CONGRATULATIONS

on being named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. At the University of Central Florida, we recognize and reward your type of talent. It's one reason why UCF is ranked among the top 30 universities in the nation for National Merit Scholar enrollment.

Orlando's innovation economy is flourishing, and our industry partnerships create opportunities for internships, cooperative learning and research. And at UCF, research isn't just for graduate students. Undergraduates benefit from faculty and peer mentors and enjoy opportunities to undertake original and innovative research in our Burnett Honors College.

The best way to experience our modern campus is to visit. I can help you organize a personalized experience and introduce you to the many benefits of our Scholars Program. By visiting, you’ll have the opportunity to:

• Speak with faculty in our Burnett Honors College and your academic areas of interest
• Meet current UCF National Merit Scholars
• Take a private, personalized golf cart tour of campus
• Explore exclusive housing for Honors students in The Towers at Knights Plaza
• Enjoy lunch in one of our on-campus dining halls

Please contact me to schedule your visit. I look forward to welcoming you to campus.

Luke van Blaricom
Director of the Scholars Program
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
407.823.6179
Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Lucien Charland was originally attracted to UCF’s warm and sunny location, but when he learned about our no-cost study abroad programs and diplomacy program run by a U.S. ambassador during his campus visit, he was convinced. Inspired by a President’s Scholars service-learning trip to the Caribbean and an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, the Global Studies major has launched a startup company to set up sustainable hydroponic farming on the island of St. Kitts funded in part by a grant from the Clinton Global Initiative.

“If you care about something, you can make a difference at UCF. There are so many opportunities to get in on the ground level and create something important that lasts for years to come.”

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

While you have many institutions from which to choose, more students each year are putting UCF at the top of their list. One reason is the strong support UCF offers its most talented students. Outlined below are the opportunities available to National Merit qualifiers:

SEMIFINALISTS
- Expedited admission decision
- Priority consideration for merit scholarships

FINALISTS
If you are named a finalist and designate UCF as your first choice by the deadline, you will receive scholarships valued at:

Florida Residents - approximately $85,000
(UCF Cost of Attendance)
The following awards will be stacked to total approximately $85,000 and include:
- Florida Incentive Scholarship Program
- Bright Futures
- UCF Merit Scholarship
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award

Non-Florida Residents - approximately $144,000
(UCF Cost of Attendance)
The following awards will be stacked to total approximately $144,000 and include:
- UCF Merit Scholarship
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award

Finalists continued
- Expedited admission decision to UCF
- Guaranteed admission to the LEAD Scholars Academy (upon application)
- Guaranteed admission to The Burnett Honors College (upon submission of completed application) with benefits that include:
  - Priority registration
  - Special orientation program
  - Faculty mentoring
  - Current UCF National Merit Scholar mentoring
  - Exclusive research and internship opportunities
  - Access to Honors Housing in The Towers at Knights Plaza
- Guaranteed housing for four years with available housing preference (upon application)
- Laptop

For more information, please contact the Scholars Program:
Luke van Blaricom
407.823.6179
Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

The Burnett Honors College combines the intimacy of a small liberal arts college with the benefits and academic resources of a metropolitan research university. With classes limited to 20 or fewer students, you’ll study, research and connect with a close-knit community of UCF student scholars and expert faculty. The college offers a scholarly environment where you’ll have access to upper-division Honors classes, interdisciplinary seminars, service learning opportunities, and more one-on-one time with faculty and advisors.

The college’s state-of-the-art facility houses a computer lab, reading room, multimedia classrooms and a meditation garden. Honors students also get priority registration, scholarship opportunities, invitations to special events and dedicated on-campus housing.

To learn more about the college, call 407.823.2545 or visit honors.ucf.edu.

LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The LEAD Scholars Academy is a selective, leadership development experience for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Participants enter the program as freshmen and commit to participating in the academic study of leadership, how to use it in their careers and ways to use their skills to give back through community service.

To join a group of active and motivated people who cover all the necessary elements for leadership growth — people who try as hard and care as much as you do — apply to the LEAD Scholars Academy. Call 407.823.2223 or visit lead.sdes.ucf.edu to learn more.
Lauren Murphy, ’12, wanted to be a Walt Disney Imagineer from the age of five. Becoming a National Merit Scholar gave her a lot of options when selecting a university. The broad range of majors drew her to UCF, where she was able to study both civil engineering and hospitality management. But it was the leadership she learned as president of the Honors Congress plus a chance meeting with the vice president of Walt Disney Imagineering at a UCF event that Lauren credits for landing her dream job.

“The lessons in leadership that I learned at UCF and the supporting community of high achievers really helped me grow as a person — not just as a student. It made my life better.”
SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER

☐ National Merit Semifinalists announced
The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announces the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in their competition in September. If you are named a Semifinalist, congratulations!

☐ Submit your application early in the fall semester
Visit apply.ucf.edu to submit your application online. Submit the application without the $30 fee and omit the optional essay. Contact Luke van Blaricom at 407.823.6179 or email Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu to have the application fee waived.

☐ Visit UCF
The best way to see if UCF is right for you is to visit us. Contact us to arrange a personalized campus tour. You will have the chance to:
• Meet with faculty in The Burnett Honors College and your area of interest
• Meet some of our 275 UCF National Merit Scholars
• Take a golf cart tour of campus
• Explore Honors housing
• Enjoy lunch on campus

☐ Complete the NMSC application to be considered for Finalist standing
Every Semifinalist must complete this in order to be considered for Finalist standing. In addition to the completed application, your high school must submit an official transcript and a letter of recommendation. The NMSC also requires SAT scores for consideration. The ACT cannot be used.

MARCH — JUNE

☐ Designate UCF as your first-choice institution
This is an ongoing process with the first available notification provided in early March and continuing in subsequent notification rounds. The last opportunity to designate UCF as your first choice is May 31, 2016.

☐ Beginning in March, the NMSC will notify all Finalists of three possible NMSC scholarship awards
You will be offered only one of three awards through the NMSC:
• National Merit-Sponsored
• Corporate-Sponsored
• College-Sponsored
These awards are in addition to your UCF merit scholarship and this process is handled directly through the NMSC.

☐ Return the UCF merit scholarship acceptance form
Finalists that designate UCF as their first choice with the NMSC by the deadline will be officially awarded their UCF merit scholarship in writing. Once the form is submitted, the award will be indicated on your myUCF account under “Financial Aid.”

☐ Submit the UCF enrollment deposit by May 1, 2016
The $200 enrollment deposit is applied toward the first semester tuition.

☐ Apply for UCF Housing
Submit a housing contract through your myUCF account and submit the $250 pre-payment. Honors Housing is available to select as a preference under “Living and Learning Communities.”

☐ Complete the FAFSA
All students receiving a UCF merit scholarship are required to submit the FAFSA to the UCF Office of Student Financial Assistance every year by June 1.

☐ Register for Orientation
Orientation registration is available in mid-spring. Go online through your myUCF account to select the orientation session you would like to attend (these are also posted on the Orientation website). National Merit Finalists are encouraged to attend the Honors Orientation, however they may select any Orientation to attend.

☐ If undecided, May 31, 2016, is the last opportunity to select UCF as your first-choice institution
If you have “undecided” listed as your first choice with the NMSC, you must designate UCF as your first choice with the NMSC by this deadline to be guaranteed the UCF merit scholarship award.
How can I be considered for a National Merit Scholarship at UCF?

You must qualify as a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist. You should then apply for admission to UCF. National Merit Semifinalists are eligible for scholarship consideration. Students advancing to National Merit Finalist standing are eligible for sponsorship as a National Merit Scholar if they select UCF as their first-choice institution and adhere to the deadlines specified by NMSC. Finalists that designate UCF as their first choice with the NMSC by their deadline automatically receive a UCF merit scholarship. Please visit nationalmerit.org for more information.

How do I select UCF as my first choice with the NMSC?

Students are responsible for indicating their first-choice college or university with the NMSC. Be careful to complete all required documentation in accordance with NMSC guidelines and deadlines. If you have questions or concerns, contact NMSC officials at 847.866.5100 or visit nationalmerit.org.

How can the National Merit Scholarship be used?

The scholarship may be used in addition to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, National Merit State Funding, Florida Prepaid College Plans, private scholarships and in some cases need-based assistance. It will first be applied to tuition and fees, but can also cover part, or all, of the cost of on-campus housing when combined with other awards. If any scholarship funds remain after payment of tuition and fees, they are disbursed directly to the student at the beginning of each fall and spring semester.

Is the UCF Merit Scholarship a “full-ride” award?

The UCF merit scholarship for National Merit Finalists (who designate UCF as their first choice) is designed to cover a majority, if not all, of a student’s expenses at UCF. However, UCF does not “waive” expenses (e.g., tuition, housing). We fund at a level that helps to cover these expenses. This allows individual students to tailor their educational experiences to fit their budgets.
FINDING A PATH

Luke Pearson, ’14, used his National Merit Scholarship to earn a degree in biomedical sciences at UCF. For the National Hispanic Scholar, the combination of classes, professors and advisors at the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences helped reinforce his plan to attend medical school, but it was the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate that ignited his passion. Now enrolled at the UCF College of Medicine, Luke credits his experiences in the lab and in the field with focusing his career path.

“Through undergraduate research, I learned a hands-on approach to science and gained a better understanding of my interests that prepared me to make the best choice for my future.”
YOU'RE INVITED:
An Event for National Merit Semifinalists

UCF will host an on-campus event to share information about scholarship opportunities, academic programs and benefits available to National Merit Scholars. We look forward to talking with you and your family during this invitation-only gathering.

JOIN FELLOW SEMIFINALISTS
and UCF students, faculty and staff for this two-day event.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2015
7 – 9 p.m.
(Dinner will be served)

SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 2015
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Lunch will be served)

4000 CENTRAL FLORIDA BLVD.
ORLANDO, FL 32816

For more information or to RSVP, please contact
Luke van Blaricom at
407.823.6179 or
Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu
no later than Nov. 13.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32816-0111
P 407.823.3000

A DIVISION OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES