



University of Central Florida Bonus Plan

The University of Central Florida Bonus Plan is designed to comply with Section 1012.978, Florida Statutes, and Florida Board of Governors Regulation 9.015. Pursuant to the Bonus Plan, the University will provide incentive bonuses based on work performance as well as bonuses to address recruitment and retention needs. A bonus is a one-time monetary award given to faculty or staff which is not added to the base salary.

General Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for any type of bonus, the employee must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Hold a position that is not in a bargaining unit (non-unit).
2. Have a current positive overall performance rating, generally meaning a rating of “Effective” or “Satisfactory”.
3. Have no disciplinary action on file for the previous twelve (12) months.
4. *Be in an employment relationship with the University on the date any bonus is to be paid.*

Types of Bonuses and Evaluation Criteria

This Bonus Plan contemplates three types of bonuses – work performance bonuses, recruitment bonuses, and retention bonuses. Each bonus type is further described below, and related evaluation criteria are provided.

1. Work Performance Bonuses

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria for these bonuses includes, but is not limited to, successful documented work performance involving increased duties/responsibilities, completion of a special project, attainment of established goals, superior performance, or specific achievements or assignments of significance.

Bonuses Falling Within This Category:

A. Performance-Based Employee Recognition Bonus

The UCF Employee Recognition Award Program is intended to recognize, and reward documented distinctive and exceptional achievements that go above and beyond an employee's core job duties and significantly contribute to: University initiatives; departmental initiatives and objectives; student success and/or improved student experience; improved operational efficiency; and/or exceptional customer service.

Employee Recognition Awards (a.k.a. “one-time performance pay”) serve to recognize employees for excellence in circumstances such as:

- the successful completion of a special project or assignment with pre-determined goals or performance levels in addition to the employee’s regularly assigned duties.
- assuming additional duties and performing them successfully for a period generally less than six (6) months.
- a documented productivity goal achievement.
- going above and beyond by helping another employee in a specific event or task that has been completed.



B. Incentive Compensation Plan Award

An Incentive Compensation Plan (“ICP”) is a department-specific pre-approved program that provides for a lump-sum award based on successful attainment of clearly defined objectives. An ICP establishes the award based on eligible faculty or staff’s contributions to departmental goals, which typically includes revenue generation and specific targets to be achieved with a pay-out schedule based on achieving the stated goals within the fiscal year. Incentive compensation programs may be appropriate in circumstances such as clinical practice and advancement; must define eligible employees; and must be provided to Human Resources in advance. The general Bonus Plan eligibility requirements listed above apply to any award under an ICP.

Any Faculty Practice Plan incentive compensation programs must operate in accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 9.017 and are authorized upon approval by the Board of Trustees

C. Recognition Awards

Recognition Awards serve to recognize employees for superior performance or specific achievements in designated categories. These awards are generally based on an application or nomination process, with documentation of performance and success. The UCF community gathers each year to honor and recognize distinguished staff and faculty members for their outstanding achievements and years of service through the Service and Recognition Awards. Select employees are recognized with an award for significant achievements (e.g., USPS Employee of the Month, non-unit Pegasus Professor Awards, non-unit Trustee Chair Professorships, College of Medicine awards for teaching and research). Faculty excellence awards are presented during an annual ceremony in categories such as teaching, research/creative activities, service, instructional design, advising/mentorship. and librarianship.

2. Recruitment (Sign on) Bonuses

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria for these bonuses include, but are not limited to, identification of external candidates with desirable specialized skills and exceptional experience, or where market conditions or departmental structure merit such an award.

3. Retention Bonuses

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria for these bonuses include, but are not limited to, circumstances to address verified offers of competing employment, address market conditions which are significantly higher than the current salary, ameliorate salary compression or inversion, or acknowledge successful completion of career development training, or certification programs that are in the best interests of the University or support the mission of the University. The general Bonus Plan eligibility requirements do not apply, except that the employee must be in active pay status at the time of payment of a retention bonus and the employee must not have a disciplinary action within the 12-month period preceding the payment.



Bonuses Falling Within This Category:

A. One-Time Payment In Lieu of Salary Increase

A one-time payment in lieu of a salary increase may be made to broad categories of employees where the university's budget cannot reasonably support recurring salary increases but can support one-time payments using non-recurring funds. Such one-time payments enhance retention of valuable workforce members and avoid the cost to the university of replacing individuals who may leave to seek an increase in salary elsewhere.

B. One-Time Payment for Employee at Top of Range

A one-time payment in lieu of all or part of a salary increase may be made for retention purposes where an employee is 'red-circled' – i.e., would otherwise be eligible for a university salary increase except that the employee is near or above the maximum salary range for the position. The employee may receive some level of salary increase; however, the amount of such increase will vary depending on the availability of funds, performance, and internal equity considerations. Amounts may be paid as a lump sum rather than as an adjustment to base salary.

Delegations of Authority

The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees (UCFBOT) delegates authority to the President or the President's designee to establish procedures to implement this bonus plan, including levels of approvals and compensation for specific bonuses described in this bonus plan. The University of Central Florida Bonus Plan shall be overseen by the Chief Human Resources Officer for all staff employees, and in conjunction with the Office of the Provost for all faculty employees.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees

The Board of Governors requires that bonuses paid pursuant to this plan be reported to the UCF BOT on a schedule to be set by the Board. Annually, during the Fall semester, the President shall submit a report to the Board that certifies the following: (i) that any bonuses paid during the prior year complied with the criteria in this bonus plan; and (ii) that the bonuses were within the University's budget as approved by the Board. The report shall include the total amount of funds paid for performance, recruitment, and retention bonuses.

Authority: BOG Regulations 1.001 and 9.015. History – New 9-23-21. Revised 5-26-22, 6-25-24.