countries, UCF welcomes the perspective and diversity that **international students** bring to our campus.

UCF has over **200** study and research agreements with institutions in over **60** countries—providing learning and research opportunities for students and faculty in countries ranging from the Udmurt Republic to South Africa. The university’s Eastern Europe Linkage Institute alone maintains educational and research partnerships with 20 institutions in nine countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, Poland, and the United States. The student experience abroad does not stop in the classroom with opportunities available for students to travel internationally.

## TOP Ten Feeder Countries to Graduate Education

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. India        | 6. Pakistan    |
| 2. China        | 7. Turkey      |
| 3. Iran         | 8. Brazil      |
| 4. Bangladesh   | 9. South Korea |
| 5. Saudi Arabia | 10. Egypt      |





# GRADUATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding Graduate Education

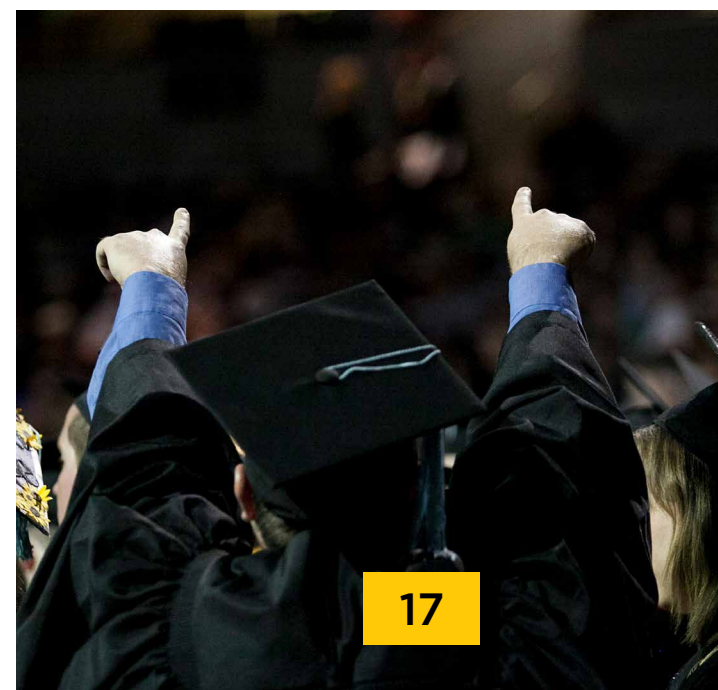
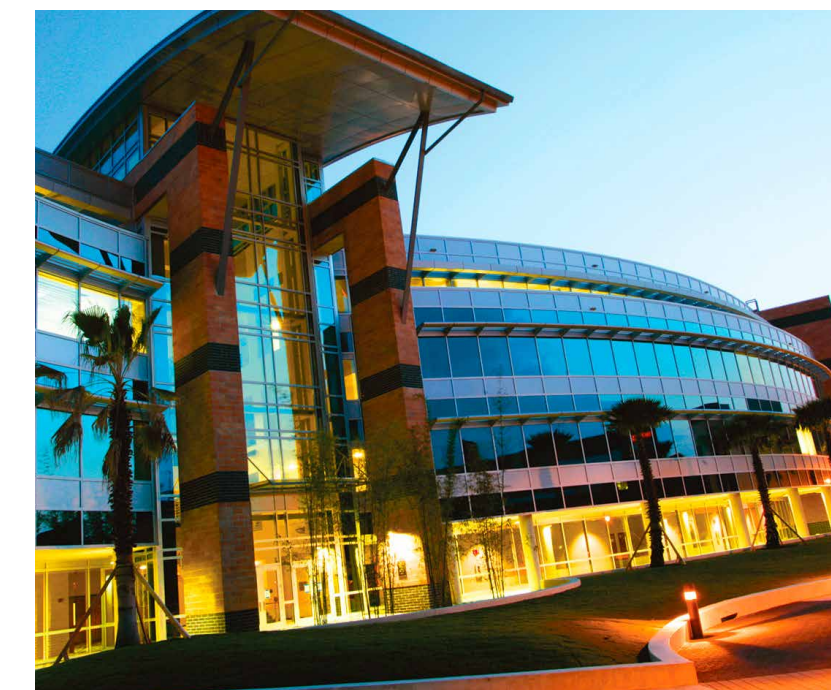
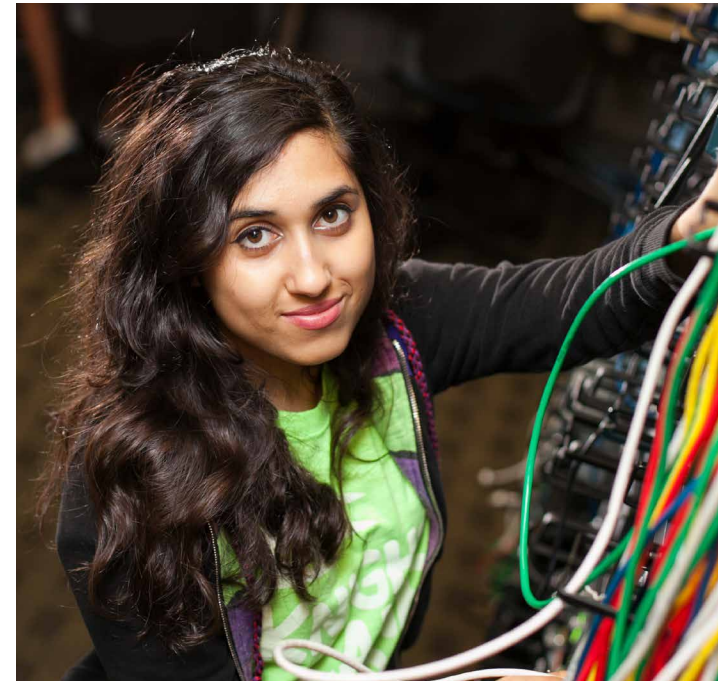


# GRADUATE FUNDING

The College of Graduate Studies plays an important role in graduate student funding. The Office of Graduate Funding, Professional Development, and Scholarship oversees the administration of graduate fellowships, graduate assistantship hiring, graduate student teaching, and details related to the health insurance and tuition remission associated with the funding packages.

Each year the College of Graduate Studies allocates tuition waivers for graduate assistantship students and university fellows. College/department budgets and faculty grants and contracts fund assistantship stipends and resident tuition for those who do not receive a tuition waiver.

Early admission decisions enable early fellowship and assistantship funding offers that help UCF graduate programs compete for top-ranked applicants. The Graduate College coordinates all funding offers and uses a Graduate Financial System to help track offers to support more complete and effective resource use.





# GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

UCF has more than **1,600** full-time enrolled graduate students supported on assistantships (GTAs, GRAs, and GAs) each year. These appointments provide students with academic or professional development experience while at UCF that will help prepare them for their future work in research, teaching, or other activities. Graduate assistantship students receive a stipend for the duties that they perform, and UCF provides tuition remission and health insurance coverage for all qualifying assistantship appointments totaling **20** hours per week. Most assistantships are offered by a student's graduate program or department.

## Parental Leave for Graduate Assistants

The College of Graduate Studies offers a Parental Leave program for graduate students on existing assistantship agreements during pregnancy or immediately after the birth or adoption of their infant child. Approved parental leave is paid leave for up to six weeks but may be a shorter period, depending on the student's graduate assistantship agreement(s).





# GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The UCF College of Graduate Studies awards over \$2 million in fellowship funding each year. Fellowships are awarded to students in acknowledgment of their impressive past achievements and in anticipation of their future successes at UCF and beyond. Students may receive fellowships from the UCF College of Graduate Studies, from their college or department, or from agencies or organizations outside of UCF. Graduate fellowship funds are awarded to enhance a fellow's scholarly and educational endeavors, but there are no specific assignments associated with the award.

Instead, fellows are expected to participate fully in their program and in the intellectual community of the university, thereby enriching the experience of that community.

## Funding Facts

In 2019-2020, UCF supported over **170** graduate students on competitive graduate fellowships that included a stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance. An additional **33** students received 1-year Graduate Dean's Fellowships of \$5,000 as supplements to their graduate assistantship funding.

The ORCGS Doctoral Fellowship supports up to 102 new students each year and includes a 1-year fellowship of \$25,000 and a 3-year commitment of GRA or GTA funding from the supporting program. Funding for the fellowship comes from the Office of Research (\$11,000), the supporting program or college (\$9,000) and the College of Graduate Studies (\$5,000).

Each year the university's Doctoral Fellowships Committee selects recipients of the Trustees (\$25,000 per year) and Presidential (\$20,000 per year) Doctoral Fellowships that provide 4 years of competitive support to incoming doctoral students. In 2019-2020, UCF supported 27 new and continuing doctoral students on these awards (19 Trustees and 8 Presidential Fellows).

The UCF College of Graduate Studies also offers some discipline-specific fellowships. These awards include the Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship (\$19,000 each year for two years) awarded to a student in the Conservation Biology PhD program every other year and the MFA Provost Fellowship that is awarded to 8 new MFA students each year.

The Multidisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship (\$20,000 per year), which provides 3 years of support to an outstanding doctoral student engaged in innovative multidisciplinary research, is offered to a current doctoral student each year with a total of 3 students supported on the fellowship in 2019-2020.

## A Focus on Diversity

The following College of Graduate Studies fellowships aim to support outstanding underrepresented graduate students:

- Delores A. Auzenne Fellowships that provide \$5,000 for one year to new or continuing underrepresented graduate students
- FAMU Feeder Doctoral (\$12,000 per year for 4 years) and Master's (\$10,000 per year for 2 years) Fellowships for newly admitted graduate students who completed the Florida A&M University Feeder program as undergraduates
- McKnight Doctoral Fellowships (\$15,000 per year) that provide 5 years of funding from UCF and the Florida Education Fund (FEF)
- McNair Doctoral (\$25,000 per year for 4 years) and Master's (\$10,000 per year for 2 years) Fellowships for incoming McNair Scholars
- Professional Doctoral Diversity Fellowships (\$3,000 per year for 3 years) for students who are newly enrolling in one of UCF's Professional Doctoral programs

- RAMP Doctoral (\$12,000 per year for 4 years) and Master's (\$10,000 per year for 2 years) Fellowships awarded to new graduate students who completed the UCF Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) as undergraduates
- The Summer Mentoring Fellowship (\$4,500 in summer) that is available to incoming underrepresented graduate students working with a faculty mentor on a summer research project. Students are required to participate in a series of professional development workshops and give a final research presentation at the end of the summer semester





# GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

## Funding Opportunities for Continuing Students

In addition to offering multi-year fellowship support to incoming graduate students, UCF's College of Graduate Studies has the following opportunities available to students at various stages of their graduate degree:

- The Graduate Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$10,000) aims to increase dissertation completion among doctoral students. This award is intended for students in their final semester of graduate education who have a realistic expectation of degree completion in the spring semester. Thirteen new awards are offered each year.
- The College of Graduate Studies launched the Open Access Publishing Fund in 2019-2020 to help students and postdoctoral scholars get their research published in open access journals. Awards of up to **\$1,500** were available to pay for article processing charges and 7 individuals were funded.
- Doctoral Research Support awards totaling **\$100,000** were available to doctoral students to support dissertation research expenses. Awards were offered based on program nominations and the funding was transferred to the supporting programs to assist students with the purchases.

## Presentation Fellowships

- The College of Graduate Studies awarded **506** graduate students Graduate Presentation Fellowships in recognition of them presenting at meetings and conferences in 2019-2020

## External Fellowships

UCF graduate students have received a number of prestigious awards from external funding agencies. As of the 2019-2020 academic year, **29** International Fulbright Scholars and **8** NSF Graduate Research Fellowship recipients attend graduate school at UCF. The College of Graduate Studies would like to see an increase in this funding for our graduate students.





# FELLOWSHIP FEATURE

## Katrina Phillips

One of the most exciting things, for Katrina Phillips is how little we know about the ocean and animals in it. Her intellectual curiosity to ask these questions and discover the answers has fueled her academic career as she pursues her [PhD in Integrative and Conservation Biology](#). Led by her passion for the ocean, her research is focused on young sea turtles and how they move and disperse offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. “This is really exciting because, for the first few years of a sea turtle’s life, we don’t know where they go or how they get there,” she says.

Eager to join the UCF Marine Turtle Research Group because of their international recognition, she has since made an impact through her research. Intrigued by the beginning stages of a sea turtle’s life, also known as the lost years, Phillips believes that if we know more about their biology, we could increase the ability to conserve them and keep them off the endangered species list. Because sea turtles are too small for tracking devices, Phillips works with genetics and models of ocean currents to track the region they come from and how they arrived at their current destination.

While at UCF, Phillips’ dedication and passion for her sea turtle research paved the way for much recognition. In 2018, she received the people’s choice award and second place overall at the UCF 3MT competition, where doctoral students communicate their research in just three minutes to non-expert judges. In 2019, she received the most prestigious student award at UCF, Order of Pegasus, given to students based on academic achievement, service, leadership, and publication or research.

Thanks to the Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP), Phillips was given the freedom to focus on her

coursework and research. The Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship is awarded to graduate students that enhance the study of sea turtle conservation. “Having the Boyd Lyon fellowship in my first year at UCF helped me focus on developing my research plan and materials for the NSF GRFP fellowship application. In a broader sense, receiving these awards is validation that I, as an early career scientist, have ideas worth investing in,” she says. The NSF Fellowship recognizes graduate students in STEM disciplines pursuing research-based degrees.

**“Push yourself outside your comfort zone and open yourself to constructive criticism. No one likes the feeling of being judged, but if you seek feedback from your peers and mentors, the benefits greatly outweigh the discomfort of putting yourself out there!”**

Along with her research, Phillips helps lead lab research projects and the summer internship for the UCF Marine Turtle Research Group and has led small weeklong research projects with high school students in the UCF Arboretum as part of the BIOTEC summer camp. She has also presented at outreach events, including at UCF STEM Day, the Brevard Zoo, nature centers, the Orlando Science Center, and the children’s hospital.

After graduation, Phillips aims to stay involved in both research and outreach. To her fellow students, she advises, “Push yourself outside your comfort zone and open yourself to constructive criticism. No one likes the feeling of being judged, but if you seek feedback from your peers and mentors, the benefits greatly outweigh the discomfort of putting yourself out there!”



<b>Hometown</b> Spartanburg, South Carolina	<b>College</b> College of Sciences
<b>Degree Program</b> Integrative and Conservation Biology PhD	<b>Research Focus</b> The movement and dispersing of young sea turtles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Highlights:**
- Member of the Biology Graduate Student Association
  - [Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship](#)
  - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
  - Microwave Telemetry Christian Howey Rising Scholar Award
  - Gumbo Limbo Gordan Gilbert Grant
  - UCF Order of Pegasus (2019)
  - Scholar Award, International Chapter of P.E.O.
  - [Spring 2019 3MT: Second Place Overall and People’s Choice Award](#)





# EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Fostering a Graduate Community



# PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

The Pathways to Success program provides free workshops in academic integrity, graduate teaching, research, and professional and personal development to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Workshops are presented by College of Graduate Studies staff members, UCF faculty, and facilitators from offices across UCF's campus, including the UCF Libraries, Career Services, Office of Research, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Counseling and Psychological Services, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and more.

These offerings are not only important for students to build skills needed for their graduate education, but also serve an important part in the retention of graduate students and preparing them for success after graduation.

During the 2019-2020 academic year there were **181** Pathways to Success workshop sessions and **2,476** attendees.





# THESIS AND DISSERTATION

The College of Graduate Studies administers the format review and final submission process of all graduate theses and dissertations at UCF. Additionally, staff coordinate workshops, manage two non-credit thesis and dissertation webcourses (one for faculty/staff and one for students), and partner with the UCF Libraries to provide research training for faculty and students.

In Fall 2019, the student Thesis and Dissertation Webcourse was relaunched with additional modules, policy updates, and resources.

In Spring 2020, a new Webcourse “How to Help Grad Students: Thesis and Dissertation” was launched. It provides a timeline for thesis/dissertation completion, information on communications, deadlines, reports, forms, the defense and format review processes and more so graduate faculty and staff can better assist graduate students.

In February 2020, the College of Graduate Studies and UCF Libraries hosted the “Know Your Rights: A Copyright Discussion for Faculty” event to discuss copyright, help faculty learn more about their copyrights as an author, and help advise students, especially those completing a thesis or dissertation, about copyright.

Staff also work with the UCF Libraries to provide worldwide access to electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) through UCF’s institutional repository, STARS (Showcase of Text, Archives, Research & Scholarship). In 2019-2020 (June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020) there were **427,834** ETD downloads from STARS.

In 2019-2020, academic year, CGS staff completed **1,345** format reviews and oversaw the submission of **455** final theses and dissertations.

THESIS AND DISSERTATION SUBMISSIONS				
ACADEMIC UNIT	SUMMER 2019	FALL 2019	SPRING 2020	TOTALS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR
Master’s	66	53	102	221
Doctoral	130	79	97	234
TOTAL	196	132	199	455





# GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

Since Fall 2012, the Graduate Student Center (GSC) has helped build a strong graduate community at UCF. The GSC is staffed by graduate assistants who foster a welcoming environment while hosting events, providing knowledge of campus resources, and managing day-to-day activities.

Located on the second floor of Trevor Colbourn Hall, the GSC features four distinct spaces allowing the College of Graduate Studies to provide a variety of events and programs tailored to graduate student needs.

In Fall 2018, the GSC moved from Colbourn Hall to the brand-new Trevor Colbourn Hall. During the 2018-2019 academic year **802** reservations were taken for the GSC spaces and **9,281** visits were recorded with **2,108** of those being unique visitors.

After a year in its new location, the GSC was on pace to increase the number of visitors during the 2019-2020 academic year even with a five-day hurricane closure during the Fall 2019 term and being closed after March 13, due to Covid-19 in the Spring and Summer 2020 terms. There were **6,901** visits and **1,474** unique visitors during the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 terms.





# GRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM

Held each spring, the Graduate Research Forum provides opportunities for graduate students to showcase their research and creative projects and to receive valuable feedback from judges through poster displays and oral presentations from diverse disciplines. The Forum is also part of Student Research Week, which consists of multiple events highlighting the research and creative workshops of undergraduate and graduate students.

Student presentations deemed exemplary by the event judges are awarded a scholarship. First place poster presenters also have the opportunity to present their research at the statewide Graduate Research Symposium held each spring.

In 2019, **237** participants presented their research at the Sixteenth Annual Graduate Research Forum. More than **400** individuals attended the events and **78** UCF faculty and community members participated as event judges.

Unfortunately, the Seventeenth Annual Graduate Research Forum to be held on March 31 and April 1, 2020 was canceled due to Covid-19. Prior to the cancellation of this year's events, **267** graduate students had registered to present their research.





# GRADUATE ORIENTATION

The New Graduate Student Orientation and Welcome event is held each August prior to the start of classes. This half-day event helps provide guidance for new students to get the most out of their graduate education experience and acclimates them to UCF.

The Fall 2019, event was one of the largest and had more than **500** attendees. An information fair follows the Orientation sessions. In 2019, **35** campus offices and academic units provided guidance and information about resources to new graduate students at the information fair.

Also in Fall 2019, the College of Graduate Studies launched the New Graduate Student Online Orientation in Webcourses. This optional, non-credit course is provided for free to all incoming and current UCF students to familiarize them with resources and services available and explain expectations for UCF graduate students. The 2019 - 2020 course had **1,054** people enrolled.

The 2020 - 2021 New Graduate Student Online Orientation Webcourse will serve as the main College of Graduate Studies orientation, as Covid-19 prevents a face-to-face event. This course is already being used by admitted graduate students and has received extremely positive feedback.





# GRAD FAIR

For more than **15** years, Grad Fair has offered an open house-style event that is free and available to anyone interested in a UCF doctoral, master's, specialist, or certificate program. In September 2019, graduate programs from all colleges and representatives from student services offices welcomed and provided guidance to more than **1,200** prospective graduate students.





# DIVERSE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

The UCF Diverse Academic Opportunities Program is a two-day event (held October 3 and 4, in 2019) for prospective doctoral applicants from underrepresented populations in higher education to learn more about the programs they’re interested in before applying to graduate study at UCF. The College of Graduate Studies pays all costs of the visit including transportation, lodging, local travel from and to the airport, and meals. During the visit students have the opportunity to:

- Meet with leading and renowned faculty
- Learn from current graduate students about how to be successful as a doctoral student
- Attend workshops on how to submit a competitive application to graduate school
- Attend panel presentations on being a diverse graduate student
- Sit in on a graduate class in their area of interest
- Tour the campus, laboratories, and research centers.
- See the different UCF off-campus facilities like the Rosen College of Hospitality Management and the newly developed UCF downtown campus.

**53%**

Were the first in their family to attend college

**39%**

Were involved in the McNairs Scholar program

**77%**

Female Participants

**23%**

Male Participants

In 2019, **115** applications were received, and **27** prospects attended the campus event from all over the country such as Florida, California, Texas, Georgia, Arizona, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada and Louisiana. Students in attendance were interested in programs like Clinical Psychology, Computer Science, Physics, BioMedical Science, Physical Therapy, Texts and Technology, and Engineering to name a few. **Nine** of those who attended the two-day event applied for Fall 2020 admission.



Key

African American/Black

Hispanic/Latino

Asian

American Indian

Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander

White





# 3 MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

The 3MT competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by doctoral students. Originally developed by the University of Queensland, the event cultivates students' academic, presentation and research communication skills. 3MT competitions are held in over 600 universities across more than 59 countries worldwide.

Participants are judged on the ability to effectively convey the essence and importance of their research in an engaging way to a non-specialist panel of judges in just three minutes, with one PowerPoint slide. The panel of judges determines a winner and runner up, while event attendees choose a people's choice awardee.

UCF's first ever 3MT event was held in the spring 2019 term and a second event was held in the fall 2019 term. Moving forward, UCF's 3MT competition will be a fall event to complement the spring Student Research Week events and ensure that UCF graduate student research is highlighted year-round.

## Fall 2019 3MT Event Judges

We would like to thank the following UCF and Central Florida community members for serving as our event judges:

- **Chantel Carter** | Associate Director, Office of Student Involvement
- **Cary D'Ortona** | President of Arnold Palmer Hospital
- **Wendy Kurtz** | Founder and President of Elizabeth Charles & Associates, LLC
- **Carl Metzger** | Chief, UCF Police Department

## Fall 2019 3MT Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our 3MT event held on November 20, 2019! Videos of all participants can be found on the UCF College of Graduate Studies [YouTube playlist](#).

- **Nasif Sayeed** | *First Place*, Biomedical Sciences PhD
- **Omar Ahmed** | *Runner-Up*, Materials Science and Engineering PhD
- **Nusaiba Zaman** | *People's Choice*, Physics PhD







# **ACADEMIC SERVICES, PROGRESS AND GRADUATION**

From Beginning to Beyond



# ACADEMIC SERVICES, ACADEMIC PROGRESS, AND GRADUATION

This office is focused on helping students successfully complete their graduate degree programs. That means assisting them from matriculation through thesis and dissertation work and then onto graduation. The team also works with every unit on campus that impacts a student's academic journey including college departments, financial services, [UCF Global](#), and student conduct if necessary. This group also works on graduate policies to make the experience a consistent one.

These professionals also work closely with various departments and groups, including Graduate Faculty, to enhance the graduate student experience. The emphasis in all this group's interactions is fairness, consistency, efficiency, and accuracy. In 2019-2020, this impacted in some way all **10,000** plus graduate students at UCF and the faculty who taught more than 7,000 graduate courses and successfully mentored **3,135** students to degree or certificate completion, including 305 research doctorates.

## Academic Services

Academic Services covers all academic related areas and helps students and programs navigate unexpected circumstance that may require special consideration

Among the many topics this area handles:

- Special Leave of Absence
- Administrative Record Change
- Medical Withdrawal
- Exceptions to Policies
- Grade Change Appeal
- Graduate Faculty Application Process
- Thesis and Dissertation Hour Verification
- Thesis and Dissertation Committee Criteria Review

## Academic Progress

The focus of Academic Progress is on helping students progress through to degree completion in a timely manner. The team accomplishes this by working with students and programs to uphold academic standards set by the university and graduate programs. Many programs have standards that are specific to the college or field of study. Staff can intervene and help resolve issues that might arise throughout graduate school. The group works with students and other university entities such as Student Conduct to address behavioral issues. The team also works directly with programs to address probation, conditional retention plans and dismissal for academic and non-academic reasons. This is also the group that reviews doctoral students' annual progress reports. When students are ready to enroll in thesis/dissertation hours, this group checks to make sure all requirements are met and to ensure that committees meet graduate policy requirements. This office also helps with completion plans designed to provide a roadmap to complete a degree.

## Graduation

The team completes the journey with each student by checking all program and UCF criteria are met and there are no issues that could delay graduation. Team members from this office also see students cross the stage during commencement, because they help organize the event each semester. Finally, this is the group that certifies degrees and mails out the diplomas.

## Graduate Faculty

Without graduate faculty, there would be no graduate program. Distinguished faculty who are willing to share their specialized skills and knowledge with graduate students are appointed to serve as Graduate Faculty. Graduate faculty teach graduate courses, serve as members of thesis and dissertation committees, and serve as faculty advisers for thesis and dissertation students and chairs of thesis and dissertation committees. These faculty members also commit to work with graduate students and keep their knowledge and relevant skills current to ensure students get the best experience possible. In 2019-2020, there were more than **1,383** graduate faculty and graduate faculty scholars.





# COMMENCEMENT

2,576

Master’s Degrees  
Awarded



349

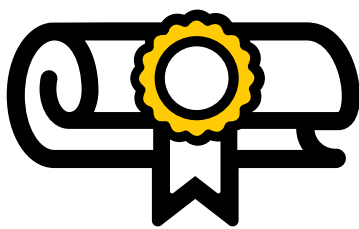
Doctoral Degrees  
Awarded

372

Professional Certifications  
Awarded

3,366

Total Degrees and  
Certificates Awarded



DEGREES AWARDED				
Level	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total
Doctoral	134	79	136	349
Master’s	582	802	1192	2576
Certificate	93	154	177	424
Specialist	3	3	11	17





# ALUMNI PROFILE

## Iris Appenrodt

Like many students, Iris Appenrodt came to Florida by means of Walt Disney World. Born in Germany, she came to the United States in 2000 to work at Disney through the International College Program where students gain on-the-job experience while participating in course work. During her time in the program, she perfected her English through interactions with other people she met from all over the world. To her surprise, Appenrodt soon learned that the education system in the United States is much different than that of Germany and she was able to apply for college. “The German education system is very rigid, and a student’s track is largely decided by the young age of 12. Once you are on a given track, it is almost impossible to switch. The majority goes on the track that prepares you straight for the workforce, and the other students are prepared to go on to university,” she says.

Encouraged by the academic opportunity in the United States, Appenrodt decided to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. After receiving her associate degree from Valencia College, she transferred to UCF and earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing. From there, she continued into her graduate studies at the university and earned her [Nursing MSN](#).

While earning her degree, Appenrodt’s dream of becoming a nurse soon came true. Working full-time as a registered nurse in an emergency department, her busy schedule afforded her the opportunity to recognize and apply proper time management. Her advice to students stems from her experiences saying, “Just keep in mind that this is temporary and will help you grow in your chosen profession and allow you to become the best you can be. Try to find some balance between work, school, and family to keep you going. In the end, it will all be so worth it!”



**Just keep in mind that this is temporary and will help you grow in your chosen profession and allow you to become the best you can be. Try to find some balance between work, school, and family to keep you going. In the end, it will all be so worth it!**



During her time at UCF, Appenrodt was honored for her contributions to the UCF College of Nursing Student Nurses Association and was one of two speakers chosen to speak at the annual luncheon event that honors donors who provide scholarships to nursing students. She has also received the 2017 Sigma Theta Tau Excellence in Service Award. She is a course instructor for the Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum at the National SimLEARN Center in Orlando and is hopeful to work there as a Nurse Educator, a role that will enable her to combine her passions of emergency medicine, health care simulation, and education.

### Highlights:

- Works full-time as a registered nurse in an emergency department
- [2017 Sigma Theta Tau Excellence in Service Award](#)
- Course instructor for the Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum at the National SimLEARN Center in Orlando



### Hometown

Hannover, Germany

### College

College of Nursing

### Degree Programs

Nurse Educator MSN

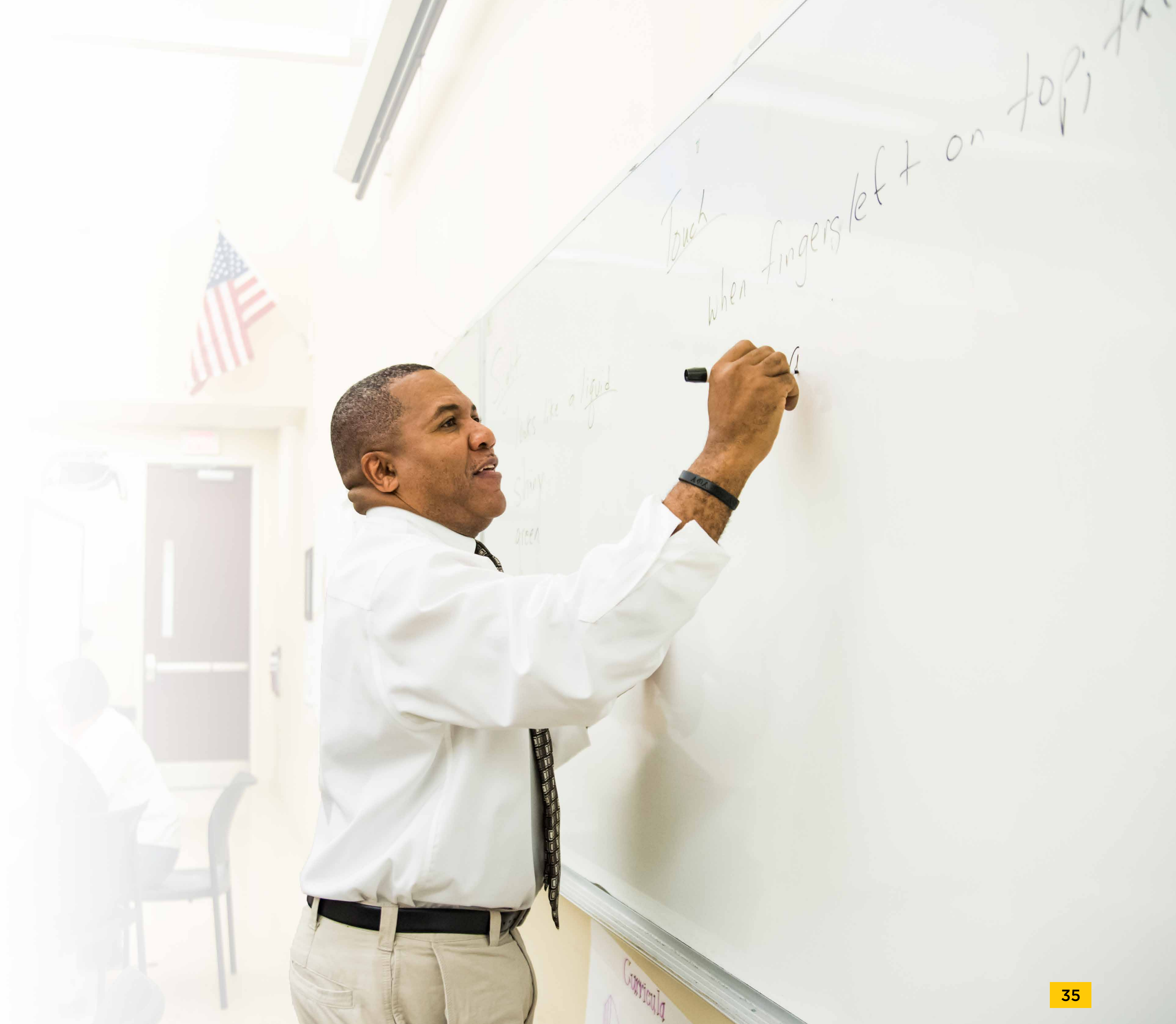


# GRADUATE FACULTY

Since August 2009, all individuals participating in graduate education must first be nominated by a graduate program and have their credentials reviewed by the College of Graduate Studies prior to appointment by the Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Ranked professors (tenure, tenure-earning, clinical, research), engineers, instructors, lecturers, librarians, scientists, and scholars are eligible for appointment to the Graduate Faculty. All graduate faculty are eligible to teach graduate courses, serve as members of thesis and dissertation committees, and serve as chairs or co-chairs of master's thesis committees. Qualified graduate faculty members may be eligible to serve in more than one graduate program. Graduate faculty members who are outside of a student's program are eligible to serve as external members of a thesis or dissertation advisory committee.

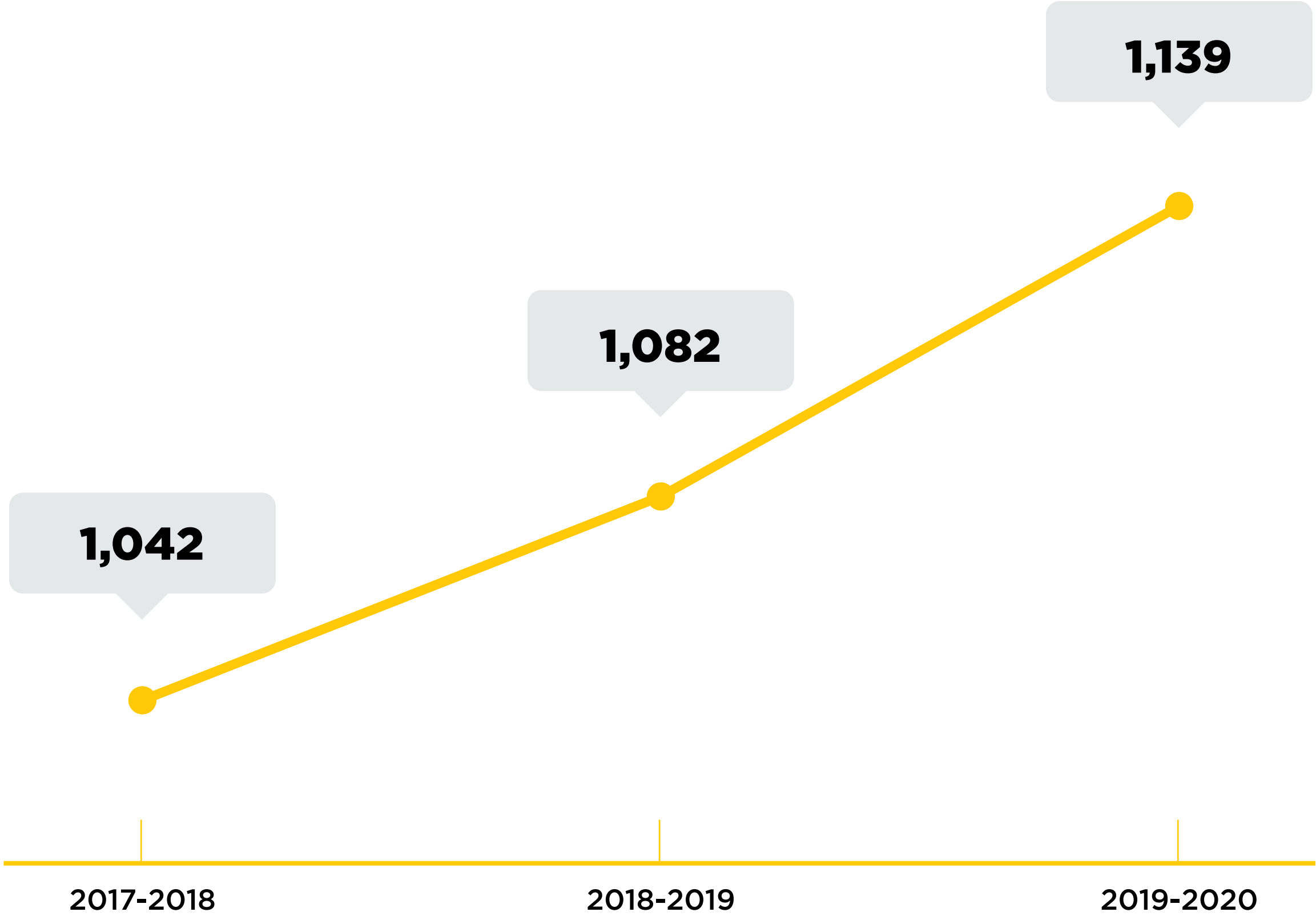
Other qualified individuals may serve as graduate faculty scholars in graduate faculty roles confined to specific, well-defined graduate faculty assignments. Graduate faculty scholars play important roles in graduate education at UCF, but their status as graduate faculty scholars is distinct from that of members of the Graduate Faculty. Graduate faculty scholars may serve as members of thesis or dissertation committees for the purpose of bringing specific disciplinary knowledge to the committee. In instances deemed appropriate by the graduate program committee, graduate faculty scholars may also serve as co-chairs or vice chairs of thesis and dissertation committees but may not serve as chairs of these committees.





# FACULTY IDENTIFIED AS TEACHING GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

IN EACH COLLEGE OR DIVISION OF FACULTY			
COLLEGE OR DIVISION OF FACULTY	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Academic Affairs	47	34	39
Administration and Finance	1	1	1
College of Arts and Humanities	130	138	152
College of Business Administration	68	73	75
College of Community Innovation and Education	176	173	173
College of Engineering and Computer Science	162	172	179
College of Graduate Studies	1	2	3
College of Health Professions and Sciences	68	73	80
College of Hospitaliy Managment	29	35	37
College of Medicine	44	51	47
College of Nursing	28	32	42
College of Optics and Photonics	31	30	30
College of Sciences	217	221	227
College of Undergraduate Studies	-	5	6
Nicholson School of Communication and Media	40	41	47
President's Division	-	1	1
TOTALS	1,042	1,082	1,139



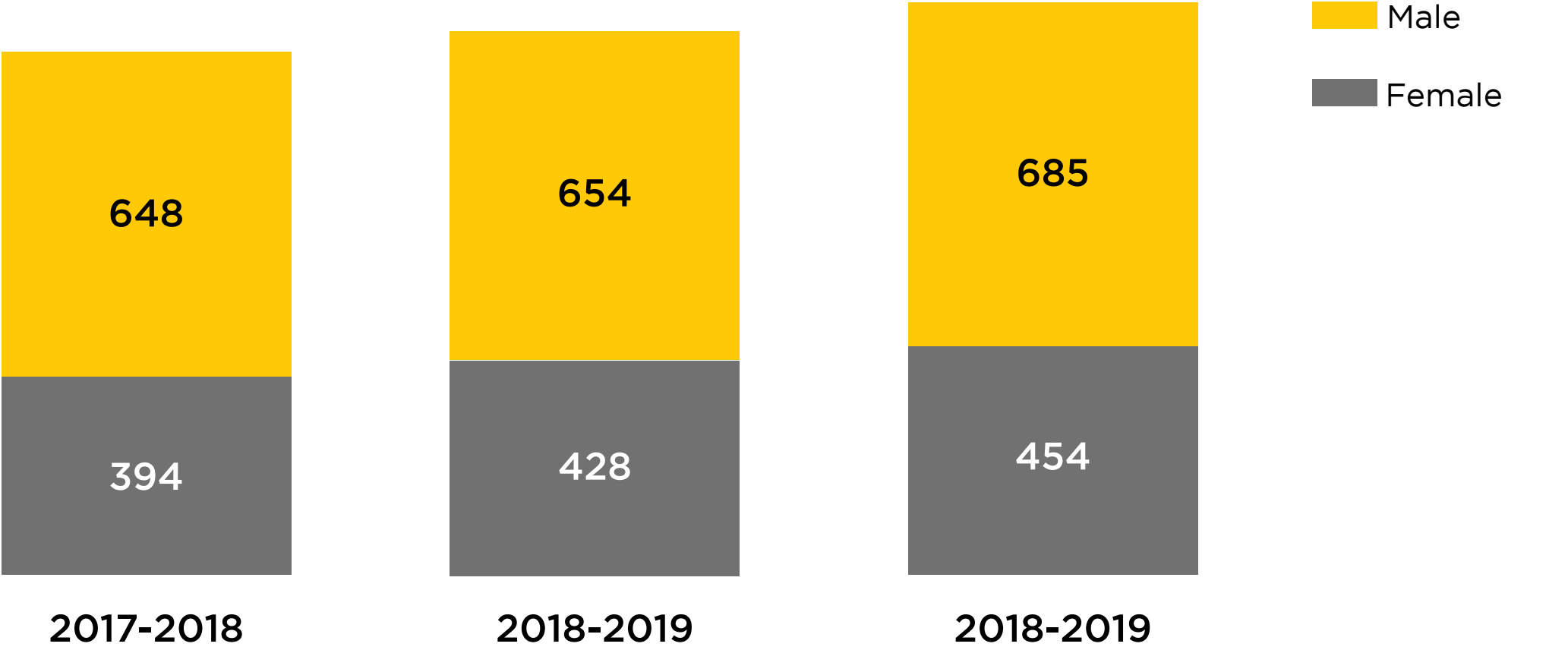


# FACULTY IDENTIFIED AS TEACHING GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

AVERAGE YEARS SINCE TENURE			
COLLEGE OR DIVISION OF FACULTY	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Academic Affairs	10.5	9.4	10.3
Administration and Finance	7	8	9
College of Arts and Humanities	12.1	11.5	11.2
College of Business Administration	12.4	12.1	12.5
College of Community Innovation and Education	10.8	10.6	10.3
College of Engineering and Computer Science	13.8	13.9	13.1
College of Graduate Studies	22	19.5	16.7
College of Health Professions and Sciences	9.5	9.1	10.6
College of Hospitaliy Managment	5.6	5.1	7.6
College of Medicine	8.2	8.1	9.4
College of Nursing	4.2	5.2	5.3
College of Optics and Photonics	7.7	8.7	8.9
College of Sciences	13.3	12.6	12.5
College of Undergraduate Studies	-	13	14
Nicholson School of Communication and Media	7	7.1	6.1
President's Division	-	3	5
TOTALS	11.4	11.1	11.1

DIVERSITY			
RACE/ETHNICITY	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
American Indian	2	2	3
Asian	198	215	226
Black	42	49	55
Hispanic	64	70	76
Multi-Racial	7	9	8
White	729	737	771
TOTALS	1042	1082	1139

## GENDER

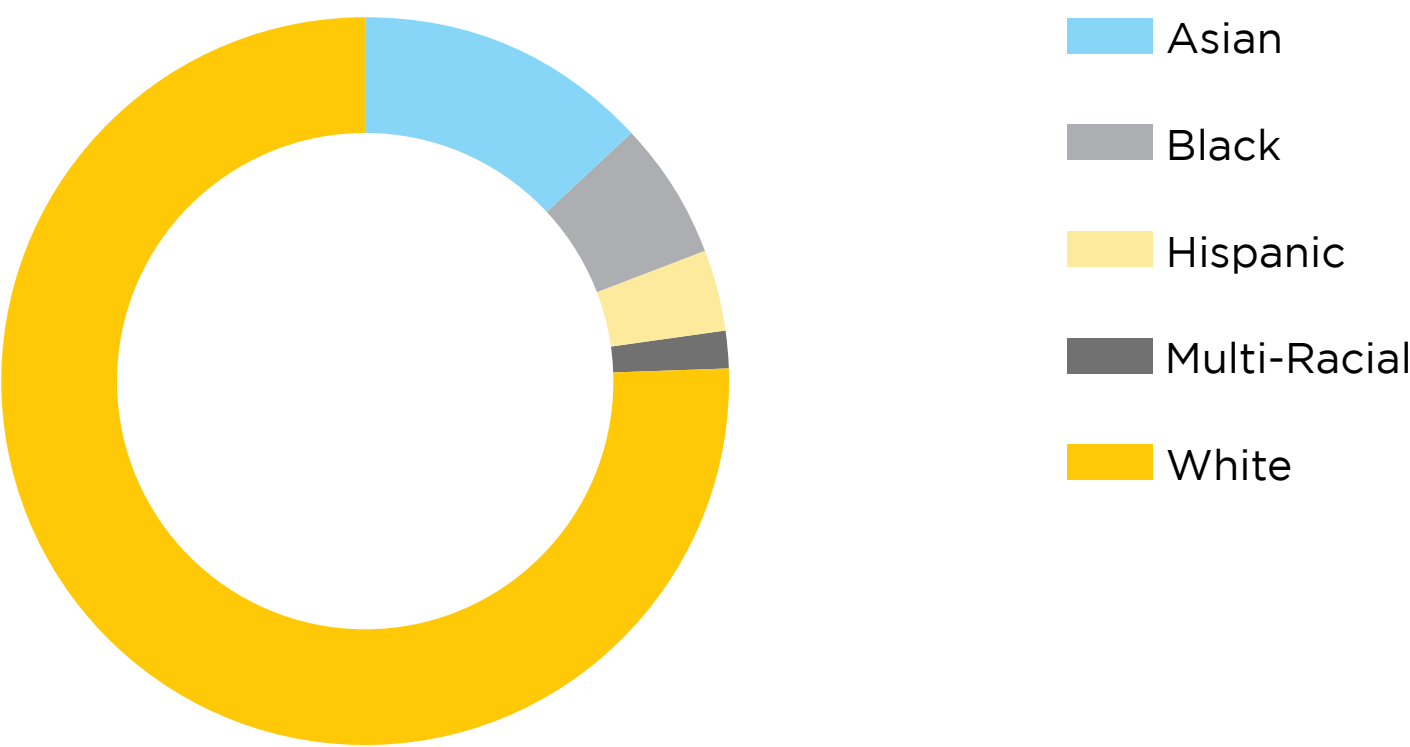




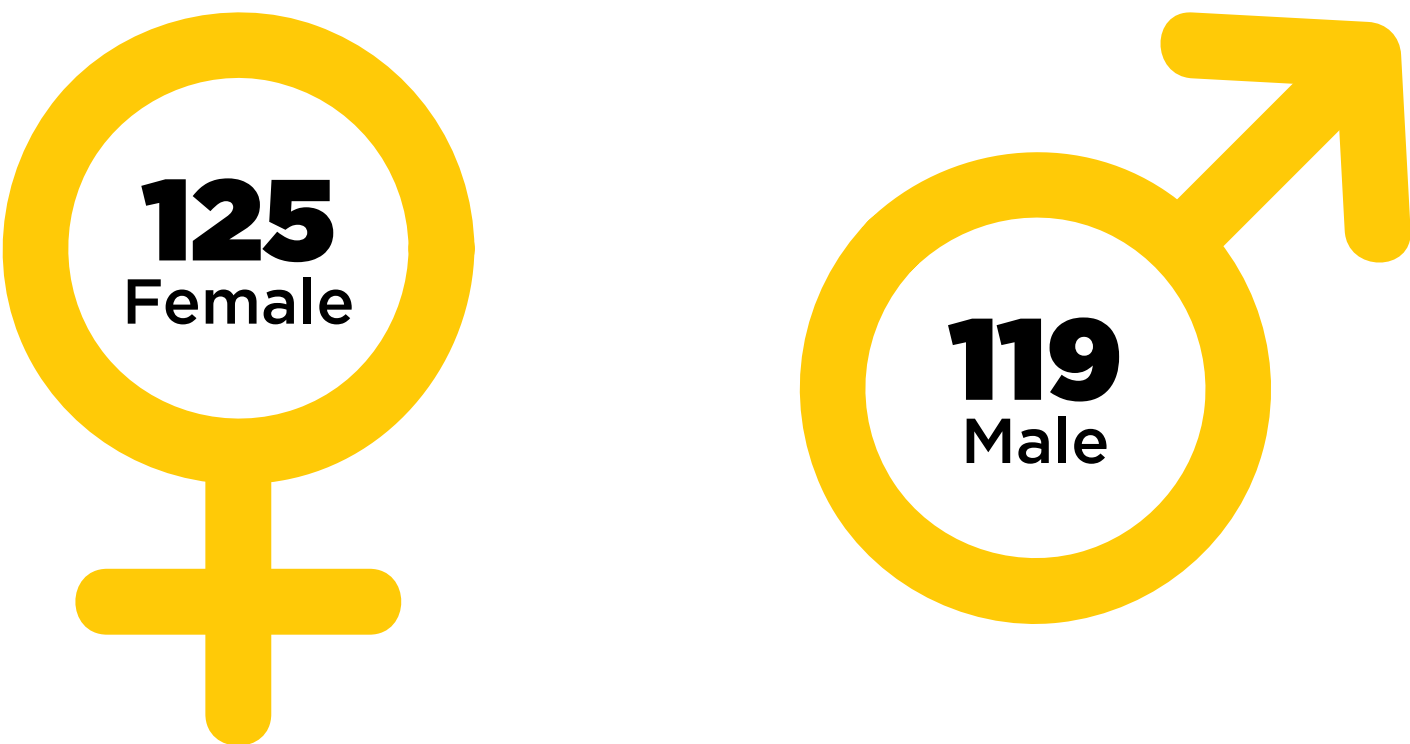
# EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING AS FACULTY SCHOLARS

IN EACH COLLEGE OR DIVISION OF FACULTY	
COLLEGE OR DIVISION	NUMBER
Academic Affairs	51
College of Arts and Humanities	16
College of Business Administration	7
College of Community Innovation and Education	34
College of Education	2
College of Engineering and Computer Science	32
College of Graduate Studies	3
College of Health and Public Affairs	3
College of Health Professions and Sciences	30
College of Hospitaliy Managment	2
College of Medicine	18
College of Optics and Photonics	2
College of Sciences	43
President's Division	1
TOTALS	244

RACE/ETHNICITY



GENDER





# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Mubarak Shah, PhD

Mubarak Shah, PhD, has been passionate about learning and teaching new material since he began preparing class notes and conducting tutoring sessions for his peers while he was a student in school. This passion for teaching is seen through the enjoyment he finds being a professor at UCF where he believes the impact, creativity and control as a professor is the most rewarding. His teaching and research have an impact on his students, who then go on to publish and get cited by authors and impact the field. He can be creative in his teaching and research methods, which provides opportunity for flexibility in exploring different out of the box ideas while having control over the research problems he chooses to work on and the solutions that are proposed. As a research university, he believes there’s great opportunity with lots of potential and unexplored areas.



**Aim high. Challenge yourself and solve difficult problems. You will be surprised that you are able to tackle impossible or unsolved problems. Be disciplined and work hard.**



Dr. Shah serves as Trustee Chair Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Center for Research in Computer Vision. He established the Computer Vision area at UCF, introduced numerous courses to the university and established a research lab. His work in Computer Vision explores how to build computer systems with intelligence. “Visual perception is one of the remarkable capabilities of humans, therefore, we research different ways to endow that capability to computers and robots,” he says. Machine vision systems play an important role in homeland security, national defense, self-driving cars, manufacturing,

medical image diagnosis, agriculture, and more. “Our research has the potential to save lives, accelerate automation, and increase productivity,” he says.

The dedication Dr. Shah has to his students goes beyond the classroom. Not only has he supervised over 50 graduate students, but he also leads the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates in Computer Vision at UCF. Here, he hosts 10 undergraduates from around the country to work in research for 10 weeks throughout the summer. Dr. Shah’s work isn’t only at the college level, he also mentors high school students under the High School Apprenticeship Program funded by the Army Research Office. Through this program, students work alongside a university researcher in order to gain science and engineering research experience. He advises students to, “Aim high. Challenge yourself and solve difficult problems. You will be surprised that you are able to tackle impossible or unsolved problems. Be disciplined and work hard,”

While at UCF, Dr. Shah became the first to receive Pegasus Professor for the College of Engineering and Computer Science in 2006. This is the most prestigious award for professors at UCF and recognizes excellence in teaching, research and service. He has also received the University Distinguished Researcher award (2005, 2012, 2017), Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students Award (2017), Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award (2013). He was recognized by AMiner as the Most Influential Scholar Award Honorable Mention for his outstanding and vibrant contributions to the field of Computer Vision between 2009 and 2019. He received the ACM SIGMM award for Outstanding Technical Contributions to Multimedia Computing (2019), NGA Best Research Poster award at NARP Symposium



**Roles**  
Trustee Chair Professor of Computer Science  
Director, Center for Research in Computer Vision

**College**  
College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Research Focus**  
Computer Vision

(2013), 2nd place in NHK Where is Beauty Grand Challenge at the ACM Multimedia Conference (2013), and was a finalist for the Best Paper award at the ACM Multimedia Conference (2005, 2012). Dr. Shah is a fellow of the National Academy of Innovators, the American Association of Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the International Association of Pattern Recognition, and the International Society for Optics and Photonics.





# POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

Research and Impact



# FUNDING (P<sup>3</sup>)

## About

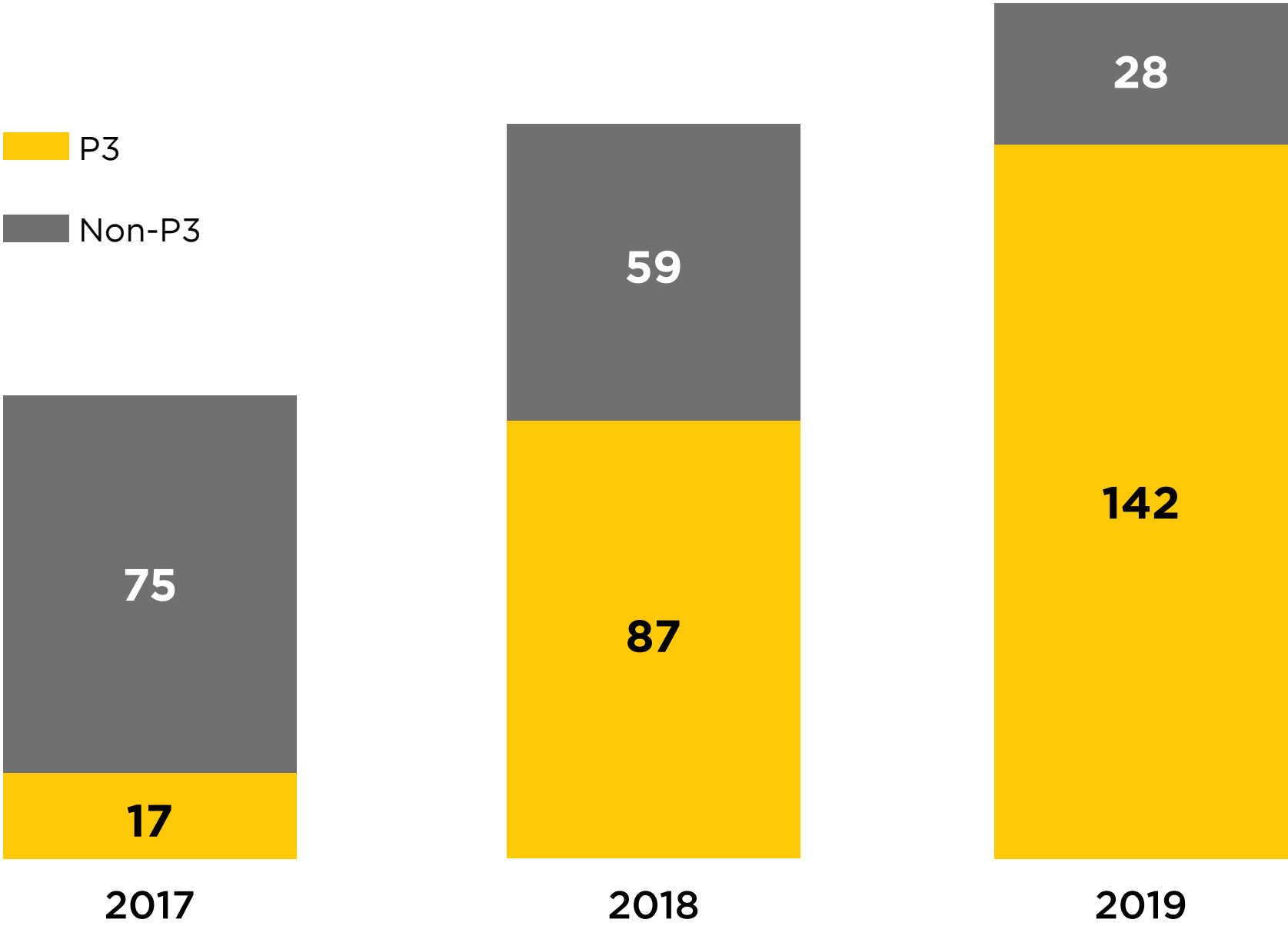
The College of Graduate Studies offers the Preeminent Postdoctoral Program (P3) to assist faculty researchers in attracting and supporting new postdoctoral scholars to UCF. The program offers 50 percent match towards the P3 postdoctoral scholar’s salary and benefits for two years, constituting up to **\$66k** of support. In addition, there is a one-time **\$5,000** award provided to the three postdoctoral scholars for professional development.

The P3 program launched in 2017 with a goal of increasing the number of postdoctoral scholars, seeking to reach a steady-state STEM count of **200**, a key performance metric. The P3 began supporting postdoctoral scholars in 2017 with the goal of attracting outstanding STEM scholars in all disciplines. To date, the program has been highly successful, leading to a 250 percent increase in the postdoctoral count at UCF in the past three years, rising from 75 (70 STEM) in 2016 to 188 (170 STEM) in Fall 2019.

### Current P3 Status

- **188** Current Total Postdoctoral Scholars
- **170** STEM Postdoctoral Scholars
- **142** P3 Supported Postdoctoral Scholar

P3 FALL POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS



YEAR	POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS	STEM POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS	P3 POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS
2017	104	92	17
2018	159	146	87
2019	188	170	142





# POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMMING

## Programming Specifically for Postdoctoral Scholars

The College of Graduate Studies works with partners across campus to provide programming specifically for Postdoctoral Scholars. Postdocs can take advantage of the following opportunities in fall.

### Getting Off the Island: Postdoc Survival

This session will be a roundtable discussion for participants to share their experiences at post-docs at UCF. We will learn from each other and draw parallels between post-doc life and that of an associate professor. Participants ideally will leave with the beginning of a support network on campus to help with successful career endeavors.

### American Association of University Women (AAUW)

The AAUW offers a free online Work Smart course that teaches negotiating skills and important facts about the status of the gender pay gap. The program aims to empower women across the country to negotiate for a raise, promotion, or new job.

### National Postdoctoral Association

UCF is a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), which can help you connect with the broader postdoctoral community and provides many excellent resources. UCF encourages your participation through a free membership.

### NPA Competencies

The National Postdoctoral Association has identified six core competencies for postdoctoral scholars. These competencies serve as a guide for the scholar through self-assessment and planning of goals for training and skills they wish to enhance or acquire during their postdoctoral experience.

Since competencies often overlap and affect each other, “the most effective use of the NPA Core Competencies may be to identify and focus on development in areas that will lead to growth in more than one competency” (The NPA Postdoctoral Core Competencies, pp. 2-3). For each competency, NPA offers extensive guidance as well as reading lists.

### Individual Development Plan

An Individual Development Plan (IDP) is a written proposal of goals for personal and professional development. Creating an IDP helps postdoctoral scholars evaluate current skills, interests and strengths; create a plan for developing skills for meeting academic and professional goals; and communicate these goals with their mentors. Faculty mentors can assist their postdoctoral scholars in refining their goals and creating an action plan to measure their progress.

It is recommended that all postdoctoral scholars complete an IDP with their mentor and revisit it annually. Below you will find helpful resources from professional societies, academic institutions, and UCF.

Postdoctoral scholars who are UCF Preeminent Postdoctoral Program (P3) recipients are required to create an IDP and report annually on their progress to the College of Graduate Studies.





# POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR PROFILE

## David Cannon

After receiving his Civil Engineering PhD from Purdue University in 2019, David Cannon was looking forward to having the opportunity to expand his knowledge base through new research endeavors outside of those he pursued during his graduate degrees.



**As a Postdoc at UCF, I get to work with interdisciplinary researchers who have decades of experience studying biochemistry, hydrodynamics, and human sciences in the Indian River Lagoon.**



Ecohydraulics is the focus of Cannon’s research as a postdoctoral researcher. He studies the interactions between fluids and organisms that inhabit them. Much of his research is focused on the Indian River Lagoon estuary in the Cape Canaveral National Seashore where he studies the effects of seagrass, mangroves and oyster reefs on estuary flow and mixing. These organisms change how the water moves around them and they are important for water quality, sediment transport and shoreline erosion.

Cannon spends his favorite days of his research knee-deep in water collecting physical and biological measurements at the sample site. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s always fun to get away from the office and collect new data to test our theories and answer research questions,” he says. Field work includes measuring water velocities, wave heights, and water levels, collecting sediment samples, and surveying the local vegetation and reef characteristics.

The research collaborations available are a key reason why Cannon chose to embark on this journey at UCF. The UCF Coastal group is an involved and diverse community of researchers working together to answer questions about coastal processes around the world. “As a postdoc at UCF, I get to work with interdisciplinary researchers who have decades of experience studying biochemistry, hydrodynamics, and human sciences in the Indian River Lagoon,” he says. UCF’s open doors to collaborations has also afforded him the ability to work with members of the Coastal and Estuarine Ecology Lab.

Cannon’s hope is that the work done at UCF will be used to develop more successful shoreline restoration strategies for coastal regions around the world, protecting property and maintain estuary health for generations to come. His plans after completing his time as a postdoctoral researcher include continuing research in environmental fluid mechanics while leaning toward a career in academia.



**Role**  
Postdoctoral Scholar for Coast and Estuarine Ecology Lab

**Research Focus**  
Ecohydraulics





# COMMUNICATIONS

Stories of Impact and Innovation



# Communications by the Numbers



**1** Annual Report

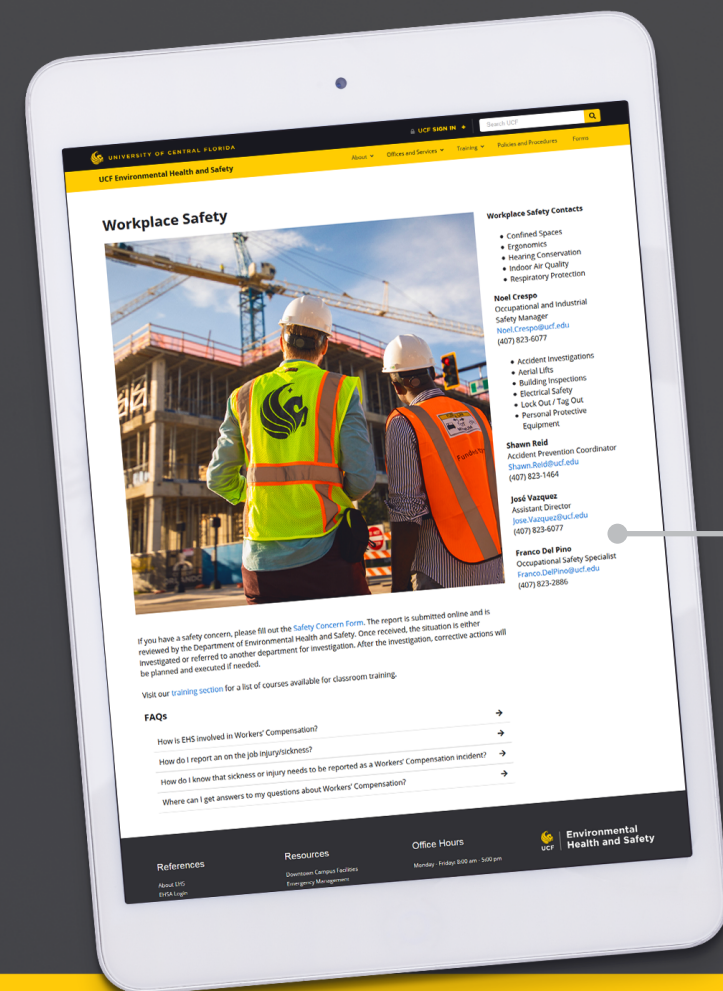
**62** Internal Communications

**6** Major Events Supported

**41** Graduate News Stories and Spotlights on Students/Faculty

**4** New Websites Launched

**1,402** Social Media Posts





# PEOPLE MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Meet UCF Graduate Studies



# ADMINISTRATION

## Team Responsibilities:

- Graduate education leadership
- Support Graduate Council
- Admissions
- Academic Progress
- Graduation
- Graduate Funding
- Program development
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Internalization
- Promote scholarship and development
- Postdoctoral Scholar support
- Graduate annual budget
- Build a graduate community

## Impact:

To provide leadership and services and to create high-quality learning environments for graduate students.



Elizabeth Klonoff, PhD



Devon Jensen, PhD



Barbara Fritzsche, PhD



Winston Schoenfeld, PhD



Jennifer Parham, EdD



John Weishampel, PhD





# ADMINISTRATION

## Team Responsibilities:

- Administration leadership support
- Budget and financial management
- Program management and events
- Human resources and benefits
- Interdisciplinary studies



Melanie Warren



Kelli Marini



Shelley Pozdoll



Elizabeth Smock





# ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITING

## Team Responsibilities:

- Manage overall graduate recruitment and admissions infrastructure from policy to technology
- Manage all applications submitted to UCF graduate programs
- Communicate to all applicants regarding the status of their application and any admission decisions
- Ensure all applications meet program admission requirements and contain relevant supporting materials
- Monitor program level review of applications leading to an admission's decision
- Conduct all relevant residency classifications
- Verify accuracy of all international applications, transcripts, and language test requirements
- Collaborate, coordinate, and provide training/support to graduate program admissions staff and faculty relevant to UCF graduate admissions strategies, business practices, and enrollment goals
- Verify accuracy of all admission decisions to university policy and regulation
- Establish and maintain a recruitment strategy for UCF graduate programs
- Host, sponsor, and attend graduate events, fairs, and conferences with the purpose of recruiting new graduate students to UCF
- Track and report on all relevant data pertaining to graduate recruitment, admissions, and enrollment at UCF

## Impact:

We process over 24,000 applications, 11,500 offers of admission, and 4,300 new graduate students per academic year. By maintaining a centralized admissions process, each program is relieved of the staff needed for this process and students are able to determine the status of their application in one place.



Devon Jensen, PhD



Brandy Pieper



Leben Goldman



Jessica Sublette



Emily Stettner



Christine Mucha



Khue Duong-Rymer



Adam Springer



# ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITING



Juliette Slonka



Christina Dabrowski



Anthony Tufano



Jennifer Yuhas



Ashley Rivera-Mercado



Mike Burke





# ACADEMIC SERVICES, PROGRESS AND GRADUATION

## Team Responsibilities:

- Probation and dismissals
- Changes in student program status
- Approving and entering of transfer work
- Course substitutions and waivers
- Graduation commencement organization
- Degree certification
- Reviews student and administrative requests for late adds/drops/withdrawals and medical withdrawals
- Review and approve grade changes and thesis/dissertation committee membership
- Enter students into candidacy status
- Assist with organization for the program review committee

## Impact:

This team processes all transactions that affect a student through graduation.



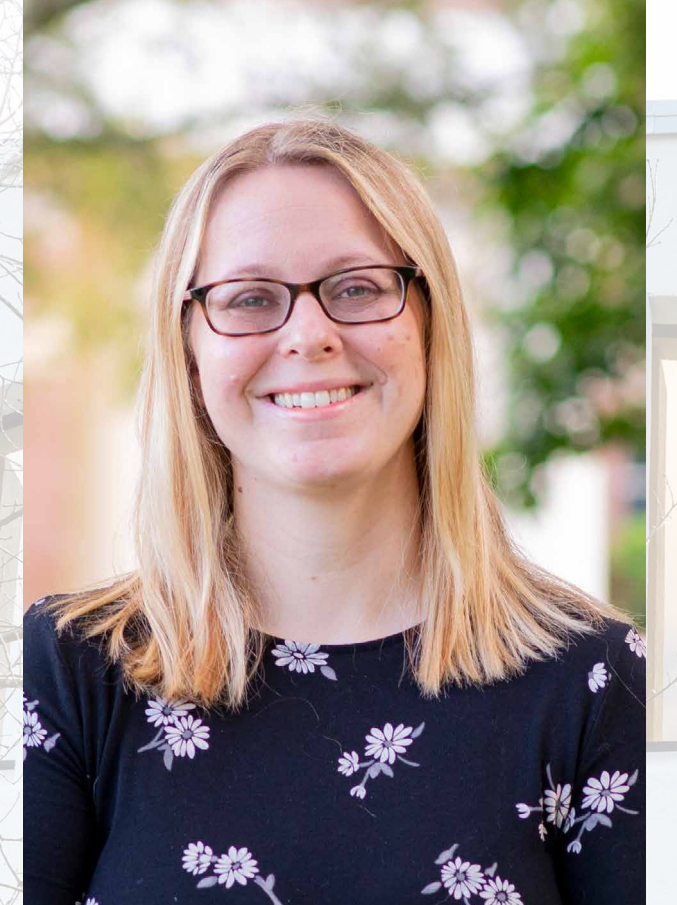
Barbara Fritzsche, PhD



Jessica Cheatwood-Alvarez



Elsa Nieves



Lauren Murray-Lemon



Cayla Bartley



Morgan Reed



Johnny Pruiett



Jamie Kosnosky



# FUNDING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SCHOLARSHIP

## Team Responsibilities:

- Oversees the administration of graduate fellowships
- Graduate assistantship hiring
- Graduate student teaching
- Health insurance
- Tuition remission
- Oversees the format review and final submission process for electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs)
- Administers the Pathways to Success workshops
- Manages the Graduate Student Center
- Provides support of graduate community events, including the Graduate Orientation, Graduate Research Forum, and 3MT.

## Impact:

This team coordinates all funding offers and promotes and supports a graduate community.



Jennifer Parham, EdD



Joy Kittredge



Mary Bermudez



Evelyn Morales



Lindsiaann Taylor



Tara Levine



Nathalia Bauer



Wendy Cartier



# COMMUNICATIONS

## Team Responsibilities:

- Develop new publications and materials to support college initiatives
- Produce brochures and other materials for annual events
- Promote events
- Manage the online Graduate Catalog and Program Handbooks
- Develop graphics, renderings and design for a variety of projects and initiatives
- Write and publish faculty and student profiles
- Write press releases about college initiatives or events
- Work with media to generate positive news coverage
- Support recruitment efforts
- Support the Dean of the College
- Support Board of Trustee presentations about the college
- Produce videos for special projects
- Work with other colleges to promote graduate studies services and campaigns

## Impact:

Communication is a critical tool in helping our students succeed. The team not only helps directly communicate with students, but members also ensure colleges and the community at large are aware of our programs and resources and our student successes to help build UCF’s local and national reputation as a thriving graduate community.



Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala



Carreen Krapf



Andy Torres



Thalia Torres



Elitza Rodriguez



Micaela Reyes



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Team Responsibilities:

- Develop and maintain custom applications that meet the College of Graduate Studies business needs
- Manage approximately 30 servers that host various environments needed for development, reporting, hosting, and collaboration
- Website development and technical management
- Computer and technology support
- Reporting services

## Impact:

Through various technical solutions, the IT Team enables the college of Graduate Studies to conduct necessary business activities in order to recruit, admit, and manage the UCF Graduate Student Population.



Brian Graham



Nick Whidden



Robert Valladares



John Aedo



Brandon Coutts



Miryana Blesso



Marie Malazarte



Kelly Grieneisen Tillotson

Not Pictured: Craig Gant and Miguel Pellot



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The College of Graduate Studies Communications Team compiled the 2019 Annual Report.

## **Your 2019 Office of Research and Graduate Studies Team**

Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala

Carreen Krapf

Andres Torres

Elitza Rodriguez

Micaela Reyes

Thalia Torres

