

CASE FOR SUPPORT

**GO FOR
LAUNCH**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UCF'S NEXT MISSION



UCF

**College of
Nursing**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A BRIGHTER, HEALTHIER FUTURE
STARTS HERE

STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S MOST TRUSTED PROFESSION: NURSING

At more than 4 million strong, nurses are both the nation's most trusted and largest profession. Every day, from the front lines of bustling emergency rooms and rural clinics to behind-the-scenes in boardrooms and laboratories, nurses serve as the quiet force that keeps our communities healthy.

Nurses are needed now, more than ever, especially in Florida. As the third most populated state, Florida has one of the nation's fastest growing and most rapidly aging populations, causing skyrocketing demand for healthcare.

UCF's College of Nursing is answering the call. More than 17,000 nursing alumni already are making a profound impact, with 83% living and working in Florida – and more than 50% caring for patients right here in Central Florida. But it's not enough.

We need more nurses to care for our family and neighbors, more educators to mentor future generations, more researchers and innovators to improve patient outcomes, and more pioneers to expand access and drive evidence-based practice that reach far beyond our horizon.

Together, we can do more to elevate the profession that lifts us all – and ensure a healthier future.

500+

Population growth
per day in Florida

26M

Projected
population by 2030
in Florida

25.5%

Population 65
and older by 2030
in Florida

5,900

Additional RNs needed
annually to fully meet
demand in Florida





MORE NURSES TO CARE

For more than 45 years, UCF has been at the forefront of preparing nurses to care for our communities — especially in Florida.

Anchored by a legacy of excellence, UCF’s College of Nursing prepares students for clinical practice through hands-on experiences in underserved communities, clinical training with healthcare partners across Central Florida and immersive technologies in our renowned Helene Fuld Health Trust Simulation, Technology, Innovation and Modeling (STIM) Center. By the time they graduate, UCF Knight nurses are sought-after by employers for their compassion, care and clinical precision.

2,972

UCF Nursing Students
in 2026

94.5%

First-time Pass Rate of UCF
Nursing Graduates on the
National Registered Nurse
Licensing Exam — Exceeding both
State and National Averages



Building Healthier Communities, Near and Far

Jenna Koo ’25BSN does not shy away from a challenge. She rises to it. While studying abroad in Mexico, she saw firsthand the barriers facing rural communities and worked alongside local medical students to deliver care. Back at UCF, she turned insight into action, co-authoring and helping pass a legislative resolution at the 2024 Florida Nursing Students Association conference to address global nursing shortages and improve care quality in underserved regions.

“UCF prepared me to not only succeed in the classroom and beyond with clinical skills, but to connect and advocate for patients — to be the kind of nurse that always puts the patient first,” says Koo, who was awarded the Order of Pegasus, UCF’s highest student honor.

Now an emergency department nurse, she continues to build on the skills and purpose she cultivated at UCF with plans to advance her service through disaster response and mission-based healthcare opportunities around the globe.

Powering More Opportunity Through Partnerships

In Fall 2025, UCF opened the state-of-the-art Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion on its Academic Health Sciences Campus in Lake Nona, which expands opportunities for collaborative research and for more students to receive a high-quality education. The expansive facility, which will allow UCF to graduate an additional 150 newly licensed eligible nurses annually, was supported by \$43M from the State of Florida and \$29M from private donors.



WAYS TO GIVE

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

With many nursing students not able to work during the rigorous program, scholarship support is critical to assist students with tuition and educational expenses.

\$500K+

Nursing Scholarships
Awarded Annually

\$14.5M

Unmet Scholarship Need

PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Support the establishment of a pediatric nurse practitioner graduate program at UCF to meet growing demand. The U.S. is facing a shortage of pediatric nurse practitioners who play a critical role in providing primary care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

5%

Of All Licensed Nurse
Practitioners are Certified
in Pediatrics

76M

Projected U.S. Population of
Children Under Age 18 by 2030



MORE EXPERTS TO LEAD

At UCF, Florida's next-generation preeminent university, we dare to think and act boldly to create a better future for all.

Experts at UCF's College of Nursing are renowned leaders in their respective fields, collaborating across disciplinary lines and leveraging industry partnerships to strengthen evidence-based practice and innovate patient care.

31

National Fellows on Faculty

73

Full-time Faculty

\$3.6M

Grant Funding



Promoting Healthy Aging

Professor Ladda Thiamwong is transforming the way we understand healthy aging and fall prevention, the leading cause of injuries among older adults in the United States. A nationally recognized expert in gerontological nursing, Thiamwong has spent more than 20 years developing research and programs that help older adults maintain independence and well-being. Her work has led to tailored fall-prevention programs and technology-based interventions that serve older adults, shifting the way risk is assessed and addressed.

At UCF, she leads the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation Healthy Aging Research Lab. She also shares her expertise as a member of the City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Livability and Healthy Aging as well as UCF's Disability, Aging and Technology Faculty Research Cluster.

"UCF has provided such a wonderful atmosphere of collaboration and support," says Thiamwong, the Florida Blue Endowed Professor for Healthy Communities. "It's a blessing to work with multidisciplinary colleagues, staff and students and to partner with the Central Florida community to improve life for older adults."

ENDOWED FACULTY

Attract and retain nursing experts like Thiamwong to UCF and support groundbreaking research to impact the health of communities by supporting endowed faculty chairs and professorships.

TOP 40

Nursing School for NIH
Funding in the Nation

DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

Address stress, burnout and mental well-being through preventative strategies, from students to advanced practitioners, by strengthening provider resilience and improving patient outcomes.

65%

Of Nurses Report Elevated Levels
of Stress and Burnout



MORE IDEAS TO INNOVATE

At UCF, innovation is our launchpad. Faculty research drives breakthroughs in patient care, from cutting-edge simulations to technology-based interventions, giving students a front-row seat to discoveries that are shaping the profession. By combining real-world insights with immersive learning, UCF is redefining nursing education and propelling the future of healthcare.

Expanding Global Simulation Leadership

Inside the Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion is the Helene Fuld Health Trust STIM Center, which is expanding UCF's global leadership in healthcare simulation via a VR learning studio, real-life hospital, critical care, pediatric and clinic spaces, and more.



Leveraging Innovation to Prepare Practitioners

Clinical Assistant Professor **Frances Armstrong '19AGACNP-BC** brings bedside expertise and advanced practice to the next generation of nurse practitioners. A dual-certified adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, she maintains a clinical practice in pulmonary and critical care in addition to her academic appointment. As the first recipient of the Dr. Frances Smith Founding Faculty Fund, Armstrong is expanding the use of immersive simulations at UCF to push boundaries of nursing education.

"Your imagination becomes the limit," says Armstrong, who is also the graduate simulation coordinator. **"It's a bit like generating new science in a way."**

11

Certified Healthcare
Simulation Experts

#20

Among Public Universities
for Producing Patents

17K+

Simulation-based Student
Contact Hours Annually

AI AND IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY

Improve patient care and education by fueling the adoption of artificial intelligence and advancing immersive technology.

71%

Of Hospitals Use
Predictive AI

HEALTHCARE SIMULATION

Advance simulation validation, generating more evidence in this critically important field to improve education, leadership decision-making and research.

15.2%

Forecasted Growth of Healthcare
Simulation Market in U.S.

WHY UCF, WHY NOW

At the University of Central Florida, we anticipate the challenges of tomorrow and rise to meet them today. Our researchers are solving the world's most pressing problems and, with every breakthrough, we transcend boundaries and defy expectations. This relentless pursuit of excellence has put UCF on the map – and in the stars.

As a newly designated preeminent institution and one of the nation's top 15 most innovative public universities, UCF is boldly creating a future the world has only begun to imagine. You see that vision coming to life every day in the College of Nursing.

We know nurses are the heartbeat of healthcare, and both our health and our future depend on the strength of this essential workforce. That is why we are preparing more Knight nurses to care for our communities and push the boundaries of what's possible to ensure a brighter, healthier tomorrow.

Philanthropy fuels this progress, and your investment unlocks potential and elevates student success. Whether through a one-time gift, pledge, planned gift or endowment, you have the power to transform lives.

Join us on our mission. Go for Launch is more than a campaign – it's our commitment to shaping what's next. Together, we are building a future without limits. The engines are ignited, and the trajectory is clear: innovation, impact and opportunity for generations to come. The future starts now – and it starts at UCF.

TRANSFORMING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH INNOVATIVE EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

TOP 20

BEST ONLINE GRADUATE
NURSING PROGRAM

U.S. News & World Report

TOP 30

BEST NURSING PROGRAM
AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

U.S. News & World Report

18K+

TOTAL NURSING
DEGREES AWARDED

1st

IN FLORIDA WITH 3 GLOBAL
HONORS FOR EXCELLENCE IN
HEALTHCARE SIMULATION

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**Advancement
and Partnerships**