



# UCAN (UNLOCKING COLLEGE ACADEMICS NOW) Annual Report 2011-2012

Submitted by Marvin Williams, Coordinator

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## MISSION

“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.
- Every summer participant enrolled signs a contract agreeing to the same terms with the following exceptions: Enrollment is limited to thirteen hours, and a minimum of five 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 **summer** semester began with **28** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 19** Completed the semester with at least a 2.0 GPA
- 9** Placed on second suspension for one calendar year, one of whom made the GPA requirement, but violated the UCAN contract by dropping below the minimum hours required by the UCAN contract.

The **19** students out of the **28** students who remained reflect a **67%** success rate for the summer semester.

The **fall** semester began with **52** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 5** Withdrew
- 17** Completed the semester with at least a 2.0 GPA, two of whom made the GPA requirement, but did not receive credit for successfully completing the program due to contract violations.
- 32** Returned to suspension status for the spring semester, two of whom made the GPA requirement, but violated the UCAN contract, in addition to the one who withdrew, but had a .000 gpa due to "WF"

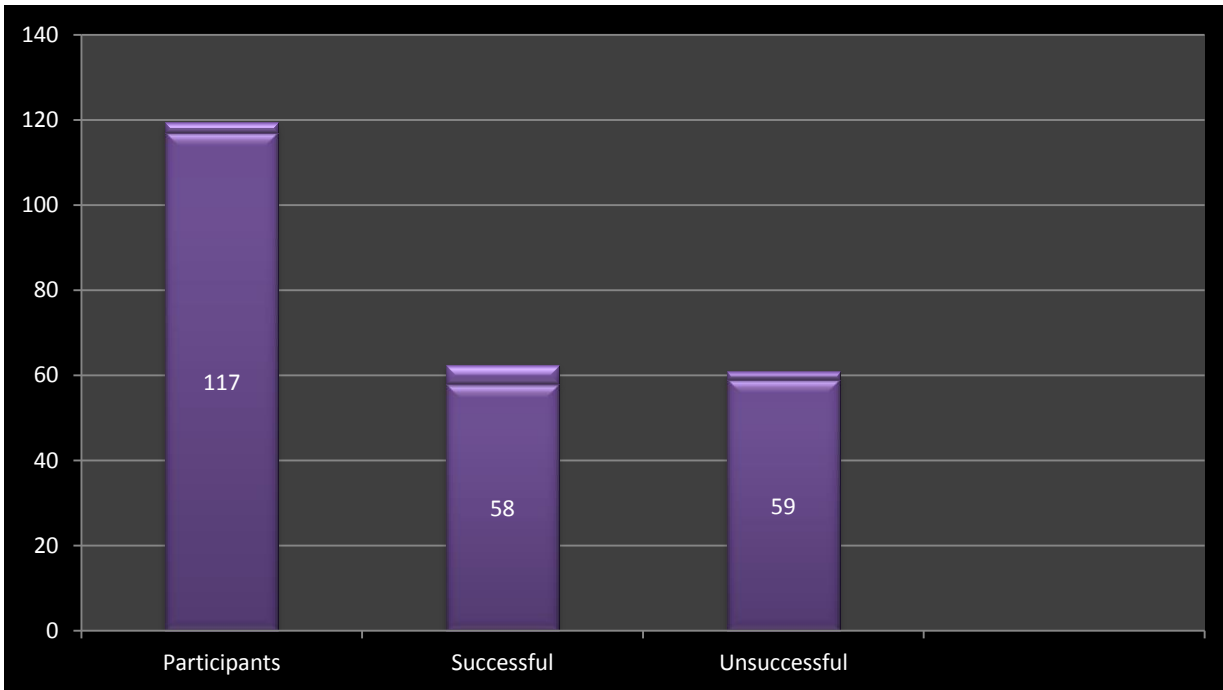
The **15** students out of the **47** students who remained reflect a **31%** success rate for the fall 2011 semester.

The **spring** semester began with **42** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 24** Completed the semester with a at least a 2.0 GPA
- 18** Placed on second suspension for one calendar year, one of whom withdrew, but had a .000 grade point average due to "WF"

The **24** students out of the **42** students who remained reflect a **57%** success rate for the spring 2012 semester.

**Table 1 The final outcome 2011-2012 academic year is a 49% success rate. 52% successfully completed the academic year with at least a 2.0 grade point average, four of whom made the GPA requirement, but violated the UCAN contract resulting in suspension and a 49% success rate.**



**Table 2 Classification Breakdown**

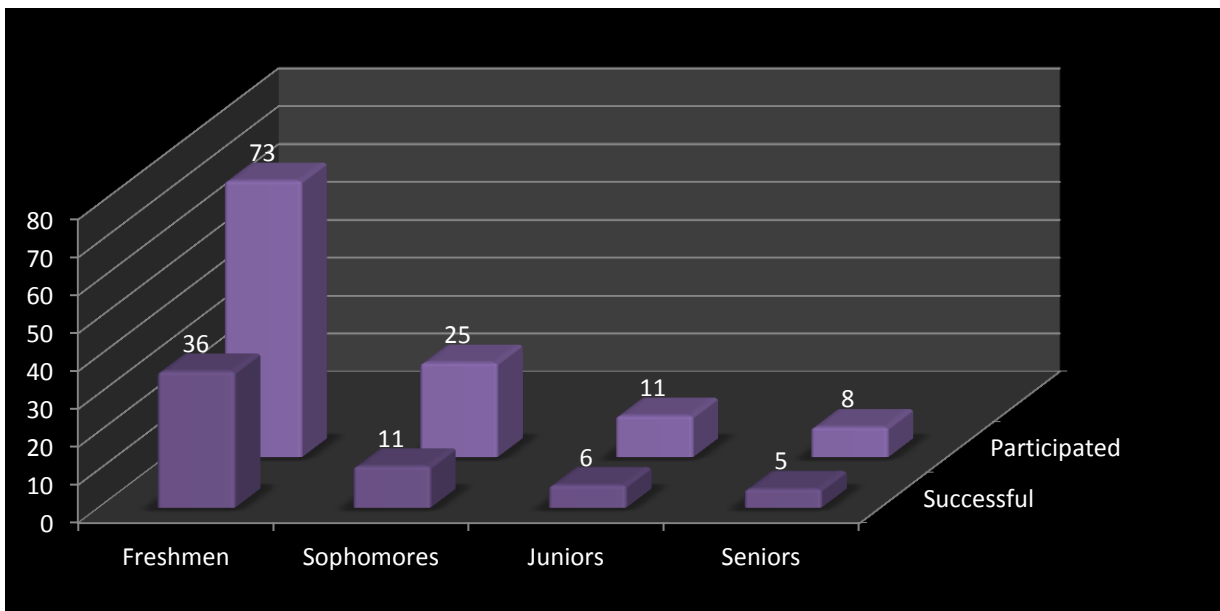


Table 3 Age Breakdown

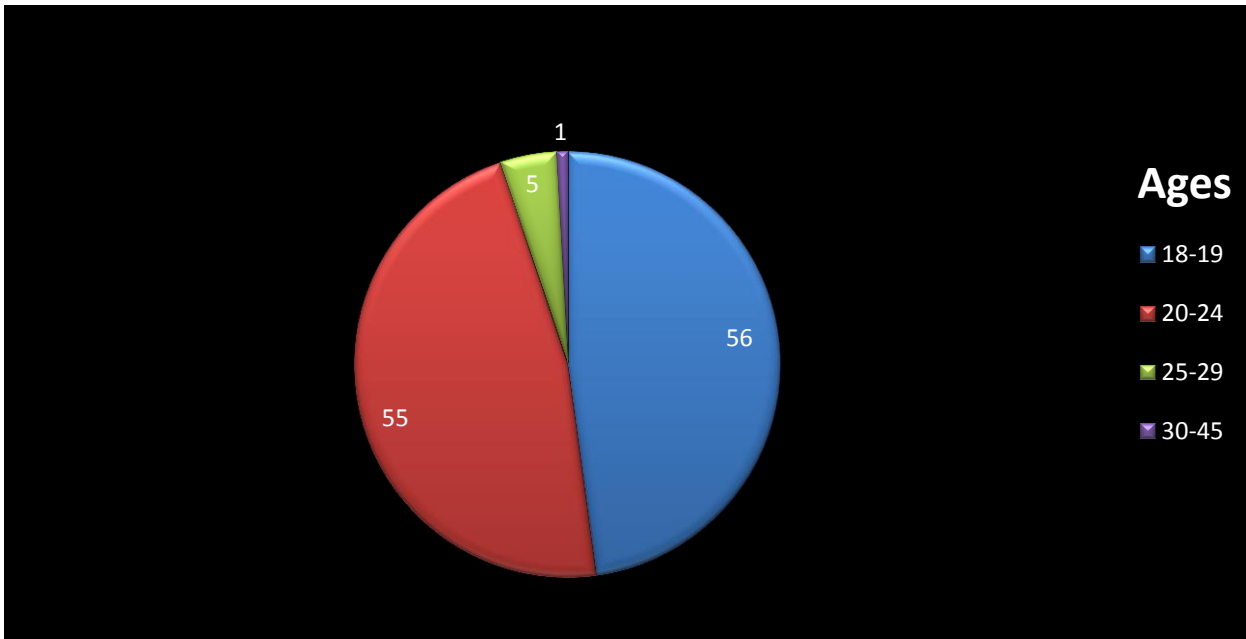


Table 4 Ethnicity Breakdown

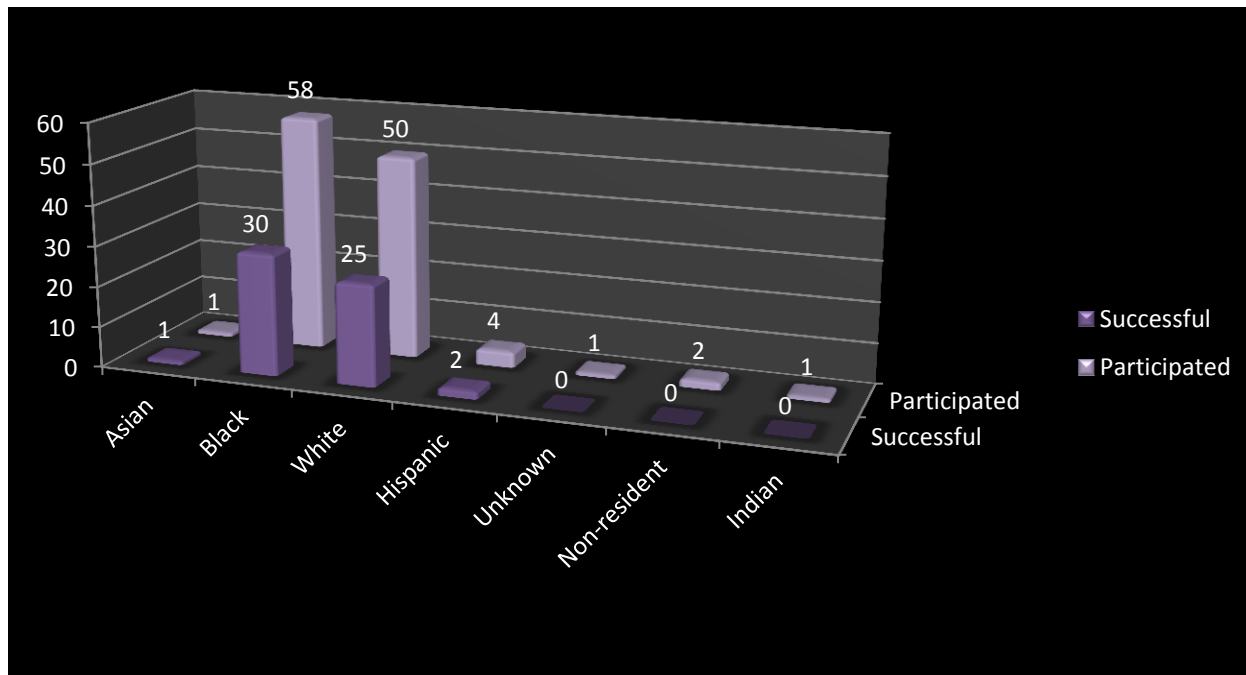


Table 5 Gender Breakdown

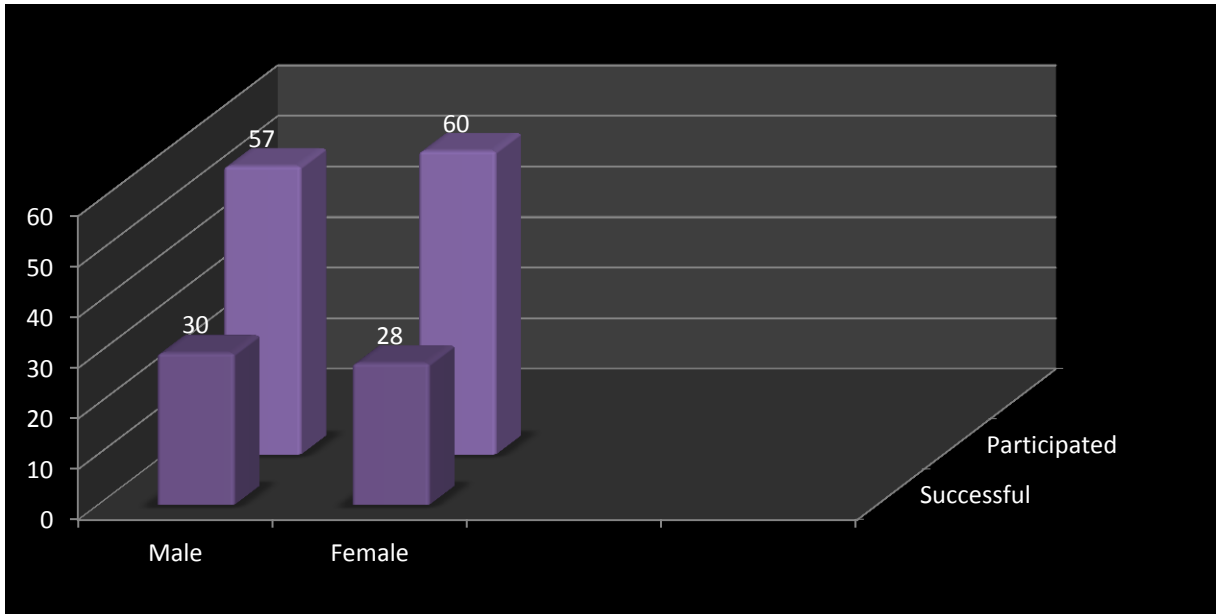


Table 6 Regional Breakdown

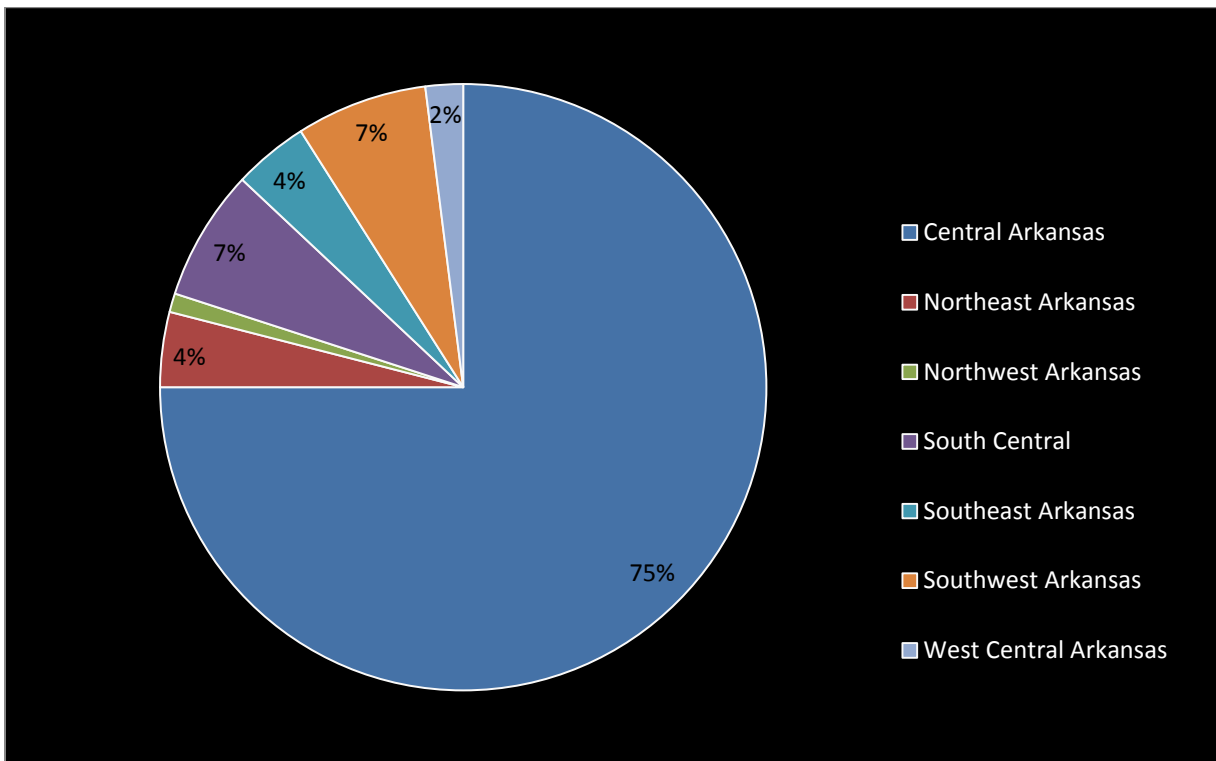
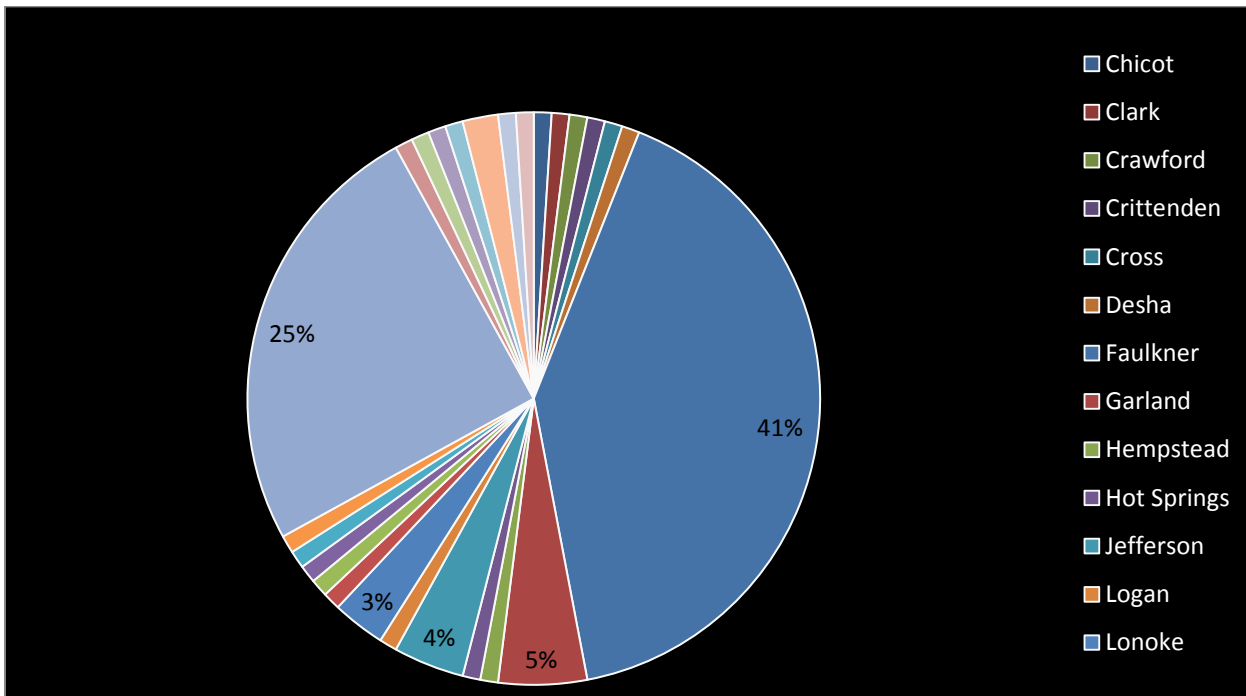


Table 7 County Breakdown



Counties	# of people
Faulkner	50
Pulaski County	31
Garland	6
Jefferson	5
Lonoke County	4

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the program’s inception, in spring 2005, approximately **1424** 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 continues to gain from the faculty and staff. Faculty/staff members, Carolyn Baker, Adriian Gardner, Ann Mattison, Art Lichtenstein and Reesa Ramsahai, volunteered to facilitate a section of the UCAN seminar. Former UCAN students returned to 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 students aware of campus resources. Representatives from housing, financial aid, the counseling center, the writing center, the library and disability support services were in attendance.
- Invited former UCAN students to share their experience in the program with current participants.
- Required a meeting with each student at the beginning of the semester to see how things were progressing.
- Revised UCAN Semester Lesson Planner that provides weekly instructions for seminar facilitators.
- Organized and scheduled weekly Academic Success Workshops for summer, fall and spring. (see appendix)
- Presented at one of the Academic Success Workshops
- Sent congratulatory certificates 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.
- Published the fifth issue of UCAN Newsletter.
- Presented each student with a gift bag before final exams.
- Constructed and administered an online end of the semester survey. (see appendix)
- Served as an ambassador for the program to campus community.
- UCAN continues to generate revenue for UCA. Approximately **1424** students have participated in this program and paid tuition, rather than sit out their suspension.

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

Since the pilot semester, spring 2005, **226** students, who may have sat out their suspension and not returned, 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...
- Continue to 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.
- Increase the number of individual meetings with each participant per semester.



# Appendix

## Fall Semester Survey Results

The results are from **26** students surveyed.

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

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. My academic performance        | 82.8%, 24 |
| b. How I interact with professors | 62.1%, 18 |
| c. Nothing                        | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. My life                        | 62.1%, 18 |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 86.2%, 25 |
| b. Agree             | 13.8%, 4  |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 73.1%, 18 |
| b. Agree             | 26.9%, 7  |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 69.2%, 18 |
| b. Agree             | 30.8%, 8  |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 48.2%, 12 |
| b. Agree             | 34.6%, 9  |
| c. Disagree          | 3.8%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 15.4%, 4  |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 80.0%, 20 |
| b. Agree             | 20.0%, 5  |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 60.0%, 13 |
| b. Agree             | 42.2%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 3.8%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 1   |

**8. The UCAN Program Workshops (Tuesday during X-period) were helpful.**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 30.8%, 8  |
| b. Agree             | 65.4%, 17 |
| c. Disagree          | 3.8%, 1   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| a. Skills         | 23.1%, 6  |
| b. Motivation     | 84.8%, 22 |
| c. Accountability | 38.5%, 10 |
| d.                |           |
| e.                |           |

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

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. Yes    | 84.8%, 22 |
| b. No     | 7.7%, 2   |
| c. Unsure | 7.7%, 2   |

**11. This is your opportunity to evaluate the program coordinator, Mr. Williams.**

- Mr. Williams is a wonderful advisor. There is just something about how sincere he is, and he really does care. But most importantly he understands.
- He's a hoot, and can be plenty strict/serious when he needs to be.
- Mr. Williams is a great human being, and he is very inspiring. He is caring and considerate for even giving me this opportunity and he has truly changed my thought process when it comes to school. He makes me want to succeed.
- I absolutely love Mr. Williams. He believes in each and every one of his students which gives a lot of us hope. He has truly changed my life in this short period of time. I'm ever so grateful.
- Mr. Williams is the heart and soul behind this program and I definitely look up to him! He is SO motivating and has a smile that only enhances that motivation. I am so thankful that he allowed me into this program and gave me another chance! HE IS AWESOME and does his job EXTREMELY WELL!!!!
- I love Mr. Williams, just his motivation and his story helps me to feel like I CAN!!!
- Marvin is a great guy, and does an amazing job running the program. You can tell he really cares.

- Mr. Williams is a great man. You can really tell he cares and I am so happy he started this program. It's wonderful to have people like him around.
- He is a great person in general. I thank him for giving me this opportunity to come back to school and allowing me to try to perform better and realize I needed to stop being a victim and own my mistakes and do better academically.
- Mr. Williams has changed my life for the better. The things I learned in UCAN I will take with me for the rest of my life.

## **12. General Comments**

- Thank you for this opportunity to be a part of this program. It is a life changing experience.
- UCAN is the best!
- I believe anyone who wants to better themselves and have help along the way should definitely do the UCAN program. It's fun and informational at the same time.

## Spring Semester Survey Results

The results are from 29 students surveyed.

### 1. The UCAN Program has improved:

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. My academic performance        | 82.8%, 24 |
| b. How I interact with professors | 62.1%, 18 |
| c. Nothing                        | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. My life                        | 62.1%, 18 |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 86.2%, 25 |
| b. Agree             | 13.8%, 4  |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

### 3. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 65.5%, 19 |
| b. Agree             | 34.5%, 10 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 62.1%, 18 |
| b. Agree             | 37.9%, 11 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

### 5. The orientation before the semester began was informative and motivational.

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 48.3%, 14 |
| b. Agree             | 37.9%, 11 |
| c. Disagree          | 6.9%, 2   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 6.9%, 2   |

### 6. The small group seminar was beneficial

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 60.7%, 17 |
| b. Agree             | 39.3%, 11 |
| c. Disagree          | 0.0%, 0   |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

### 7. The mandatory study hours requirement was useful

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 58.6%, 17 |
| b. Agree             | 24.1%, 7  |
| c. Disagree          | 13.8%, 4  |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 3.4%, 1   |
| e. N/A               | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| a. Strongly Agree    | 48.3%, 14 |
| b. Agree             | 41.4%, 12 |
| c. Disagree          | 10.3%, 3  |
| d. Strongly Disagree | 0.0%, 0   |

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

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| a. Skills         | 39.3%, 11 |
| b. Motivation     | 82.1%, 23 |
| c. Accountability | 50.0%, 14 |

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

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. Yes    | 82.8%, 24 |
| b. No     | 10.3%, 3  |
| c. Unsure | 6.9%, 2   |

**11. This is your opportunity to evaluate the program coordinator, Mr. Williams.**

- He has helped me very much this year. Love the enthusiasm and encouragement. At first I thought UCAN was going to be a punishment, but now at the end of it, it has been a privilege. Mr. Williams' created a positive atmosphere in UCAN, which I believe spurred me into a motivational drive towards success.
- Mr. Williams is a good person, helps when you are in need. Also motivates everyone towards success.
- Mr. Williams did an awesome job. He truly believes in his students.
- Mr. Williams was a great motivator!
- He is a great guy and really cares about how you perform during the school year.
- A very charismatic person full of energy willing to help those of us who needed an extra push. The first person I have met who actually cared and became involved in a student's lives.

**12. General Comments**

- UCAN has helped to motivate me in knowing that I can and will do better in working towards graduating!
- Great program!! Thank you so much for giving me the chance to come back.

## Academic Success Workshops Summer 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
June 10	Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
June 17	How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
June 24	Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
July 8	Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
July 15	Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
July 22	Creating A Life That Makes Sense	Marilyn Cullum
July 29	Procrastination	Ernie Ness

## Academic Success Workshops Fall 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Aug 30	Students Speak	Former UCAN Students
Sept 6	Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
Sept 13	How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Sept 20	Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Sept 27	Goal Setting	Eric Staurt
Oct 4	Effective Communication & Classroom Etiquette	Adriian Gardner
Oct 11	Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
Oct 18	Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
Oct 25	Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges	Mark Cooper
Nov 1	Ask An Advisor	Jenny Ruud & AAC
Nov 8	The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams
Nov 15	Creating A Life That Makes Sense	Marilyn Cullum
Nov 22	Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy
Nov 29	You're in the Right Place!	Charlotte Strickland

## Academic Success Workshops Spring 2012

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Jan 24	Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
Jan 31	How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Feb 7	Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
Feb 14	Goals" -the key to success!	Eric Stuart
Feb 21	Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
Feb 28	Effective Communication & Classroom Etiquette	Adriian Gardner
Mar 6	Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
Mar 13	Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges	Mark Cooper
Mar 27	Probation 101!	Tanya Buchanan
Apr 3	The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams
Apr 10	Intervention	Kristy Carter
Apr 17	Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy