



## **UCAN (UNLOCKING COLLEGE ACADEMICS NOW) Annual Report 2009-2010**

Submitted by Marvin Williams, Coordinator

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### **MISSION**

“The mission of the UCAN program – “Unlocking College Academics Now” – is to help students facing a first academic suspension to improve their grade point average and thereby continue their education. The program works toward this goal by helping these students identify their individual academic needs and then develop methods for eliminating the barriers that have hindered them in attaining successful academic outcomes. To achieve these goals, the UCAN program allows students to remain in school one additional semester rather than placing them on suspension.”

Since the program’s inception, spring 2005, approximately 1110 students have participated in this program. Although not all students successfully complete the program, many students express gratitude for the opportunity, indicating that the skills and lessons learned changed their lives. As a result of the program some have decided to attend two year institutions or choose different career paths, while others return from their suspension having acquired tools that will help them academically, as they attempt to continue to raise their grade point averages.

### ***Structure of the Program***

- The program coordinator, Marvin Williams, is also the designated academic advisor for all participants monitoring their progress and engaging in intrusive advising as needed. Every potential participant met with the coordinator/advisor to submit an application, be accepted into the program and be advised for classes.
- Every full time student enrolled in the program signed a contract agreeing to the following requirements:

- 1) Enrolling in and successfully completing the UCAN Seminar.*
- 2) Limiting enrollment to no more than **14** semester hours, including the UCAN Seminar*
- 3) Maintaining at least a 2.0 semester grade point average for the academic term on at least **nine** credit hours.*
- 4) Spending a minimum of five hours a week studying in an approved study site on campus and 10 hours the week before final exams and providing documentation of those hours to their UCAN instructor.*
- 5) Adhering to the UCAN attendance policy, which allows no unexcused absences.*
- 6) Receiving advising in the Academic Advising Center by the program coordinator.*
- 7) Taking on-campus courses. NO online or correspondence courses allowed.*

- Every part time student enrolled in the program signed a contract agreeing to the same requirements. The only differences are limiting enrollment to ten hours and a minimum of three study hours weekly.
- Participants were required to attend an informative, yet motivational orientation prior to the beginning of the semester.
- Participants were required to attend Academic Success Workshop's designed to assist them in the areas of time management, personal responsibility, study skills and motivation.
- Midterm progress reports were sent to all the participant's professors to monitor academic progress. UCAN instructors scheduled individual appointments with each student to discuss progress and potential problems.
- Ultimately, our goal was not only for participants to succeed in the program by achieving at least a 2.0 GPA for the semester, but to develop skills, learn resources and acquire the motivation needed to complete their education.

## **SUMMARY**

The **fall** semester began with **119** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>4</b>  | Withdrew   |
| <b>39</b> | Completed the semester with at least a 2.0 GPA.  |
| <b>76</b> | Returned to suspension status for the spring semester, one of whom made the GPA requirement, but violated the UCAN contract. |

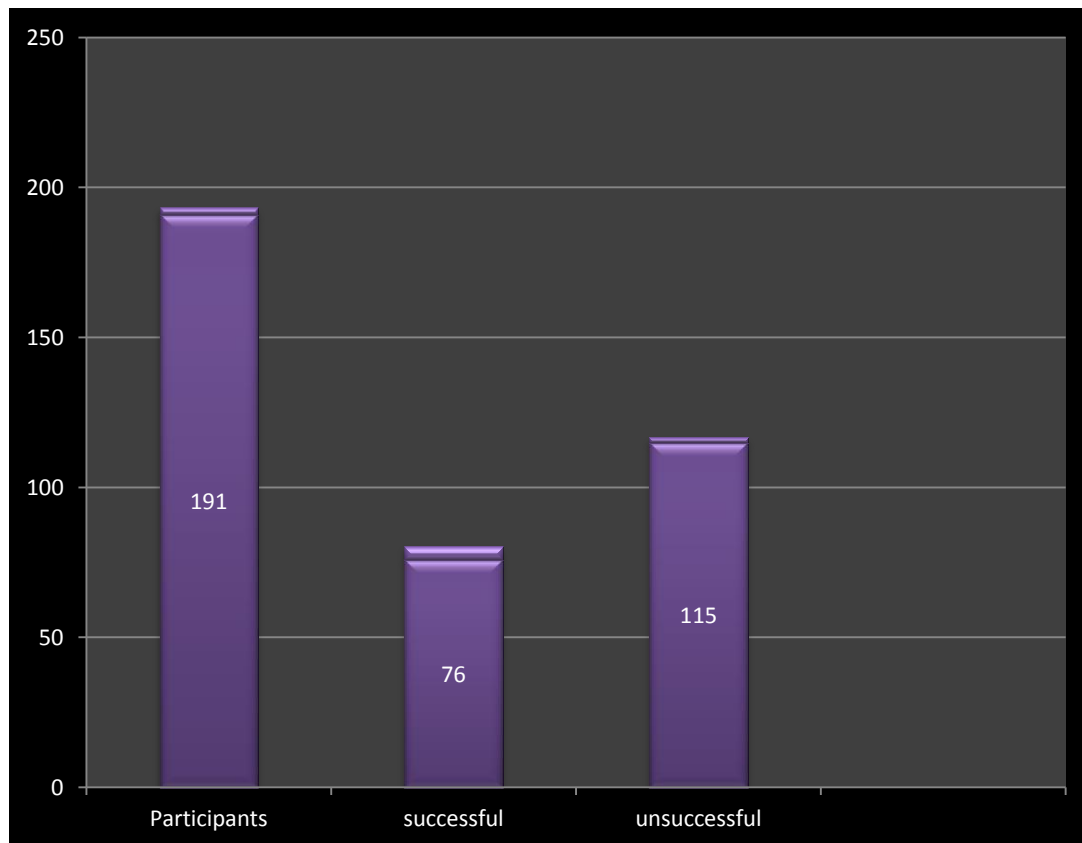
The **thirty-eight** students out of the **115** students who remained reflect a **33%** success rate for the fall 2009 semester.

The **spring** semester began with **83** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

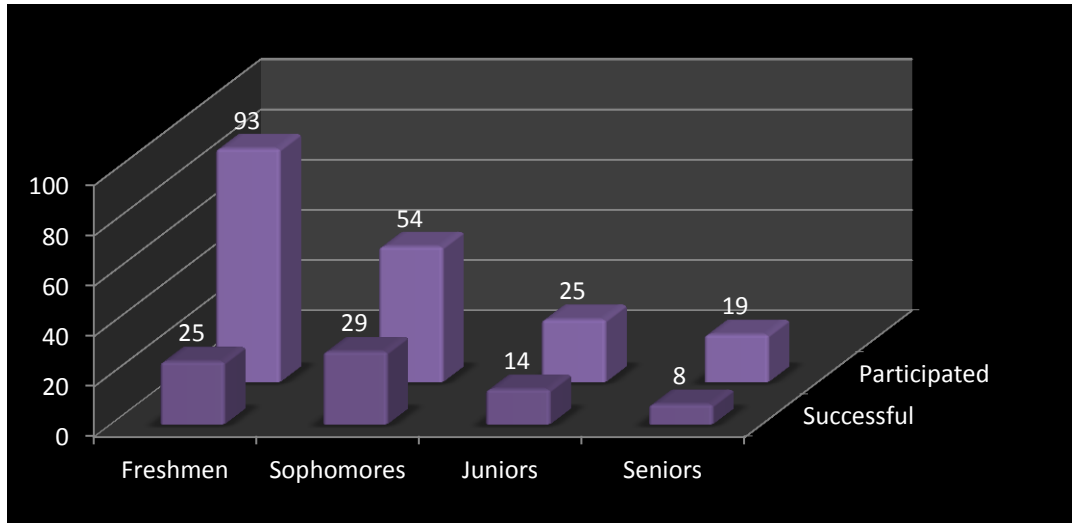
- 7** Withdrew
- 37** Completed the semester with a at least a 2.0 GPA
- 39** Returned to suspension status for the spring semester, four of whom made the GPA requirement, but violated the UCAN contract.

The **thirty-seven** students out of the **76** students reflect a **48%** success rate for the spring 2009 semester.

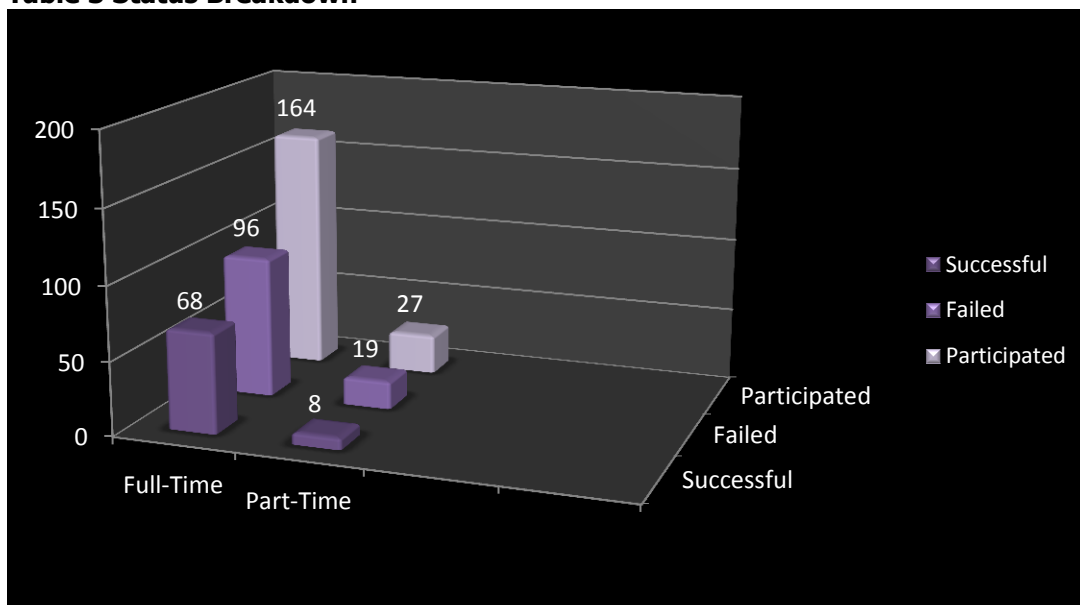
**Table 1      The final outcome 2009-2010 academic year is a 45% success rate.**



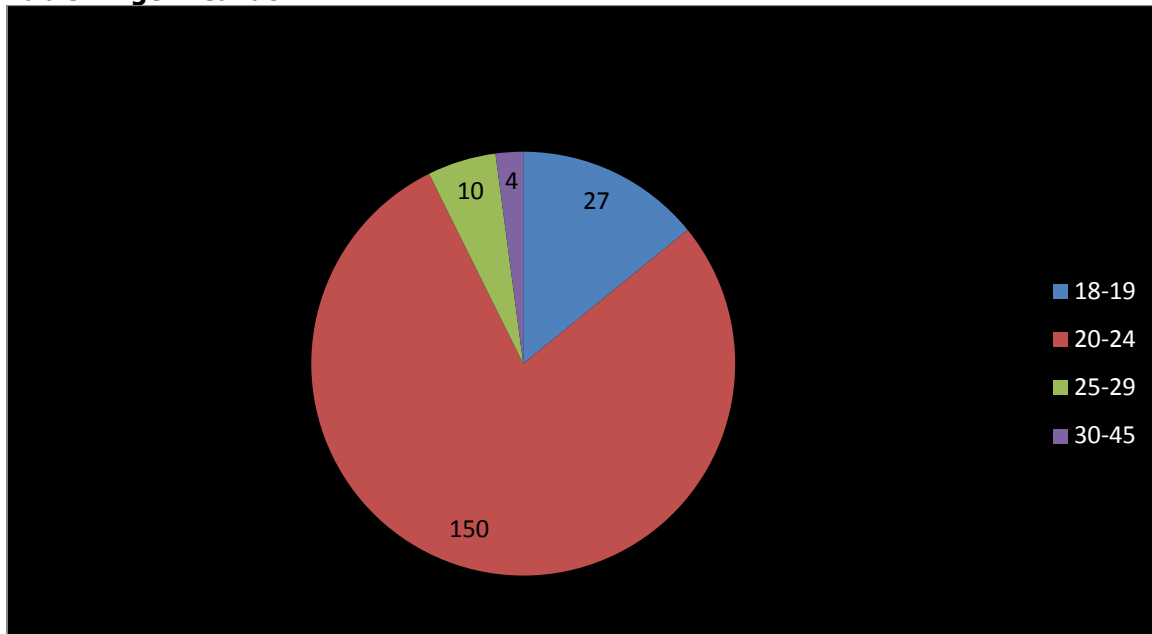
**Table 2 Classification Breakdown**



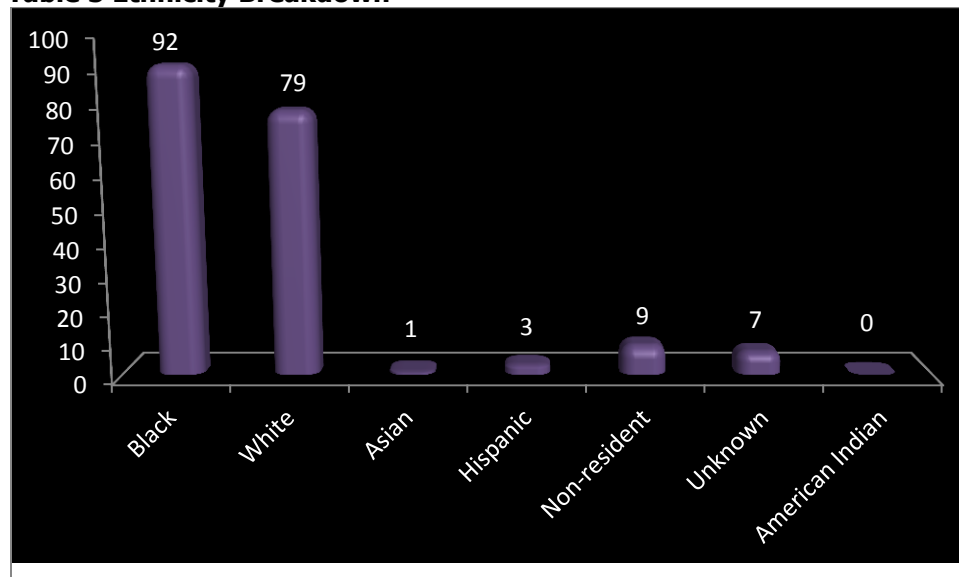
**Table 3 Status Breakdown**



**Table 4 Age Breakdown**



**Table 5 Ethnicity Breakdown**



Of the **79** students who identify themselves as white:  
**35** successfully completed the program  
**44** returned to suspension status

The **thirty-five** successful participants out of the **79**, who identified themselves as White, reflect a 44% success rate for the 2009-2010 academic year.

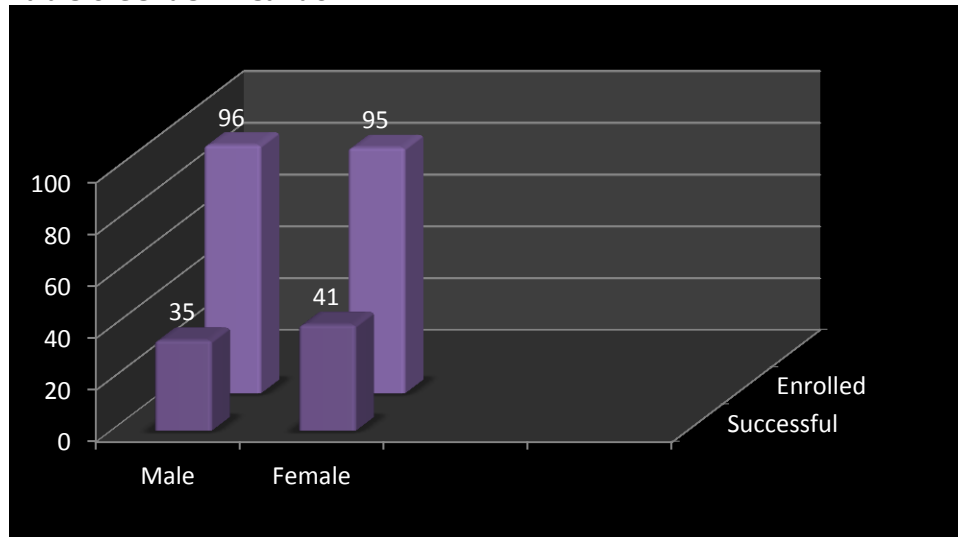
Of the **112** minority students who identify themselves as Black, Asian, Hispanic, Non-residents, American Indian or Unknown:

**41** successfully completed the program

**71** returned to suspension status

The **forty-one** successful minority participants out of the 112, who identified themselves as anything other than White, reflect a 36% success rate for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Table 6 Gender Breakdown**



## Graduations (to date):

Since the pilot semester, spring 2005, **seventy-four** students have graduated, while others' graduating status is pending.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The single greatest accomplishment that should be highlighted is the support UCAN has gained from the faculty, staff and graduate students. Three faculty members, Kevin Baer, Art Lichtenstein and Reesa Ramsahai, volunteered to facilitate a section of the UCAN seminar, as well as three UCA graduate students. Former UCAN students also volunteered to motivate and offer advice current participants by sharing their experience. The UCAN program's reputation is positively growing and students, as well as faculty and staff are embracing its mission.

- Hosted UCAN Network Appreciation Reception to thank those who volunteer their time and services

- Trained and supervised graduate students who facilitated sections of the UCAN seminar.
- Invited former UCAN students to encourage and motivate current participants by sharing feelings about their experience in the program.
- Conducted monthly staff meetings.
- Revised UCAN Semester Lesson Planner giving week to week instructions to seminar facilitators.
- Organized and scheduled weekly Academic Success Workshop for every Tuesday during x-period. Extended workshops to accommodate probation students.
- Presented at one of the Academic Success Workshops
- Sent Certificate of Achievement to send to all successful participants post semester.
- Sent a personalized warning email letter to inform students of contractual infractions.
- Sent a congratulatory email certificate to praise and encourage participants with no contractual infractions.
- Sent email and letter notification of suspension to those students who did not complete the UCAN program.
- Visited study sites to establish rapport with staff and share information about program changes.
- Published third issue of UCAN Network Newsletter
- Presented each student with a gift bag before final exams.
- Presented free study hour coupon to the students with completed all their study hours this semester and received no contractual
- Constructed and administered online end of the semester survey.
- Served as an ambassador for the program to campus community.

## **GOALS**

The UCAN program is evolving and constantly modifying its practices to effectively meet the needs of the students served. In order to strengthen the program the following will be incorporated to ensure greater program efficiency.

- Develop a UCAN program for summer school participants.
- Develop a UCAN policy handbook.
- Personally call each participant at least one time per semester.
- Encourage volunteers from the UCA community to facilitate UCAN seminars.

## Appendix

### Fall Semester Survey Results

The results are from 65 students surveyed.

1. The UCAN Program has improved  
my academic performance., "53.85 %", 35  
how I interact with professors., "20.00 %", 13  
nothing., "0.00 %", 0  
my life., "26.15 %", 17

2. The UCAN Program as a whole was a helpful and positive experience.  
Strongly agree 89.23 %, 58  
Agree, "10.77 %", 7  
Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0

3. Using a planner this semester helped me to be better organized.  
Strongly Agree, "41.54 %", 27  
Agree, "52.31 %", 34  
Disagree, "3.08 %", 2  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0

4. The UCAN Program helped me to change my general attitude about college. (professors, classes, students).  
Strongly Agree, "53.23 %", 33  
Agree, "41.94 %", 26  
Disagree, "1.61 %", 1  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0

5. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.  
Strongly Agree, "70.31 %", 45  
Agree, "28.13 %", 18  
Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0

6. The Coordinator/Advisor, Mr. Williams, was helpful and available when needed.  
Yes, "96.88 %", 62  
No, "0.00 %", 0  
Most of the time, "3.13 %", 2

7. The UCAN program empowered me to take personal responsibility for my education.  
Strongly Agree, "75.00 %", 48



Agree,"23.44 %",15  
Disagree,"0.00 %",0  
Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0  
N/A,"1.56 %",1

8. The UCAN Program provided me with the academic support and skills I needed to be a better student.

Strongly Agree,"70.77 %",46  
Agree,"29.23 %",19  
Disagree,"0.00 %",0  
Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

9. The orientation before the semester began was informative and motivational.

Strongly Agree,"46.15 %",30  
Agree,"43.08 %",28  
Disagree,"1.54 %",1  
Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

10. The small group seminar was beneficial

Strongly Agree,"76.19 %",48  
Agree,"23.81 %",15  
Disagree,"0.00 %",0  
Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

11. Who was your seminar instructor?

Tanya Buchanan,"4.76 %",3  
Patricia Coats,"9.52 %",6  
Berdie Eubank,"11.11 %",7  
Brian Francis,"14.29 %",9  
Jeanette Holland,"6.35 %",4  
Dee Dee Polite,"7.94 %",5  
Jenny Ruud,"11.11 %",7  
Kelsey Smyth,"11.11 %",7  
Marvin Williams,"23.81 %",15

12. This is your opportunity to evaluate your seminar. Please write about your experience.

- UCAN really helped. I've been able to keep good grades in all my classes.
- I was glad we were able to be in small groups with each other. I felt like I could open up more since there were not that many people. We eventually molded into something kind of like a family, and were able to help each other out and hold each other accountable.

13. The 5-hour study requirement was useful.

Strongly Agree,"76.92 %",50

Agree,"20.00 %",13

Disagree,"3.08 %",2

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

14. Although my academic records may not reflect success, I did benefit from being in the UCAN Program.

Strongly Agree,"74.60 %",47

Agree,"20.63 %",13

Disagree,"0.00 %",0

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

15. The UCAN Workshops (Tuesdays during X-period) were helpful.

Strongly Agree,"41.54 %",27

Agree,"49.23 %",32

Disagree,"9.23 %",6

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

16. Imagine that you are the UCAN coordinator and you are planning for next semester.

Which workshops would you "keep" and which ones would you "cancel." Which ones will the UCAN students benefit from the most? Please type the word "keep" or "cancel" next to each topic.

Time Management/Study Skills,"100.00 %",65

UCAN Alum Speak,"98.46 %",64

Test Anxiety,"98.46 %",64

Research, Read and Write,"98.46 %",64

Study Styles/Learning Styles,"95.38 %",62

How to talk to your instructors,"95.38 %",62

You're in the Right Place,"96.92 %",63

Procrastination,"96.92 %",63

Career Alternatives/Career Services,"95.38 %",62

Success! How do you define it?,"95.38 %",62

Choice is a Powerful Tool!,"98.46 %",64

17. What did you need the most?

skills,"24.62 %",16

motivation,"80.00 %",52

accountability,"35.38 %",23

18. Do you plan to return next semester? If your answer is no, please explain.

Yes,"76.56 %",49

No,"9.38 %",6

Unsure,"14.06 %",9

19. Please provide an alternate email address (other than your UCA)for a possible follow up survey.

Answered question,50

20. If I were the UCAN coordinator I would:

- NOT CHANGE A THING!! Everything is GREAT!
- Push to require all students to take the UCAN program
- Encourage students to study together so it creates more of a sense of accountability.

21. General Comments

- I would like to thank the UCAN staff for helping me succeed this semester. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be in college anymore. THANK YOU!
- I would recommend this program to anyone struggling in their college career. It was very motivating and helping me want to be the better me!
- I really enjoyed to program. I was extremely grateful for being about to be a part of it. Thank you.

## Spring Semester Survey Results

The results are from 35 students surveyed.

1. The UCAN Program has improved  
my academic performance., "80.00 %", 28  
how I interact with professors., "62.86 %", 22  
nothing., "2.86 %", 1  
my life., "54.29 %", 19

2. The UCAN Program as a whole was a helpful and positive experience.  
Strongly Agree, "82.86 %", 29  
Agree, "17.14 %", 6  
Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
N/A, "0.00 %", 0

3. Using a planner this semester helped me to be better organized.  
Strongly Agree, "55.88 %", 19  
Agree, "38.24 %", 13  
Disagree, "5.88 %", 2  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
N/A, "0.00 %", 0

4. The UCAN Program helped me to change my general attitude about college. (professors, classes, students).  
Strongly Agree, "48.57 %", 17  
Agree, "45.71 %", 16  
Disagree, "2.86 %", 1  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
N/A, "2.86 %", 1

5. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.  
Strongly Agree, "65.71 %", 23  
Agree, "34.29 %", 12  
Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
Strongly Disagree, "0.00 %", 0  
N/A, "0.00 %", 0

6. The Coordinator/Advisor, Mr. Williams, was helpful and available when needed.  
Yes, "90.91 %", 30  
No, "0.00 %", 0  
Most of the time, "9.09 %", 3

7. The UCAN program empowered me to take personal responsibility for my education.

Strongly Agree,"71.43 %",25

Agree,"28.57 %",10

Disagree,"0.00 %",0

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

8. The UCAN Program provided me with the academic support and skills I needed to be a better student.

Strongly Agree,"65.71 %",23

Agree,"34.29 %",12

Disagree,"0.00 %",0

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

9. The orientation before the semester began was informative and motivational.

Strongly Agree,"51.43 %",18

Agree,"45.71 %",16

Disagree,"2.86 %",1

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

10. The small group seminar was beneficial.

Strongly Agree,"68.57 %",24

Agree,"28.57 %",10

Disagree,"2.86 %",1

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

11. Who was your seminar instructor?

Tanya Buchanan,"5.71 %",2

Patricia Coats,"5.71 %",2

Berdie Eubank,"11.43 %",4

Jeanette Holland,"5.71 %",2

Art Lichtenstein,"8.57 %",3

Nathan Lynch,"8.57 %",3

Reesa Ramsahai,"2.86 %",1

Jenny Ruud,"8.57 %",3

Mike Simpson,"5.71 %",2

Kelsey Smyth,"14.29 %",5

Marvin Williams,"22.86 %",8

Comments,,26

12. The mandatory study hour requirement was useful.

Strongly Agree,"57.14 %",20

Agree,"37.14 %",13

Disagree,"5.71 %",2

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

N/A,"0.00 %",0

13. Although my academic records may not reflect success, I did benefit from being in the UCAN Program.

Strongly Agree,"77.14 %",27

Agree,"17.14 %",6

Disagree,"2.86 %",1

Strongly Disagree,"0.00 %",0

14. The UCAN Workshops (Tuesdays during X-period) were helpful.

Strongly Agree,"37.14 %",13

Agree,"51.43 %",18

Disagree,"8.57 %",3

Strongly Disagree,"2.86 %",1

15. Imagine that you are the UCAN coordinator and you are planning for next semester.

Which workshops would you "keep" and which ones would you "cancel." Which ones will the UCAN students benefit from the most? Please type the word "keep" or "cancel" next to each topic.

Time Management,"93.94 %",31

Former UCAN Students Speak,"93.94 %",31

Test Anxiety,"96.97 %",32

Research, Read and Write,"96.97 %",32

Personality Types and Learning Styles,"100.00 %",33

How to talk to your instructors!,"96.97 %",32

You're in the Right Place,"93.94 %",31

Creating a Life that makes sense,"93.94 %",31

My Story,"96.97 %",32

Goals, the key to success!,"100.00 %",33

Dealing with Difficult Personalities,"96.97 %",32

Choice is a Powerful Tool!,"96.97 %",32

Procrastination,"93.94 %",31

16. What did you need the most?

skills,"26.47 %",9

motivation,"76.47 %",26

accountability,"52.94 %",18

17. Do you plan to return next semester? If your answer is no, please explain.

Yes,"85.71 %",30

No,"5.71 %",2

Unsure,"8.57 %",3

18. Please provide an alternate email address (other than your UCA)for a possible follow up survey.

answered question,30

skipped question,5

19. If I were the UCAN coordinator I would:

- Have more one on one time with students who may be having a harder time with school.
- KEEP EVERYTHING AS IT IS
- Wouldn't change it. It is a very good retention program that seems to blossoming.

20. General Comments

- THANKS FOR A SECOND CHANCE!
- UCAN was an awesome program that gave me direction, motivation and skills to ace through collage, everything was just too good! I cannot believe you can actually get so much of help and motivation from someone! :)
- Thank you so much for providing this program! It has really helped me out a lot!!!