



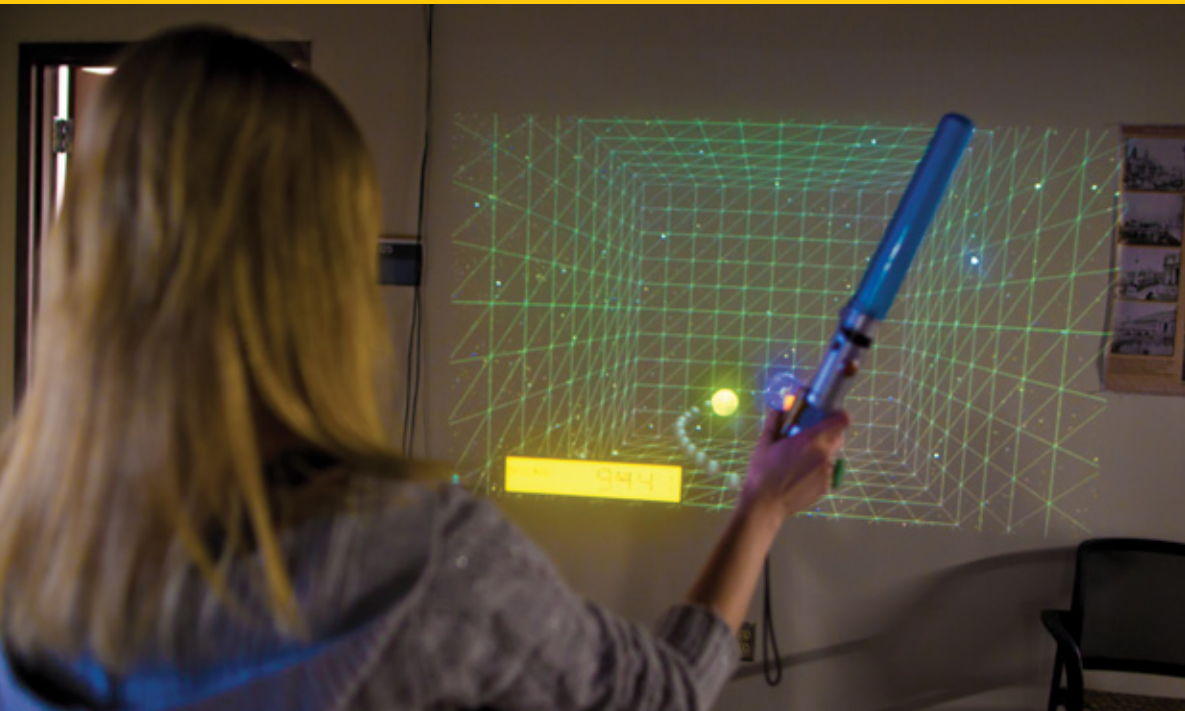
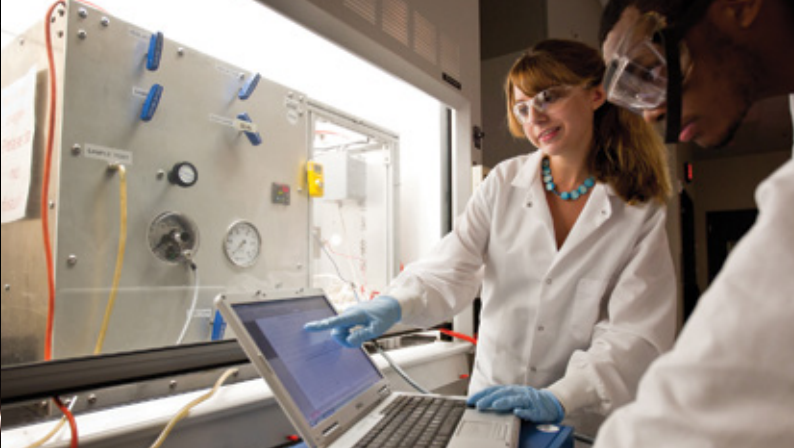
COMPASS

NAVIGATE YOUR WAY TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN STEM

COMPASS program enrollment is limited. Apply early at compass.ucf.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA





THE COMPASS ADVANTAGE

The COMPASS program, formerly funded by the National Science Foundation, is for students who are unsure of which major or career to pursue in college but want a head start exploring career options, including those in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Students who enjoy math or science and are interested in exploring STEM careers through hands-on learning experiences are a perfect fit. Whether you are undecided, have declared a major you are unsure about, or have recently declared a STEM major and are looking for guidance, COMPASS can assist.

The COMPASS program offers select students exclusive opportunities and advantages:

- 1 Career Planning:
STEM Explorations
or STEM Seminar**
- 2 Supportive Learning
Community**
- 3 Preparing you for
STEM Success**
- 4 Hands-on STEM
Experiences**

THE COMPASS JOURNEY: *YOU CHOOSE*

The COMPASS program will guide you to determine, clarify or confirm your major and career options. COMPASS is tailored to fit your needs by offering two pathways to success in STEM.

Pathway 1: Undecided Students

- Students who are undecided on their major upon applying to UCF or at the time of orientation will be enrolled in Career Planning: STEM Explorations.

Pathway 2: Recently Declared STEM Major

- Students who may have been unsure about their major upon applying to UCF but declared a STEM major prior to or at orientation will be enrolled in the STEM Seminar.

In addition to one of the courses described above, COMPASS students are enrolled in a qualifying math course during the first semester.

COMPASS is for you ... *IF YOU:*

- Like math or science and are admitted to UCF
- Meet our minimum math SAT/ACT score (updated annually)
- Have any indecision about pursuing a STEM major
- Thrive on the support of a learning community
- Want to learn more about who you are and your interests and values
- Look for hands-on projects to inform your career decisions
- Seek a rewarding college experience that leads to a successful STEM career

ADVANTAGE

1

Career Planning: STEM Explorations or STEM Seminar

**COMPASS MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT
DIFFERENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
TO HELP MAKE EARLIER DECISIONS
ABOUT MAJORS AND FUTURE CAREERS.**

Pathway 1: Career Planning: STEM Explorations (MHS 2330) offers unique opportunity for hands-on exposure to science and engineering careers in your first year while you gain clarity on your strengths and interests through facilitated self-discovery. The course takes students through the career decision-making process by exploring:

- *Who am I?*
- *Where am I going?*
- *How do I get there?*

Pathway 2: STEM Seminar courses (ISC 2054 and ISC 2055) concentrate less on determining your major and more on confirming your career choice and how to be successful in your chosen STEM area of study. Seminar focuses on your transition to the university environment, your academic success and your immersion into the world of STEM. Students receive tools for establishing a strong academic foundation as well as an introduction to the concept of undergraduate research culminating with in-depth exposure to STEM faculty, researchers and labs

IN WHAT FIELDS CAN I START A CAREER?

Through carefully planned educational activities, COMPASS prepares students for rewarding careers in:

Actuarial Science, Aerospace Engineering, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Construction Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Forensic Science, Industrial Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Photonics, Physics and Statistics.



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2

Supportive Learning Community

COMPASS MEMBERS BECOME PART OF A SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY WITHIN A LARGE UNIVERSITY.

This group of students will be like you, and you will know them through your entire academic career. The learning community provides you with the opportunity to:

- Form study groups with those in similar fields
- Live together in block housing (optional)
- Participate in social as well as academic activities
- Connect with STEM faculty and STEM professionals early in your academic career

WHY COMPASS?

- **COMPASS Center** is located in the heart of campus and offers services and activities such as tutoring and advising. Free tutoring by graduate students is available in College Algebra, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Differential Equations, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. A computer lab and a study area provide places for students to study and interact.
- **COMPASS Advisors** are available to all COMPASS students. Your advisor will work with you at orientation and throughout your first year to plan the courses necessary to establish a strong foundation in your STEM major. College advisors assigned specifically to COMPASS students will work with you throughout the remainder of your college career.
- **COMPASS Housing** is available to COMPASS students who are awarded housing contracts and choose to complete the Living-Learning Community (LLC) application. Decisions on LLC applications occur in May/June of each year.
- **COMPASS Mentoring Network** benefits participants through interactions with peer mentors assigned on day one of the program, graduate mentors in similar STEM disciplines assigned to the cohort classes, and STEM faculty and professionals who will guide you through your hands-on STEM experiences.

These tools will assist COMPASS students in establishing strong relationships early on that foster success in the first semester and throughout their education.





Julia, Environmental Engineering Major,
COMPASS Peer Mentor

ADVANTAGE

3 Preparing You for STEM Success

**COMPASS MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM
SPECIAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT
DESIGNED TO INCREASE SUCCESS IN
THEIR CHOSEN STEM FIELD.**

COMPASS students are enrolled in a qualifying math course during the first semester. Math serves as the foundation for a majority of the STEM disciplines. Students who are seriously contemplating a career in a STEM field should complete their math requirements early in their academic career. Special opportunities for COMPASS students include:

- **Cohort Math Courses** are special sections of College Algebra through Calculus III that have been designated for COMPASS participants. Lectures taught by hand-picked faculty and recitations led by COMPASS graduate mentors provide personal attention not available outside the program. Students will take COMPASS math classes throughout their first year.
- **Graduate Mentors** are available for tutoring in the key math and science courses completed during your first two years in college. The mentor will provide personalized study plans for your math courses.
- **Exclusive Recitation Sessions** for first-year COMPASS students who take College Algebra through Calculus II classes will enhance and reinforce your understanding of math concepts.

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4

Hands-on STEM Experiences

COMPASS MEMBERS ARE EXPOSED TO FACULTY, INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FROM THEIR FIRST SEMESTER IN COLLEGE.

The goal of this exposure is for students to experience the STEM fields firsthand and understand what it means to be a scientist, mathematician or engineer. The undergraduate research experience enables students to see what it is like to generate knowledge while making connections with industry professionals from Boeing, Lockheed Martin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Disney and other corporations.

COMPASS Undergraduate Research Experiences (URE)

- After completing required math and science classes during the first year, COMPASS students have the option to take part in research experiences during their second year.
- In the fall semester of their second year, COMPASS students participate in a series of workshops to prepare them for their URE and future STEM careers. Topics include resume preparation, professionalism and laboratory safety.
- For the URE, COMPASS students partner with UCF STEM faculty mentors according to their research interests; the research experience begins during the spring semester of their second year.





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COMPASS Program

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Orlando, Florida 32816-2993

How do I apply to the COMPASS program?

Get admitted to UCF and complete the online
COMPASS application at **COMPASS.ucf.edu**.

COMPASS accepts applications for summer and
fall first-year admits.

For more information:

COMPASS@ucf.edu
COMPASS.ucf.edu

*EXCEL/COMPASS is directed by the Center for Initiatives in STEM and is
a program in the Division of Student Learning and Academic Success*

COMPASS