



## **UCAN (UNLOCKING COLLEGE ACADEMICS NOW) Annual Report 2010-2011**

Submitted by Marvin Williams, Coordinator

---

### **MISSION**

The mission statement that was written in 2005 states:

“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.”

This year the mission statement was revisited and revised to more accurately express how the program has evolved:

“The UCAN program – “Unlocking College Academics Now” – helps students facing a first academic suspension improve their grade point average and thereby continue their education. The program meets this goal by helping these students identify their individual academic needs and then develop skills to meet their academic goals. To meet these goals, the UCAN program helps students by giving them the opportunity to remain in school during their first suspension, rather than sitting out a semester.”

### **STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM**

- The program coordinator, Marvin Williams, is also the designated academic advisor for all participants. He monitors their progress and engages in intrusive advising as needed. Every potential participant is interviewed, advised and accepted into the program by the UCAN coordinator.

- Every full time student enrolled in the program must sign a contract agreeing to the following terms:
  - 1) Enroll in and successfully complete the UCAN Seminar.*
  - 2) Limit enrollment to no more than **14** semester hours, including the UCAN Seminar*
  - 3) Maintain at least a 2.0 semester grade point average for the academic term on at least **nine** credit hours.*
  - 4) Spend a minimum of five hours a week studying in an approved study site on campus and provide documentation of those hours to their UCAN instructor.*
  - 5) Adhere to the UCAN attendance policy, which allows no unexcused absences.*
  - 6) Receive advising in the Academic Advising Center by the program coordinator.*
  - 7) Take on-campus courses. NO online or correspondence courses are allowed.*
- Every part time student enrolled in the program signs a contract agreeing to the same terms with the following exceptions: Enrollment is limited to ten hours, and a minimum of three weekly hours is required.
- Participants are required to attend an orientation prior to the beginning of the semester.
- Participants are required to attend a series of Academic Success Workshops. Topics include time management, personal responsibility, study skills, how to talk to professors, and motivation, etc.
- Participants are required to meet with all their professors at midterm to discuss their academic progress. The students are provided a progress report that must be signed by each professor. The progress reports are collected and evaluated by the program coordinator, who meets with the students to discuss potential problems.
- Ultimately, our goal is for participants to succeed in the program by achieving at least a 2.0 GPA for the semester, and to develop learning and life skills to acquire the motivation needed to complete their education.

## **SUMMARY**

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

- 4**      Withdrew
- 39**     Completed the semester with at least a 2.0 GPA.
- 76**     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 2010-2011 academic year is a 52% success rate.**

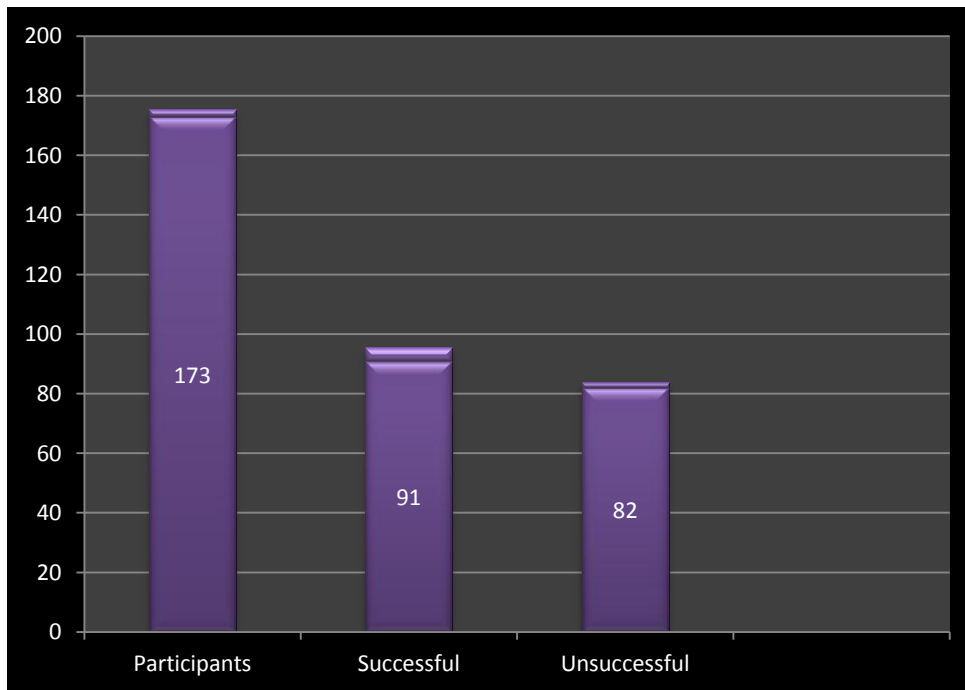


Table 2 **Classification Breakdown**

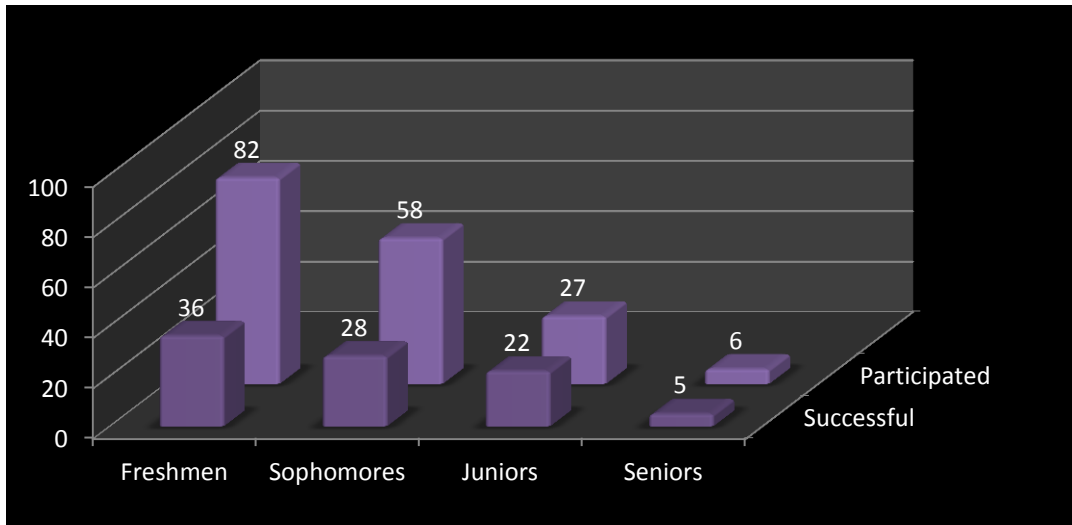
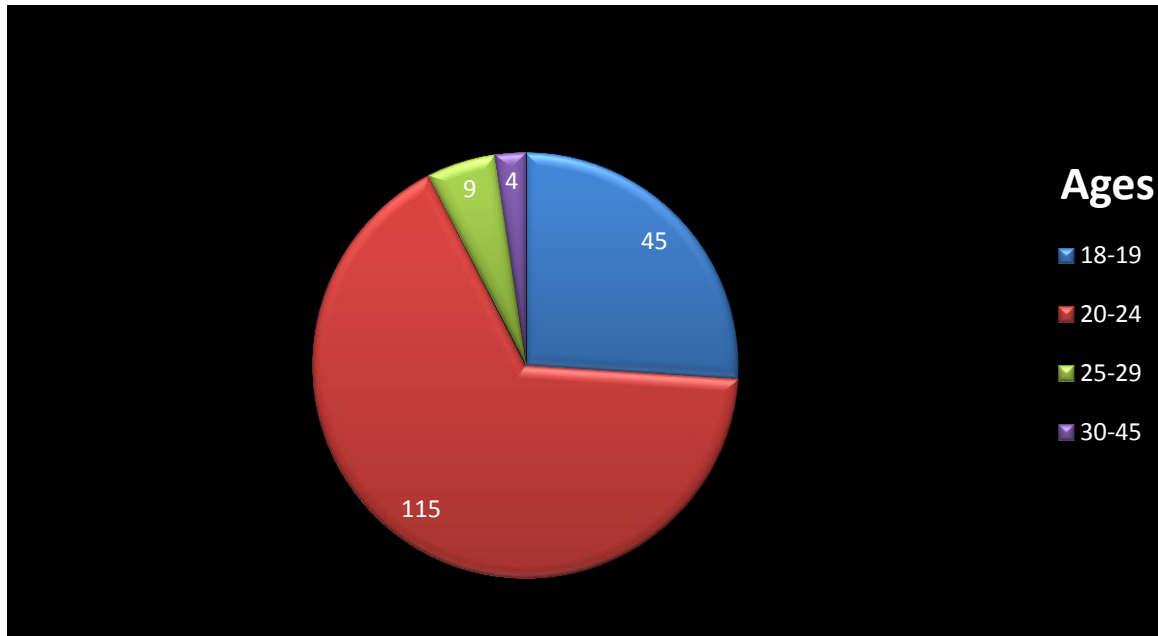
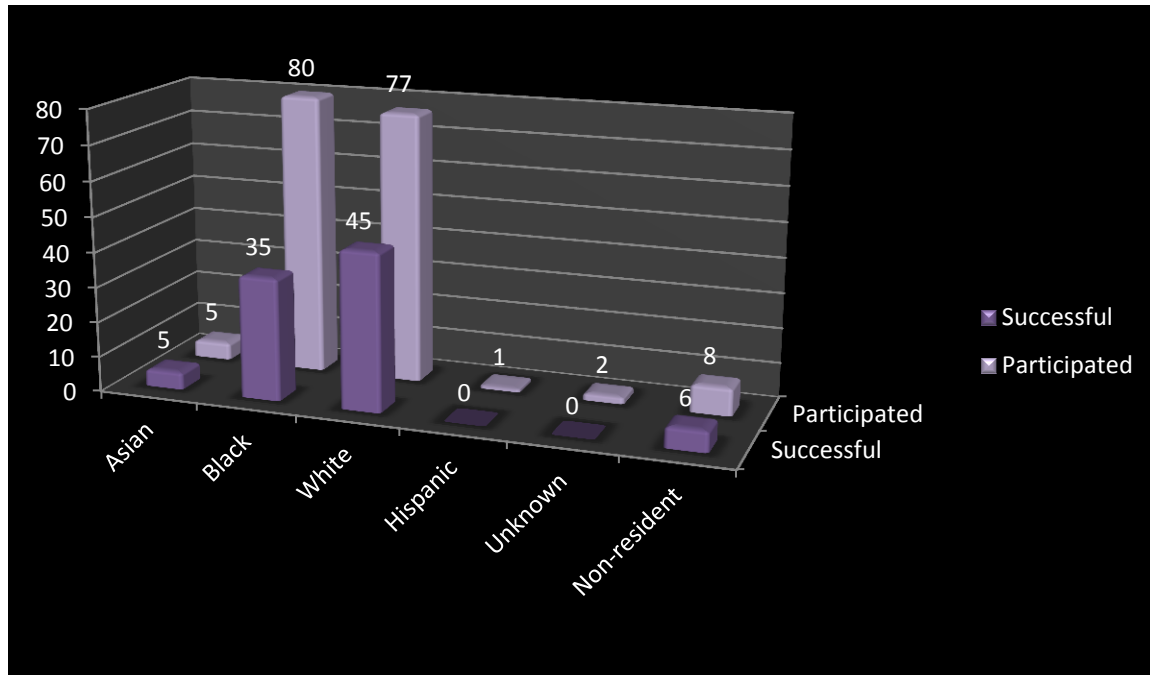


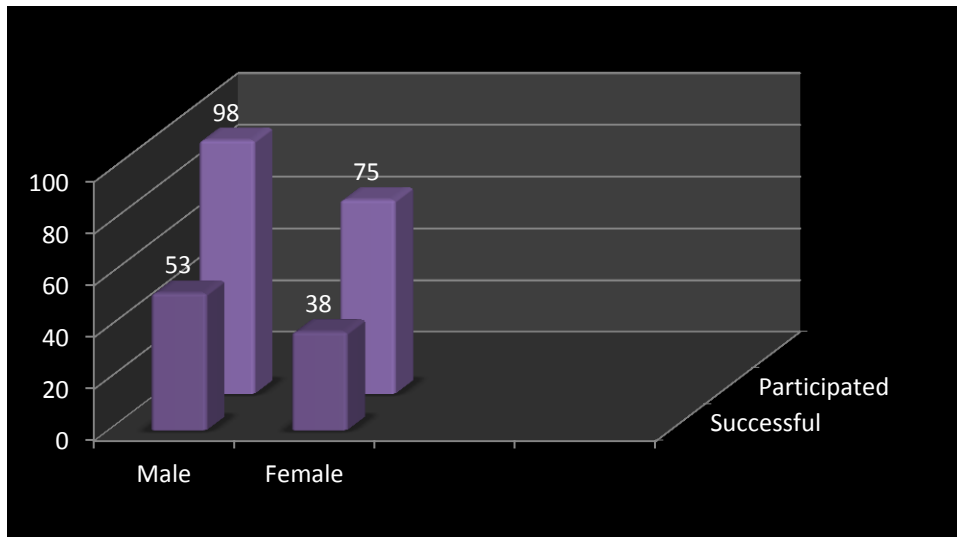
Table 3 **Age Breakdown**



**Table 4 Ethnicity Breakdown**



**Table 5 Gender Breakdown**



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the program's inception, in spring 2005, approximately **1302** 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 UCAN students have decided to attend two year institutions or choose different career paths, while others have returned from their suspension having acquired tools that will help them academically, as they continue to attempt to raise their grade point averages.

The single greatest accomplishment that should be highlighted is the support UCAN has gained from the faculty, staff and graduate students. Faculty/staff members, Jennifer Deering, Adriian Gardner, Ann Mattison, Art Lichtenstein and Reesa Ramsahai, volunteered to facilitate a section of the UCAN seminar. Two UCA graduate students, Mike Simpson and Chermanda Johnson also volunteered. Former UCAN students volunteered to return and share their experience in the program with current participants. The weekly academic success workshops were facilitated by volunteer UCA faculty and staff. (see appendix) Eric Stuart, a UCA alumnus, returned to give a presentation on goal setting. The UCAN program's reputation is growing and students, as well as faculty and staff are embracing the UCAN program. Other accomplishments include:

- Conducted an orientation before each semester to make student aware of campus resources. Representatives from housing, financial aid, the counseling center, the writing center, the library and disability support services were in attendance.
- 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.
- Revised UCAN Semester Lesson Planner giving week to week instructions to seminar facilitators.
- Organized and scheduled weekly Academic Success Workshops for every Tuesday during x-period. (see appendix)
- Presented at one of the Academic Success Workshops
- Sent Certificates of Achievement to all successful participants.
- 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 the fourth issue of UCAN Network Newsletter.
- Presented each student with a gift bag before final exams.

- Presented free study hour coupons to the students who completed all their study hours this semester and who had received no contractual violations.
- Constructed and administered an online end of the semester survey. (see appendix)
- Served as an ambassador for the program to campus community.
- Developed a summer UCAN program.
- Offered and facilitated two sections of the UCAN seminar during the summer. Each seminar met twice per week for one hour.
- Scheduled summer academic success workshops on Fridays from 1:30- 2:30 p.m.
- UCAN continues to generate revenue for UCA. Approximately **1302** students have participated in this program and paid tuition, rather than sit out their suspension.

### **GRADUATIONS (TO DATE):**

Since the pilot semester, spring 2005, **120** students have graduated, while others' graduating status is pending.

### **GOALS**

The UCAN program is evolving and constantly changing to meet the needs of the students served. In order to strengthen the program the following changes will be incorporated into UCAN:

- Implement a one hour tuition fee for academic success seminar (UNIV 1000) and participating in the program.
- Continue to assess the needs of the participants and to provide the tools students need to be more successful.
- Continue to share the success of the program with the UCA community and to gain support of faculty and staff through presentations, newsletter, etc...
- Encourage more faculty and staff outside of the advising center to volunteer to mentor UCAN participants by teaching a section of the academic success seminar.

# Appendix

## Fall Semester Survey Results

The results are from **29** students surveyed.

**1. The UCAN Program has improved:**

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. My academic performance        | 75.9%, 22 |
| b. How I interact with professors | 65.5%, 19 |
| c. Nothing                        | 6.9%, 2   |
| d. My life                        | 62.1%, 18 |

**2. The UCAN Program as a whole was a helpful and positive experience.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 55.2%, 16 |
| b. Agree             | 41.4%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 3.4%, 1   |

**3. Using a planner this semester helped me to be better organized.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 37.9%, 11 |
| b. Agree             | 41.4%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 10.3%, 3  |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 10.3%, 3  |

**4. The UCAN Program helped me to change my general attitude about college (professors, classes, students).**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 34.5%, 10 |
| b. Agree             | 48.3%, 14 |
| c. Disagree          | 10.3%, 3  |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 6.9%, 2   |

**5. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 51.7%, 15 |
| b. Agree             | 44.8%, 13 |
| c. Disagree          | 3.4%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |



**6. The Coordinator/Advisor, Mr. Williams, was helpful and available when needed.**

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| a. Yes              | 96.6%, 28 |
| b. No               | 0.0%, 0   |
| c. Most of the time | 3.4%, 1   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 58.6%, 17 |
| b. Agree             | 34.5%, 10 |
| c. Disagree          | 3.4%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 3.4%, 1   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 44.8%, 13 |
| b. Agree             | 48.3%, 14 |
| c. Disagree          | 6.9%, 2   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 35.7%, 10 |
| b. Agree             | 64.3%, 18 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

**10. The small group seminar was beneficial.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 57.7%, 15 |
| b. Agree             | 34.6%, 9  |
| c. Disagree          | 3.8%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 3.8%, 1   |

**11. Who was your seminar instructor?**

- |                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| a. Tanya Buchanan    | 10.3%, 3 |
| b. Berdie Eubank     | 3.4%, 1  |
| c. Jeanette Holland  | 13.8%, 4 |
| d. Chermanda Johnson | 6.9%, 2  |
| e. Art Lichtenstein  | 20.7%, 6 |
| f. Jenny Ruud        | 13.8%, 4 |
| g. Mike Simpson      | 13.8%, 4 |
| h. Kelsey Smyth      | 6.9%, 2  |
| i. Colin Stanton     | 6.9%, 2  |
| j. Marvin Williams   | 3.4%, 1  |

**12. The mandatory study hours requirement was useful.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 51.7%, 15 |
| b. Agree             | 34.5%, 10 |
| c. Disagree          | 10.3%, 3  |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 3.4%, 1   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 60.7%, 17 |
| b. Agree             | 35.7%, 10 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 3.6%, 1   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 31.0%, 9  |
| b. Agree             | 58.6%, 17 |
| c. Disagree          | 6.9%, 2   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 3.4%, 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?**

a. Former UCAN Students Speak	26 keep, 2 cancel
b. Time Management	25 keep, 2 cancel
c. How to Study	22 keep, 5 cancel
d. Note taking	18 keep, 10 cancel
e. Test Anxiety	24 keep, 3 cancel
f. Goals, the Key to Success	21 keep, 6 cancel
g. Personality Types & Learning Styles	24 keep, 3 cancel
h. How to talk to your Instructors	23 keep, 4 cancel
i. Advising 101	18 keep, 7 cancel
j. Creating a Life that Makes Sense	17 keep, 9 cancel
k. Choice is a Powerful Tool	27 keep, 0 cancel
l. Procrastination	15 keep, 11 cancel
m. My Story	21 keep, 7 cancel
n. Where are you Headed	25 keep, 2 cancel
o. Dealing with Difficult Personalities	22 keep, 4 cancel

**16. What did you need the most?**

a. Skills	32.1%, 9
b. Motivation	78.6%, 22
c. Accountability	78.6%, 22
d.	

**17. Do you plan to return next semester?**

a. Yes	79.3%, 23
b. No	6.9%, 2
c. Unsure	13.8%, 4

**18. Provide an alternate email address.**

**19. If I was the UCAN Coordinator I would:**

- Keep things the same

**20. General Comments:**

- If I could complete the program, then I believe that anyone can.
- I really needed this boost to get myself back in order. I was able to get all of my study hours complete every week and I made it to the workshops every Tuesday.
- UCAN was a great experience and changed my academic career. I'm very grateful for the program and the people you help make it a possibility.
- UCAN really helped me.

## Spring Semester Survey Results

The results are from 39 students surveyed.

**1. The UCAN Program has improved:**

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. My academic performance        | 76.9%, 30 |
| b. How I interact with professors | 46.2%, 18 |
| c. Nothing                        | 2.6%, 1   |
| d. My life                        | 35.9%, 14 |

**2. The UCAN Program as a whole was a helpful and positive experience.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 66.7%, 26 |
| b. Agree             | 30.8%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 2.6%, 1   |

**3. Using a planner this semester helped me to be better organized.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 38.5%, 15 |
| b. Agree             | 51.3%, 20 |
| c. Disagree          | 7.7%, 3   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 2.6%, 1   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

**4. The UCAN Program helped me to change my general attitude about college (professors, classes, students).**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 41.0%, 16 |
| b. Agree             | 48.7%, 19 |
| c. Disagree          | 5.1%, 2   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 2.6%, 1   |
| e. N/A               | 2.6%, 1   |

**5. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 57.9%, 22 |
| b. Agree             | 39.5%, 15 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 2.6%, 1   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

**6. The Coordinator/Advisor, Mr. Williams, was helpful and available when needed.**

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| a. Yes              | 94.7%, 36 |
| b. No               | 5.3%, 2   |
| c. Most of the time | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 64.9%, 24 |
| b. Agree             | 32.4%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 2.7%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 59.0%, 23 |
| b. Agree             | 38.5%, 15 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 2.6%, 1   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 50.0%, 19 |
| b. Agree             | 44.7%, 17 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 5.3%, 2   |

**10. The small group seminar was beneficial.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 59.0%, 23 |
| b. Agree             | 35.9%, 14 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 2.6%, 1   |
| e. N/A               | 2.6%, 1   |

**11. Who was your seminar instructor?**

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| a. Jennifer Deering | 0.0%, 0   |
| b. Adriian Gardner  | 13.2%, 5  |
| c. Art Lichtenstein | 13.2%, 5  |
| d. Ann Mattison     | 23.7%, 9  |
| e. Reesa Ramsahai   | 10.5%, 4  |
| f. Maranda Stumo    | 13.2%, 5  |
| g. Marvin Williams  | 26.3%, 10 |

**12. The mandatory study hours requirement was useful.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 56.4%, 22 |
| b. Agree             | 35.9%, 14 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- a. Strongly Agree 69.2%, 27
- b. Agree 30.8%, 12
- c. Disagree 0.0%, 0
- d. Strongly Disagree 0.0%, 0
- e. N/A 0.0%, 0

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

- a. Strongly Agree 41.0%, 16
- b. Agree 53.8%, 21
- c. Disagree 5.1%, 2
- d. Strongly Disagree 0.0%, 0

**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?**

- a. Former UCAN Students Speak 36 keep 0 cancel
- b. Time Management 33 keep 3 cancel
- c. How to Study 33 keep 2 cancel
- d. Note taking 27 keep 9 cancel
- e. Test Anxiety 29 keep 6 cancel
- f. Goals, the Key to Success 31 keep 4 cancel
- g. Personality Types & Learning Styles 33 keep 2 cancel
- h. How to talk to your Instructors 33 keep 3 cancel
- i. Probation 101 25 keep 11cancel
- j. Building Inner Strength for Outer Challenges 28 keep 7 cancel
- k. Choice is a Powerful Tool 31 keep 6 cancel
- l. Dealing with Difficult Personalities 31 keep 4 cancel

**16. What did you need the most?**

- a. Skills 28.2%, 11
- b. Motivation 87.2%, 34
- c. Accountability 30.8%, 12

**17. Do you plan to return next semester?**

- a. Yes 84.2%, 32
- b. No 7.9%, 3
- c. Unsure 7.9%, 4

**18. Provide an alternate email address.**

**19. If I were the UCAN Coordinator, I would:**

- Keep up the good work.
- Do this the same way you are doing this right now. This program is very well put together.

**20. General Comments:**

- THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!
- Enjoyed the program and believe it helped tremendously.
- AWESOME PROGRAM!!!!
- love you can because, it helpful and demanding
- This program is amazing
- The UCAN program helped me with more than just my grades. It helped me understand the important things in life, such as putting off "at the moment" situations to improve on more important things. This program should be required for all freshmen to help them through early, rather than after the mistake has already been made.

## Academic Success Workshops Fall 2010

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Aug 31	Students Speak	Former UCAN Students
Sept 7	Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
Sept 14	How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Sept 21	"Goals" -the key to success!	Casey Griffith
Sept 28	Creating a Life That Makes Sense	Marilyn Cullum
Oct 5	Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
Oct 12	How to talk to your instructors!	Melissa Crawford
Oct 19	Note taking Strategies	Vickie Wyeth
Oct 26	Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
Nov 2	Ask An Advisor	Jenny Ruud & AAC
Nov 9	The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams
Nov 16	Procrastination	Ernie Ness
Nov 23	Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy
Nov 30	You're in the Right Place!	Charlotte Strickland
Dec 7	My Story	Art Lichtenstein

## Academic Success Workshops Spring 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Jan 25	Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
Feb 1	How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Feb 8	Goals" -the key to success!	Eric Stuart
Feb 15	Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
Feb 22	Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges	Mark Cooper
Mar 1	Effective Communication & Classroom Etiquette	Melissa Crawford
Mar 8	Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Mar 15	Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
Mar 29	Probation Workshop	Jenny Ruud & AAC
Apr 5	The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams
Apr 19	Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy
Apr 26	You're in the Right Place!	Charlotte Strickland