



CALS AMBASSADOR
Application for the Academic Year
2025-2026

The Ambassadors are a select group of students in the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in academics and student leadership.

The Ambassadors support food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences throughout the state of Florida. Their objective is to create awareness of the academic programs and career opportunities in those areas among students, teachers, advisors and the general public in the state of Florida. They meet this objective by speaking at high schools, community colleges and civic organizations within the state of Florida and at national events.

As the official hosts for UF/IFAS and CALS functions, they assist with many events including alumni gatherings throughout Florida, where they provide a vital link between alumni, CALS and UF/IFAS.

Serving as an Ambassador is an honor and distinction. No academic credit is offered, and the experience can be 1-3 years in length.

Application Deadline:
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 by 4:18 p.m.

Interviews (if invited):
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Do you want to know more about being a CALS Ambassador?

Email: Jenai Collins, Program Assistant jenai@ufl.edu

<https://cals.ufl.edu/ambassadors/>



Proud supporter of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Application deadline is Tuesday, March 4, by 4:18 PM. Return completed applications to 2020 McCarty Hall D attention Jenai Collins. Electronic versions of the application will not be accepted. (If mailing, must be received by March 4th, plan accordingly)

The CALS Ambassador program is beginning its 31st year and is recognized as one of the best student Ambassador programs in the nation. Selected applicants will be contacted and invited to arrange an interview time. **Interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday March 25th, 2025, in McCarty Hall D room 2025.** The competitive selection process consists of several requirements and activities:

1. Applications will be reviewed by a panel, and candidates will be selected for an interview. ***You will be notified either way by email.***
2. You are required to choose one of the following: (a) 20-30 second TikTok video – vertically oriented (b) Blog Post (c) a well developed Facebook/Instagram post w/ a photo and caption/infographic; we simply want you to be creative and have fun. We encourage you to use your phone (or a friend's) for this task. Make sure your video **is oriented vertically.** **Submit your video via Dropbox at cemer@ufl.edu.** Your choice must be submitted by the application deadline for your application to be complete.

Examples of themes you could choose or come up with your own:

- **Where you started and where you are now in CALS**
- **Living my best life in CALS!**
- **I was today years old when I learned about CALS...**
- **A CALS “life” hack you didn’t know you needed.**
- **Favorite things about CALS**
- **Top five reasons I love CALS**

3. If invited to interview, you will schedule a 30-minute group interview. Detailed information will follow.

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Have two references of your choice complete the Qualtrics recommendation form. (UF academic advisor, professor, staff) See more info on the next page.
- Attach a current resume.
- Be a rising sophomore, junior or senior (seniors must have a full year of availability: fall 2025 and spring 2026). Must not have plans for an internship or study abroad for your 1st full year.
- Be enrolled in one of the 20 plus majors in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- Attend the Ambassador Training Conference on **August 12-14, 2025** – This is **MANDATORY**, meaning not negotiable. The conference requires 3 days and 2 nights on location. All expenses and arrangements are handled by the CALS Dean’s Office.
- You will be expected to **attend UF Freshman Convocation** as your first official CALS Ambassador event in August **TBD, 2025** and the **CALS Loves you a Brunch** event, TBD.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Be highly motivated, energetic, and dependable.
- Be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills.
- Be a team player.
- **Attend regularly scheduled meetings each semester.** Meetings are **MANDATORY** unless you have a CLASS conflict. Work schedules are not considered.
- Be willing to travel and participate in **evening and weekend activities along with on campus activities as requested.** This means you are exceptional at time management!
- Must **not** be planning on completing an internship requirement during your 1st year as an ambassador.

HOW TO SUBMIT REFERENCE LETTERS

Send this link to your references:

<https://go.ufl.edu/ambassadorref2526>

No actual *letter* will be required or accepted. References must be submitted electronically using the above link by Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 @ 11:59 pm.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW SUCCESS

Here are a few suggestions to help you prepare to be a successful candidate:

- Be on time to your interview.
- Dress professionally – **Business Attire!**
- Be prepared and do your homework (familiarize yourself with UF, CALS and IFAS Programs).
- Give some thought to your skills and qualities and use visual aids that are creative and interesting.

University of Florida
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
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Personal Information

Name:		UF ID:
Local Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone #1 :		Phone #2:
E-Mail Address:	@ufl.edu	Do you have a drivers license? Yes / No
Permanent Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
DOB:	Emergency Contact Name:	Phone #

Education

Classification:	Expected Graduation Date:	GPA:
Major:	Minor:	
Will you be enrolled Summer A 2025?	Summer B 2025?	

Please list courses you plan to take in the next year.

Summer	Fall	Spring

When did you enter the University of Florida?

Term (select one):	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	FRESHMAN	TRANSFER STUDENT
YEAR					

Important NOTE: The remainder of this application should be **HANDWRITTEN!**



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
- Aristotle

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences offers _____ majors and _____ specializations.

List three reasons why serving as a CALS Ambassador is important to you:

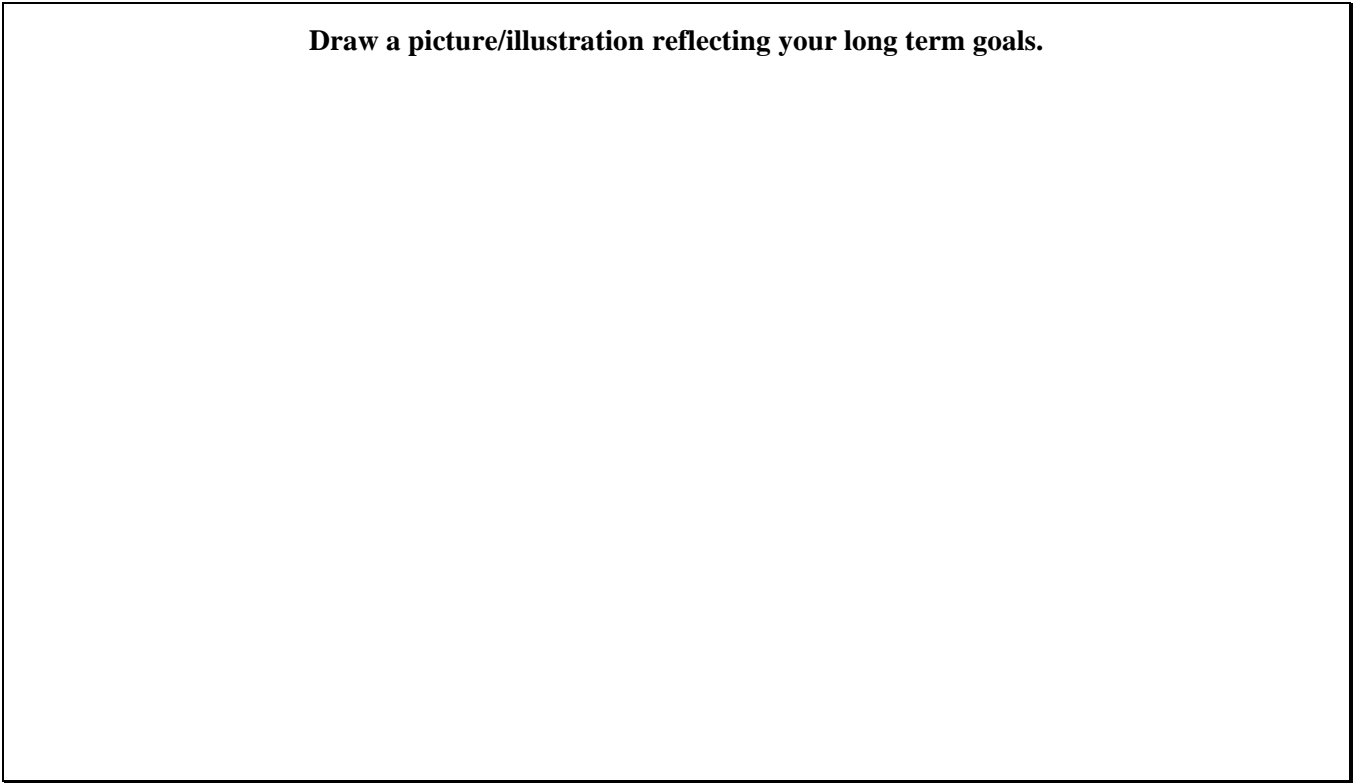
My top two weaknesses are:

Describe a time where a class project or assignment/conversation/workshop enhanced your awareness of diversity and how do you think, feel and behave differently as a result.

How would you engage a group of middle school students who do not know anything about CALS or careers in agriculture, natural resources and environment? Describe your theme, type of props or materials and content?

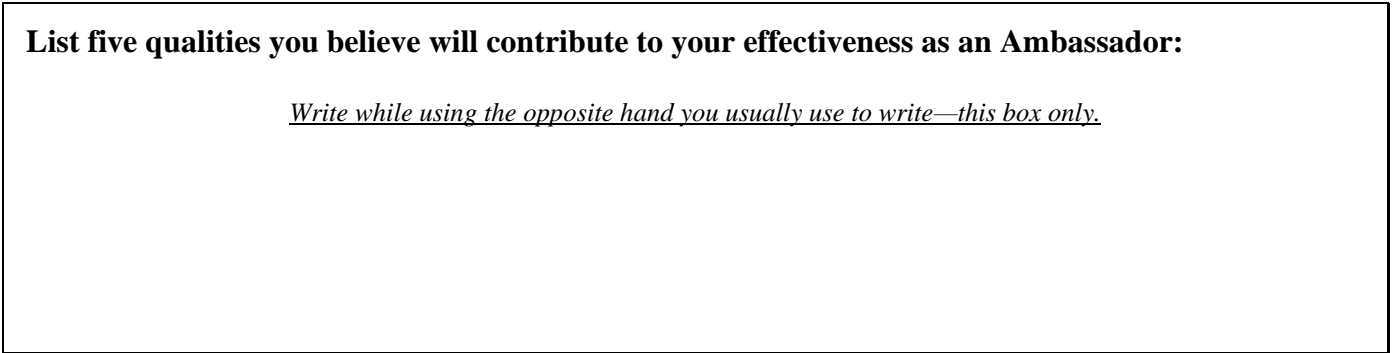
*You have to be willing to grow, to push your talents to the outer limits.
- Stedman Graham*

Draw a picture/illustration reflecting your long term goals.

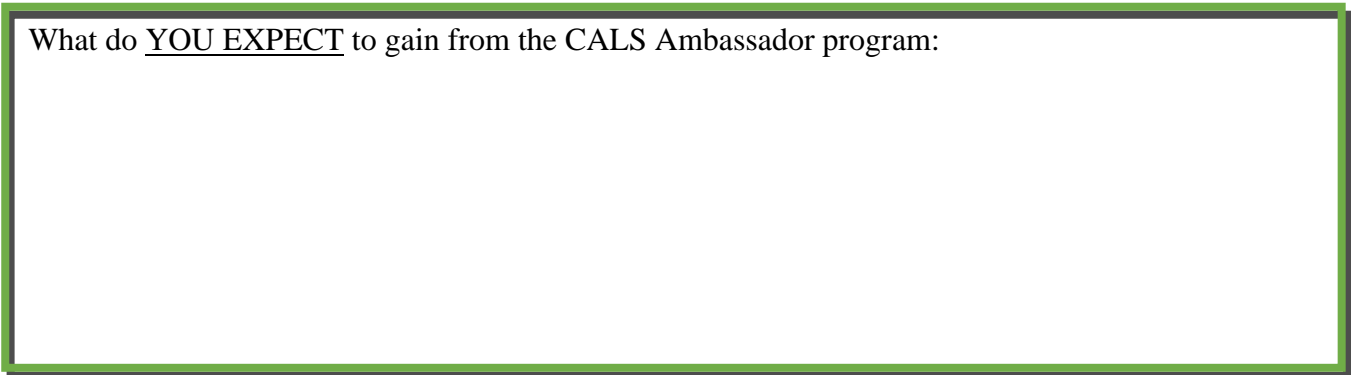


List five qualities you believe will contribute to your effectiveness as an Ambassador:

Write while using the opposite hand you usually use to write—this box only.



What do YOU EXPECT to gain from the CALS Ambassador program:



Differences challenge assumptions. – Anne Wilson Schaef

How often do you READ your emails? Be honest!

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Imagine UF CALS is planning a themed professional development event. What theme would you suggest and why?"

If you had to teach a class on one thing that isn't typically taught in school, what would it be?

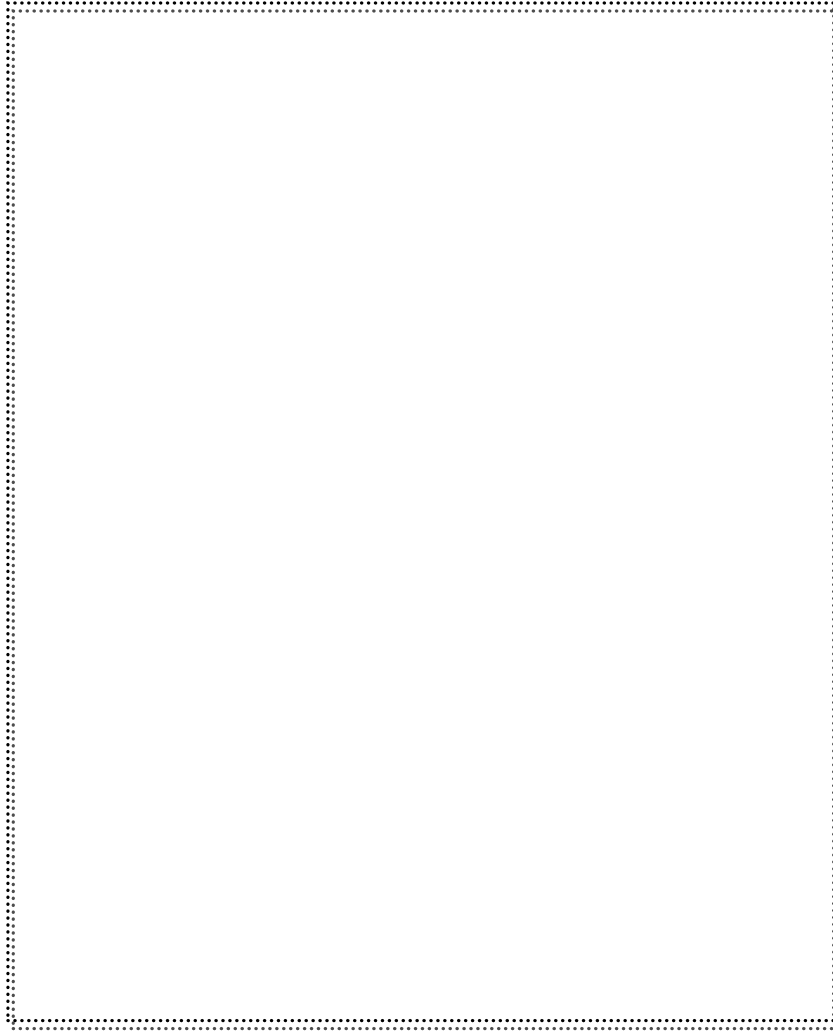
If you could trade places with a UF CALS professor/advisor for a day, who would it be and why

I learned about the CALS Ambassador Program from:

What is the name of the college you are in? This is not a trick question.

1. List three interesting facts about UF, CALS and/or UF/IFAS. Write them around the outside perimeter of this page.
2. Approximately how many undergraduate and graduate students are currently enrolled in CALS?

Attach a 4x6 photo professional style headshot of yourself here.



Don't forget to attach your resume!

Please accept my application for the 2025-2026 CALS Ambassador Team. I certify that I am/will be enrolled in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, my grade point average is 2.5 or higher, I am in good academic standing and that I have read and agree to the requirements of being a CALS Ambassador.

Student's Signature

Date

Have your references complete the Qualtrics recommendation form.

