

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA | ORLANDO, FL

LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



UCF



WHO WE ARE

LEAD Scholars Academy is more than a leadership program — it is a diverse and inclusive community within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services. Students grasp this opportunity and turn it into reality by getting involved, learning about leadership and becoming change agents in our community.

The LEAD Scholars Academy is celebrating 26 years at UCF and has assisted thousands of students to excel in leadership development. We are excited to announce that in addition to the two year academic program offered for incoming first-year students, third- and fourth-year programs (U-LEAD) in various leadership topics are now available for incoming transfer students and other upperclassmen. It is my hope that ALL UCF students will have the ability to gain leadership development through our multiple engagement opportunities.

As the only academic and co-curricular leadership program in Florida, LEAD Scholars Academy offers many exciting opportunities in academics, leadership opportunities, student organizations, research, and campus life to our students. LEAD Scholars Academy is a springboard to leadership at UCF. Students are given the chance to take advantage of the workshops, events, and opportunities that are provided to make a difference on campus and beyond.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of LEAD Scholars Academy and our outstanding students.

Sincerely,



Stacey Malaret, Ed.D.

Director, LEAD Scholars Academy

To Learn, To **LEAD**, To Serve.

STUDENT PROFILE

The fall 2021 LEAD Scholars Academy class showed a high level of diversity, community involvement, and academic achievement.

FALL 2021 LEAD SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

201

TOTAL
INCOMING
FRESHMEN



61.96%
ETHNIC MINORITY
ENROLLMENT

1301
AVERAGE rSAT
(math and verbal)

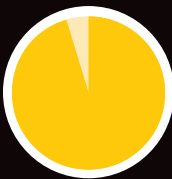
28.2
AVERAGE ACT

4.3 AVERAGE
HS GPA

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

During the 2020-21 academic year, LEAD Scholars Academy boasted high academic achievement, graduation, and retention rates among scholars.

STUDENT SUCCESS



95.5%
RETENTION
RATE
(91.9% UCF rate)



63.4%
FOUR YEAR
GRADUATION
RATE
(49.8% UCF rate)

AVERAGE
CUMULATIVE
GPA

3.6

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

17

2021 LEAD SCHOLARS ON
PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

6/18

2021 ORDER OF PEGASUS
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

22,436.84

ACADEMIC YEAR
SERVICE HOURS*

* Includes U-LEAD Program service hours

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

The **LEAD Scholars Living Learning Community (LLC)**, located in the Neptune Community, is for first-year students who are a part of the LEAD Scholars Academy. LLC accommodations include: single room housing with a shared bathroom with one other resident and a community room with kitchen on each floor.

In the LEAD Scholars Living Learning Community, students:

- Receive resources to assist in **taking full advantage** of the LEAD Scholars Academy and UCF experiences: including LLC sponsored events, socials and benefits.
- Have access to **two resident assistants** from the LEAD Scholars Academy.
- Live with fellow students in a **peer-to-peer supportive environment** who share similar interests and goals.
- Participate in programs providing opportunities to **interact** with fellow LEAD Scholars, **fulfill** LEAD Scholars Academy requirements, and **learn** about personal leadership development.



SERVICE LEARNING IN A VIRTUAL WORLD: A NEW NORMAL FOR LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

In March 2020 the whole world changed, classes went online, faculty members became familiar with Zoom, and service-learning was not exempt. A lot of questions pinged my inbox, including statements like, “How will I finish my service-learning, the elementary school I was working at is remote now? HELP!” During my 20-year tenure at UCF I have worked with service-learning in my role with LEAD Scholars Academy. LEAD Scholars Academy documents more than 20,000 service hours annually through our LDR courses. About 1,000 students take a LDR class each year, and all sections require service-learning to complete the course successfully. We in LEAD Scholars Academy had to think fast to help students become successful in their classes. LEAD did not want to simply exempt the service-learning requirement since that is a cornerstone to our curriculum, and a foundation in the Academy.

LEAD dove deeper into service-learning opportunities that students could complete that would meet the mission of service-learning, could be documented for service hours, and were also engaging for the students.

Some students created live Zoom lessons for Girl Scouts on various topics so that troops could continue with badge approvals during the pandemic. Other LEAD Scholars mentored high-school students so that they were more ready for college. Student leaders in the LEAD Students Association also wanted to help their fellow students engage while helping the community. Leaders hosted Zoom calls and tasked participants to write letters to our troops overseas.

Even though in-person service was the norm prior to COVID-19, these virtual service opportunities have created new options for students and have expanded their definition of service and citizenship. I think that these new options will help the younger generation, who are already so tech savvy, to become more civic-minded and involved in service as they are now able to serve 24/7 with just a Wi-Fi connection.



LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

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