

7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SPACE RESEARCH AT UCF



SPACE RELATED RESEARCH has been part of UCF's DNA since day one. Today it boasts a team of more than 20 experts focused on exploring our solar system and helping use its resources to better our world. Our experts have decades of experience working with NASA and commercial space companies such as Space X, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic. UCF is also home to centers and institutes recognized for their excellence in space-related research. Our researchers and students are developing ways to mine asteroids, create new rocket fuels, and mitigate the effects of weightlessness on the human body and mind. We even count two astronauts among our graduates - Fernando Caldeiro and Nicole Stott. When it comes to space, UCF is a powerhouse.

1 National Impact

UCF's researchers are part of major missions to asteroids, Mars, Pluto, the moon and beyond. Together UCF has participated in dozens of NASA missions including OSIRIS-REx, Lucy, Mars Curiosity, New Horizons, Lunar Recon Orbiter, Cassini, and Lunar Trailblazer among others.

2 Jobs

UCF is No. 1 for placing graduates in aerospace-related jobs. Our alumni work everywhere from public agencies to commercial companies that have a stake in space. About 30 percent of the employees at Kennedy Space Center have a UCF degree. Some alumni have launched their own companies, such as Made in Space, which has a 3D printer on the International Space Station.



3 Local Impact

The university holds several events during the year on campus and at local schools as a way of encouraging students to continue STEM and also to inspire the public about space. The Robinson Observatory on the main campus hosts events during the school year and takes their smaller telescopes to locations throughout Central Florida. About 1,000 children and adults participate in these events each year. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Robinson Observatory has offered these events virtually, with the latest featuring a live stream of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, also known as the Bethlehem Star.

4 Out of This World

Our connections truly extend into outer space with the existence of a UCF planet and multiple UCF asteroids. UCF Alum Kevin Stevenson discovered a planet and named it UCF 1.01. Six of our faculty, Humberto Campins, Dan Britt, Yan Fernandez, Joe Harrington, Raymond Lugo, and Noemi Pinilla-Alonso have asteroids named after them in recognition for their contributions to astronomy.

5 Reputation of Excellence

UCF's reputation helps open doors to unique instruments such as the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes and the Arecibo Observatory. Hubble and Spitzer give us unprecedented views into the galaxy, and Arecibo helps protect us from near-earth asteroids by contributing to our understanding of them. Even with the collapse of Arecibo's dish in 2020, scientists continue to conduct research with the data collected thus far while other parts of the Observatory continue to operate.



6 Unique

UCF's Exolith Lab supplies Kennedy Space Center and more than 1,000 other institutions with simulated extraterrestrial dirt to help research teams ensure their designs work off-world. The university is also home to the Florida Space Institute and NASA's Center for Lunar and Asteroid Surface Science.



7 Partnerships

UCF is America's partnership university that attracts and supports industries vital to Florida's economy. UCF researchers work with many space-related companies including Lockheed Martin, United Launch Alliance, Virgin Galactic, Virgin Orbit, Blue Origin and SpaceX. We also partner with groups in Texas, California, Arizona and Colorado that support space exploration. These partnerships produce unique hands-on opportunities for our students, meaning they are better prepared to get jobs and become leaders in their fields after graduation.



UCF Office of Research and College of Graduate Studies

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is one of the largest universities in the nation with more than 68,000 students, including 10,000 graduate students. UCF is classified as a very high research activity institution according to The Carnegie Foundation of Advancement of Teaching.

The Office of Research fosters the creation of intellectual capital that can solve today's pressing problems, improve the quality of life, and provide an engine for economic growth. The Office serves as the official liaison among researchers and government and commercial sectors. UCF's strength in innovation and research propelled the university to \$204.5 million in funding in FY 2020. We are known for many things, but are internationally recognized for our College of Optics and Photonics and our Institute of Simulation and Training.

Our graduate students span 13 Colleges that are pursuing degrees in more than 220 graduate programs. UCF is developing the next generation of scientists, engineers and technology leaders with critical thinking skills and hands-on research skills to tackle any problem.

PRIDE POINTS

UCF is **RANKED 37TH** among public universities for graduate programs **IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING** by U.S. News & World Report Rankings 2021.

As of February 2021, UCF has been awarded **\$181.4 million** in NASA grants.

UCF is among the **TOP 100** in the World for Patents.

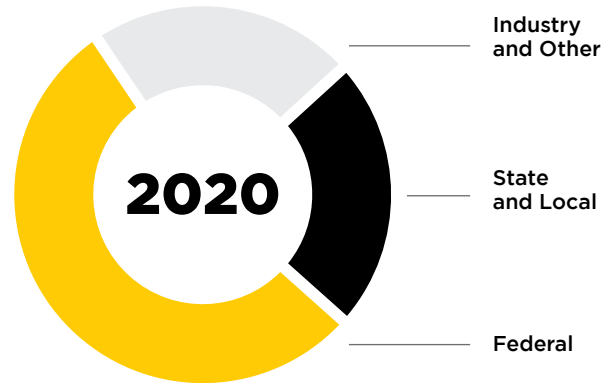
27 UCF Graduate Programs Ranked among the **TOP 100** in the Nation.

UCF Ranked among the **BEST IN NATION** for Research Leading to New Tech and Spin Offs.

20 UCF FACULTY are National Academy of Inventor Fellows.

RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

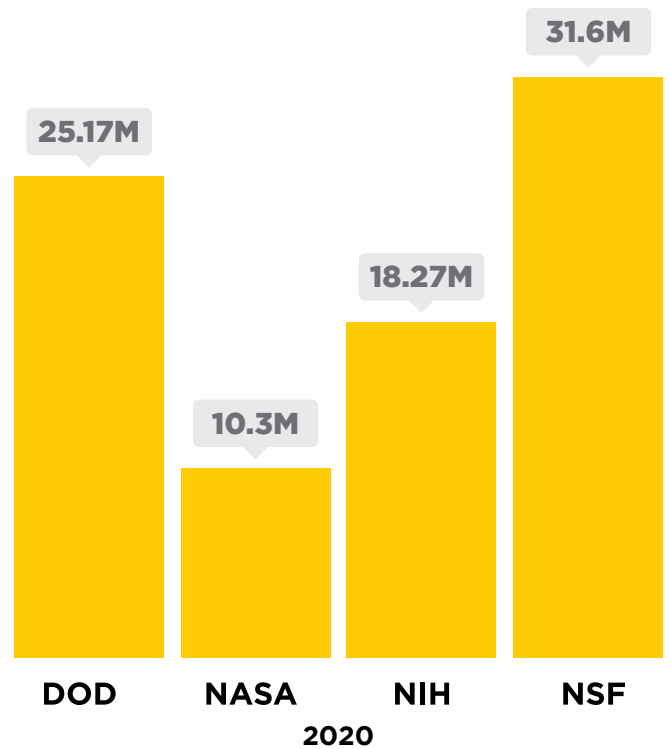
TYPES OF FUNDING



	2019	2020
Federal	97.60M	110.77M
Industry and Other	62.07M	46.45M
State and Local	23.45M	47.30M

Totals are in United States Dollars (USD)

KEY FUNDING SOURCES



Totals are in United States Dollars (USD)

Department of Defense
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Institutes of Health
National Science Foundation

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