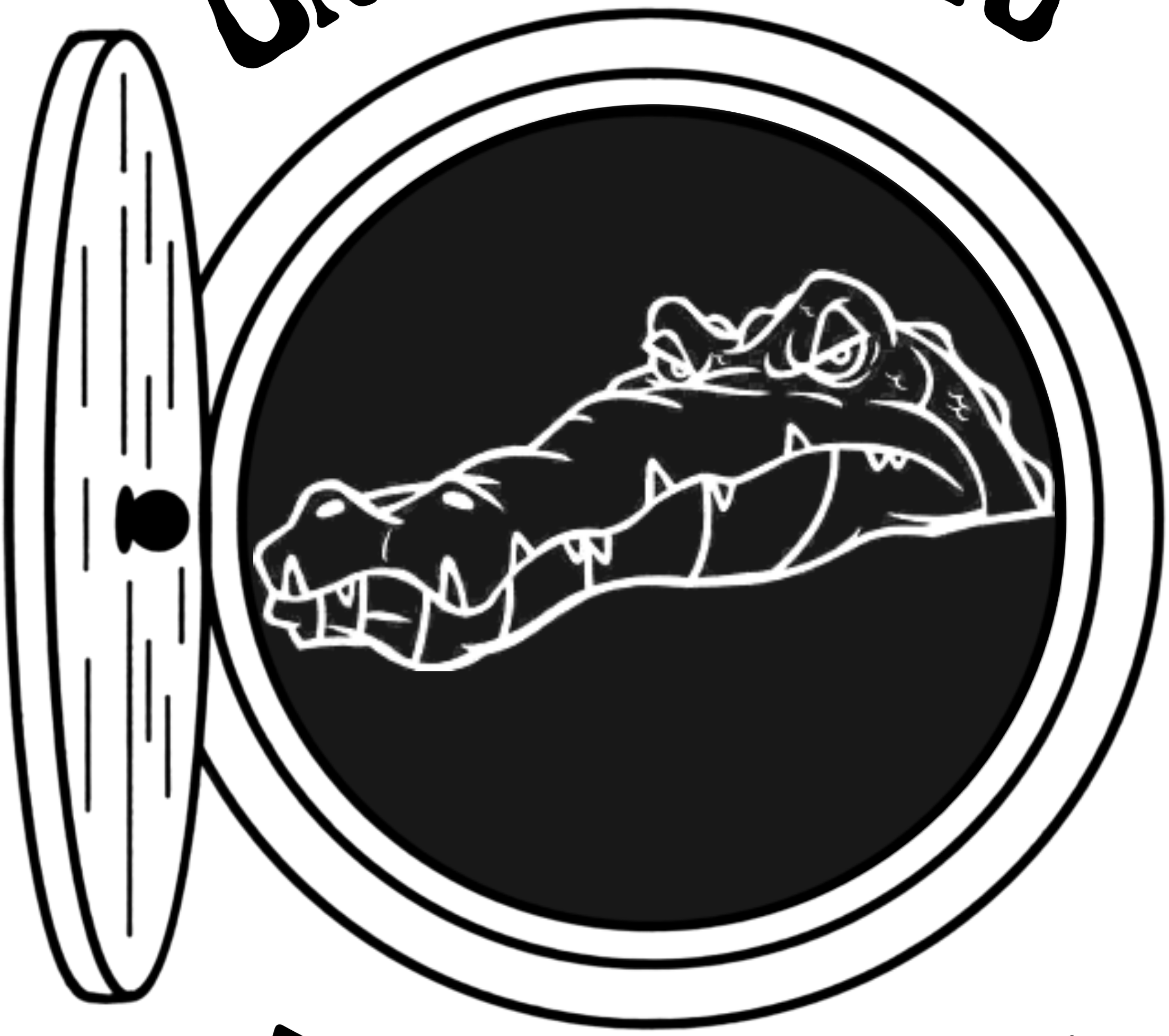
One Credit To



Rule Them All

IDH3931 OCRA: One Credit to Rule Them All

UF Honors (August 2023)

Instructional Team

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This 1-credit course with the UF Honors Office runs from Thursday, August 17 to Monday, August 21 and will meet daily in Turlington 2306 as well as on site at various locations across campus. Course meeting times vary by day – please refer to the schedule at the end of this syllabus.

Course Description

First-year students – human, hobbit, elf, or dwarf – are called upon to participate in the "One Credit to Rule them All" Honors Camp to safeguard the One Ring of Power and protect it from the gathering forces of darkness. In this course student teams will learn about the medieval world under five umbrella themes (communication, navigation, the built environment, the natural environment, and conflict resolution) on a quest to create their own fantasy land.

OCRA is a camp for UF Honors students designed as a creative immersion into the drama of Middle Earth as depicted in J. R. R. Tolkien's classic *Lord of the Rings* (Peter Jackson's film version *Fellowship of the Ring* will get us started). Students will join hobbits, elves, dwarves, and other inhabitants of Middle Earth to preserve their ways of life against the absolutist ambitions of the Dark Lord – and pick up some basic principles of the medieval lifestyle and other important Middle Earth skills (castle building, siege engines, and more) along the way. Student teams will build their own fantasy worlds while competing against each other in various side quests to gain points and safeguard the ring.

As first-year students, making connections is critical. The relationships you form as you complete the OCRA experience with other students who share your interest in this singular fantasy adventure can serve as ongoing "fellowships" that will help you be successful in your endeavors at UF. To introduce students to the vast set of resources offered by the University of Florida and the Gainesville community, we will host guest speakers from the School of Architecture, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, UF Smathers Libraries, the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the Society for Creative Anachronism; we will also host an external guest speaker from the Boston College Department of Classics.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- identify some of the basic elements of Medieval society.
- recognize the basic process of building fantasy worlds.
- confidently present material from team-based projects.
- responsibly use AI tools to assist in academic activities.
- point to various University of Florida resources as a starting point for questions, research, etc.
- excel in team-based activities in their future classes at the University of Florida.

Course Expectations

To ensure that this short course is successful, students are expected to come to class daily prepared to learn and participate as active and thoughtful members of their groups and the total classroom environment. Students should read and heed expectations and announcements carefully by paying attention in class and checking the Canvas learning management system in the evenings.

The five themes of this course will direct our entire study as we learn about the medieval world, evaluate the fantasy world of *Lord of the Rings*, and create our own fantasy worlds.

Course Evaluation

Students are graded equally in five categories broadly keyed to each of these themes:

- Communication: Final Group Presentation **[20 pts.]**
  - Student teams will present selected aspects of their fantasy world with the help of AI image generation to the class in a 12- to 15-minute presentation on the final meeting day.
- Navigation: Reflection **[20 pts.]**
  - Students will individually complete a brief self-reflection exercise at the end of the first three meeting days and a self-evaluation on the final meeting day.
- Built Environment: Creation of the Fantasy World **[20 pts.]**
  - Student teams are graded on their general effort and approach to building out their fantasy world.
- Natural Environment: Participation **[20 pts.]**
  - Students are individually assessed on their participation and attendance in the whole class and their group cohesion as assessed by the instructor and SOFAs. In the third meeting day's reflection, students will also assess themselves on participation.
- Conflict Resolution: Team Challenges **[20 pts.]**
  - Student teams are assessed on their effort and completion of team challenges and side quests.

Grading Scale[1]

90+	80-89	70-79	69-
A	B	C	D

Course Communications

Students will be a part of the OCRA August 2023 Discord (along with the instructor and the SOFAs). Because of the short period of the course, the fact that students are brand new to college, and the reality of a weekend course, students can contact the instructor and SOFAs about questions, concerns, or emergencies through this Discord message during reasonable out-of-class hours. Alternatively, students should use Canvas Mail or UF Gator Mail to contact a member of the instructional team. Students must use Canvas Mail or UF Gator Mail for sensitive topics or official communications (such as accommodation requests).

Elements of World Building

- Communication: Reading, Writing, and Understanding
  - Student teams will attend a workshop on calligraphy and learn about literature of and about the medieval time as they learn about fantasy literature.
- Navigation: Cartography and Government
  - Student teams will visit the UF Map Library and create their own map of their fantasy realm.
  - Student teams will take an adventure across the UF campus in search of clues.
- The Built Environment: Architecture and Material Culture
  - Student teams will make their own medieval structures and learn about medieval architecture.
  - Student teams will enrich their navigation side quest with special stops focused on campus architecture.
- The Natural Environment: Ecology, Biological Diversity, and Animal Life
  - Student teams will visit the UF Natural Area Teaching Lab and learn about Floridian ecology while deciding how nature will play a role in their fantasy world.

[1] *Nota Bene*: This grading scale does not reflect the typical UF course and is specifically designed for the nature of this course.

  - Student teams will go in search of alligators and bats on a side quest to Lake Alice and the UF Bat Houses.
- Security & Conflict Resolution: Warfare and Self-Defense
  - Student teams will get a demonstration on medieval weaponry and warfare and get a chance to build trebuchets and catapults to defend their fantasy realm.

Special Course Considerations

Students are advised to dress in clothing and footwear that will be comfortable and appropriate for walking across campus and taking "field trips" during the day in Floridian August heat. This also means coming prepared with umbrellas and/or raingear for the occasional shower or thunderstorm. Students will need access to their UF IDs to ride the RTS bus for free during field trips. IDs should be accessible through your phone as an incoming first-year student.

It is also recommended students bring and fill water bottles to remain hydrated throughout the day. Sunscreen for daytime field trips is recommended, as is bug repellent (specifically for mosquitoes) for evening field trips. Finally, students should ideally have access to a blanket or towel to sit on for the outdoor demonstrations.

While lunch will be provided by the course, students can bring snacks.

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The University of Florida acknowledges the Timucua, Seminole, and all other Indigenous peoples who live, have lived, and recognize their ancestral connection to these lands since time immemorial. We further acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor was exploited to fund the construction of the East Florida Seminary School, the historical forerunner institution to the University of Florida.

To learn more about the significance of the Indigenous peoples in this region and throughout the nation, we encourage all to inquire more at Know the History of the Land you Inhabit and explore native-land.ca for additional insight. Additional sites for further education can be found here, here, and here.

Schedule

Thursday, August 17

6:00pm-9:00pm	group screening of *Fellowship of the Ring* {optional}	(Honors Village)

Friday, August 18

8:30am-9:30am	Group Breakfast, Meet and Greet	(Turlington 2306)
9:30am-10:00am	Prologue: Joining the Fellowship	(Turlington 2306)
10:00am-10:15am	Break	
10:15am-11:15am	Chapter 1A: Setting the Stage	(Turlington 2306)
11:15am-11:30am	Break	
11:30am-12:00pm	Chapter 1B: Setting the Stage	(Turlington 2306)
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	(Turlington 2306)
1:00pm-1:30pm	Library West Tour and Resources, Megan Daly	(Library West 211)
1:45pm-2:45pm	Chapter 2: Learning the Land, Carol McAuliffe	(Smathers Library)
2:45pm-3:15pm	Smathers Library Tour	(Smathers Library)
3:15pm-3:30pm	Break	
3:30pm-4:00pm	World Building Toolkit	(Turlington 2306)
4:00pm-4:45pm	World Building Workshop	(Turlington 2306)

4:45pm-5:00pm	Break	
5:00pm-5:15pm	Reflection	(Turlington 2306)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Side Quest A: UF Bat Houses and Lake Alice	(UF Bat Houses)

Saturday, August 19

9:30am-9:45am	Strategy Session	(Turlington 2306)
9:45am-10:00am	Break	
10:15am-11:00am	Chapter 3: Talking Animals, Christopher Polt	(Turlington 2306)
11:00am-11:15am	Break	
11:15am-12:00pm	Honors Meet and Greet	(Broward Dining)
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	(Broward Dining)
1:00pm-1:45pm	Side Quest B: At the Games	(Turlington 2306)
1:45pm-2:00pm	Break	
2:00pm-2:45pm	Chapter 4: Building Shelter, TBD	(Turlington 2306)
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break	
3:00pm-4:00pm	Workshop and Team Competition: Built Environment	(Turlington 2306)
4:00pm-5:00pm	World Building Workshop	(Turlington 2306)
5:00pm-5:15pm	Reflection	(Turlington 2306)
7:00pm-9:00pm	Side Quest C: Scavenger Hunt	(Reitz Union 1st Floor)

Sunday, August 20

10:00am-11:30am	Chapter 5: War of the Worlds Demonstration, SCA	(University Auditorium)
11:45am-1:00pm	Chapter 6: Calligraphy, SCA	(Turlington 2306)
1:00pm-1:45pm	Lunch	
1:45pm-2:15pm	Chapter 7: Defending Your World, Jabari Wilson	(Turlington 2306)
2:15pm-3:15pm	Workshop and Team Competition	(Turlington 2306)
3:15pm-3:30pm	Reflection	(Turlington 2306)

Monday, August 21

9:30am-10:00am	Strategy Session	(Turlington 2306)
10:00am-10:15am	Break/Travel Time	
10:15am-11:15am	Chapter 8: The Natural World, Anthony Auletta	(NATL)
11:15am-11:30am	Break/Travel Time	
11:30am-1:30pm	Open Workshop and Lunch	(Turlington 2306)
1:30pm-3:30pm	Conclusion and Presentations	(Turlington 2306)

UF Policies

Classroom Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (or call 352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter

which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If there are any accessibility issues with the Canvas course page or course files, please inform the instructor as soon as possible so that a correction can be made.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available here. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or here. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The Honor Code specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this course.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may **not** publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.
A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is **prohibited**. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

- For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk online, via phone at (352) 392-4357, or via walk-in at HUB 132.
- Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor **within 24 hours** of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a makeup.

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit website or call (352) 392-1575 or the University Police Department at (352) 392-1111. Call 911 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): For the Student Health Care Center, call (352) 392-1161.
- University Police Department: Call (352) 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies) or visit website.
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call (352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608.

Academic Resources

- Career Resource Center: Visit the office at the Reitz Union or call (352) 392-1601. Reach out for career assistance and counseling. Visit website.
- Library Support: Visit website. Reach out for various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Visit the office at Broward Hall or call (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420. Reach out for general study skills and tutoring. Visit website.
- Writing Studio: Visit the office at Tigert Hall 302 or call (352) 846-1138. Reach out for help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. Visit website.
- Student Complaints Campus: Visit website.