

2024-2025: Goals

In November 2023, The UCF Board of Trustees voted to align President Cartwright's annual goals with the priorities, goals, and metrics outlined in UCF's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. These goals were meant to focus UCF efforts as the university aspires to become a **Top 50 Public Research University** and a **designated preeminent university** by the State University System of Florida **by 2027**.

While the university is committed to advancing the goals of the strategic plan, the President's main goal of 2024-2025 is to achieve Preeminence Designation as outlined by the Florida Board of Governors, in addition to continuing to advance the goals presented below.

GOAL 1: Student Success and Well-Being

Accelerate undergraduate progression and graduation; reduce interferences that cause hardship or delay.

Enrich the student learning experience for the development of career and cultural competencies.

Provide financially accessible educational experiences.

GOAL 2: Discovery and Exploration

Increase focus on research by supporting basic, applied, clinical, and translational research activities.

Extend the impact, application, and commercialization of knowledge.

Recruit and retain highly qualified faculty, post-doctoral appointees, and doctoral students to increase academic outcomes and support our research activity.

GOAL 3: Community and Culture

Become an employer of choice by recruiting, retaining, and developing the best talent and strengthening our culture of inclusion, collaboration, and engagement.

Establish life-long connections with our community through athletic and alumni engagement activities.

Establish comprehensive partnerships that integrate education, research, the arts, service, workforce development, and philanthropic engagement.

GOAL 4: Innovation and Sustainability

Diversify the university's revenue and resource base to reduce financial vulnerability and provide flexible funds for strategic investment.

Institutionalize campus sustainability with a focus on service excellence.

Enhance UCF's brand and national reputation.

Annual Targets for Presidential Goals

GOAL 1: Student Success and Well-being	PRIOR YEAR BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGET	PLAN GOAL 2026-27
FTIC Freshman Retention Rate	92.3%	93%	93%
FTIC 4-Year Graduation Rate	58.7%	62%	65%
FTIC 6-Year Graduation Rate	77.9%	78%	78%
FTIC Pell Recipient 6-Year Graduation Rate	76.1%	76%	76%
FCS AA 3-Year Graduation Rate	52.4%	62%	70%
Percentage of Graduating Students with HIP	83.8%	92%	100%
Percentage of Graduates Enrolled or Employed	70%	70%	70%
Percentage of Graduates without Federal Loan	72%	62%	60%

GOAL 2: Discovery and Exploration	PRIOR YEAR BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGET	PLAN GOAL 2026-27
Total Research Expenditures	\$247M	\$270M	\$350M
Patents Awarded Annually	59	55	55
Licenses and Optional Executed Annually	30	36	36
Number of Start-Up Companies Created	4	6	6
Faculty FTE	1,877	1,940	2,100
Post-doctoral Appointees	218	230	225

GOAL 3: Community and Culture	PRIOR YEAR BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGET	PLAN GOAL 2026-27
National Academy Membership	8	9	10
Faculty and Staff Satisfaction	66%	70%	80%
Carnegie Classification for Engagement	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alumni Participation Rate (Donations)	10.5%	10%	9.0%
Pegasus Partnerships	4	5	5

GOAL 4: Innovation and Sustainability	PRIOR YEAR BASELINE	ANNUAL TARGET	PLAN GOAL 2026-27
Endowment Value	\$254.5M	\$265M	\$350M
Annual Fundraising	\$104M	\$110M	\$100M
STARS Rating	Silver	Silver	Gold
U.S. News Peer Evaluation Score	2.9	3.1	3.3