



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# SPACE TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS



Image credit: NASA

UCF plays a big role in educating future engineers, administrators and space explorers — something we'll continue doing over the next 50 years and beyond.

**F**ounded in 1963, our university was established at the start of the race to land humankind on the moon. In fact, many UCF researchers and educators are NASA veterans and hail from some of the biggest, most important programs in U.S. space history.

We're helping discover and shape humankind's footprint in space. Rather than be satisfied with incremental change, we're bold. Our space researchers and educators innovate, plan and deliver high-quality solutions for the most

pressing engineering challenges. UCF's renowned faculty are global thought leaders who have conducted research into microgravity environments and how planets form. Our experiments have flown to the International Space Station and aboard Blue Origin, SpaceX and Virgin Galactic space flights. In addition to studying scientific questions, such as the origins of planets, UCF's research changes course for the future.

And now, as we look to return to the moon and set foot on Mars, one thing is for certain — UCF researchers are turning possibilities into reality.

**“UCF's relationship with NASA is really providing a reservoir of scientific talent that enables the goals of our space program. That kind of talent is not found in most universities in the country.”**

**Dan Britt**  
UCF Pegasus Professor

# 5

▶ Space-related graduate programs in the top 100 in the nation  
*U.S. News & World Report*

# 9

▶ Experiments sent to space aboard Blue Origin, SpaceX and Virgin Galactic rockets since 2019

# 17

▶ UCF researchers who have asteroids named after them in recognition of their work

# 27%

▶ of Lockheed Martin employees in Orlando are UCF graduates

# 181

▶ Faculty, researchers and students working on NASA projects

# 695

▶ NASA projects with UCF involvement (as of October 2022)

# \$204M

▶ in NASA awards since 1991 (as of October 2022)

**AMERICA'S**  
**SPACE UNIVERSITY**

## America's First Stephen W. Hawking Center

Like the late legendary physicist Stephen Hawking, UCF researchers are probing the cosmos to explain its greatest mysteries. The university's Stephen W. Hawking Center for Microgravity Research and Education — the first American university research center to bear his name — builds on Hawking's groundbreaking discoveries about how the universe formed and fulfills his wishes to advance microgravity research. It will also explore ways of making space travel safer and inhabiting Mars or the moon.



## Powering Humankind's Return to the Moon

Among the university's extensive space research, more than a dozen projects are aimed at lunar exploration, many in direct support of NASA's Artemis program and other lunar operations. These projects include reducing the harmful effects of space and lunar dust on equipment and astronauts, developing robotics, flying and landing spacecraft, and mining fuel to run it all. Currently more than 30 UCF alums are connected to Kennedy Space Center and involved with the Artemis program's critical operations. Additionally, these projects work to generate support for future research initiatives.



Image credit: Benjamin Blair

## Physics Professor Named Jefferson Science Fellow

Pegasus Professor of Physics Humberto Campins, an expert on asteroids, is the fourth UCF professor to receive the national honor of being named a Jefferson Science Fellow. As such, during his year advising the U.S. Department of State, he'll make significant contributions to our nation and bring the related STEM expertise back to the classroom. During his time in Washington, D.C., he'll also continue his research involving collecting data from the OSIRIS-REx mission sample that is due back to Earth in 2023.



## Where UCF Graduates Work



## UCF Institutes, Associations and Affiliations



Explore more about UCF's impact on space science and research at [ucf.edu/space](https://ucf.edu/space) or scan here:

