

Topic: Summer Programs for At-Risk Students

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1. **WHAT?** What is the initiative? Describe in appropriate detail.

UCA Summer Start – Read for Success and **UCA Summer Start – Math Academy** were developed in response to the 2013 Enrollment Management Plan proposal to address remediation through summer programs. Students who complete the Read for Success program successfully satisfy a transitional requirement and earn degree credit. Students who complete the Math Academy program successfully have the opportunity to place into a “regular” math course in the fall semester and refresh their mathematics skills. Both groups accomplish intensive work building academic success skills.

In order to assist entering UCA students in moving past the remediation hurdle prior to the start of their first semester, the University will explore ways to offer students an opportunity to complete their required remediation before the start of the fall semester, while also becoming oriented to the campus and the University system through a summer bridge and orientation program. (2013 EM Plan)

2. **WHO?** Who will it impact (e.g., special populations)? How many students will it/does it impact?

In fall 2013, UCA's entering class included 581 first-time undergraduates who required remediation in math or reading – or 26.4% of the incoming class of 2,202. UCA Summer Start programs are intended, in particular, for a subset of that 26.4%: those who are on the boundaries of academic preparedness and who, therefore, may benefit most from a short-term academic intervention. The Math Academy seeks to enroll students with an ACT math subscore of 17 or, while the Read for Success program seeks to enroll students with an ACT reading subscore of 16-18. In fall 2013, 367 students met one or both criteria.

These students and other prospective UCA students with similar academic profiles will be invited each year to participate in the Summer Start programs rather than waiting to complete remediation in the fall semester. The programs are beginning small in 2014 – and our experience this year will help us shape next year's programming and marketing – but both programs will be scalable in increments of, say, 20 students per program “course.” The evolving shape of UCA's first-time undergraduate students will also play a role in determining how these programs should grow.

2014 Summer Start information thus far:

- ◆ A number of the more than 1400 students who received the information concerning Summer Start contacted the Office of Student Success about taking the Compass Placement Test in lieu of participating (which is considered a positive outcome of this process, as well), or simply enrolling in the courses for Fall 2014.
- ◆ 23 students enrolled in the three-week *Summer Start – Read for Success* Program (17 remain enrolled as of this report)
- ◆ 65 students registered for the *Summer Start – Math Academy* Program (approximately half have submitted payment as of this report)

SAMPLE

3. WHEN? Identify the timeframe of implementation

Summer Start – Read for Success: Summer III (in 2014, this is July 21-August 8)

Summer Start – Math Academy: the week prior to Welcome Week (in 2014, this is August 11–15)

It is expected that, with whatever modifications prove desirable, these programs will continue annually on this schedule.

4. COST? How much will it cost? What is the cost per student affected? Will students have to pay? How much? Is any revenue generated?

The Summer Start – Read for Success program is a three-week program, during which students complete the transitional literacy course (UNIV 0361), a UCA Core Course (FILM 2300 in 2014), and attend daily success workshops.

Direct costs to each student: (1) Residential students: \$2,300 (tuition and fees, housing, meal plan, and books); (2) Non-residential students: \$1,850 (tuition and fees, lunch daily, books).¹ The Read for Success program is financial-aid eligible.

Summer 2014 Program Financials:

- ◆ Direct program costs: \$10,200
 - Faculty: \$6,812 (stipend plus fringes)
 - Peer mentors, supplies, programming (17 participants): \$3,388
- ◆ Total program revenue (tuition/fees only, assuming 17 participants): \$26,435

The Summer Start – Math Academy is a five-day program, during which students complete four days of math review and success workshops, and then are administered the Compass Placement Test on the final day.

Direct costs to each student: (1) Residential students: \$285 (participation fee, room, and meal plan); (2) Non-residential students: \$155 (participation fee, lunch daily).² The Math Academy is not financial-aid eligible.

Summer 2014 Program Financials:

- ◆ Direct program costs: \$4,847
 - Faculty: \$2,620 (2 @ stipend of \$1,000 each, plus fringes)
 - Peer mentors, supplies, programming, lunches (65 participants): \$2,067
 - Compass Tests (80 @ \$2): \$160
- ◆ Total program revenue (assuming 65 participants @ \$155): \$10,075

¹ For summer 2014, the University has awarded \$500 scholarships toward the cost of the program to each participant out of funds provided by auxiliary units.

² For summer 2014 Math Academy students, the University will award fall and spring semester book scholarships of \$125 out of funds provided by auxiliary units to the first 20 students who register and submit payment and then successfully complete the program. Additional scholarships may be awarded if funding is available.

5. OUTCOMES? What are the expected outcomes of the program?

- ♦ Reduced number of first-year students enrolled in transitional (remedial) math and literacy courses in the fall semester
- ♦ Increased number of first-year students on schedule with progress toward degree completion
- ♦ Higher fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall retention rates for participants when compared to peer group, as determined by program personnel in consultation with Institutional Research
- ♦ Greater academic skills preparation and improved confidence level on part of participants entering fall semester

6. RESPONSIBILITY? Who is responsible for managing and implementing the program?

The Office of Student Success

- ♦ Director, Dr. Julia Winden Fey
- ♦ Coordinator, Mr. Marvin Williams (UCAN)
- ♦ Coordinator, Ms. Vickie Wyeth (Tutoring Services)

7. CLOSING THE LOOP? When will data be collected? How will it be used?

The data on student program completion and success rates, the fall-to-spring retention data, and student pre- and post-evaluation data will be used in planning whether to continue, expand, and/or modify Summer Start for the upcoming year. Data review and planning will take place annually, primarily in the fall semester.

- ♦ During the programs:
 - Quantitative measure: Locally developed pre-tests and post-tests will be used in the Math Academy to measure students' math skill preparation before and after the program.
 - Qualitative measure: Both programs will ask students to complete a pre- and post-evaluation form regarding their sense of preparedness for and confidence in beginning the fall semester.
- ♦ August: The number of students who completed their remediation requirement prior to the start of the fall semester, and who are on schedule with their Program Completion Plan due to these programs will be known at the conclusion of the programs in August.
- ♦ Spring and Fall: Retention rates of participants and their peer group, as determined by Institutional Research, will be reviewed by the responsible parties of the this program.

SAMPLE