

What Are High Impact Educational Practices (HIPs) at UCF?

High Impact Educational Practices (HIPs) are learning experiences that strengthen a student's academic experience. Participating in HIPs strengthens a student's ability to develop intellectually and gain practical skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. (Kuh, 2008).

Students engaging in HIPs should:

- 1) Devote considerable time and effort to purposeful tasks that deepen their commitment to their activity and academic program.
- 2) Interact with faculty about substantive matters over an extended period of time.
- 3) Experience diversity and inclusion through contact with people who are different from themselves.
- 4) Receive frequent constructive feedback about their performance.
- 5) Connect what they are learning in different settings on-and-off campus.
- 6) Receive the tools and ethical grounding to act with confidence for the betterment of the human condition.

UCF HIP Signature Experiences: A Campus-Wide Initiative

Specific upper division HIPs will be designed as signature experiences for each degree program, as a culminating academic experience. Beginning in the 2020-2021 catalog year, these experiences will be a graduation requirement.

Kuh, G. D. (2008). High-Impact Educational Practices: What They Are, Who Has Access to Them, and Why They Matter. Association of American Colleges and Universities.



First Year Courses/Seminars

Small groups of students and faculty meet on a regular basis to foster a community that emphasizes critical inquiry, writing, information literacy, and collaborative learning.

Learning Communities

Curriculum is integrated across courses to provide students with critical thinking experiences and opportunities for engagement beyond the traditional classroom.

Undergraduate Research

Research Intensive Courses actively engage students in a guided line of inquiry that adheres to the research process and include a research deliverable.

Directed Independent Research occurs with guidance from a faculty mentor, students explore an inquiry or investigation that makes or supports the creation of an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.

Experiential Learning

Service-Learning is a course-based activity that combines civic engagement and academics to further the learning objectives of the class, address community needs; requires students to reflect on their activities.

Internship, Co-Ops, Clinical, and Practicums occur in a professional setting that allows students to gain real-world experience and benefit from supervision and coaching from professionals in the field.



Study Abroad & Global Learning

Experiences that encourage global and civic engagement, as well as an increased appreciation for cultures and diversity. Students have the opportunity to broaden their perspectives by studying in diverse, local communities or at international institutions.

Capstone Courses

A culminating experience that enables students to integrate skills and experiences and apply learnings from their degree programs to projects.

Integrative Experiences

Offers students an opportunity to explore integrative pathways that connect the core knowledge and skills of their major to real-world professional and civic contexts through cooperative learning.

* This is not an exhaustive list of UCF HIPs. There are other academic opportunities offered on- and off-campus.