

Biography:

Karissa Lawson is a Financial Aid Coordinator at University of Central Florida. She received both her Bachelors in Business Administration and Masters in Nonprofit Management Degrees from UCF.

After 11 years of working in Financial Aid, Ms. Lawson has earned all her NASFAA credentials and is currently working on obtaining her Financial Aid Administrator Certification.

Ms. Lawson loves working with students/parents and helping them with their financial aid needs. She believes that it's her job as a financial aid administrator to assist the student population with their financial aid questions and concerns.

Even with working in the financial aid office for 11 years, she is always willing to learn something new, given the constant changes in financial aid policy and procedures.

She currently resides in the Central Florida area, where she loves volunteering at several nonprofit organizations that assist with community development. When she is not working or volunteering, she spends her time with family and friends.

Questions:

1) *What role does diversity play within your profession in higher education?*

As a Coordinator of the UCF Student Financial Assistance Office, I am required to enroll in 8 hours of diversity education learnings annually to become a better advocate for members of racial or ethnic minority groups, the LGBTQ+ community, and persons with disabilities.

2) *Who is your favorite artist/celebrity?*

Beyonce is my favorite celebrity because she is a singer, actress, record producer, songwriter, dancer, businesswoman, and director.

3) *What is one word that best describe you?*

One word that best describes me is dynamic because I change, I adapt, and I do whatever I need to do to succeed.