



UCF

College of
Graduate Studies

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

You're Admitted. What's Next?

Your guide to launching your graduate experience at UCF.

Congratulations!

Consider this guide your go-to resource to start off strong and stay on track.

Welcome to UCF!

Meet Our Dean

Welcome to the University of Central Florida! We are excited to have you join our graduate community as you begin this exciting new journey. UCF offers you many opportunities to grow personally and professionally, expand your career prospects, and make a meaningful impact.

The College of Graduate Studies supports more than 10,000 graduate students and upwards of 250 postdoctoral scholars across over 250 graduate programs. Whether studying in Orlando or online, our students are guided by world-renowned faculty and supported every step of the way as they work toward their academic and professional goals.

We are committed to support you throughout your graduate experience, navigate the challenges, and experience the rewards of advanced study in your chosen discipline.

Charge On!



John F. Weishampel, Ph.D.
Dean
UCF College of Graduate Studies

Table of Contents

03

UCF COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Who we are and how we support you.

04

WELCOME WEEK

Details on Orientation, socials, and more

05

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Avoid immunization holds and access support

06

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Understand requirements, pre-arrival and check-in

07

UCF STUDENT ID CARD

Your key to campus

08

LIVING IN ORLANDO

Finding your place in our community

09

YOUR GRADUATE FUNDING ROADMAP

Discover pathways to finance your studies.

10

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Beginning your graduate journey, one step at a time.

UCF College of Graduate Studies

Who We Are and How We Support You



Your journey begins at the College of Graduate Studies. From orientation to commencement, we're committed to supporting you through every milestone while empowering you to excel academically, advance professionally, and grow personally.

How We Support You

The **Graduate Funding** team helps you explore fellowships, assistantships, and external awards by connecting you with resources that support your goals. Learn more [on our website](#).

Our **Thesis and Dissertation** team offers workshops, deadlines, support and guidance through key milestones. They also assist with research compliance, including IRB approval and STARS submission.

Our **Graduate Student Services** team helps you navigate key policies and procedures. From record changes, leave requests, commencement, and more They'll guide you every step of the way.

Our **Graduate Student Life** team supports you beyond the classroom, through events that drive academic and professional growth, and by fostering connection and collaboration in the [Graduate Student Center](#).

Your Success Starts Here

Welcome Week

Fall 2026

We invite you to attend Fall Take-Off, a week of events designed to help explore campus resources, and prepare for the semester ahead.

Throughout the week, join us for opportunities to meet other graduate students, engage in conversation, and participate in events that support your transition to UCF

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2026

- 8/11** — Grad Launch: UCF Online Graduate Student Orientation
- 8/13** — Grad Launch: UCF Graduate Student Orientation
UCF Student Union, Pegasus Ballroom
- 8/25** — Welcome Back Brunch
Trevor Colbourn Hall, Suite 213
- 8/26** — CAPS: Achieving Goals and Sustaining Motivation
Virtual
- 8/27** — Hurricane Season Workshop
Virtual
- 8/27** — Graduate/Alumni Panel
Trevor Colbourn Hall, Suite 208
- 8/28** — Ice Cream Social
Trevor Colbourn Hall, Suite 208

Check out the [Graduate Student Life calendar](#). This is your resource for staying informed, connected and prepared to begin your UCF graduate journey.

Health, Wellness, and Recreation at UCF

Student Health Services

Included with the Student Health Fee, on-campus students can receive low-cost health services at the UCF Student Health Center, a convenient way to stay well while you're here.

 For full details, visit the [Student Health Center](#) website.

Recreation and Wellness Center

The UCF Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is your campus hub for staying active and connected. From fitness spaces and intramural sports to outdoor adventures and aquatics, there's something for every student. You can also tap into support services for stress management, nutrition, and overall well-being.

 See what's in store on the [Recreation and Wellness Center](#) website.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) UCF

CAPS provides free, confidential mental health care to help you navigate stress, personal challenges, and the transition into graduate life. Access in-person or virtual services whenever you need support throughout your time at UCF. Available services include counseling, group therapy, and 24/7 crisis support.

 Learn more on the [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) website.

International Students

UCF Global: Your International Hub On Campus



UCF Global provides key support services for international students, including guidance on immigration, I-20 issuance, visa requirements, OPT and CPT, and more to help you navigate life at UCF from day one. Here are some ways their team works to support you:

Immigration Advising: Once you arrive on campus, you'll have access to ongoing immigration support, including assistance with travel signatures, maintaining your status, and understanding employment authorizations like CPT and OPT.

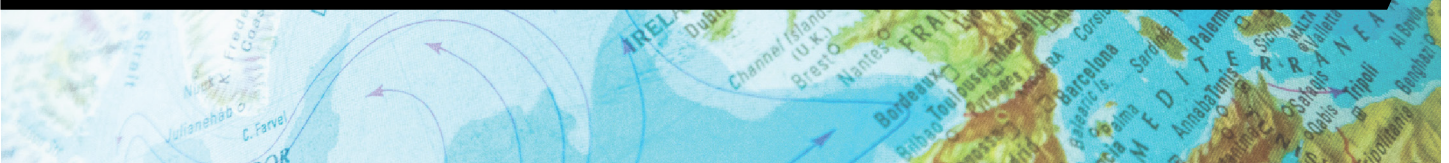
Events and Workshops: Global advisors host regular workshops designed to support your transition and help you understand U.S. immigration requirements.

UCF Global Orientation and Arrival Requirements

Complete the international Student Orientation in addition to the university-wide orientation.

Attend UCF Global's Pre-Arrival Overview on immunizations, housing, finances, and health insurance.

Upon arrival, check-in with UCF Global virtually or in-person to satisfy immigration requirements.



UCF ID Card

Your Key to Campus



Your **UCF ID Card** is like an all access pass, unlocking the spaces, services, and experiences that will shape your graduate experience. Here's a brief overview:



UCF Library Services



SGA Ticket Services



Print Scan and Copy



Room Reservations



On-Campus Shuttles



Lynx City Transportation



UCF Athletics and Campus Events



UCF Campus Buildings



Labs and Test Centers



Recreation and Wellness Center



Living in Orlando

The City Beautiful

Orlando is more than the home of world-famous attractions. It's a vibrant, diverse city with something for every graduate student.

- **Sunshine All Year:** With 230+ sunny days, it's easy to recharge outdoors between your studies.
- **Green Spaces Galore:** Explore 100+ parks and trails, including scenic Lake Eola.
- **Affordable Fun:** Score discounted student tickets to attractions, concerts, and sports events.
- **Creative Energy:** A hub for tourism, tech, film and media, Orlando is perfect for building key industry connections.

Moving Around the City

If you're commuting to campus or exploring your new surroundings, there are plenty of ways to get around and find your place in Orlando!

- **UCF Shuttles:** Free campus shuttles connect key areas including student housing, research centers, and nearby shopping districts.
- **LYNX Bus System:** Orlando's public transit system offers affordable routes across the city, with stops near UCF and downtown.
- **Biking and Walking:** Many neighborhoods near campus are pedestrian-friendly, and UCF offers bike racks across campus.
- **Parking:** Graduate students can purchase virtual campus parking permits. Plan ahead, as availability may vary by lot and time of day.

Your Graduate Funding Roadmap

Discover Pathways to Finance Your Studies



Graduate school is a major investment, and UCF offers several ways to support you throughout your journey. Funding varies by program, so your Graduate Program Director is your primary point of contact. Types of funding opportunities include:

[Assistantships](#) | [Fellowships](#) | [Tuition Remission](#) | [Student Loans](#) | [Federal Work Study](#)

Already Awarded Funding

Congratulations! Review your award letter and stay in touch with your program or campus employer. To remain eligible, you must enroll full-time and remain in good academic standing.

Still Looking For Opportunities?

If you're still exploring funding or just need help Figuring out your next step, start by contacting your Program Director. Their info is listed on the [Application Deadlines and Requirements](#) page, and you can also browse campus-wide work opportunities on [Handshake](#).

For fellowship questions, reach out to the [Funding Team](#), and for assistantships, your program or campus employer can guide you. If you're sorting through FAFSA, loans, or federal work-study, the [UCF Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) is available to help.

For details, visit graduate.ucf.edu/funding

New Student Checklist

Beginning your Graduate Journey, One Step at a Time

1. ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

Promptly log into your [applicant portal](#) to complete your “Admission Offer Reply Form”.

2. ORDER OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Send [official, sealed or electronic transcripts](#) to UCF Graduate Studies from your previous institution(s).

3. SUBMIT YOUR RESIDENCY FORM

The declaration form establishing [Residency for Tuition Purposes](#) is on your portal checklist.

4. STAND-BY TO MATRICULATE

After 2-3 business days, [Look-Up Your NID](#) and set up access to your [myUCF](#) student portal.

5. SET UP YOUR EMAIL

All official university emails will be communicated via your UCF [Student Outlook Account](#).

6. SUBMIT IMMUNIZATION FORM

Complete the [Med+Procto](#) form through Student Health Services.

7. CHECK FOR HOLDS

Avoid registration delays. Click on any account holds in [myUCF](#) for further instructions.

8. REGISTER FOR CLASSES

Contact your [graduate program](#) to discuss course registration.

Pause. Let's Review Registration

Log in to [myUCF](#) → Student Self Service → Student Center

- ✓ Access myUCF to view classes, check enrollment dates, review holds, and adjust your schedule (add/drop/swap/withdraw).
- ✓ Prior to registering, resolve any holds. Commonly: health records, citations, required advising, academic integrity items, or unpaid balances.
- ✓ Avoid a \$100 late fee by enrolling in at least 1 credit by 11:59 p.m. on the last business day before the Drop/Add/Swap period ends.
- ✓ Submit fee payment, ensuring all balances are paid prior to the payment deadline reflected on the [Academic Calendar](#).

For more details, visit the [College of Graduate Studies Registration](#) page

Resume Your Checklist

You're almost there. Take care of these last few items

9. EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS

Assistantship, fellowship, and financial aid information can be reviewed on [our website](#).

11. CAMPUS RESOURCES

Learn more about the graduate student resources available by visiting our [Campus Life page](#).

10. GET YOUR UCF ID CARD

Obtain up your [UCF ID Card](#) and gain access to campus events, resources, and more

12. COMPLETE GRAD LAUNCH ESSENTIALS

[Graduate Student Orientation](#) is designed to introduce you to peers, key campus resources, and more.

Get ready for Grad Launch: UCF Graduate Student Orientation. Your opportunity to connect, grow, and thrive as you begin your graduate journey.

Everything unfolds in three simple phases:

- **Phase I: Grad Launch Essentials** – Complete your required online modules early in the term to learn about key policies, resources, and expectations.
- **Phase II: Live Orientation Sessions (Optional)** – Join a live session to meet fellow graduate students and get to know the campus or online resources that will support you.
- **Phase III: Semester Takeoff Events (Optional)** – Ease into graduate life through early-semester events that help you find your community and get familiar with campus.

A **\$35 orientation fee** will be added to your student account and can be paid anytime before the end of your first term. For questions or technical support, email gradorientation@ucf.edu.

Planning to Park on Campus

Here's how to obtain your [Virtual Parking Permit](#) at UCF.

You're All Set. Welcome to UCF!