

University of Central Florida (UCF)
Proposed Gradient Site
Southeast Domain (Domain 3)

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Location: The University of Central Florida (UCF) is an urban site located in Orlando, Florida. UCF is located in the southern third of Domain 3, roughly 40 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

History: Reflecting the rapidly-expanding population in the greater Orlando region, UCF was founded in 1963 and has since grown to a student enrollment of over 46,000 students. The campus itself represents well the mixture of urban and suburban land-use that typifies greater Orlando, and thus serves as an important urban site in the Southeast Domain's land-use gradient.



Key Characteristics: The 573 ha campus includes 315 ha (55%) that are already developed or will be developed. Of that area, 72 ha are already covered with impervious surface area, and an additional 83 ha of impervious surface area are permitted. The campus also includes designated open spaces (including wetlands, uplands, riparian habitat and lakes) that total 150 ha.

Facilities and Existing Infrastructure: Physical facilities of the Department of Biology include state-of-the-art research laboratories, classrooms and lecture halls, an herbarium, a new research greenhouse, a field building that includes a classroom and flexible experimental room, and an experimental research ponds facility. In addition, the UCF Arboretum includes 32 ha of campus open spaces plus offices, and the campus in general can be used for monitoring. The UCF Arboretum is an extensive open area on campus and, in addition to horticultural plantings, has extensive native vegetation that includes pine flatwoods, florida scrub, cypress domes, and wetland areas. The pine flatwoods are maintained by controlled burning to restore and manage native conditions. The arboretum is used extensively for teaching and research on the effects of controlled burning, population dynamics of reptiles and amphibians, hydrologic dynamics of urban wetland fragments, and dynamics and control of invasive plants. In addition to the Arboretum area, the UCF has been the site of a National Atmospheric Deposition Site for over 25 years in partnership with the Kennedy Space Center. Rainfall patterns and precipitation chemistry has been monitored during a rapidly urbanizing two decades in eastern Orlando.