

EXCEL/ COMPASS

INTERESTED IN A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING OR MATH (STEM) DEGREE? EXCEL/COMPASS is designed to help students succeed in STEM disciplines. EXCEL is for students who are dedicated to pursuing a calculus-based STEM major, while COMPASS is for students who are interested in exploring STEM majors. Throughout the programs, students have access to the tools and resources needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Enrollment is limited. Apply early at excel.ucf.edu.

EXCEL

EXCEL is tailored to students who are committed to pursuing a STEM degree. They'll join a community of learners who share many of the same interests. During the first year in EXCEL, students participate in EXCEL cohort math courses, STEM Seminar I and II, and the necessary sciences for their major. In the second year, students have the opportunity to take part in an undergraduate research experience.

EXCEL is for students who:

- Plan to pursue a STEM degree
- Have shown progression through their math sequence, preferably to include a minimum of Algebra II, Trigonometry and Pre-calculus
- Meet the required SAT or ACT Math score
- Have a College Algebra or higher UCF math placement
- Want to make friends and connections with students in other STEM disciplines
- Enjoy study groups and structured programs
- Want to have a rewarding college experience that leads to a successful STEM career

Learn more about EXCEL or apply now.
excel.ucf.edu



COMPASS

COMPASS is a great fit for students who are undecided on which major or career to pursue but want a head start exploring opportunities in STEM. This program helps guide students along the way through career exploration and experiential learning in STEM during the first two years of college. COMPASS students declaring a STEM major automatically become a member of EXCEL.

COMPASS is for students who:

- Like math or science
- Meet the required SAT or ACT Math score
- Have a College Algebra or higher UCF math placement
- Are undecided about pursuing a STEM major
- Thrive on the support of a learning community
- Want to learn more about who they are and their interests and values
- Seek a rewarding college experience that leads to a successful STEM career

Learn more about COMPASS or apply now.
compass.ucf.edu



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Christine Sarkis

A biology major and environmental studies minor, Christine has been involved with EXCEL for four years. In that time, she has conducted research on sea turtles, served as a learning assistant for an EXCEL Calculus I course, presented at national and international conferences, and was awarded Judges' Choice at UCF's 2019 Showcase of Undergraduate Research. Additionally, Christine is committed to supporting females in STEM and served as a GEMS mentor.



"I'm thankful for the amazing opportunities and the awesome people I have met while participating in the EXCEL program."

— Christine Sarkis,
biology student

Supported Majors:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Actuarial Science | • Computer Engineering | • Forensic Science | • Photonics |
| • Aerospace Engineering | • Computer Science | • Industrial Engineering | • Physics |
| • Biology | • Construction Engineering | • Information Technology | • Statistics |
| • Biomedical Sciences | • Data Science | • Materials Science and Engineering | |
| • Biotechnology | • Electrical Engineering | • Mathematics | |
| • Chemistry | • Environmental Engineering | • Mechanical Engineering | |
| • Civil Engineering | | | |

WHY EXCEL/COMPASS?

EXCEL/COMPASS provides the resources and tools needed for students to establish strong relationships early on that foster success throughout their educational journeys. Such resources include:

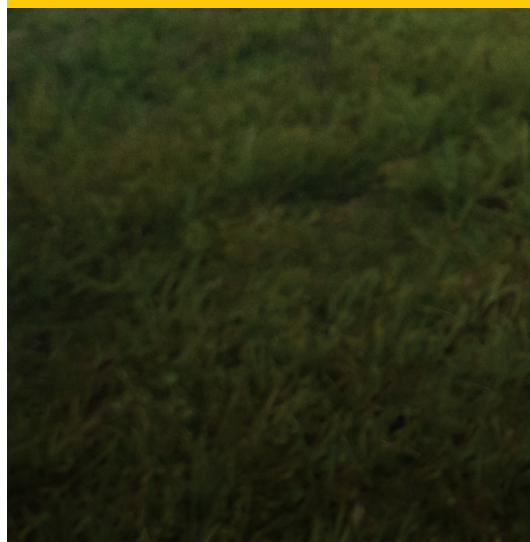
- The EXCEL/COMPASS Center is located in the heart of campus and offers services and activities such as tutoring and advising. Free tutoring is available in College Algebra, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Differential Equations, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. The center also has a computer lab and study area.
- Advisors are available to all EXCEL/COMPASS students. From orientation to graduation, advisors work with students to plan the courses necessary to establish a strong foundation in their STEM major. In addition to an EXCEL/COMPASS advisor, a UCF advisor is assigned to help the student throughout their academic career.
- Housing is available in the EXCEL/COMPASS living-learning community for students who are awarded housing contracts and choose to live on the same block. This is a great way to meet new friends who share similar interests.
- A mentoring network through EXCEL/COMPASS offers a variety of benefits. Peer mentors are assigned to provide support and guidance. Additionally, graduate mentors in similar STEM disciplines are assigned to cohort classes, and STEM faculty and professionals guide students through STEM experiences.



A Supportive Learning Community

EXCEL/COMPASS members become part of a small learning community within a large university. This group of students shares many of the same interests and goals, and will be together throughout their entire academic career. The learning community provides the opportunity to:

- Form study groups with students in similar fields
- Engage in peer mentoring
- Participate in social and academic activities
- Connect with STEM faculty and STEM professionals early in your academic career



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Loubensky Baine

Loubensky Baine, an aerospace engineering major, credits EXCEL for his seamless transition from high school to college. As a member of the EXCEL program, he has had many opportunities to participate in activities that encourage socialization and team building. He says his favorite resource is the EXCEL/COMPASS Center. Upon graduation, Baine will start flight training to accomplish his childhood dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot.



"Joining the program helped me grow. Having the opportunity to be in smaller classes with familiar faces made it easy for me to make friends and connect with UCF faculty and staff."

— Loubensky Baine, aerospace engineering student

EXCEL

Pathway to Success

FIRST YEAR

Students first meet with an advisor to ensure that they have the right mix of classes. Along with their specific program's classes, they'll take STEM Seminar I and II. These encourage community building and provide information and tools necessary for a smooth transition to college and academic success as a STEM student. Seminar I exposes students to the soft skills needed to be competitive in their field and establish a strong foundation in STEM disciplines at UCF. Seminar II provides students one-on-one time with faculty and introduces them to research. Throughout the year, students can visit the EXCEL/COMPASS Center for tutoring.

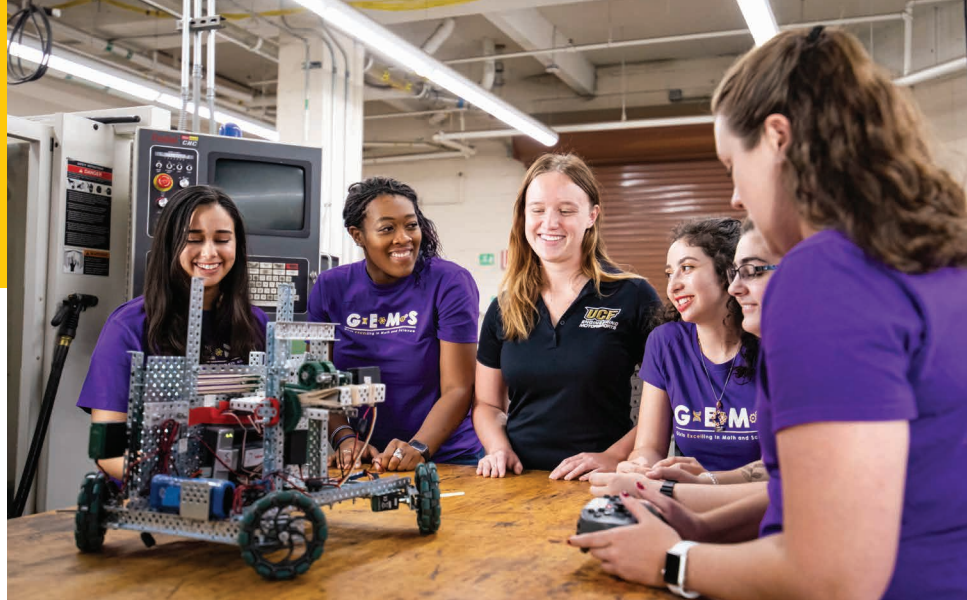
SECOND YEAR

Students continue with EXCEL math courses through Calculus III. Additionally, students have the option to take part in an undergraduate research experience — providing a firsthand look at the research process. This involves pairing up with a STEM faculty mentor, participating in research preparatory workshops and gaining hands-on experience in a laboratory. Students in undergraduate research experiences are also prepared for future, paid research experiences at UCF.

THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS

Students have the opportunity to work with a STEM professor or an industry mentor who will set them on the path to success. Many companies in STEM-related industries offer paid opportunities for hands-on experiences and vital connections as students transition from the classroom to the workforce.

Find out more and submit an application:
excel.ucf.edu



MENTORSHIP NETWORK

EXCEL/COMPASS offers several mentorship programs for students to get involved with — from peer mentors in the first year to industry mentors through subsequent years. These relationships provide personal support early in the student's transition to UCF, as well as academic and career guidance.

Girls EXCELLing in Math and Science (GEMS)

First-year EXCEL students are assigned an upper-level GEMS mentor. Mentorship events are organized throughout the academic year to introduce GEMS participants to role models from STEM disciplines and provide the opportunity to interact with them on a one-to-one basis.

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at UCF

Second- and third-year EXCEL students have the opportunity to be paired with a STEM industry professional for a six-monthlong mentoring program.

COMPASS Mentors

First-semester COMPASS students have the opportunity to interact with mentors assigned to their STEM Explorations Career Planning class. Mentors assist students in moving through the discovery and decision-making processes of choosing a major, providing a smooth transition to college life.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jazmine Manriquez

In addition to EXCEL, Jazmine Manriquez is actively involved on campus. Along the way, she's met many friends, created study groups and has found clubs and programs to take part in. Manriquez is a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Society of Sales Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, and co-founder of the Mexican Student Association. The industrial engineering major also serves as a GEMS mentor, where she enjoys helping and guiding new UCF students.

"Pre-calculus was one of my favorite classes because my instructor took the time to teach us step by step, even touching on the fundamentals. On top of that, he was a graduate student, so I felt that he connected with us in a different manner than more seasoned professors may have."

— Jazmine Manriquez, industrial engineering student

COMPASS

Pathway to Success

FIRST YEAR

First Semester

Students have an opportunity to learn more about careers and majors related to STEM. This helps them find a program that aligns with both their personal and professional goals.

Within their first semester, students will take an EXCEL math course in addition to the Career Planning: STEM Explorations course. The career planning course offers hands-on exposure to science and engineering careers. Students are able to gain clarity on their own strengths and interests through facilitated self-discovery, answering questions such as "Who am I?," "Where am I going?" and "How will I get there?"

COMPASS students who declare a STEM major automatically become a member of EXCEL and follow the program's pathway.

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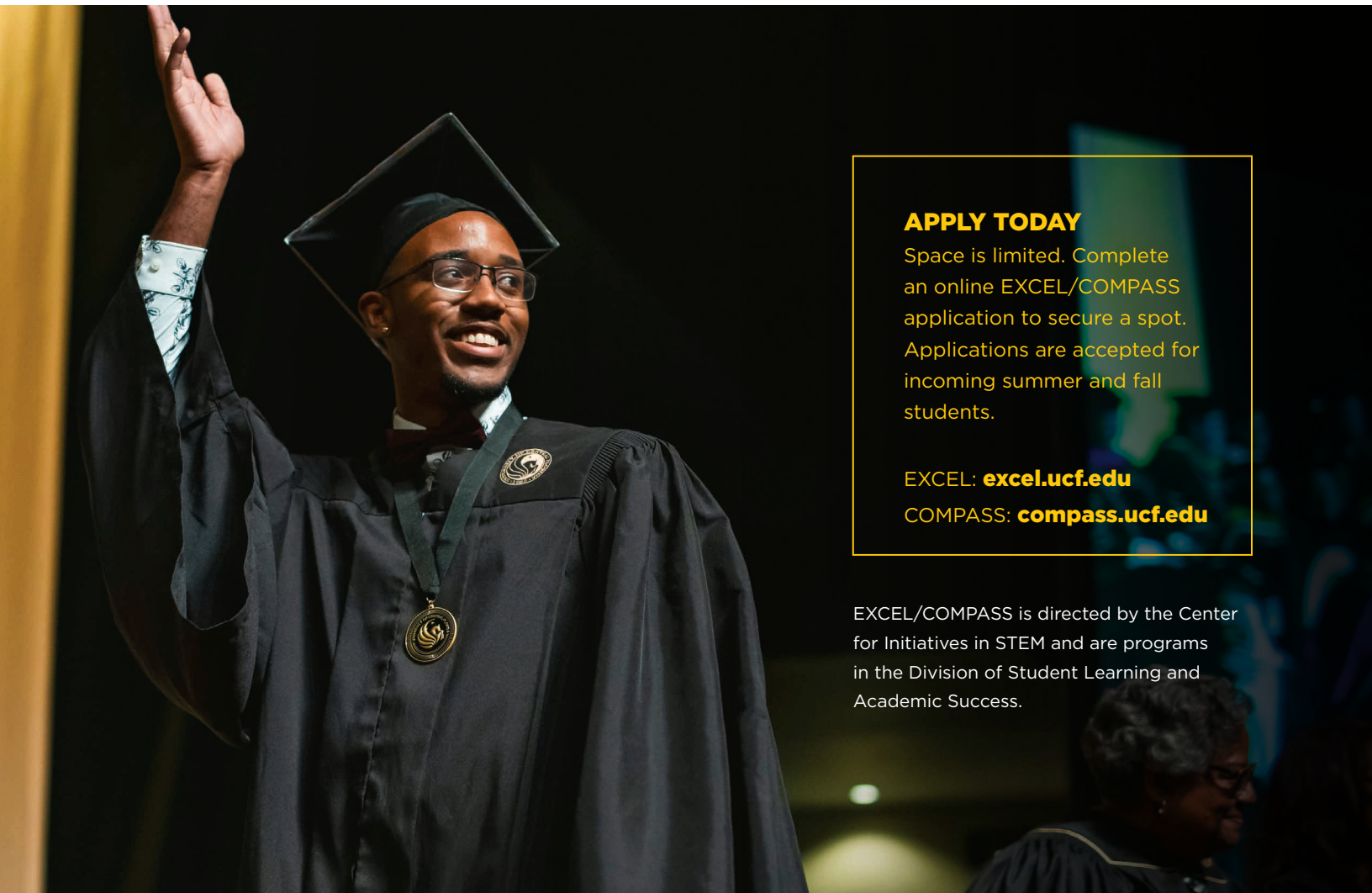
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

EXCEL/COMPASS Programs

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APPLY TODAY

Space is limited. Complete an online EXCEL/COMPASS application to secure a spot. Applications are accepted for incoming summer and fall students.

EXCEL: excel.ucf.edu

COMPASS: compass.ucf.edu

EXCEL/COMPASS is directed by the Center for Initiatives in STEM and are programs in the Division of Student Learning and Academic Success.