



## **CALS AMBASSADOR**

### **Application 2026-2027**

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 academically, professionally and personally.

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 public in the state of Florida. They meet this objective by speaking at high schools, community colleges and civic organizations throughout 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 a CALS Ambassador is an honor and distinction. No academic credit is offered, and the experience can be 1-3 years in length.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026 by 4:18 PM**

Interviews (if invited) will be held on  
Thursday, March 5, 2026

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

**Email:** Jenai Collins, Program Assistant [jenai@ufl.edu](mailto:jenai@ufl.edu)

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



Proud supporter of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**Application deadline is February 17, 2026, by 4:18 PM. Deliver completed applications to 2020 McCarty Hall D to the attention of Jenai Collins.** Electronic versions of the application will not be accepted. (If mailing, must be received by February 17, 2026, plan accordingly)

The CALS Ambassador program is beginning its 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 Thursday March 5, 2026, 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. Develop a well thought out infographic; be creative and have fun. Print out the infographic and include it in your application.
3. 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**
  - **5 reasons I would make an excellent Ambassador**
  - **Top five reasons I love CALS**
  - **From curiosity to career, where you can go in CALS**
4. 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.
- A current resume.
- Be a rising sophomore, junior or senior (seniors must have a full year of availability: fall 2026 and spring 2027). 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 11-13, 2026 – This is MANDATORY, meaning not negotiable. The conference requires 3 days and 2 nights on location. All expenses and arrangements are handled by CALS Dean’s Office.
- You will be expected to attend CALS Loves You a Brunch as your first official CALS Ambassador event on August 19, 2026.
- 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/calsambassadorreference>

No actual *letters* will be required or accepted. References must be submitted electronically using the above link by Wednesday, February 17, 2026 @ 11:59 pm.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW SUCCESS

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

- Be on time for 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**  
**AMBASSADORS**  
*Application for the Academic Year 2026-2027*

**Personal Information**

Name:		UF ID:	
Local Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone #1 :		Phone #2:	
E-Mail Address:		@ufl.edu	Do you have a driver's 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 2026?	Summer B 2026?	

**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*

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

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My top two weaknesses are:

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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.

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

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*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!

## How often do you READ your emails? Be honest!

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. I follow the dean and college on social media @ufcalsdean and @ufcals? If no I do now!

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



**Don't forget to attach your resume!**

Please accept my application for the 2026-2027 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.

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Student's Signature

Date

**Have your references complete the Qualtrics recommendation form.**

