

UCA

UCAN Network Newsletter

Issue 6

August 2016

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UCAN Mission Statement

“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.”

Going Green

This year the UCAN program switched to paperless sign-in and study log books for a few reasons:

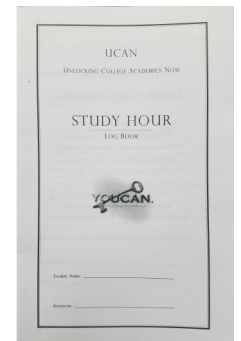
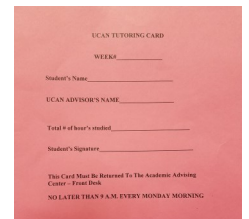
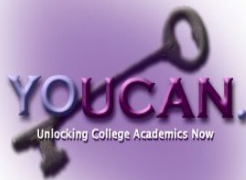
- It's friendlier to the environment
- Saves time
- Immediate feedback
- Double documentation

Participants no longer have to keep up with a study log book or “pink pepto card of shame”. The amount of paper saved on these is worth at least 1 ½ trees a year.

Scanning student IDs for attendance means they are immediately signed into OrgSync which then sends the student an email. Now, the instructor and the student both have documentation of their attendance. This is also quite a bit faster than the pen and paper method used previously.

Since the attendance is now instantaneous, as soon as the sign in process is complete, absent students are sent an email notifying them that their lack of attendance has been noted.

Elizabeth Taylor-McMullen



UCAN Motto:

You can!

I believe you can!

I did!

Can you?

Response: I CAN!

Got Grit?



In the fall of 2014, Dr. Amy Baldwin and Marvin Williams created an intervention with concept of grit, or the ability to bounce back from adversity, with students in the UCAN program to see how much grit our students have and if we could help them develop it over the course of the semester. Before the semester began, each student took the GRIT Gauge, an online self-assessment of a person's grit that was developed by Dr. Paul Stoltz. During their UCAN Seminar, students participated in GRIT (Growth, Resilience, Instinct, and Tenacity) activities in which they reflected on their level of commitment to and tenacity with specific topics. In

addition to the in-class activities and reflections, two of the Academic Workshops focused on both what GRIT is and how to develop it. At the end of the semester, students took the GRIT Gauge again to see if their grit increased.

The results of the intervention demonstrated that there was a significant increase in students' self-reporting of GRIT. The implications of these results can point to a true improvement in students' responses to the challenges that they face during the semester. However, there was not a significant increase in students' achievement in the UCAN program; in other words, while students improved their GRIT, this did not necessarily translate to higher GPAs and completion rates of the UCAN program. In the spring of 2015, the GRIT Gauge was provided as a pre-assessment and post-assessment without the interventional activities and workshops. The results were similar to the fall semester's results. While we did not have the outcomes we had hoped for—improving GPAs and program completion rates, Marvin and Amy are exploring further studies to determine if there are long-term improvements that are achieved or if there are other factors that influence students' academic achievement.

At the end of the semester, students took the GRIT Gauge again to see if their grit increased.

Dr. Amy Baldwin

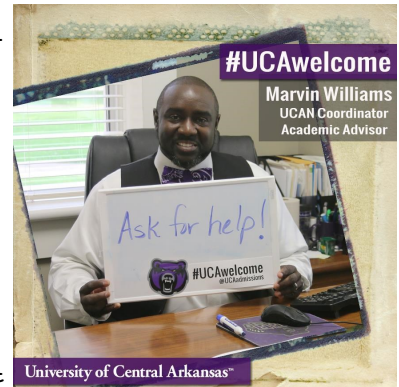


Amy Baldwin & Marvin Williams presented these results at the 34th Annual First Year Experience Conference in Dallas, Texas in February of 2015.



The Coordinator Speaks

Receiving my college degree was one of the happiest days of my life. My degree has opened many doors of opportunity for me that would have, otherwise, been closed. Attaining my college degree was not easy for me. So, I can relate to students who experience challenges and obstacles. I am glad this university affords me the opportunity to work with students who may have hit a road block on their academic journey. However, I don't do what I do alone. I have a network of individuals, faculty, staff and alumnus who volunteer each semester to pour into the lives of students through this program. You know who you are and I thank you.



My title recently changed from just UCAN program coordinator to coordinator of student success. It's broader and better describes me and what I do. I have collaborated and worked with many offices on this campus. I have done everything from serving on committee, speaking at Bear Facts Days, singing at UCA events, providing professional development workshop to providing programming after hours in the residence halls. Anything that can make an impact toward student success, count on me! So, I do more than provide the academic success workshops every Tuesday during x-period for the campus. My job encompasses more than working with the students on first academic suspension. I am here to help all students succeed as we all are. I feel privileged to do so.

Seeing students who were in the UCAN program walk across the stage to receive their degree is a proud moment for me. Likewise, meeting students outside of campus who participated in the program, but for whatever reason chose a different path, is also rewarding. Many times, they embrace me and tell me how much the program impacted their lives and are grateful for the life skills they learned. Many times, I am told how grateful they are for the experience regardless of the outcome. That's another proud moment for me. Success looks different for everyone.

If you have a desire to help our at risk students, please contact me. I would love for you to join our network. Be a part of a group of individuals making an impact in the lives of our student who need a little more support.

Marvin,
I'm sure you don't remember me, but I went through the UCAN program back when I was at UCA from 2003-2008. I just wanted to reach out, and let you know if there's ever anything I can do for you just let me know. I'm based out of Little Rock, and cover the North half of the state so I'm always in the area. I'd be more than happy to visit with a group, or do what I can if anybody needed anything.
Hope all is well!

Mr. Williams,
I don't know if you remember me or not, but I was enrolled in the UCAN program in the Fall of 2013. I was one of the few who didn't make it out of that program unfortunately, but I randomly had a flashback to my UCA days and thought I would let you know that I'm doing well now. I remembered how great the UCAN program was to me and everything you guys did to try and help me be successful. I wasn't ready to grow up then and I take full responsibility for that. I ended up taking that following semester off and moved to up-state NY with my mother. I ended up starting school that summer at a community college in Syracuse, NY. I took 12 hours and earned a 3.5 GPA. I took 15 hours in the fall and I finished with a 2.9 GPA. Now I'm taking 17 hours this Spring and if I do well on my finals in a couple of weeks I'll have north of a 3.3 GPA. This May, I'll be earning my associates degree in Liberal Arts and I've been accepted into the University of Arkansas and Howard University. It was unfortunate that I didn't make it through your great program, but I've come to learn that God does in fact work in mysterious ways. It was best for me to be where I am now because I'm really close to becoming the person I want to be. So in a way, I don't think I would be where I am if I wasn't originally accepted into this program. I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity you gave me (even though I didn't take full advantage of it) and let you know how awesome the UCAN program is.

Graduations



347 degrees have been awarded to students, who may have sat out their suspension and not returned, have graduated since the spring 2005 pilot semester. Others' graduating status is pending.

Academic Success Workshops Fall 2016

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL MEET DURING X-PERIOD (1:40-2:30p.m.) in Doyne Health Science Center, 141.

Attendance Verification Available

Please encourage students to attend and bring their UCA identification card.

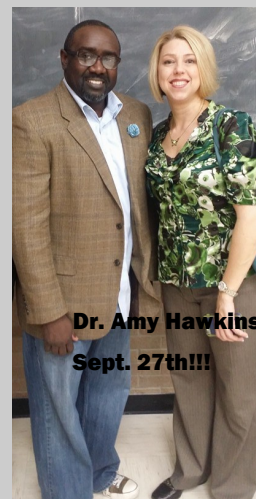
Cards must be scanned for emailed attendance verification.

- Aug. 23 Starting Your Semester on the Right Foot
- Aug. 30 The Secrets of Managing Time and Tasks Effectively

- Sept. 6 "Goals"- the key to Success!
- Sept. 13 Note Taking Strategies
- Sept. 20 How to Study
- Sept. 27 Effective Communication is NOT Common Sense– or Common Practice

- Oct. 4 Test Taking Tips
- Oct. 11 Personality and Learning
- Oct. 18 Taking Charge–Your Academic Responsibility
- Oct. 25 Build Inner Strength for Outer Challenges

- Nov. 1 Traits of Successful Students
- Nov. 8 Financial Awareness
- Nov. 15 Uncovering the Authentic You
- Nov. 22 Choices
- Nov. 29 Dealing With Difficult Personalities

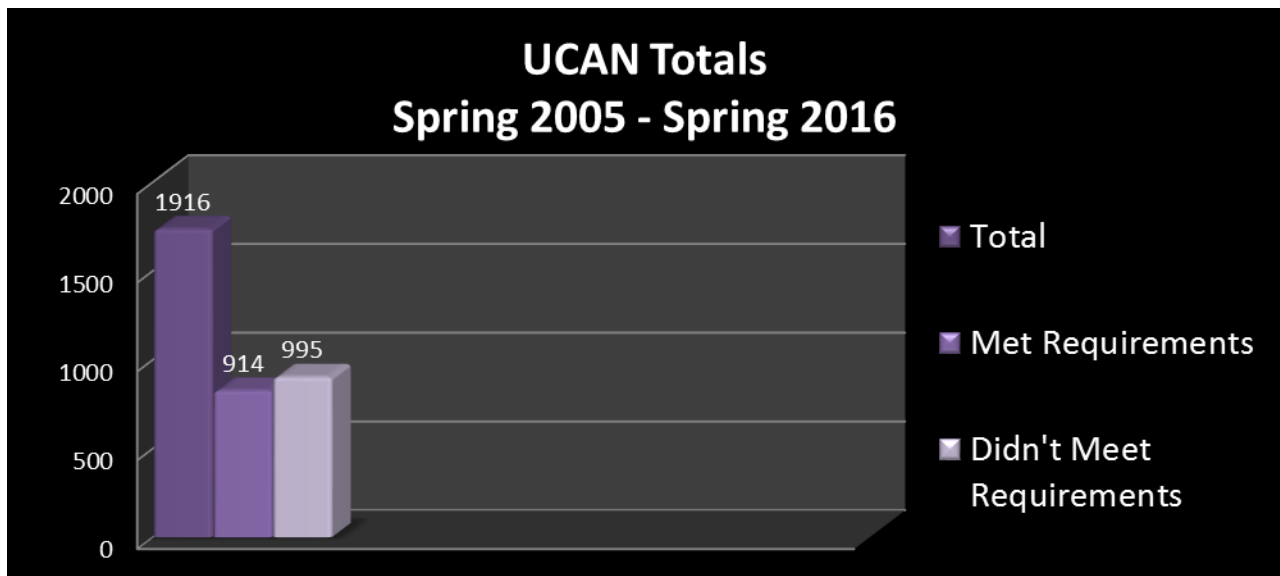
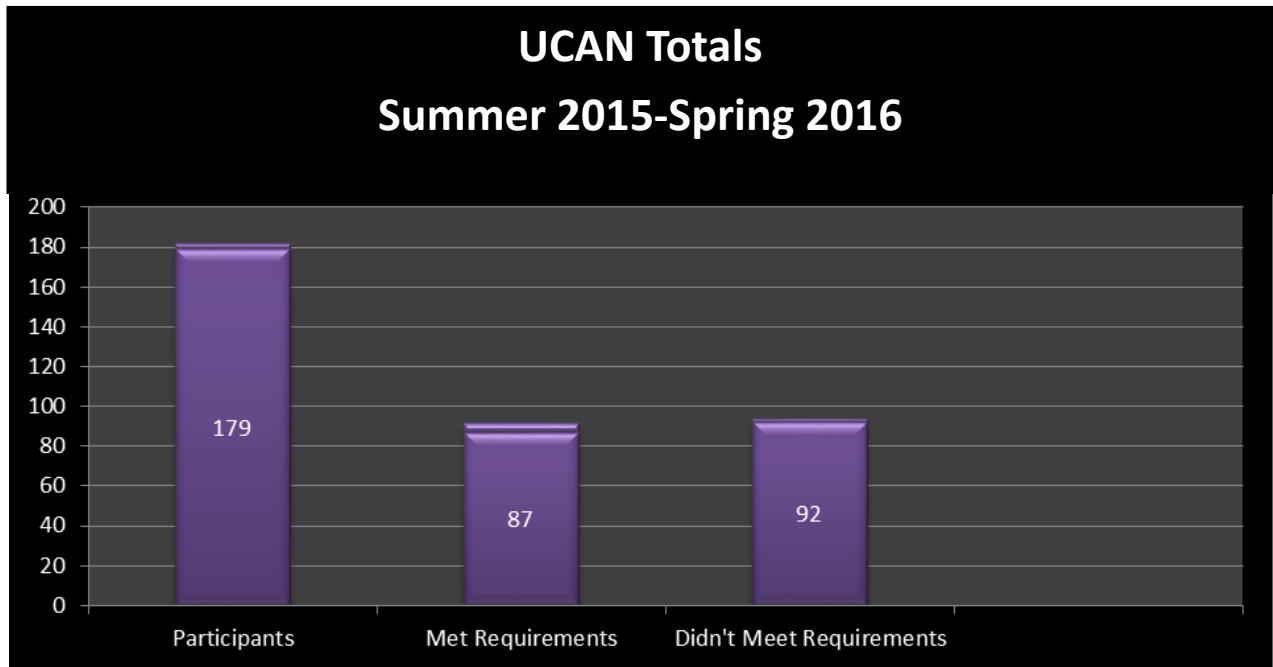


DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ID!!!



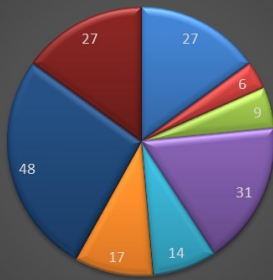
THE STATS!

The final outcome
for the 2015-2016 academic year
is a
48% success rate.



Stat's continued...

Colleges 2015-2016



CB CE CF CH CL CN UC US

The UCAN Survey Says...

I wish that this seminar was for freshmen because it has a lot of useful information.

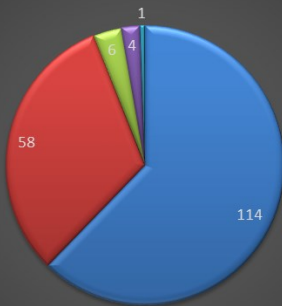
I would recommend this program to new freshman because it helps you understand what you can expect from college, what you should do in certain situations, and how to deal with things like anxiety and stress. If this was offered to me my first semester at UCA, I do believe my academic performance would have been better.

Classification 2015-2016



Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Ethnicity 2015-2016



African American Caucasian Asian Hispanic American Indian

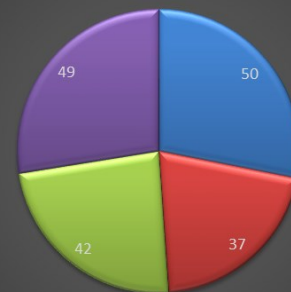
"I have never been to the library so much before in my three years here at UCA. It really helped change my study habits."

"The program as a whole was a good experience for me and taught me not only school skills but life skills as well. This definitely bettered me as a student."

"Genuine, caring, motivating. Mr. Williams is a determined teacher who knows how to relate with almost anyone. I appreciate what he's done."

"I loved this program. It helped me and motivated me to stay focused."

Gender 2015-2016



Males Passed Females Passed Males Failed Females Failed