



Terry Mohajir

Vice President and Director of Athletics, UCF

Terry Mohajir, UCF's vice president and director of athletics, has excelled at hiring coaches who win championships, raising money for first-class athletics facilities and support resources necessary to be nationally competitive--and fulfilling a unique promise to guarantee a job or graduate school admission for every student-athlete who graduates.

His first full year with the Knights in 2021 featured all of that and more—from the February hiring of Gus Malzahn as the new UCF head football coach to the September announcement that UCF will join the

Big 12 Conference. Malzahn's first Knight team followed that up with six wins in its last seven outings and a final 9-4 mark, capped by a Gasparilla Bowl triumph over Florida.

Mohajir joined the UCF Athletics staff in February 2021 following eight years as Arkansas State University's vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics. He wasted no time making an impact at UCF, hiring former Auburn coach Malzahn as the new UCF football coach just five days after taking over the Knights' program. Malzahn was head coach at Arkansas State in 2012 when Mohajir was hired there as director of athletics.

Once Mohajir came on board at UCF, Knight teams produced these 2021 on-field achievements:

- American Athletic Conference titles in volleyball (two—both spring and fall 2021), men's soccer, men's tennis and women's tennis, followed by 2022 titles in women's basketball (both regular season and tournament) and women's indoor track and field
- NCAA Championship appearances by all those teams, plus women's basketball, women's golf and softball, with individuals qualifying in men's golf and women's indoor and outdoor track and field
- NCAA Sweet 16 qualifications in men's soccer and women's tennis, plus an NCAA regional runner-up slot in softball
- First-team All-America honors for Rayniah Jones in the 2021 NCAA 100-meter hurdles outdoors and the 2022 NCAA 60-meter hurdles indoors after she won three events at the 2022 AAC Indoor Track and Field Championships and was named the meet's outstanding performer

Mohajir's August presentation to the UCF Board of Trustees of a vision and action plan for the future of the Knights' football campus proved to be a noteworthy precursor to the September Big 12 announcement. That vision includes significant proposed new elements that will enhance the Knights' ability to compete for football championships, by further refining a state-of-the-art plan for football facilities and support services within a concentrated locale on the northeast side of the UCF campus:

- a new structure on the south side of the football stadium featuring all UCF football coaches' offices combined with premium seating in front of the offices and the Launch Club, a premium club area
- a rebuilt Wayne Densch Sports Center to feature an expansion and renovation of locker room and team lounge and meeting areas, the Bortles and Murray Athletic Training Room, equipment facilities and Gault-Kohn Sports Performance Center as part the Knights' football training facility
- creation of Nicholson Plaza, a football "town square" outside the southwest corner of the football stadium, with the highlight of that location to be McNamara Cove with a recovery river

Mohajir's tenure at Arkansas State featured delivering on a guarantee that every student-athlete who graduated earned a job opportunity or admission to graduate school. The Red Wolves achieved the 100% guarantee every year for Mohajir's last six years there—and he instituted the same program at UCF under the banner of the Knights Leadership Academy (with all 48 graduates in spring 2021 qualifying).

Other achievements during Mohajir's first months in Orlando include:

- installation of new artificial turf in Nicholson Fieldhouse (UCF's indoor football building) and significant branding and other updates in the football offices
- rebranding of the Knights' ongoing athletics fundraising and giving platform as the ChargeOn Fund
- helping raise more than \$11 million in athletics commitments through the end of 2021
- establishing excellence funds for all UCF varsity sports programs
- scheduling a football series with Florida
- supporting UCF student-athletes in fall 2021 as they achieved a 28th consecutive semester with a combined grade-point average of at least 3.0—as well as 148 dean's list honorees in the 2021 spring semester

Mohajir was a member of the prestigious College Football Playoff (CFP) Selection Committee from 2019-21. In 2020 he was named one of the top five non-Power 5 athletic directors by Stadium.

While at Arkansas State for eight-plus years, Mohajir's accomplishments included producing record-breaking fundraising totals and overseeing significant facility upgrades--as Arkansas State enjoyed unprecedented overall success academically, competitively and financially. The football team won four Sun Belt championships and played in a bowl game every season in his eight years. Overall, the Red Wolves won 25 conference titles in all sports during Mohajir's tenure.

Mohajir previously held administrative posts at the University of Kansas (2011-12), Florida Atlantic University (2004-11) and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (1997-2004). He also spent five years (1993-97) as an assistant football coach at Kansas. He's a 1993 graduate of Arkansas State (sports management)—and he earned a master's degree from Kansas in 1997 (sports management/psychology).