



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# OUR NEXT PROVOST



2025 SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT





# THE OPPORTUNITY

---

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is on a mission to **invent the future of higher education**. As a **bold, action-driven, and ambitious** institution, UCF is redefining what it means to be a **preeminent public research university**, unleashing the full potential of our students, faculty, and partners to drive discovery, innovation, and impact.

UCF invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the position of Professor, Provost & Executive Vice President (Professor, Provost & EVP). Reporting directly to the President, the Professor, Provost & EVP serves as UCF's Chief Academic Officer and is a key leader in advancing the university's strategic vision to grow as Florida's Premier Engineering and Technology University and one of the nation's most dynamic and innovative institutions. In addition, they will be a key leader in Florida's higher education system, which has been ranked #1 by *U.S. News and World Report* for eight consecutive years.

At UCF, we don't follow the status quo — we push boundaries, take calculated risks, and turn bold ideas into reality. Our nearly 2,000 faculty make that possible.

The Professor, Provost & EVP is a scholar and visionary leader who will champion academic priorities, foster a culture of excellence and innovation, elevate student success alongside faculty achievement, expand access to opportunity, and propel UCF's impact as a top-tier public research university.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to shape the trajectory of a high-impact, high-momentum university at a pivotal moment in its evolution. UCF's Unleashing Potential Strategic Plan outlines a commitment to excellence, impact, and innovation, and a framework for UCF to expand its leadership in engineering, technology, health sciences, and space research, while continuing to drive student success, interdisciplinary collaboration, and





## SEARCH FOR A NEW PROVOST

economic prosperity for the state and beyond. The State of Florida has invested more than \$75 million in recurring funds over the past three years to enable us to achieve our vision of broad-based prosperity and a stronger state economy through education and research rooted in engineering and technology across all disciplines.

The Professor, Provost & EVP will work collaboratively with the President, Deans, and faculty to reimagine academic programs, prioritize interdisciplinary collaboration, and invest in talent and infrastructure to accelerate UCF's ascent. This leader will be responsible for strategic resource allocation to drive academic innovation and excellence, ensuring UCF remains a highly desired destination for students, faculty, and researchers who dare to believe in what's possible.

Additionally, the Professor, Provost & EVP will serve as a key partner in advancing research, faculty scholarship, and external engagement, positioning UCF as a driving force in Florida's economic and technological landscape. This leader will also be responsible for oversight of academic policy development, compliance, and accreditation standards, ensuring institutional integrity and regulatory alignment.

The Professor, Provost & EVP will oversee the academic development of UCF's Academic Health Sciences Center and the College of Medicine at Lake Nona, and will also lead the growth and development of UCF Downtown, the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, and university programs across the region to strengthen their alignment with industry clusters and community needs.

This leader will also serve as a public-facing representative of UCF, engaging with government leaders, industry partners, alumni, donors, and other key stakeholders, and sharing responsibility with the President for representing UCF's academic enterprise to external audiences.

Through a commitment to faculty development and shared governance, and a relentless drive for academic excellence, the next Professor, Provost & EVP will be instrumental in leading UCF into the future — one defined by breakthroughs, bold leadership, and unstoppable momentum.





# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

---

The Professor, Provost & EVP will provide strategic leadership and oversight of the university's academic enterprise, guiding policy, practice, and culture to achieve UCF's bold ambitions.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- **CHAMPION ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:**  
Lead the development and implementation of cutting-edge programs across all disciplines at the university that leverage the university's strengths in engineering and technology.
- **RECRUIT AND RETAIN WORLD-CLASS FACULTY:**  
Attract and support outstanding faculty who will advance research, teaching, and public engagement.
- **ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS AND WORKFORCE READINESS:**  
Continue UCF's leadership in student success by developing innovative strategies that increase retention, graduation rates, and career placement.
- **DRIVE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:**  
Support the advancement of UCF's research enterprise by expanding interdisciplinary research collaborations, securing funding for major initiatives, and strengthening industry and government partnerships.
- **STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS:**  
Leverage UCF's position in the state and national innovation ecosystem to deepen relationships with corporate, government, and community stakeholders.
- **SUPPORT FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND SHARED GOVERNANCE:**  
Work closely with Faculty Senate and academic leadership to promote shared governance, faculty career development, and academic freedom.



## ROLE OF THE PROVOST

- **OPTIMIZE ACADEMIC RESOURCE ALLOCATION:**

Ensure strategic alignment of resources across the university's budget to support academic programs, faculty hiring, and research priorities.

- **ADVANCE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:**

Lead the modernization of academic and business processes to enhance efficiency and innovation in teaching, research, and student support.

- **FOSTER A CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT:**

Support a campus culture that values community, civil discourse, and meaningful experiences for all UCF faculty, students, and staff.

- **ACCELERATE REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION:**

Champion efforts in fundraising, alumni relations, partnerships, and new revenue-generating initiatives.

- **OVERSEE POLICY, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCREDITATION:**

Guide academic policymaking, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, and maintain accreditation standards.







# THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF is one of the Top 5 Most Innovative Public Universities in the country, consistently recognized for its rapid ascent as a national leader in education, research, and innovation.

The university's enrollment is approaching 70,000 students, which includes approximately 9,600 graduate students, across UCF's four campuses and online. The university's 13 colleges offer 111 bachelor's and 98 master's degrees, 33 research doctorates, three professional doctorates and three specialist degree programs.

UCF's Fall 2024 FTIC class entered with an average SAT score of 1342, ACT score of 28.5, and high school GPA of 4.22. The university is home to 341 National Merit Scholars and ranks among the top 25 in the country for National Merit Scholar enrollment. UCF boasts a 92% freshman retention rate, a 4-year graduation rate of 58.7% – expected to surpass 60% in Summer 2025 – and a 6-year graduation rate of 78%. UCF also enrolls approximately 21,000 transfer students, which is fueled by our nationally recognized *Direct Connect to UCF* program. Direct Connect provides a guaranteed path for students transferring with an associate degree from one of our State College partners.

Located in Orlando, Florida — one of the fastest-growing technology and innovation hubs in the U.S. — UCF is

deeply connected to industry partners in aerospace, defense, healthcare, hospitality, digital media, and emerging technologies. More than 33,000 beds of student housing, including 12,000 beds of UCF-affiliated or UCF-managed housing, have been built to serve students at UCF's 1,420-acre main campus. UCF anchors the state's nearly **\$9 billion modeling and simulation industry**, and its main campus is adjacent to one of the nation's top research parks, fostering strong opportunities for research and education partnerships.

Our academic programs engage strategically with industry to create hands-on learning and research opportunities for our students. UCF has developed campuses across Central Florida that align select academic programs with vibrant industry clusters. Our Academic Health Sciences Center in Lake Nona, Orlando's Medical City, is home to our College of Medicine and in Fall 2025 will be the home of our College of Nursing. UCF Downtown is anchored by the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy, the No. 2 graduate video gaming program in the country. And our Rosen College of Hospitality Management, the No. 1 hospitality program in the country, is in the heart of Orlando's tourism corridor.

The university employs more than **13,000 people**, operates on a **\$2.2 billion budget**, and exceeded **\$284 million in research expenditures** in FY24.





# COLLEGES AT UCF

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The [College of Arts and Humanities](#) provides a dynamic incubator for artistic explorations of every kind, from literature and philosophy to theater and music. Explore your passion in state-of-the-art facilities, develop your talents under the guidance of faculty who practice what they teach and learn real-world lessons through community partnerships.

## BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

The [Burnett Honors College](#) promotes the highest academic achievement. Gain experience beyond the classroom through exclusive research programs, seminars, symposiums and study-abroad opportunities. You'll join a collaborative community of scholars from all disciplines and benefit from small classes that allow for more discussion and greater interaction with honors faculty.

## BUSINESS

The [College of Business](#) helps you embrace your entrepreneurial attitude, and prepares you to adapt and succeed in a rapidly changing economy. Specialize in accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing,

real estate or integrated business — applying classroom experiences to real-world opportunities. You can also participate in internships, study-abroad programs, corporate partnerships, business plan competitions and new venture incubators.

## COMMUNITY INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

Pursue opportunities for civic engagement and transformative education that help communities thrive through the [College of Community Innovation and Education](#). Participate in groundbreaking research and gain practical experience through internships, practicums and policy-development programs. After graduation, create an impact through a career in education, public administration and affairs, legal studies, criminal justice, or health management and informatics.

## ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Think creatively while conducting research in aerospace, civil, computer, electrical, mechanical, environmental and other engineering disciplines. In the [College of Engineering and Computer Science](#), you'll work on a number of innovative projects — from creating 3D



## COLLEGES AT UCF

printed robotic arms to designing self-driving cars to developing artificial intelligence. Plus, gain industry experience through internships in nearby Central Florida Research Park, or with partners including NASA, Siemens, Lockheed Martin and L3Harris Technologies.

### GRADUATE STUDIES

Push yourself to new possibilities in the [College of Graduate Studies](#). Choose from a number of degree programs that provide you with an opportunity to make important discoveries, master cutting-edge skills and advance both your knowledge and your career. Amplify your impact on the world in a big way with a master's or doctoral degree from UCF.

### HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND SCIENCES

The [College of Health Professions and Sciences](#) prepares you to promote the health and well-being of populations. Through nationally recognized programs, you'll develop in-demand skills through practical experiences and research led by respected faculty. Gain a rewarding career in prevention, diagnosis or therapy at hospitals, community-based and specialized-care facilities, schools, and nonprofit and social service agencies.

### MEDICINE

The UCF [College of Medicine](#) epitomizes innovation and provides you with a top medical education to lead patient care into the 21st century. Through the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, take on research in fields from Alzheimer's disease to cancer and heart disease. You'll also find opportunities around Lake Nona Medical City, including Nemours Children's Hospital and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

### NURSING

An active member of the healthcare community, the [College of Nursing](#) utilizes the latest technology and community-oriented programs to prepare you for life beyond the classroom. Through cutting-edge research, clinical training and community service, you'll learn current techniques and develop in-demand leadership skills necessary to provide high-quality patient care to serve the needs of a changing population.

### OPTICS AND PHOTONICS

The [College of Optics and Photonics](#) pioneers the science and technology of lights, lasers, fiber optics, imaging systems and other areas of study. You'll embark







## COLLEGES AT UCF

on groundbreaking research under the guidance of internationally recognized faculty, and leverage key industry partnerships to gain practical experience that will translate into a career at the forefront of this fast-moving field.

### ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

The [Rosen College of Hospitality Management](#) is located near the heart of one of the world's largest and most popular tourism destinations. Here, you'll learn to manage hotels, restaurants, theme parks, entertainment and events from international faculty. Along the way, gain industry exposure through paid work experiences and develop professional relationships with key local hospitality partners.

### SCIENCES

The [College of Sciences](#), UCF's largest college, helps you build a foundation needed for critical thinking and career success in various programs — from communication and journalism to the physical, biological, social, behavioral and computational sciences. You'll learn inside and outside of the classroom and lab through internships, research and field work locally and across the globe.

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The [College of Undergraduate Studies](#) offers the ability to tailor your program of study to suit your individual academic and career goals. Choose your own path in environmental studies, women's studies or interdisciplinary studies. You'll gain experience across multiple disciplines and learn to apply various skills needed to succeed academically and professionally.





## ALEXANDER N. CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT

Dr. Cartwright became UCF's sixth president in April 2020. Prior to joining UCF, Dr. Cartwright served as the chancellor of the University of Missouri with an appointment as a professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at the College of Engineering.

As a first-generation college student whose journey to higher education was not traditional, Dr. Cartwright understands and prioritizes the need to build successful outcomes for students from all backgrounds. Among his proudest accomplishments from his time at Missouri is the launch of the Missouri Land Grant program, a commitment to helping students who are Pell Grant eligible by covering their tuition and fees. He has since overseen the launch of programs designed to improve retention and graduation rates as well as post-graduation outcomes. Dr. Cartwright previously served as provost and executive vice chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) from September 2014 to July 2017. At SUNY, Dr. Cartwright oversaw a broad portfolio, including academic policy, enrollment management, and more. Dr. Cartwright holds a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Iowa.







# QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate will be an accomplished academic leader with the vision, experience, and drive to propel UCF forward as we seek to grow as **FLORIDA'S PREMIER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY**.

- An earned terminal degree from an accredited institution and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching that merits appointment as a tenured professor.
- Significant academic leadership experience at a research-intensive university.
- Demonstrated success in strategic planning, resource allocation, faculty engagement, and budget management.
- A strong record of advancing student success and access to opportunity.
- Demonstrated experience in philanthropic activities and alumni and public engagement.
- Experience leading interdisciplinary and cross-sector partnerships.
- A track record of forging partnerships with government agencies, private industry, and research organizations.
- Proven ability to effectively advocate for academic priorities with state and national policymakers.





# APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

As a Florida public university, UCF makes all application materials and selection procedures available to the public upon request. The State of Florida has a Public Meeting Law and a Public Records Law. All meetings of the Search Committee are publicly announced and conducted. All documents submitted to the Committee are treated as open materials with the exception of evaluative documents specific to the performance of the faculty of the State University System of Florida. Please feel free to reach out to SP&A Executive Search with any questions before submitting a formal application.

Additional Requirements related to Research Positions: Pursuant to Florida State Statute 1010.35, prior to offering employment to certain individuals in research-related positions, UCF is required to conduct additional screening. Applicants subject to additional screening include any citizen of a foreign country who is not a permanent resident of the U.S., or who is a citizen or permanent resident but is affiliated with or has

had at least 1 year of education, employment, or training in China, Cuba, Iran, Russia, North Korea, Syria, or Venezuela. The additional screening requirements only apply to research-related positions, including, but not limited to faculty, graduate positions, individuals compensated by research grants or contract funds, post-doctoral positions, undergraduate positions, visiting assistant professors, and visiting research associates.

The selected candidate will be required to submit official transcripts (and, as applicable, U.S. degree equivalency evaluations) documenting the conferral of their qualifying academic credentials.

## **ALL INQUIRIES, NOMINATIONS, AND CVS WITH COVER LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO:**

Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner  
Sal Venegas Jr., Partner  
Matthew Herrera, Senior Associate  
[SP&A Executive Search](#)



