Using a CGS Consultation to Foster Strategic Campus Partnerships

John F. Weishampel

Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies

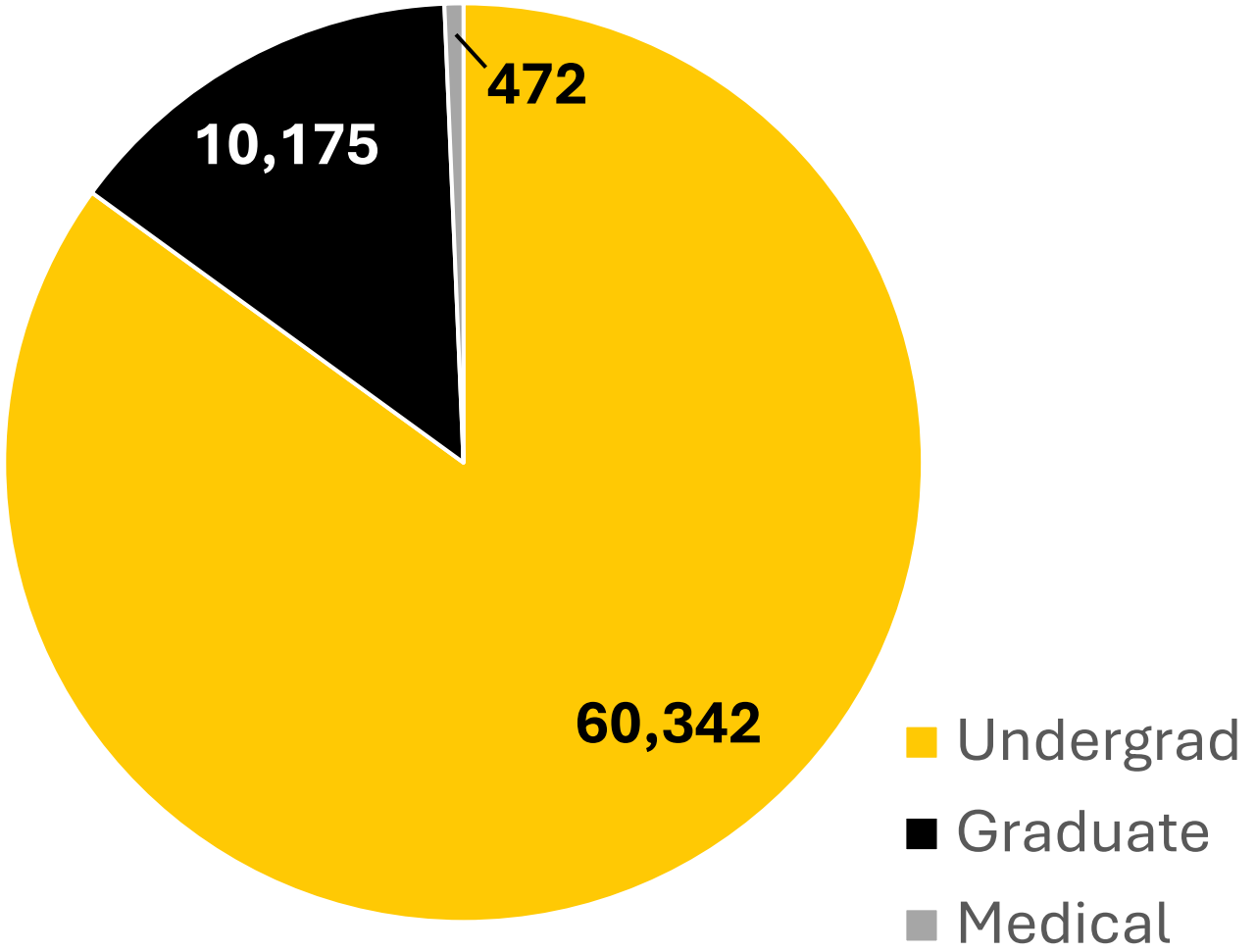
University of Central Florida

Florida’s Premier Engineering and Technology University

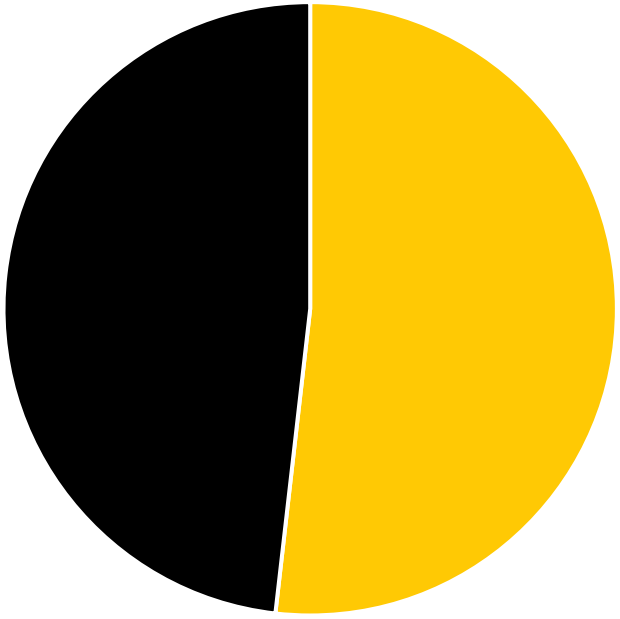
Harnessing technology in creative ways to fuel partnerships and propel Florida's economy.

UCF

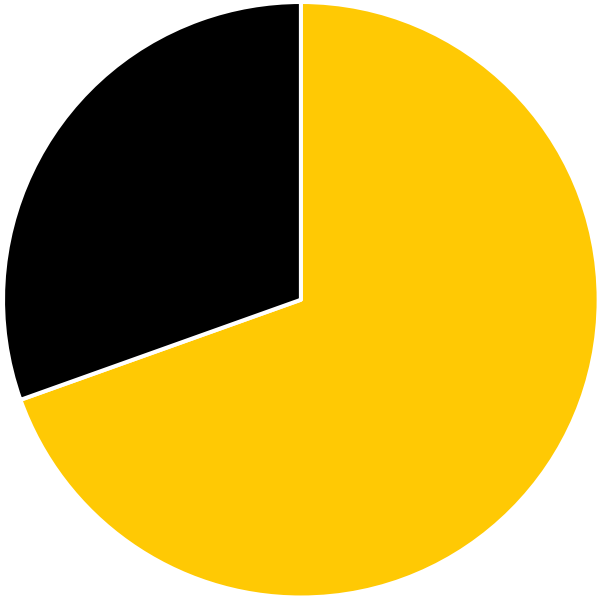
UCF Student Population (Fall 2025)



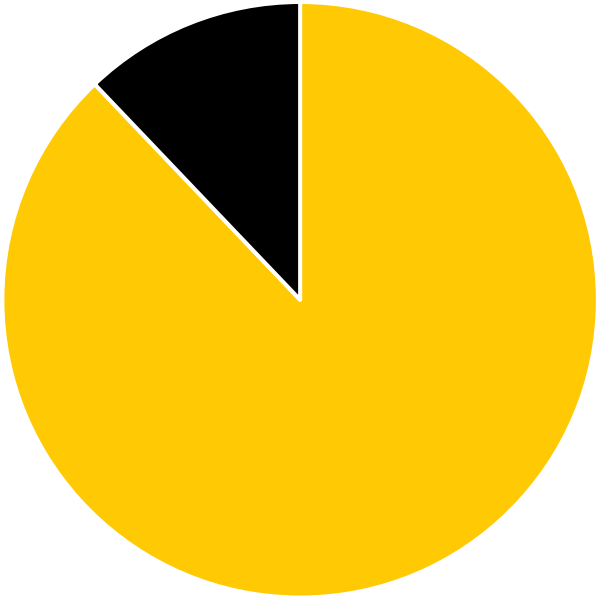
Types of UCF Graduate Students



Part-Time Full-Time

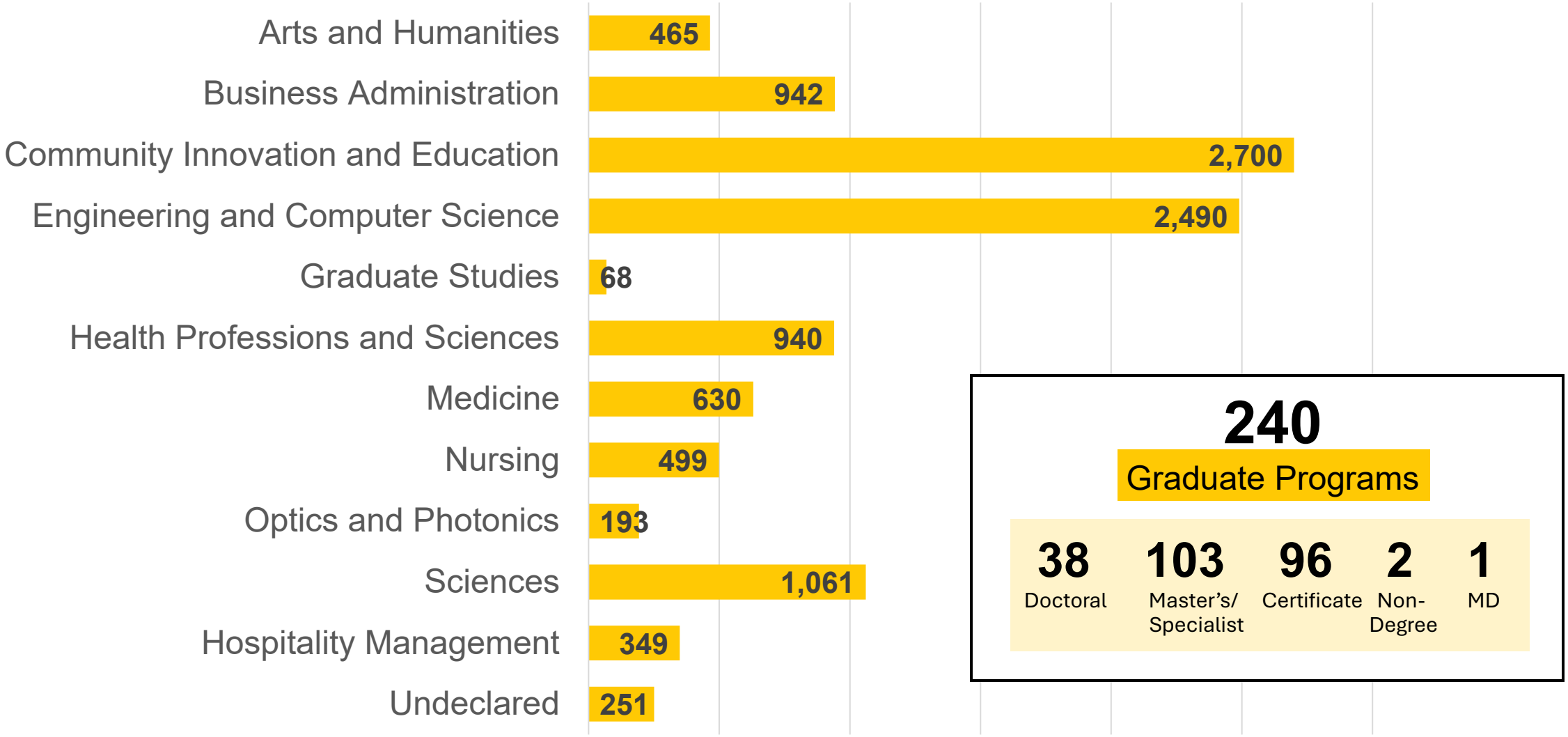


Face-2-Face Online



Domestic International

Graduate Students by College



240

Graduate Programs

38	103	96	2	1
Doctoral	Master's/ Specialist	Certificate	Non-Degree	MD

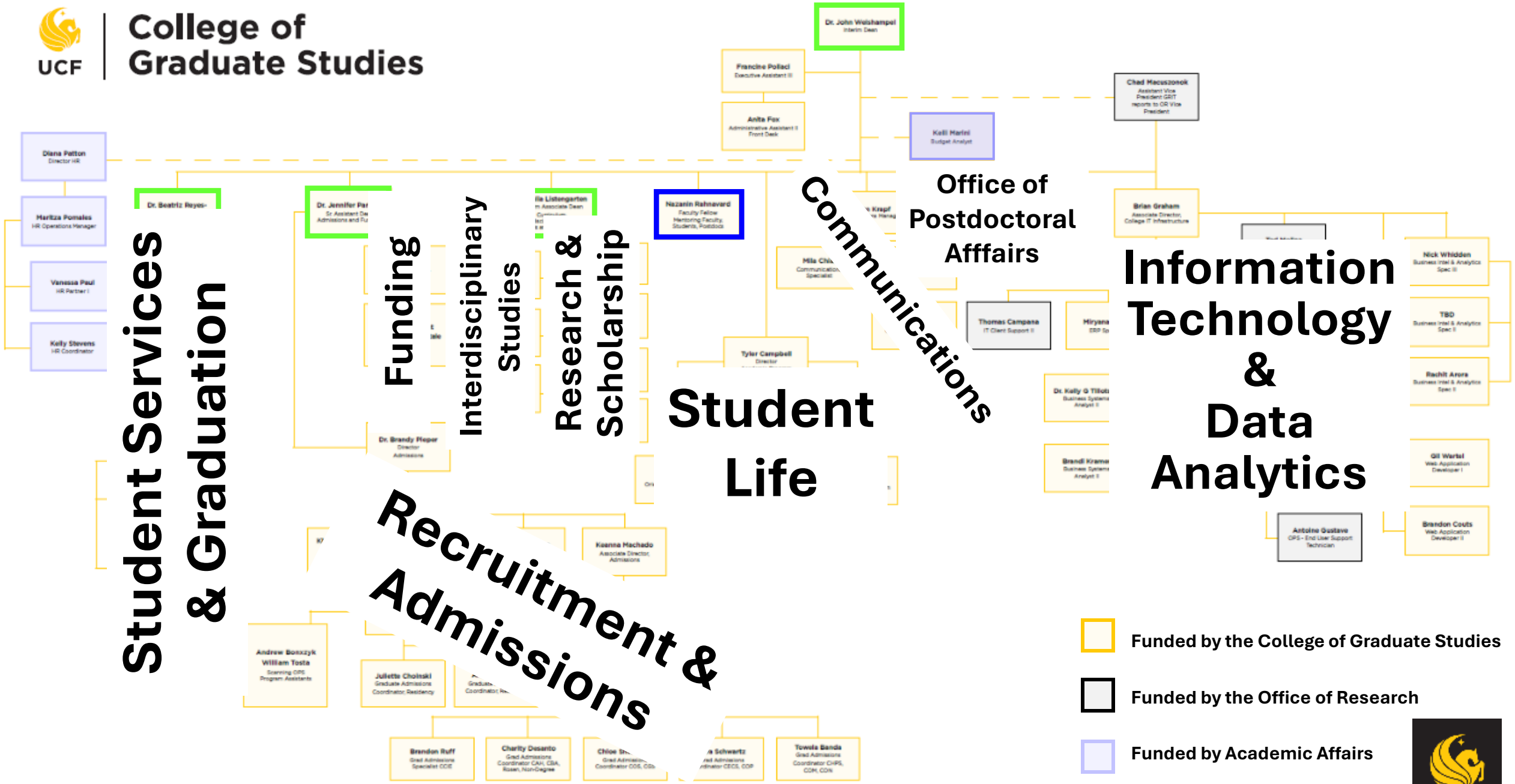
Timeline of UCF Graduate Studies Leader Titles

1969-70 – Director of Research and Graduate Studies
1970-72 – Dean of Research and Graduate Studies
1972-74 – Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
1974-79 – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
1979-81 – Acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
1981-87 – Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies
1987-91 – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies
1991-92 – No leader listed
1992-93 – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Coordinator for Graduate Programs
1993-94 – No leader listed
1994-98 – Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
1998-99 – Interim Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
1999-01 – Interim Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies
2001-11* – Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
2012-15 – Interim Vice Provost and Dean of College of Graduate Studies
2015 – Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
2015-16 – Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
2016-22 – Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
2022-24 – Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
2024-present – Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Research
Graduate Studies

*2009 College of Graduate Studies was formed

College of Graduate Studies



- Funded by the College of Graduate Studies
- Funded by the Office of Research
- Funded by Academic Affairs

UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

BECOMING THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE FUTURE

2022-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

WE ASPIRE TO BE

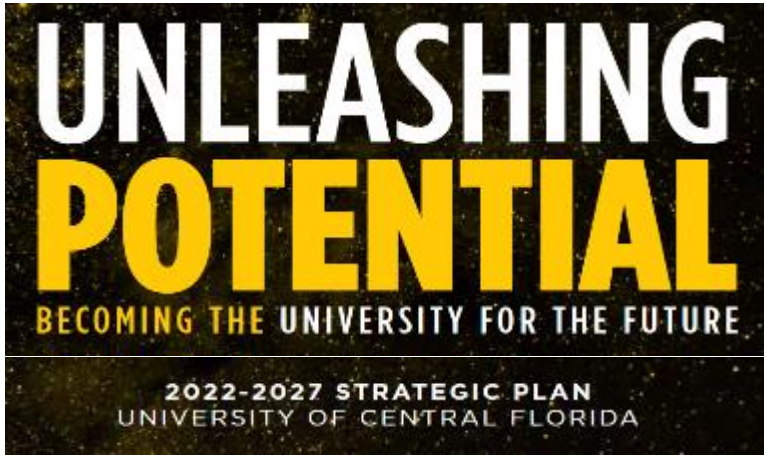
A **Top 50 Public Research University** and a **designated preeminent university** by the State University System of Florida

by 2027

A **Top 25 Public Research University** with outcomes comparable to **members of the Association of American Universities**

by 2033

UCF



1 STUDENT SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING

2 DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

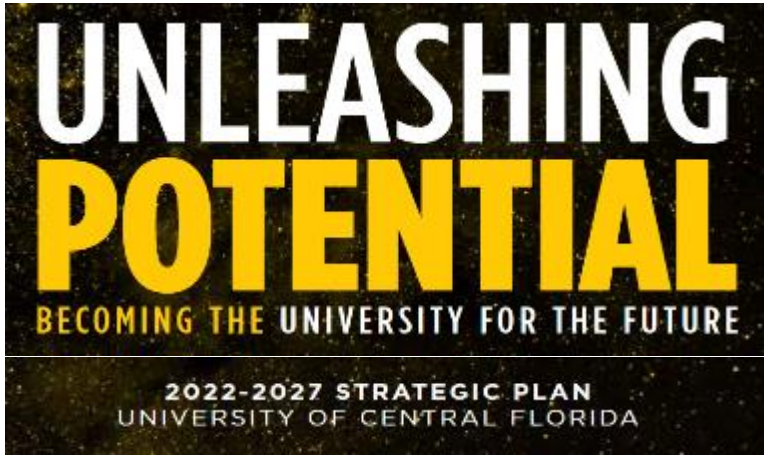
3 COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

4 INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

› Expand the development of quality digital learning experiences and the breadth of professional master's degrees and graduate certificates to meet the specialized workforce needs of the region and state.

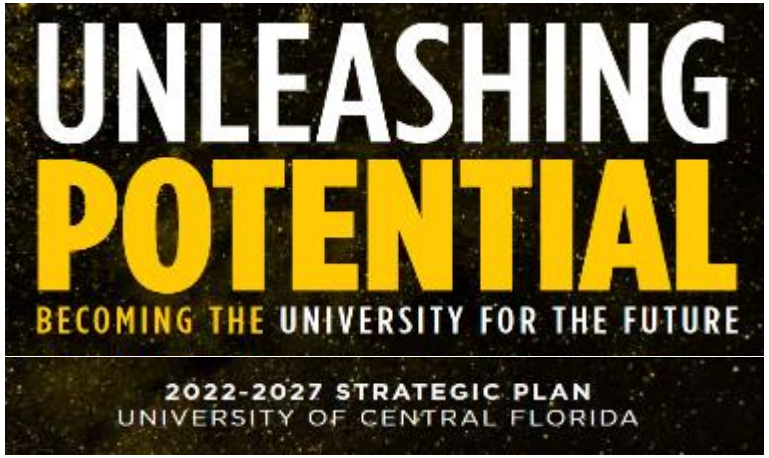
› Increase graduate student stipends and professional degree scholarships.

UCF



2 DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

› Develop a comprehensive strategic marketing and recruitment plan designed to enhance the pipeline of graduate and post-doctoral candidates and appointees.



4 INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Evaluate options to grow UCF Online to generate revenue; extend access; enhance national and international exposure; and experiment with programs, credentials, and learning modalities.

- Launch targeted and comprehensive marketing initiatives that raise UCF's national profile by highlighting academic excellence, student achievements, research and creative activities

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CONSULTATION ASSESSMENT PROFILE

Strategic Direction for Advancing Graduate Study

Updated Summary July 22, 2024

UCF

Areas of Focus for Consultation

Assessment Area 1

Optimal Organization/Administrative Structure Aligned with Budget to Support Graduate College Leadership Roles and Responsibilities

Assessment Area 2

Best Practices for Establishing Graduate Level Policies and Procedures

Assessment Area 3

Best Practices Associated with Student Services to Evaluate Academic Progress and Determine Program Completion

Assessment Area 4

Information Technology/Systems to Support Graduate Study

More Granularly…

<u>Assessment Area 1</u> – Organization and Administration

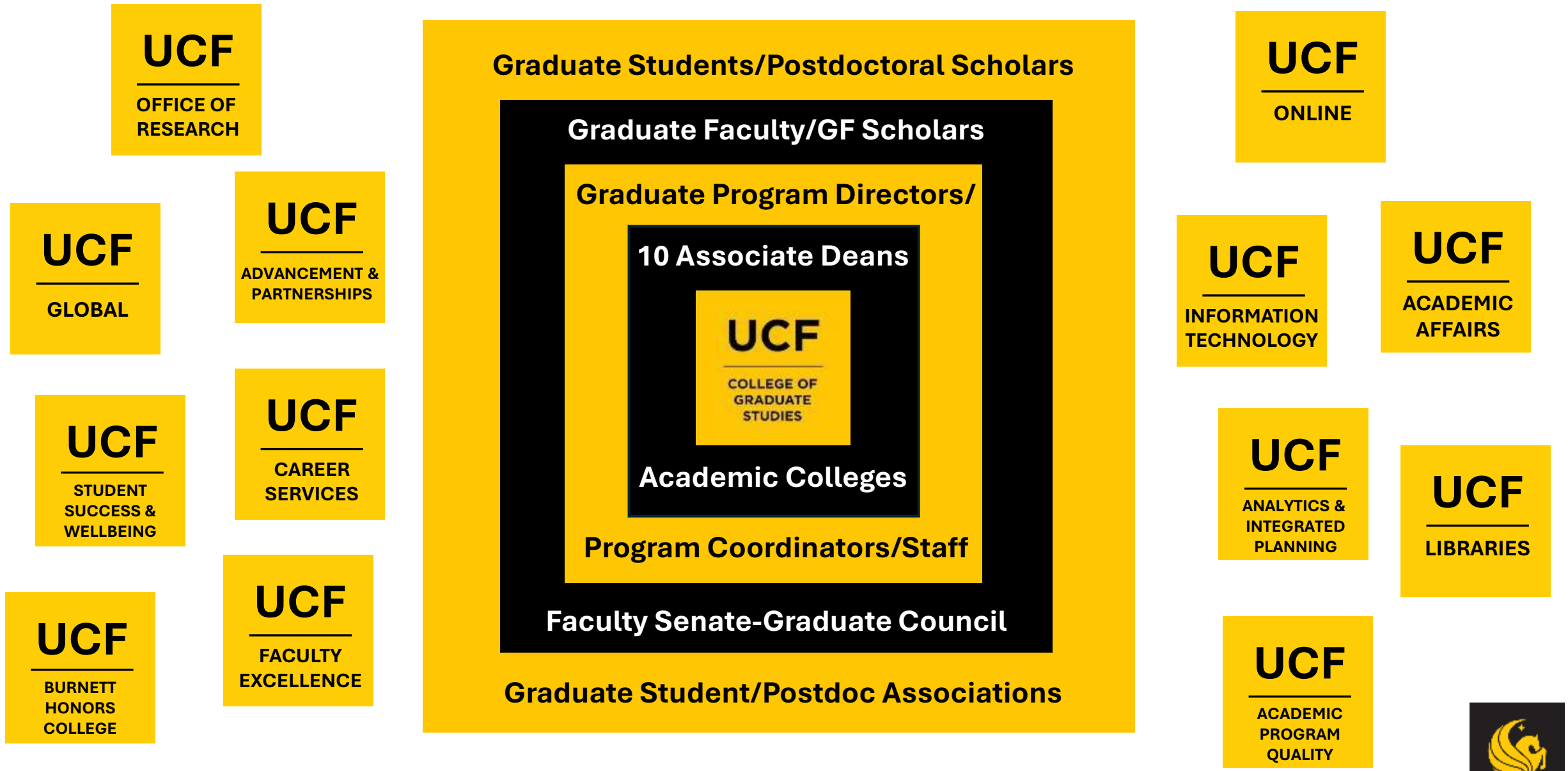
- Evaluate how the graduate college engages the graduate faculty, program directors, and collegiate leaders in units that support the graduate mission

<u>Assessment Area 2</u> – Policy and Procedures

Guidance how:

- Partnerships between academic and non-academic unit should be strengthened, modified, or enhanced
- To rebuild trust with the graduate community so that a culture of developing/ following effective policies becomes the standard to support student success
- To advance the graduate mission and strengthen the role of program-level leadership in graduate education

Campus Stakeholders



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CGS STRATEGIC CONSULTATION REPORT

Initial Report

April 2, 2025

Site Visit November 20, 21, and 22, 2024

Virtual Meetings January, February 2025

Consultants

James Ahern
Vice Provost for Graduate Education
University of Wyoming

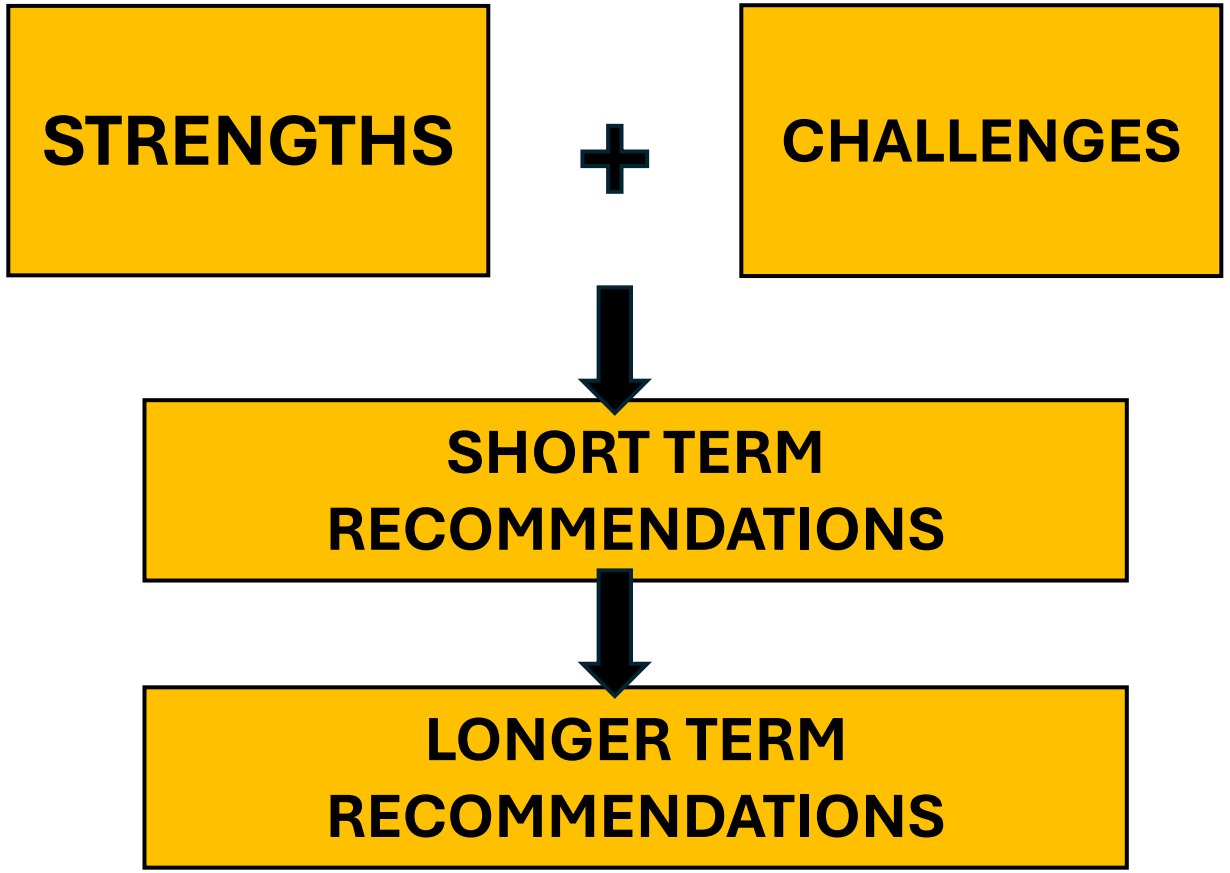
Levon Esters
Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
Pennsylvania State University

Mary Stromberger
Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
Ohio State University

Editor

Robert M. Augustine
Senior Vice President
Council of Graduate Schools

CONSULTATION



STRENGTHS

The Graduate College has demonstrated robust advocacy/ relationship-building, fostering a collaborative and positive attitude towards change and process improvement.

Strong partnerships exist between the Graduate College and campus units, e.g., Faculty Senate, UCF Global, and the Office of Research.

+

CHALLENGES

Need for increased visibility/ strategic positioning of the College within the broader university framework.

Tension between undergrad and graduate priorities.

Policy changes are often poorly communicated, abruptly implemented, and rigidly enforced causing disruption.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

Promote Best Practices: Engage faculty, program directors, and graduate leaders in supporting the graduate mission by fostering a culture of commitment to best practices in graduate education.

Increase Transparency: Provide clear communication channels to ensure stakeholders are informed and involved in decision-making processes.

Network: Create opportunities for program directors and graduate advisory staff to engage in regular meetings and discussions.

LONGER TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

Foster Program Director Leadership: Rebalance the autonomy of graduate programs by decentralizing some decision-making processes allowing program directors greater flexibility.

Strengthen Advocacy and Leadership: Build a service-oriented and visionary Graduate College that advocates for resources and supports the academic community. Shift from a policing role to one of partnership and innovation, ensuring that the College is seen as a valuable ally pursuing academic excellence.

College of Graduate Studies

GRADUATE FACULTY
UCF

CONGRATULATIONS

You've officially joined the ranks of the UCF Graduate Faculty, as recognized by the College of Graduate Studies. In this role, you now have the opportunity to:

- **Teach graduate-level courses**
- **Serve on graduate program committees**
- **Guide thesis and dissertation work as a committee advisor or chair**
- **Mentor graduate students and postdoctoral scholars throughout their academic journeys**
- **Advance your own research, scholarship, or creative work**

At UCF, Pegasus—the white, winged horse of Greek mythology—represents our commitment to limitless possibilities and the pursuit of knowledge. As the university's official logo, it reflects our motto, Reach for the Stars, and our drive to achieve more. As a graduate faculty member, you advance that vision forward. We're here to support your journey with the resources and mentorship you need for success.

To help you soar into your mentoring role, visit **https://graduate.ucf.edu/gemini.**

UCF

College of Graduate Studies

A GIFT FROM US TO YOU.

GRADUATE FACULTY

Thank you for the outstanding work you do as part of UCF's graduate community. Your expertise, leadership, and mentorship are integral to our success.

As a member of UCF's graduate faculty, you contribute in countless ways, including:

- **Teaching graduate-level courses that challenge and inspire**
- **Serving on Graduate Council to guide curriculum and policy**
- **Advising and chairing thesis and dissertation committees**
- **Mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral scholars through their academic journey**
- **Advancing original research, scholarship, and creative endeavors**

We are grateful for the meaningful impact you have on our students, our university, and the future of graduate education.

To continue following best practices, we have assembled mentoring resources at **graduate.ucf.edu/gemini.**

GEMiNi
Graduate Enrichment Mentoring Initiative

Empowering Faculty, Supporting Students

FACULTY RESOURCES **TOOLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

GEMINI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WORKSHOPS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCF

The College of Graduate Studies offers training to assist graduate program directors and their staff. The training sessions review graduate policies and procedures, resources and services, as well as related IT systems (PeopleSoft, Slate, GradInfo, etc.).

Admissions Training

The admissions training is in the Slate Admissions Application. Register here: applynow.graduate.ucf.edu/portal/admissions_training. If you have a scheduling conflict, contact Brandy.Pieper@ucf.edu for alternative options.

Graduate Funding Training

Register here for the Webcourse. Once completed, email gradassistantship@ucf.edu to request access to the Graduate Financial System. The system is used to send graduate assistantship offers and create agreements.

Student Services and Graduation | GRD001

Sign up on Workday for the GRD001 Student Services and Graduation course. Graduate Program Directors can self-enroll in the CGS Resources webcourse. Please email gradservices@ucf.edu if you have questions about training opportunities.

Thesis and Dissertation Process

Faculty and staff can access the free, self-paced webcourse "How to Help Grad Students: Thesis and Dissertation" to better understand the thesis/dissertation process. The course includes a timeline, details on communications, deadlines, reports, forms, defense, and format review. Enroll at: webcourses.ucf.edu/enroll/HKL8BC. For questions contact editor@ucf.edu.

Graduate Guide

The Graduate Guide provides information about graduate study at UCF in one resource for graduate program directors, faculty and staff. Please share your suggestions for this guide with the College of Graduate Studies. Click here to view the Graduate Guide

Let's Get Started

A few key notes:

- This course contains a lot of important and detailed information.
- We don't expect you to retain all of the information on the first pass.
- Return to this course as a reference guide as you begin working with students.
- Download or print the GRD 001 Workbook (below), which is searchable by topic using links and bookmarks, to take notes and use after the course. All content links and video transcripts are included in the workbook.

Begin the Course

UCF Graduate Guide
Graduate Faculty and Graduate Faculty Scholars
Program and Course Management
Recruiting
Admissions
- International Services
- Student Advising

Academic Integrity
Advising Thesis and Dissertation Students
Student Services and Academic Records
Student Funding
- Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Graduate Teaching Requirements
- Tuition Remission
- Student Health Insurance

Graduate Resources

UCF GRADUATE GUIDE

Share:

The Graduate Guide provides information about graduate study at UCF in one resource for graduate program directors, faculty and staff. Please share your suggestions for this guide with the College of Graduate Studies.

Responsibilities of Program Directors

The following listing of responsibilities is the result of discussions by the UCF Graduate Council and others to identify those activities that will enable our graduate programs to flourish.

Graduate program directors are responsible for coordinating activities within departments in support of graduate programs, graduate students, certificate students, and post-baccalaureate students. They cannot do their jobs without the help and support of the college dean, the college associate dean that is the liaison for graduate affairs, the department chair, the faculty in the department, and the UCF College of Graduate Studies. Outlined in this section are the major responsibilities of the program director.

Supervision and Leadership of Program

- Supervising and coordinating programs, including program administration and guidance to office staff, including chairing the Graduate Committee of the program
- Training office staff, faculty, and their successors to perform functions in support of graduate education
- Communicating with the department chair to plan budgets necessary to perform graduate program activities
- Coordinating work, space, and assignments for graduate students

Policy Committee

The Graduate Council Policy Committee examines and recommends new policies and procedures or changes to existing policies and procedures with regard to graduate education.

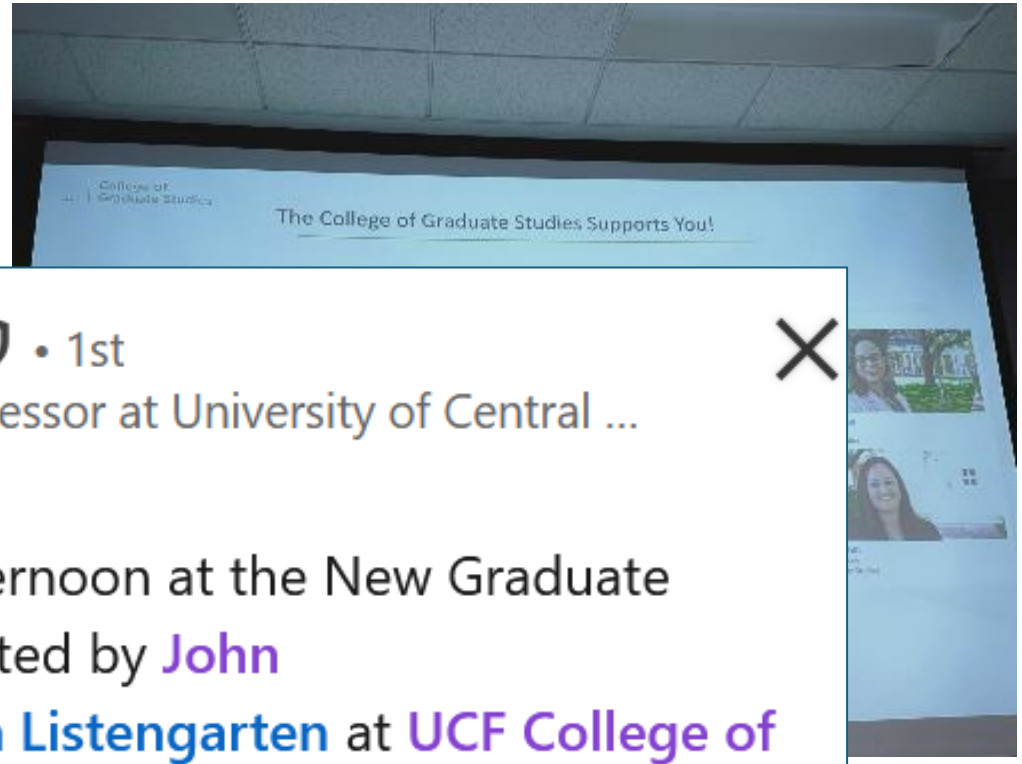
Refer to the Faculty Constitution, Bylaws Section VII.B for the responsibilities and membership of the Graduate Policy Committee.

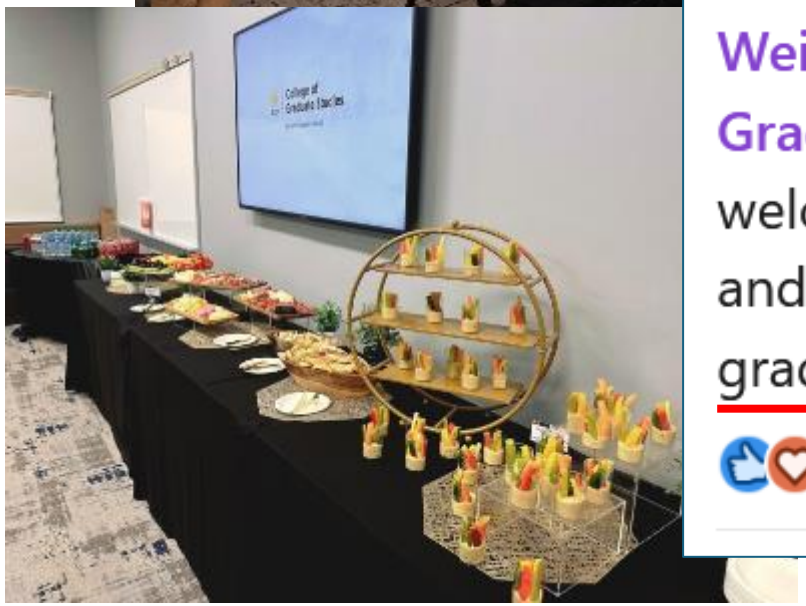
Policies Under Review

Policy Updates Subscription

Policy	Status	Effective Date	Policy Feedback
Full-time Enrollment Requirements	Public Comment	11/05/2025	Comment on this Policy
Grad Faculty and Grad Faculty Scholar Policy - Teaching Eligibility	Public Comment	11/05/2025	Comment on this Policy

Lunch and Learns / Coffee Talks





Wei Wei • 1st

Associate Professor at University of Central ...

1mo •

What a wonderful afternoon at the New Graduate Faculty Reception hosted by John Weishampel and Julia Listengarten at UCF College of Graduate Studies! Our team had a great time welcoming new graduate faculty, swapping stories, and sharing experiences. Exciting things ahead for our graduate community!

23 3 comments