

UCCS: AN EMERGING VERY HIGH RESEARCH INSTITUTION

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

\$11,984,258

in sponsored program funding*

31.3%

success rate of submitted proposals*

3.33

peer-reviewed/juried outputs per tenure/tenure track faculty each year*

36

Ph.D. and DNP students graduated each year*

In 2022 we had three new faculty inductees into our campus \$1 Million Club for sponsored program and one faculty inducted into the \$5 Million club.

*Three-Year Average

INSPIRING STUDENTS

UCCS plays a unique and pivotal role in exposing students to hands-on research and creative work experience with our faculty experts. Research experience is a high impact practice that improves retention and graduation and we are proud of the close research apprenticeship model we offer to our UCCS students.

CENTER FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

Established in 2019 as a hub to network, share socially just resources, and offer activities that build an engaged pathway for diverse student researchers. A robust digital footprint, evidence-based activities, small seed-grants for apprenticeship training, and the annual Mountain Lion Research Day are part of our local strategy. To date, there are 352 student members and 107 faculty affiliates.



URA students are almost **2X likely to pursue graduate studies compared to other UCCS students**



URA students graduate with a **25% higher GPA (3.88) than other undergraduate UCCS students (3.10)**



Students participating in the URA have a **35% increase in graduation rates compared to other UCCS students**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Aja Zamundo, Psychology, is an Undergraduate Research Academy Member, 2023 Student Achievement Awardee and the 2022 Mountain Lion Research Day Top Scholar. Aja is a nontraditional married mother of three children who had a successful career as a musician before transferring. Her research, mentored by Dr. Heather Littleton, investigated the dual pandemics of COVID and systemic racism on college campuses. She dedicated over 200 hours to the project. Aja's will be entering graduate school here at UCCS in August, after she graduates in May with a 4.0 GPA.



GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Joseph Day is a graduate student in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. His paper, "Tip Shape, Height, and Thickness Influences on Nonlinear Acoustic Damping from Baffle Blades" recently won the national American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' Graduate Award for Distinguished Achievement. Joseph also did his undergraduate degree at UCCS and graduated with his B.S. in 2021. He enjoys working on both experimental and simulation research to study and predict the nonlinear damping that exists in liquid rocket engines. His faculty mentor is Dr. Matt Quinlan.

INNOVATIVE FACULTY

UCCS faculty are extraordinary experts in their field, who participate in knowledge production, dissemination, and engage in extensive knowledge sharing with students in and outside the classroom. Faculty typically teach 5 courses in the academic year while also maintaining active research programs and engaging in institution building. Our faculty are literally transforming the world with their innovation, discover, and creative work.

RESEARCH CENTER SHOWCASE

Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience: Founded in 2020, the Institute conducts cutting-edge, technology-focused research to understand human adaptation following traumatic stress and implements innovative and resilience-based therapies for trauma survivors.

51

faculty research affiliates locally, nationally, and internationally

\$4.6M

in funding in the past 3 years

370

peer reviewed publications in the past 3 years

EARLY CAREER FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



- Dr. Justin Cole, Mathematics, **Air Force Young Investigator Program Award**
- Dr. Philip Brown, Computer Science, **Air Force Young Investigator Program Award**
- Dr. Jena McCollum, Mechanical Engineering, **NSF CAREER Award**

FOUR SYNERGISTIC RESEARCH THEMES AT UCCS

Understanding Human Health, Performance, Wellness, and Aging

Cybersecurity, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and the Space Domain

Diversity, Equity, Just and Inclusive Transformation Research

Understanding the Human Impact on the Environment and Addressing Issues of Economic and Environmental Justice

IMAGINE. WHAT'S NEXT?

The UCCS Office of Research is actively realizing an inclusive research culture, streamlining processes, and reorganizing infrastructure.



AN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH CULTURE

The recipient of a prestigious NSF ADVANCE grant, UCCS Project CREST focuses on systemic reform efforts that will change the landscape of UCCS today and for the next generation of scholars with two initiatives:

1. **Building a Responsive and Inclusive Research Infrastructure**
2. **Reshaping Research Policies, Practices, and Evaluation Structures**

LOOKING AHEAD

- With campus and CU System funding, UCCS has, for the first time, entered into a contract to acquire a cloud-based sponsored program software solution
- A new campus policy is under way on differentiated workload in response to strategic planning goals to address research workload
- Reexamining research related RPT unit criteria for inclusion, equity, and transparency
- Launching the new *UCCS Center for Research Frontiers in the Digital Humanities*
- The community-wide Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum will be hosted by UCCS in 2024

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



- New Rising Star Diversity (Faculty Recruitment) Grant
- Campus conversations on the meaning of mission-driven scholarship
- Soft-funded Research Development Coordinator who provides wrap-around support for faculty's research needs
- Soft-funded part time Institutional Grant Writer to focus on larger university grants, DEI funding, and interdisciplinary research
- Soft-funded Contract Specialist to support subcontracts, industry partnerships, fee for service, and unique contracting needs of our researchers

GOAL SETTING

The campus goals are for an annual 10% increase in number of grant submissions, number of faculty submitted proposals, and number of students engaging in research.