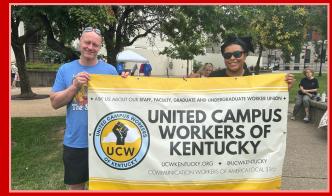
Join us in fighting for a better UofL!



Our union is only as powerful as we make it. We win when many workers step up as leaders and help move their coworkers to take action. That's why it's so important for you to get involved. By joining, you can work alongside your coworkers to fight for a more equitable workplace!

Join your union today!



United Campus Workers of Kentucky is our wall-to-wall public sector union for higher education institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our members are faculty and staff, healthcare and facilities workers, graduate and undergraduate workers.

We believe in public institutions that truly serve the public good. Together we're building power to protect and strengthen our colleges, universities, and hospitals for all workers—and for the students, patients, and communities that we serve.



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UCW History

BUILDING WORKER POWER IN THE SOUTH!

United Campus Workers (UCW) was founded in 2000 at the University of Tennessee, when workers came together to demand a living wage and better working conditions for custodial staff. Through collective action, they won higher wages and a new overtime policy. But campus workers didn't stop there—they continued organizing around issues affecting all campus employees, laying the foundation for a historic push to unionize public universities across the South!



In 2020, public higher education workers across Kentucky followed in the footsteps of campus workers in Tennessee to form their own UCW local and fight for better pay, healthcare, and higher education as a public good. Since then, UCW-KY has grown to over 900 members!

BUILDING POWER FOR THE LONG-TERM AT UOFL

In Fall 2021, UofL campus workers began organizing as part of United Campus Workers (UCW), bringing together faculty, staff, and student workers from across departments to fight for a university where all campus workers and students have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Since our founding, campus workers have led several campaigns to fight for the changes we all want to see, including:

- A campaign to prevent the reorganization of advising in 2023
- A campaign to address concerns with the staff compensation study in 2023
- Two statewide campaigns organized in coalition with local Louisville- and Kentucky-based advocacy groups—against the 2025 anti-tenure and anti-DEI legislation at the state level



Our Plan to win: Building worker

Because Kentucky has weak labor laws, we are building our union through deep organizing to win real change. At UofL that means building a powerful, member-led movement with the resources needed to run effective campaigns and bring majorities of our coworkers into action!

Building Structure

To win the big changes we want to see at UofL, we are building a leadership structure called an Organizing Committee (OC)—a team made up of workers from across job classes who come together to learn organizing skills and lead campaigns. Any worker on campus can join and be part of building our union! In fact, the more of us who get involved and take part in organizing our coworkers the stronger our union will be to fight for the changes we want to see at UofL!

Funding Our Union

Every UCW member contributes a small monthly amount in dues to ensure our union has the resources to fight and win. By pooling our resources, we build the power to act independently of university administrations and push for change in ways other campus bodies can't. Member dues fund everything from lobby trips to Frankfort to full-time organizers who support our campaigns and help us build power on campus.