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 connections to faculty and peer mentors, and enjoy opportunities to undertake original and innovative research at The 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 The 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

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. In 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 additional 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 leadership development experience for select 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.
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 semifinalists and finalists:

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 — UCF Cost of Attendance Scholarship
The following awards will be stacked to total your Cost of Attendance and include:
• Benacquisto Scholarship Program
• Bright Futures
• 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 — $18,000 per semester
• National Merit Scholarship Corporation Award

All finalists
• 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 on campus housing for four years with available housing preference (upon application)
• Laptop computer

SCHOLAR
FINDING LIKE MINDS

Texas native Sarah Holland discovered academic options at UCF that not only satisfied her intellectual ambitions, but also opened her mind to a wide variety of new viewpoints. The writer and filmmaker, who is pursuing a bachelor of fine arts in film, took an opportunity to get involved with the Project Spotlight student organization and is bringing her one-act play to life on stage, a feat she never could have accomplished by herself.

“We have people from all different walks of life at UCF and I really enjoy it. Everybody has something different to bring to the table in terms of both personal stories and how they look at learning. Everybody’s going at the subject matter in different ways.”
Morgan McSweeney ’15 chose to attend UCF for the opportunity to participate in research as an undergraduate. Currently a doctoral candidate in molecular pharmaceutics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he’s working to develop a new type of treatment for autoimmune disease, allergy and other conditions caused by unwanted immune responses through a targeted, nanoparticle-mediated “reverse vaccine” approach.

“I was looking for a university that offered several things — the capacity to get involved in undergraduate research, a tight-knit community such as The Burnett Honors College, a comfortable feeling on campus and a history of academic repute. UCF satisfied all these things to a great degree.”
SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER

☐ National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces semifinalists
   In September, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announces the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists.

☐ Submit your application early in the fall semester
   Submit your application online at apply.ucf.edu early in the fall semester. Include a short essay, and select the “mail in” option for your application fee, but don’t include the $30 application fee with your submission. Instead, contact Luke van Blaricom at 407.823.6179 or email luke.vanblaricom@ucf.edu to have the application fee waived. UCF also accepts the Common Application. However, the application fee cannot be waived if submitting using this method.

☐ Visit UCF
   To see if UCF is right for you, come visit us. Contact us to get a personalized campus tour, where you’ll have the chance to:
   • Meet with faculty in The Burnett Honors College and your area(s) of interest
   • Meet current UCF National Merit Scholars
   • Take a golf cart tour of the campus
   • Explore Honors housing
   • Enjoy lunch on campus

☐ Complete the NMSC application
   To be considered for finalist standing, every semifinalist must complete the NMSC application. In addition, your high school must submit an official transcript and a letter of recommendation. The NMSC also requires SAT scores for consideration, as 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.

☐ NMSC notifies finalists of awards
   Beginning in March, the NMSC will offer finalists one of three awards:
   • 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 who designate UCF as their first choice with the NMSC by the May deadline will officially be awarded their UCF merit scholarship in writing. Once the form is submitted, the award will be indicated on your myUCF account under “Financial Aid.”

☐ 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 May 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 also are posted on the orientation website). National Merit Finalists are encouraged to attend the Honors orientation; however, you may select any orientation to attend.

☐ Submit the UCF enrollment deposit
   Submit the $200 enrollment deposit, which is applied toward your first semester tuition and is not waived as part of your scholarship, by May 1.

☐ Deadline to select UCF as first-choice institution
   If you have “undecided” listed as your first choice, you must designate UCF as your first choice with the NMSC by May 31, 2018, to be guaranteed the UCF merit scholarship award.

JANUARY — FEBRUARY

☐ Apply to The Burnett Honors College
   To be eligible for the many benefits of The Burnett Honors College, you must submit a completed paper application. No portion of the college’s application is waived. All sections must be completed in full (including the essay) and submitted as soon as possible.

☐ Apply to the LEAD Scholars Academy
   If you wish to participate in the LEAD Scholars program, you must submit a completed application by May 31, 2018.

☐ NMSC announces finalists
   The NMSC notifies finalists in February. More than 90 percent of semifinalists advance to finalist standing. All finalists who designate UCF as their first choice by the NMSC deadline are guaranteed the UCF National Merit finalist scholarship.
Teodotas “Ted” Kursevicius considered UCF’s emphasis on internships and industry partnerships an impressive benefit when deciding where to attend college — and it’s already paying off. Last summer, the computer engineering student had the opportunity to write code alongside experienced software engineers during an internship at Microsoft in Seattle. He learned valuable hands-on experience that will benefit him in a competitive job market come graduation.

“I was impressed by UCF’s emphasis on internships and its connection to tons of local and national companies that hire students after graduation. If you want to take charge of your own life and education, UCF has all of the opportunities available. You just have to choose what doors to open and what opportunities to chase.”
How can I be considered for a National Merit Scholarship at UCF?

First 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 who 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, the Benacquisto Scholarship Program, 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.
YOU'RE INVITED:
THE DIRECTOR’S FORUM 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 speaking with you and your family during this invitation-only gathering.

UCF President John C. Hitt and National Merit Scholars at the 2016 Scholars Program awards dinner.

FRIDAY
NOV. 17, 2017
3 – 9 p.m.
(Dinner will be served)
12585 GEMINI BLVD. SOUTH
ORLANDO, FL 32816

Please RSVP no later than Nov. 10 to 407.823.6179 or Luke.vanBlaricom@ucf.edu.

THE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

admissions.ucf.edu
honors.ucf.edu
housing.ucf.edu
lead.sdes.ucf.edu
osi.ucf.edu
orientation.sdes.ucf.edu
finald.ucf.edu
shs.sdes.ucf.edu

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