

THE MATCHUP

Welcome to the UCF Salutes game! UCF thanks all veterans and those who serve in the armed forces for their courage, dedication and sacrifice.

UCF also welcomes students' families to Acrisure Bounce House to celebrate Family Weekend.



ORLANDO, FLORIDA

No. 8

Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans
(U.S. News & World Report)

1,900+

Veterans, Active-Duty Military and First Responders Treated at UCF RESTORES PTSD Clinic

3,300+

Military Students
(Includes Active Duty, Veterans and Family Members)



GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

No. 1

Largest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the Nation for 12 Consecutive Years

No. 1

National Producer of Black Engineers in the U.S. for Bachelor's and Doctoral Degrees
(Diverse: Issues in Higher Education)

Top 10

National Producer of Black Graduates in 14 Fields, Including Communications and Kinesiology
(Diverse: Issues in Higher Education)

FEATURED FACULTY RESEARCHERS

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

LELAND NORDIN

Assistant Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, CREOL

With a joint appointment in engineering and optics, Nordin is developing a [compact semiconductor light source for defense and civilian applications](#), such as disinfecting a room with the click of a button. His research is funded by a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. He is also working with Sandia National Laboratories to develop the **next generation of infrared imaging** to improve images and their transmission from space.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T

SHENGMIN SANG

Distinguished Professor of Functional Foods and Human Health

Sang's lab purifies and identifies bioactive components from functional foods and herbal medicine, and **studies their bioavailability, biotransformation and preventive effects** on chronic diseases such as cancer. His lab also uses metabolomic approaches to study food biomarkers. Currently [his lab is studying the bioactive compounds](#) in whole grains and other foods to determine how they affect health or disease risk.

POINTS OF INTEREST

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



Advancing Technologies and Training for the Military

[UCF continues to strengthen connections with the U.S. military](#) that ensure **U.S. armed forces benefit from the most advanced technologies and training.**

These partnerships also strengthen Florida's high-tech economy, as Orlando is a national hub of the modeling and simulation industry attracting nearly \$7 billion in annual contracts.

UCF's Institute for Simulation and Training researchers work closely as partners with the U.S. Army to develop a human digital twin prototype that can be a mission team member supporting the commander in the next generation of combat vehicles. At the HyperSpace Center, UCF engineering faculty and students partner with the U.S. Air Force to advance technology that fuels hypersonic travel to enhance national defense and open paths in space exploration.

The Strong ROI of a UCF Degree

A UCF degree represents a strong return on investment for students and the state of Florida. **A graduate with a UCF bachelor's degree on average earns \$25,500 more annually** than someone with a high school diploma. UCF serves more of Florida's students than any other university. More than 90% of UCF's undergraduate students are Florida residents — and 85% of UCF's new graduates remain in Florida.

UCF also leads the state in producing engineering and nursing graduates — and [produces degrees more efficiently](#) than any other State University System institution — while earning national rankings for student success outcomes, making a UCF degree a strong return on investment for taxpayers.

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NORTH CAROLINA A&T



An Innovator in Transportation and Autonomous Vehicles

North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Joey Hopkins and Anthony "Tony" Lathrop, chair of the North Carolina Board of Transportation, were among nearly 45 NCDOT leaders and board members who visited North Carolina A&T to tour its **innovative transportation research facilities and autonomous vehicle technologies.**

A&T has emerged as a leader in transportation innovation through strong partnerships with the federal and state transportation departments. The university leads the [Center for Regional and Rural Connected Communities](#) (CR2C2), a federally funded regional University Transportation Center. It aims to address transportation hurdles and provide innovative connected and coordinated multimodal solutions in the southeastern region.

NC A&T Delivers Students Strong ROI

For the third consecutive year, North Carolina A&T boasts the **lowest attendance costs for a U.S. doctoral research university** bearing the R1 or R2 Carnegie classifications, according to *Money* magazine's [Best Colleges in America 2025](#). The designation is based on *Money*'s weighted analysis of typical cost factors, including average student debt and net price of a degree.

North Carolina A&T's estimated full price for 2025-26 is \$21,460, which ranked No. 7 among all campuses. Once the average financial aid package factors in, the A&T price tag drops to \$10,900. A&T leaders have worked to keep costs low to attend and to make financial aid widely available.

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