

2.3 Urban Design Element Data and Analysis 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan Update

a) Existing Development in the Campus Context Area

Orange County designates the University as Institutional Future Land Use and the area in which the University is situated comprises of a mix of housing, industrial, planned development and commercial uses.

1. Campus Open Spaces Structure

Open space areas on campus are shaped by the building and landscape which surrounds them. The space between the Library and the Administration Building is both defined by the two buildings and landscape features, and has a visual sequence, from the Central Florida Boulevard entrance to the spaces flanking it.

2. Campus Visual Structure

Permanent buildings on campus range in height from one to seven stories. The exteriors of these buildings are predominantly brick. Architectural details, done in concrete and some curtain wall areas, are the only general exceptions. The predominance of brick, accompanied by the relative scale of the buildings on campus, help create a significant level of visual continuity. The campus is shaped by the natural landscape from which it has been carved. It is structured so that all academic and administrative buildings lie within an area (the Academic Core) between the 400' and 1,200' circles radiating from the center of campus. Residential buildings lie outside the 1,200 foot radius and are bounded on the outside by Gemini Boulevard. Intramural athletic facilities lie outside Gemini Boulevard, and are mostly found in the southern part of campus. Intercollegiate athletic facilities are located on the north part of campus, west of Orion Boulevard.

The UCF main campus is defined on most sides by a landscape buffer, with the only visual breaks into it occurring at the entrances into campus; which in turn help define these entrances.

b) High Activity Building and Spaces

- Recreation and Wellness Center
- Student Union
- Phillips Hall Kiosk
- Sidewalk north of Chemistry
- Reflecting Pond between the Library and Administration

- South entrance to the Library
- Breezeway dorm mailboxes
- Entry to Student Center across from activities desk
- Sidewalk between dorms and Oasis
- Green area north of Student Center
- Lake Claire
- Convocation Center area
- Memory Mall

c) Existing Functional Linkages

Automobile

All vehicular access to the campus is through University Boulevard, Alafaya Trail, Research Park, and McCulloch Road. Accessibility to the main campus from the eleven county service area and the area campuses is through various major roadways including I-4, the Beeline Expressway, the East-West Expressway, and State Road 50. University Boulevard is considered to be the main vehicular entry into campus. Centaurus Drive, Gemini Boulevard North, and Central Florida Boulevard are the other important formal entrances. The Central Florida entry displays the most formalized type of entry into the campus, because of its axial relationship. Pedestrian hazards are created whenever vehicular circulation crosses parking lots, as it does in many instances throughout campus.

Bicycle

Bicycle transportation provides many students with an economical and efficient source of transportation, due to the proximity of off-campus housing. There are many bicycle paths found throughout campus including those flanking Libra Drive and Gemini Boulevard North, and going from Alafaya Trail along Central Florida Boulevard to the Administration Building.

Pedestrian

The campus of UCF was planned and developed with the pedestrian in mind, and based on a maximum walking time of eight minutes to the center of campus. The 1,200' radius outer (Apollo) ring was implemented to serve this purpose, with the 800' radius inner (Mercury) ring providing a five minute walking trip to the campus center. A third ring (Pegasus) on a 400' radius is the only one completed, and marks the center of campus. Secondary pedestrian paths provide access between buildings throughout campus (Figure 3.5).

Transit

UCF is meeting time demand for transportation of its students. The UCF Shuttle Transportation System serves many local student residential communities providing safe and convenient transportation services to and

from the main campus of UCF. The transportation service allows students to leave their vehicles at their place of residence. There is no per trip cost to ride and students have the available benefit of central access in the core facilities of the campus. The campus destination points are strategically selected to allow students a short distance to classrooms or campus activities.

d) Character of Existing Context Area

UCF is bordered by areas classified for diverse use. On its southern border lies the Central Florida Research Park, an area designated mainly for high-tech industrial use. Small commercial areas, multi-family housing, and vacant land are found to the west of Alafaya Trail, and south of University Boulevard. A planned development called the Quadrangle exists to the north of University Boulevard. This complex is made up of a mix of offices, commercial areas and hotel facilities. The demand for space will undoubtedly grow as more corporations relocate to the UCF area.

e) An analysis of the evolution of the development pattern of University buildings and open spaces.

1. There has been significant development on campus since 2000. The Convocation Center, student housing, retail space and a football stadium has been built on the north section of campus, adjacent to North Orion Boulevard. The Physical Sciences building and Engineering Building III have been built in the southeast part of the academic core. Parking Garage A is located along Gemini Boulevard at the University Boulevard entrance. A new Psychology building is located on the north end of the academic core adjacent to a new green space known as Memory Mall. Most of this new development has been spreading concentrically from the original campus development.
2. As program needs continue to demand more academic and support space on campus, development should respect the evolution around the circular pattern of the campus, while maintaining a relatively dense pattern. Particular attention should be paid to the creation of attractive open spaces, reinforced by careful site-planning. Of important concern is the preservation and enhancement of axial pedestrian links to and from the center of campus, which work to create long views and facilitate wayfinding on campus.
3. Please refer to the 1995 analysis for further information.

f) An identification of, and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative spatial configurations by which future

development on the campus may be organized. This analysis shall include consideration of methods to improve energy efficiency and alternatives for coordinating the pattern of buildings and spaces along the University/community boundary (graphic and companion narrative).

1. Buildings should be organized in a way which complement and frame the open spaces around them. The careful creation of open spaces provides the framework for memorable places on campus, and provides a context for future program and the pedestrian experience on campus

2. An opportunity for this type of development is along Memory Mall. Buildings along its edge would reinforce the important axial relation to the center that it has. A parking garage could be placed to the east, providing support to both the new academic area and the new Convocation Center. This axial relationship could be continued across the Student Union and mirrored as the front door to the campus where the Progress Energy University Welcome Center is located.

3. Spatial configurations mentioned above are important for place making and establishing pedestrian importance on a college campus. Axial relationships to the center of campus should be enforced and in fact programmed in future growth framework- while maintaining the circular paths and roadways important to the history of the University of Central Florida.

g) An identification and assessment of alternative future activity location and linkage concepts for the campus and the context area (graphic and companion narrative).

1. The Academic Villages housing complex and the Recreation and Wellness Center south of the Student Resource Center (SRC) created a new activity center. Links to the center of campus from this area should be reinforced, particularly through the SRC. Furthermore, in addition to the proposed northeast academic spine, the area at the north end of Central Florida Boulevard provides an excellent opportunity for future development. Integration of the Progress Energy University Welcome Center and academic buildings around an open green space activate that area of campus and present a collegiate entranceway to the college.

2. Please refer to the 1995 analysis for additional information.