The UCF Academic Advancement Programs (AAP) prepares UCF students — particularly underrepresented, low-income and first-generation college students — to pursue graduate school. AAP works in collaboration with faculty, staff, local and national partners to provide a range of graduate school preparation programs and services. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of initiatives designed to increase their awareness and knowledge of the graduate school application process, graduate funding, summer research programs, and fellowship opportunities.

AAP coordinates two selective structured programs, the McNair Scholars Program and the Research and Mentoring Program. Scholars participating in these programs are provided support, guidance, and resources to help them reach their post-graduate goals.

### AAP Scholars Prestigious Awards (2003-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF GRFP Recipients</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldwater Scholars</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickering Scholars</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost/Oxford Scholars</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Order of Pegasus</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astronaut Scholars</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilman Scholars</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gubernatorial Fellows</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udall Fellow</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ford Fellows</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright Scholar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thank you 2019-2020 McNair and RAMP faculty mentors!**

- Dr. Karin Chumbimuni-Torres
- Dr. Bhimsen Shivamoggi
- Dr. Shawn Putnam
- Dr. Jonathan Caranto
- Dr. Ronald DeMara
- Dr. Grace White
- Dr. Jonathan Powell
- Dr. Lana Williams
- Dr. Jennifer Kent-Walsh
- Dr. Yeonwoong Jung
- Dr. Steven Ebert
- Dr. Alla Kourova
- Dr. Tania Roy
- Dr. Mel Stanfill
- Dr. Stacey Malaret
- Dr. Fernando Rivera
- Dr. William Hanney
- Dr. Saleh Naser
- Dr. Debopam Chakrabarti
- Dr. Brian Fisak
- Dr. Christopher Bennett
- Dr. Kyle Rhode
- Dr. Chase Mason
- Dr. Linda Walters
- Dr. Candice Bridge
- Dr. Kevin Mackie

**AAP Staff:**

Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries, Director | Dr. Natalia Leal Toro, Assistant Director | Arlene Ollivierre, Coordinator
Colleen Smith, Advising and Digital Learning Coordinator | Alexandra Lyew, GA | Malkia Williams, GA

*Special thanks to Dr. Laurie Pinkert and Emily LaPadura for their support of AAP Scholars*
AAP Scholars - Placements

Cody Autrey  
Biomedical Sciences  
Florida International University  
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine  
Medical Degree

Zoe Barbeau  
Mathematics  
Stanford University  
Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering  
Astronaut Scholar

Chance Brewer  
Computer Engineering  
University of Central Florida  
Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

Julissa Burgos  
Biomedical Sciences  
Vanderbilt University  
Ph.D. in Biomedical and Biological Sciences

Gustavo Camero  
Computer Engineering  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Ph.D. in Computer Engineering

Stephanie Castelin  
Psychology  
University of Cincinnati  
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Carla Garcia  
Economics and Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ph.D. in Political Science  
NSF GRFP Recipient | Rangel Scholar

Stefani Hammond  
Anthropology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Ph.D. in Functional Anatomy and Evolution

Luis Hurtado  
Electrical Engineering  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering  
GEM Fellowship Recipient

Lauren Houchin  
Biomedical Sciences  
University of California, Irvine  
School of Medicine  
M.D./Ph.D.

Madison Manley  
Electrical Engineering  
Georgia Tech  
Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Maria Martinez  
Psychology  
Louisiana State University  
Ph.D. in Chemistry

Isaiah Morales  
Digital Media  
University of Washington  
Masters in Human-Computer Interaction & Design

Darwins Olcima  
Psychology  
Bowling Green State University  
Masters in College Student Personnel

Bianca Pizarro Vazquez  
Sociology  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Masters in Community and Regional Planning

Bolivar Perez  
Civil Engineering  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Aseelia Samsam  
Biomedical Sciences  
Medical Degree

Justin Shaw  
Biomedical Sciences  
Florida International University  
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine  
Medical Degree

Tiara Smith  
Psychology  
University of Central Florida  
Masters in Clinical Psychology

George Walters-Marrah  
Molecular Microbiology  
Stanford University  
Ph.D. Program in Biophysics  
NSF GRFP Recipient | Goldwater Scholar

Danielle Waugh  
Biology  
Lehigh University  
Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences