



UCAN (UNLOCKING COLLEGE ACADEMICS NOW) Annual Report 2013-2014

Submitted by Marvin Williams, Coordinator

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

- Every student enrolled in the program must submit an application, interview with the program coordinator and 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.*
- 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 **20** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 1** Withdrew
- 11** Successfully completed the program.
- 8** Placed on second suspension.

The **11** students out of the **19** students reflect a **57%** success rate for the summer semester.

The **fall** semester began with **69** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 3** Withdrew
- 30** Successfully completed the program.
- 36** Placed on second suspension.

The **33** students out of the **66** students who remained reflect a **45%** success rate for the fall 2013 semester.

The **spring** semester began with **40** students enrolled in the UCAN program of whom:

- 3** Withdrew
- 14** Successfully completed the program.
- 23** Placed on second suspension.

The **14** students out of the **37** students who remained reflect a **37%** success rate for the spring 2014 semester.

Table 1 The final outcome 2013-2014 academic year is a 45% success rate.

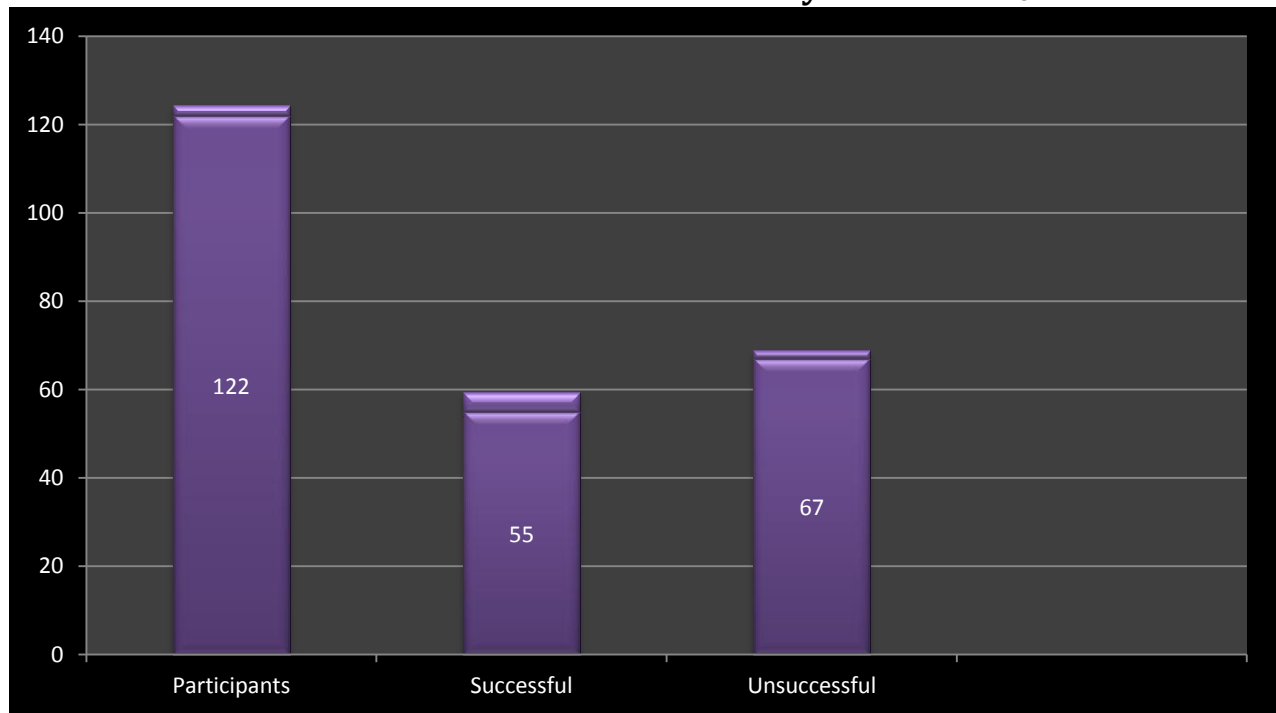


Table 2 Classification Breakdown

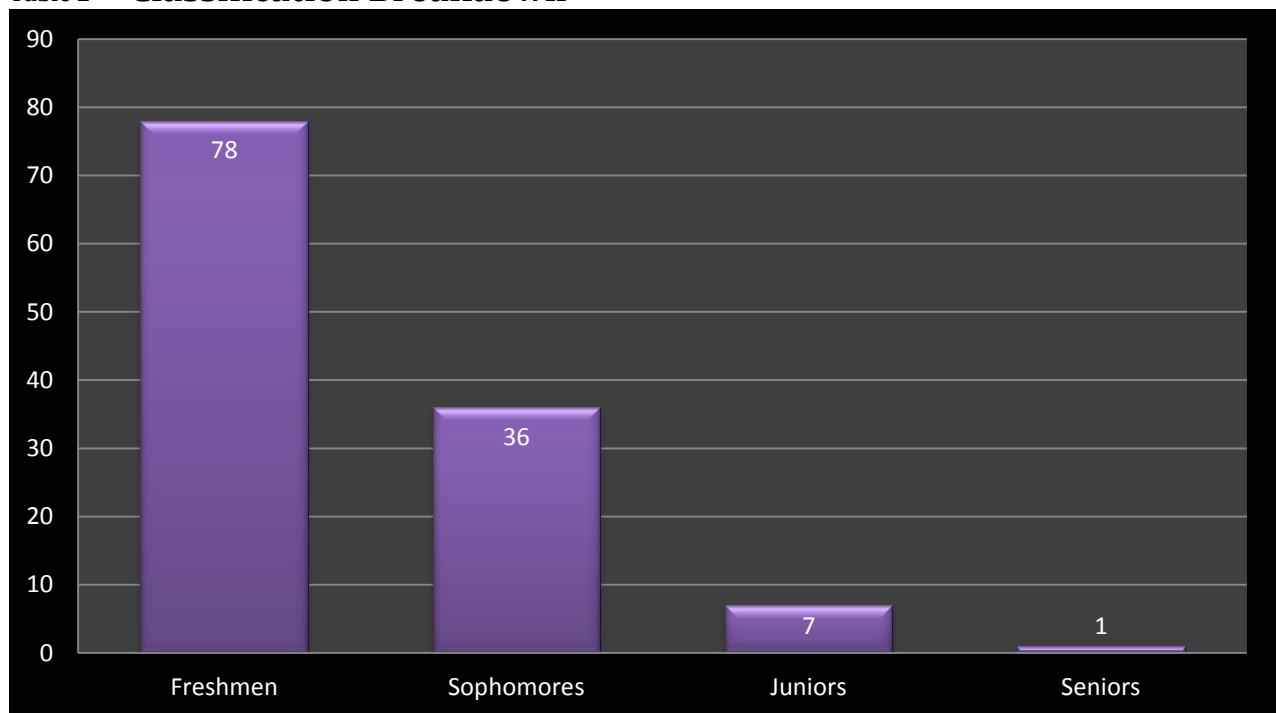


Table 3 **Age Breakdown**

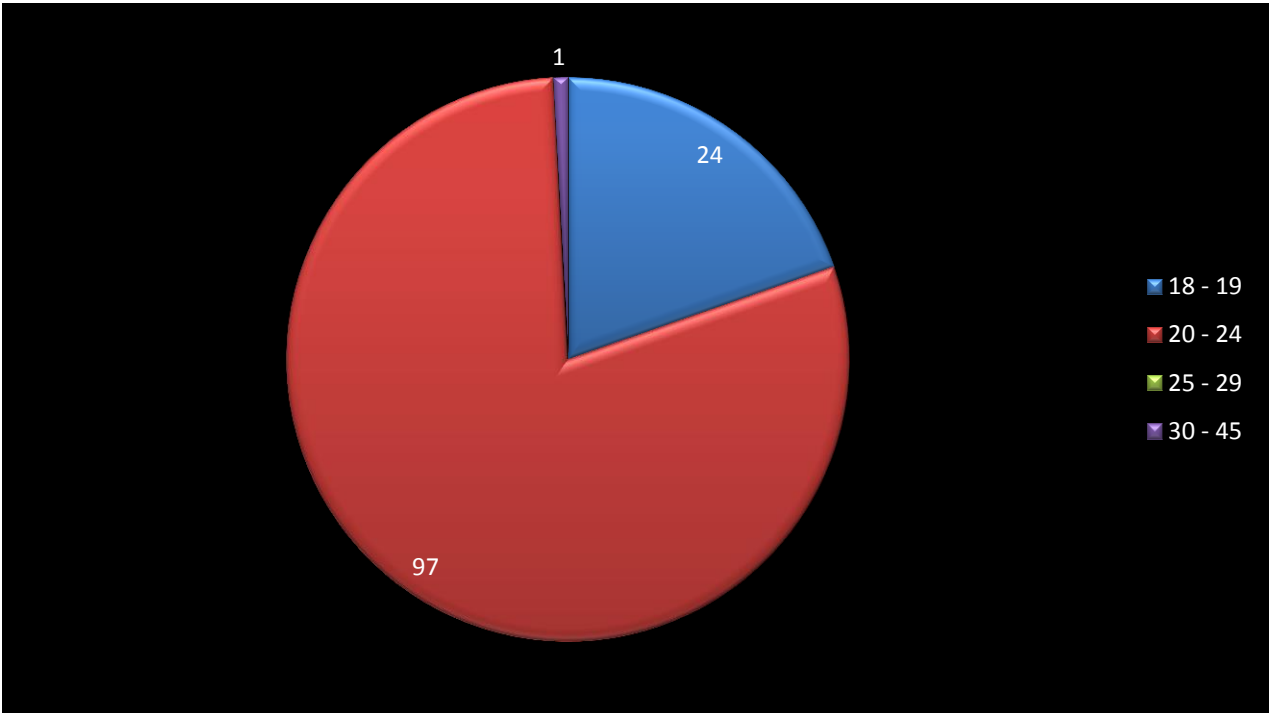
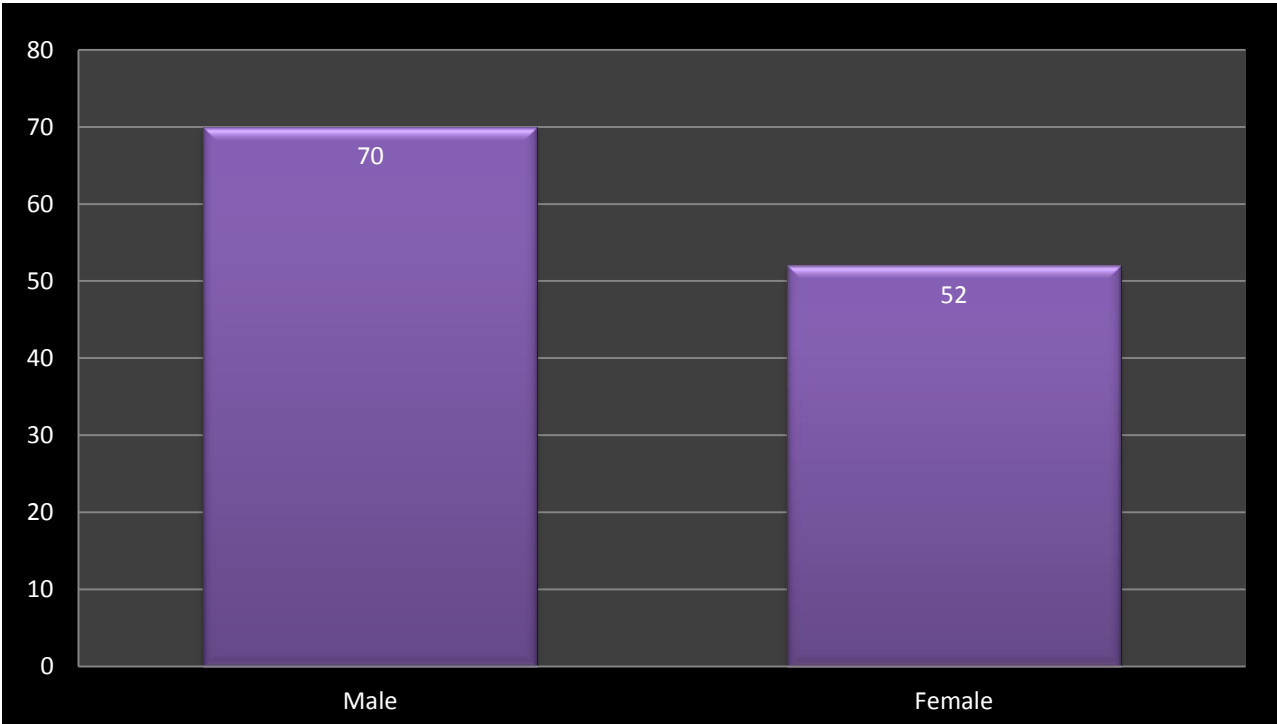
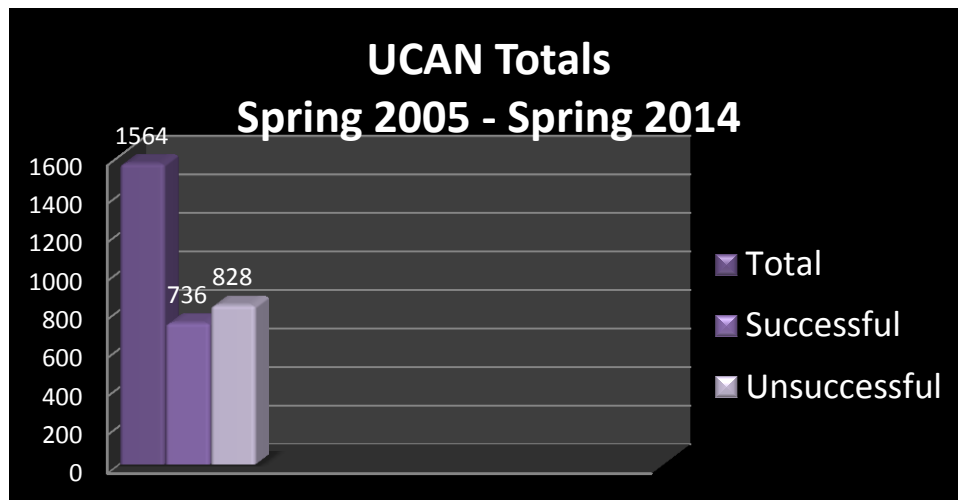


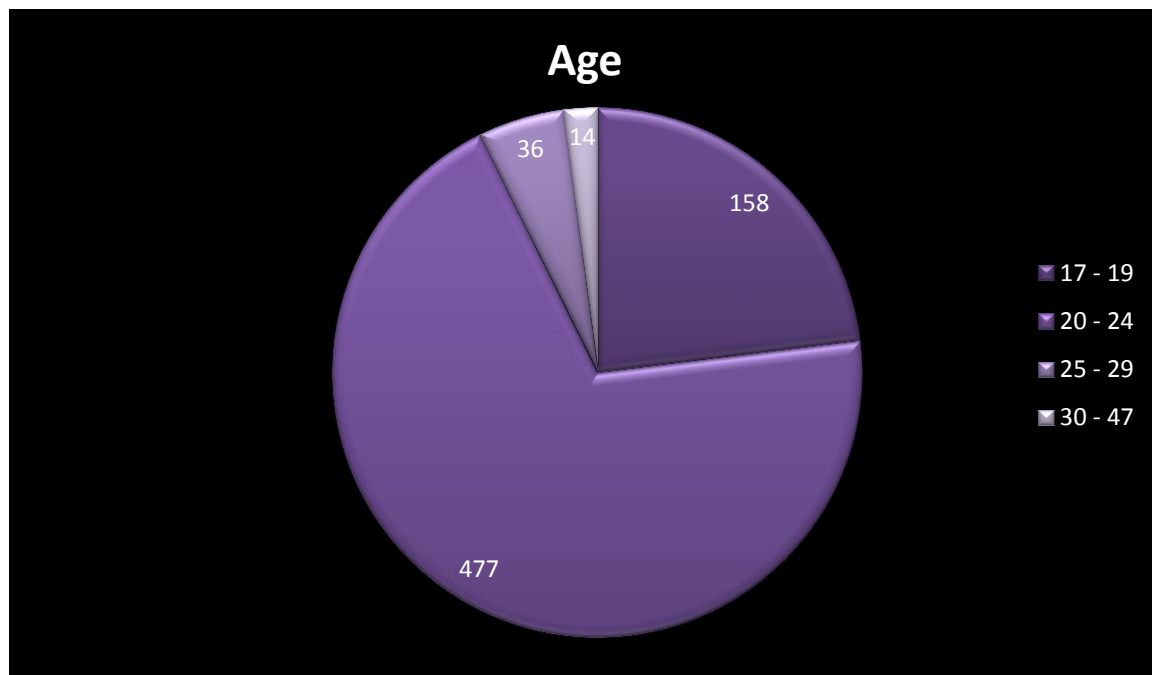
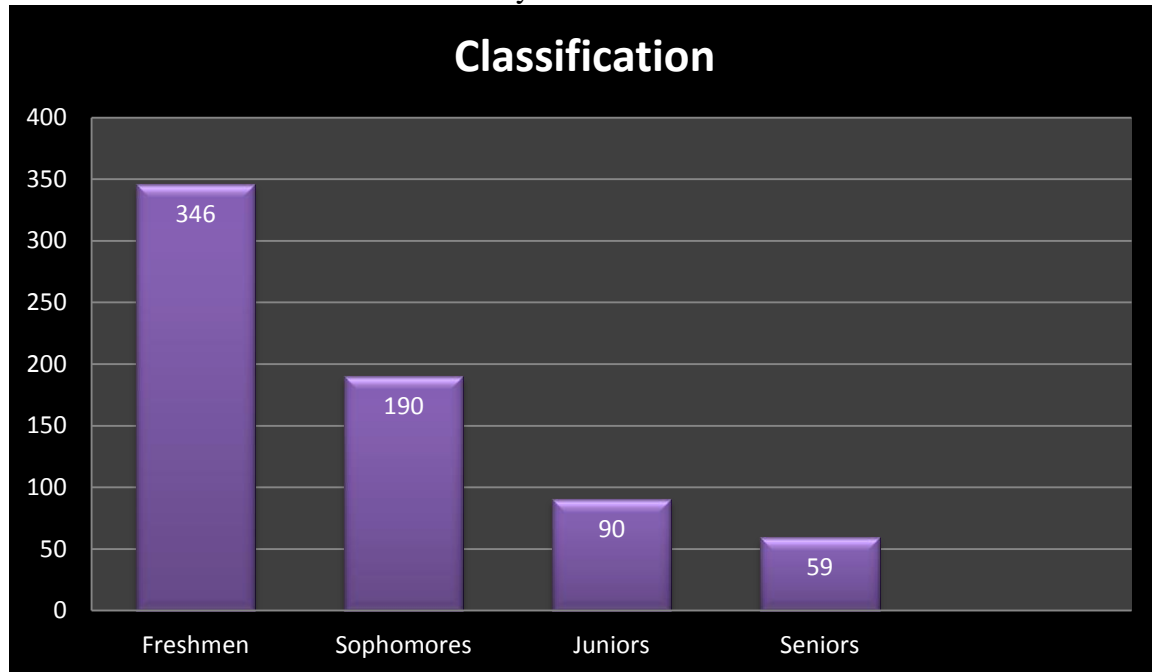
Table 5 **Gender Breakdown**



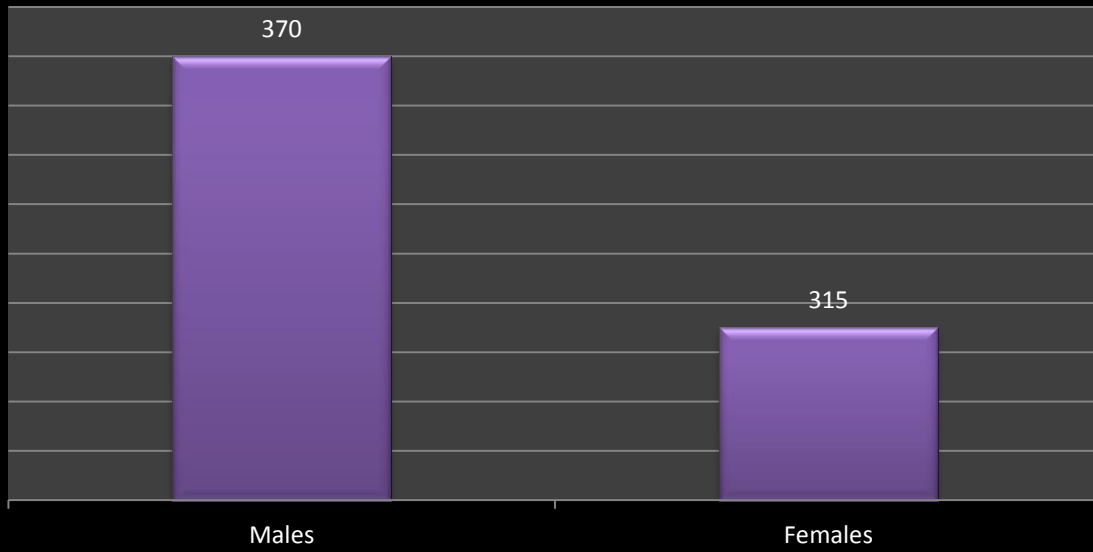


Academic Year	Enrolled	Failed	Completed	Success Rate
Spring 2005 (pilot)	79	41	38	48%
2005-2006	155	79	67	43%
2006-2007	189	102	79	42%
2007-2008	227	114	110	48%
2008-2009	204	118	86	42%
2009-2010	191	115	76	45%
2010-2011	173	82	91	53%
2011-2012	117	59	58	49%
2012-2013	127	51	76	59%
2013-2014	122	67	55	45%
Total	1,564	828	736	47%

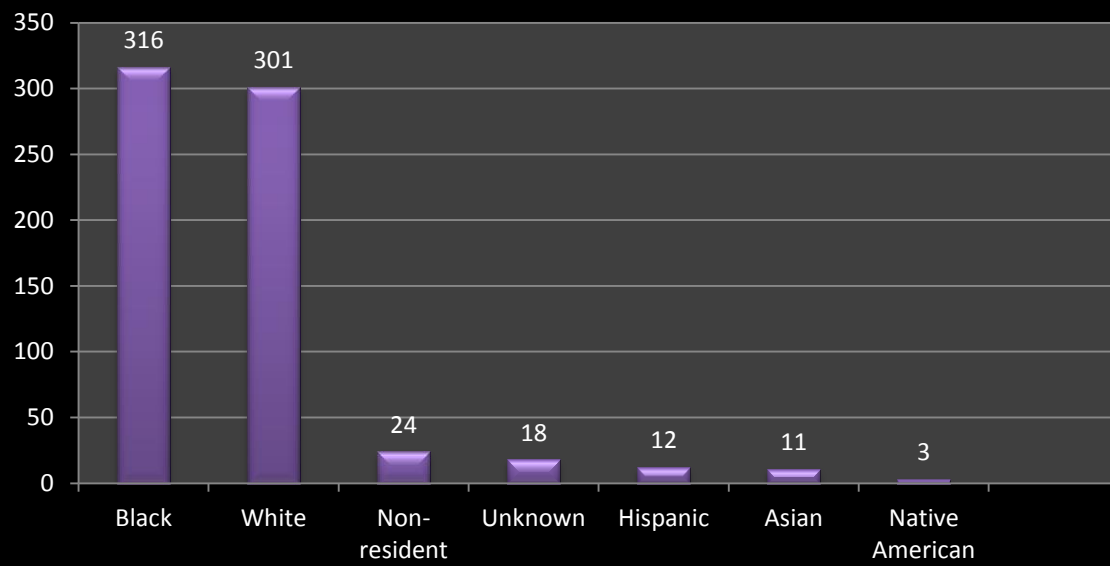
Here is data from 2008-2012 academic years:



Gender



Ethnicity



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the program's inception, in spring 2005, approximately **1680** 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 continue volunteering to facilitate sections 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, staff and alumni. The UCAN program's reputation is growing and students, as well as faculty and staff are embracing the UCAN program. Other accomplishments include:

- Presented poster session at the Arkansas Student Success Symposium. (see appendix)
- Revised UCAN contract. Instead of two contracts for part-time and full-time students, one contract was created with minimum and maximum hours students. New contract requires all students regardless of enrollment hours to complete a minimum of five study hours.
- 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 to those students who did not complete the UCAN program.
- 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 1680 students have participated in this program and paid tuition, rather than sit out their suspension.

GRADUATIONS (TO DATE):

Since the pilot semester, spring 2005, **315** 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.
- Continue to try to assess successes that may not be indicated in the success rate, such as students who go on to be successful at another institution or choose another path.

Survey Results

The results are from 55 students surveyed.

1. The UCAN Program has improved:

a. My academic performance.	74.5%,	41
b. How I interact with professors.	61.8%,	34
c. Nothing.	0.0%,	0
d. My life.	76.4%,	42

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

a. Strongly Agree	90.9%,	50
b. Agree	9.1%,	5
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	80.0%,	44
b. Agree	20.0%,	11
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	78.2%,	43
b. Agree	21.8%,	12
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	61.8%,	34
b. Agree	32.7%,	18
c. Disagree	0.0%,	0
d. Strongly Disagree	0.0%,	0
e. N/A	5.5%,	3

6. The small group seminar was beneficial

a. Strongly Agree	77.8%,	42
b. Agree	18.5%,	10
c. Disagree	3.7%,	2
d. Strongly Disagree	0.0%,	0

e. N/A	0.0%,	0
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7. The mandatory study hours requirement was useful

a. Strongly Agree	77.8%,	42
b. Agree	22.2%,	12
c. Disagree	0.0%,	0
d. Strongly Disagree	0.0%,	0
e. N/A	0.0%,	0

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

a. Strongly Agree	72.7%,	40
b. Agree	25.5%,	14
c. Disagree	1.8%,	1
d. Strongly Disagree	0.0%,	0

9. What did you need the most?

a. Skills	54.5%,	30
b. Motivation	85.5%,	47
c. Accountability	63.6%,	35

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

a. Yes	83.3%,	45
b. No	7.4%,	4
c. Unsure	9.3%,	5

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

- Overall an awesome program, awesome coordinator and very thankful that he provided me with this opportunity.
- Mr. Marvin is a wonderful guy who I believe is helping many students have a another chance to succeed and also have the motivation too. He is a well-educated man and gave me the motivation to finish strong this semester.
- He did an amazing job
- Only good things can be said about Mr. Williams. He's a great instructor and person overall. I hope that he continues to do this for future students for a long time coming.
- He was very helpful and believed in all of his students.

12. General Comments

- Keep this opportunity available to future students.
- I would recommend this program to students that have fallen short and want to make an amazing come back to get into this program! It's very, very, very helpful!
- UCAN was what many students who want to be successful need. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn so much about yourself and education as well. I honestly wish I could be in UCAN until I graduate.

Academic Success Workshops Summer 2013

Topic	Presenter
• Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
• How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
• Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
• Anxiety	Jim Guinee
• Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
• Intervention	Kristy Carter
• Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy

Academic Success Workshops Fall 2013

Topic	Presenter
• Students Speak	Former UCAN Students
• Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
• How to Study	Renee LeBeau-Ford
• Note taking Strategies	Renee LeBeau-Ford
• Goal Setting	Eric Staurt
• Effective Communication	Adriian Gardner
• Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
• Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
• Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges	Mark Cooper
• Intervention	Kristy Carter
• The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams
• Dealing with Difficult Personalities	Shaneil Ealy
• You're in the Right Place!	Charlotte Strickland

Academic Success Workshops Spring 2014

Topic	Presenter
• Time Management/Study Skills	Jim Guinee
• How to Study Renee	LeBeau-Ford
• Note taking Strategies Renee	LeBeau-Ford
• Goals" -the key to success!	Shannon Williams
• Test Anxiety	Jim Guinee
• Effective Communication & Classroom Etiquette	Adriian Gardner
• Study Styles/Learning Styles	Reesa Ramsahai
• Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges	Mark Cooper
• Probation 101!	Tanya Buchanan
• The Power of Choice	Marvin Williams

- Intervention
- Dealing with Difficult Personalities

Kristy Carter
Shaneil Ealy

