



UCCP a Model Initiative for Providing Equal Access and Academic Enhancements to California High Schoolers and Teachers

The responsibility for ensuring that California students have equal access to, and are adequately prepared to tackle, higher education opportunities lies with California's educators at all levels.

The University of California College Prep Online (UCCP) was started by the California Governor's Office and the University of California in 1999, and it has done an extraordinary job at meeting this responsibility. Over the course of its 5-year history, UCCP has managed to serve thousands of California's disadvantaged communities with pathways to college attendance through Internet-based college-preparation courses and services.

UCCP has developed a deep understanding of the technical, curricular, pedagogical and human dimensions of developing and delivering online courses to California high school students, who otherwise would not have such educational opportunities.

UCCP is a model program with impressive evaluations and evidence that backs up its successful mission to date, which is to level the playing field for high school students seeking eligibility for admission to the University of California system and other top universities. In short, UCCP has become proficient at enhancing equal education.

While concentrating on providing free online courses and services to qualified schools, UCCP is also exploring other opportunities, such as contributing to a national repository of online courses, setting up a statewide online charter school, and looking into the possibility of

licensing its newly produced home-grown courses to institutions nationally.

What's Offered

UCCP's online course offerings include 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, four Honors courses, six college preparatory courses, and an SAT/ACT test preparation course. UCCP also provides a number of highly sophisticated online tutoring services, as well as an online AP diagnostic test service (AP Exam Review) that assesses students' knowledge in preparation for AP examinations.

Additionally, as a means of reaching out to teachers, UCCP



holds an annual Online Teaching and Learning Institute that brings together California educators to work on current topics in educational technology. The Institute provides practical training for high school teachers, administrators, and technical coordinators who are interested in the effective use of



technology to increase academic access and achievement. Such teacher-education outreach is in line with the U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act.

Access and Excellence

The sheer number of students UCCP has served since its inception bears out the fact that increasing student academic access and achievement is what UCCP is all about. "Without AP courses from UCCP, many students in rural and remote areas of California would not be able to fulfill some of the basic course requirements to attend college," says John D. Anderson, Superintendent, Imperial County Office of Education.

"The achievement results of students in UCCP online classes have been extraordinary," says Valerie Pitts, Principal at San Lorenzo Valley High School in Felton, CA. "There has been an

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***- John D. Anderson, Superintendent
 Imperial County Office of Education***

“Without UCCP our college-bound students are not competitive with their peers from other high schools. Most of our students who are taking UCCP courses are performing at a higher level in all their classes because of the high demands of UCCP. . . We are looking forward to a long-term partnership with UCCP.”

- Forrest Stamper, UCCP Site Coordinator, Hoopa Valley High School

increase in performance on AP exams, and an increase in the number of students eligible for UC/CSU upon graduation. The quality of our high school program is directly contingent upon our online program. We need the continued support of UCCP.”

From a UCCP student’s perspective, Martin Ortiz from Parlier High School, claims that his two classes, AP Government and AP English Language, have “undoubtedly” helped to prepare him for college. “There just aren’t that many opportunities for advancement here at my school,” he says, adding that “with UCCP I have the chance to be more competitive and better prepared for my college career. UCCP is a great program that really enriches small schools like mine.”

Schools that qualify for UCCP services must meet at least one of the following four eligibility requirements: have a ranking of one to five on the California State Academic Performance Index (such schools are considered low-performing/high-priority schools); have a 4-year college-participation rate of 20 percent or less;

have more than half of its students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches; be a UC Partnership School, which are schools that participate in a University of California outreach program geared to facilitating long-term change in the achievement patterns of disadvantaged high school students.

Figures Signify Rapid Growth

Recent statistics, which reveal a rapid climb in enrollments since its beginning, show that UCCP has thus far provided more than 13,200 California high schoolers with online AP and Honors courses. Another 35,000 California high schoolers have taken UCCP’s SAT/ACT test preparation course, and more than 31,000 students have taken advantage of UCCP’s AP Exam Review. On average, UCCP has served students from 50 counties and 207 schools per year. More than 2,400 California teachers have been impacted by UCCP (see “UCCP Impact by the Numbers,” below).

By 2002/03 UCCP had reached 30 percent of targeted schools in the state of California. Of the 222 schools

UCCP Impact by the Numbers

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04*	Totals
Counties	10	48	57	56	54	50/Yr Avg
Schools	32	241	246	222	194	207/Yr Avg
Schools by Region						
Central Valley	5	40	40	40	38	33/Yr Avg
North East	5	40	40	40	38	33/Yr Avg
North Coast	2	40	41	40	37	32/Yr Avg
South Bay	5	40	40	12	13	22/Yr Avg
South	10	41	42	52	40	37/Yr Avg
South West & Imperial	5	40	43	38	29	31/Yr Avg
Students	202	1,164	3,542	4,605	3,700	13,213
Course Enrollments	304	1,746	5,313	6,066	4,501	17,930
SAT/ACT Test Prep	N/A	N/A	N/A	12,896	22,138	35,034
AP Exam Review	N/A	5,400	5,800	20,088	N/A	31,288
California Teachers	264	662	652	680	203	2,461
UC Undergraduates	3	5	17	27	32	84
UC Grad Students	N/A	N/A	5	3	4	12
UC Faculty	N/A	N/A	12	9	13	34

UCCP has provided online college preparatory courses and services free of charge to thousands of students and teachers from eligible schools. The number of California teachers shown in the above graph have either taught UCCP courses or participated in UCCP’s Online Teaching and Learning Institute. UC undergraduates and graduates participate in UCCP as research assistants to UC Faculty and as cybermentors to students. UC faculty throughout the state provided course content development and consultation for seven new online college preparatory courses developed internally by UCCP. These courses are designed for Interent 2, aligned to California content standards, and fulfill admission requirements to the University of California. Seven additional UCCP online courses are currently in development.

*** Data as of 1/16/04**



that participated in 2002/03, 125 ranked one to five on the Academic Performance Index, 68 had student populations with greater than 50 percent qualifying for free and reduced lunch programs, and 136 schools had a 4-year college-participation rate of 20 percent or less.

Course enrollments by ethnicity for 2002/03 reveal that 35 percent of all UCCP students were Caucasian, 34 percent were Latino, 11 percent were Asian, seven percent African American, three percent Filipino, one percent Native American, one percent East Indian, and 9 percent unknown (see graph below).

Overall, 87 percent of students taking UCCP courses complete them. The state passing rates for AP Biology, Chemistry, Physics B and C, and Environmental Science is 50.3 percent. These same AP courses, developed as online courses by UCCP, showed a passing rate of 43 percent. The students who took these courses would have never had this opportunity without UCCP.

Keeping Pace with Demand

All of this has been provided free of charge to high school students in need of such services throughout the state. Managing and maintaining such a large enterprise is a monumental task, but UCCP has built up its capacity and know-how to meet the increasing demand from a diverse population of students.

This demand shows no sign of abating. Figures from the College Board, the organization that administers AP exams every year, show that in California alone between 1998 and 2002 (the most up-to-date

“ The UCCP program allows our school to offer virtually the same AP curriculum as any school, public or private, in the state. . . Since the introduction of more AP courses through UCCP, the number of students taking AP courses has risen dramatically.”

- Pat Brennand, Social Studies Teacher, Gonzales High School

figures available) the number of schools participating in AP programs has increased from 1,095 to 1,250; the number of students taking AP exams has increased from 104,912 to 165,581; and the number of AP examinations administered has increased from 175,182 to 291,945.

UCCP’s Added Value

California’s education expenditure per pupil was approximately \$7,000 for a full-time student enrolled in six courses during the 2002/03 academic year. One UCCP online AP or Honors course is equivalent to 20 percent of a six-course load.

In 2002/03, UCCP provided 6,066 online AP and Honors courses to 4,605 students. (On average, UCCP students take 1.4 courses per semester.) Using 20 percent of the expenditure-per-pupil rate (\$1,400), it could be maintained that if the state were responsible for providing these same courses, the cost would have been tallied more than \$8.4

million (6,066 courses x \$1,400 = \$8,492,400.00).

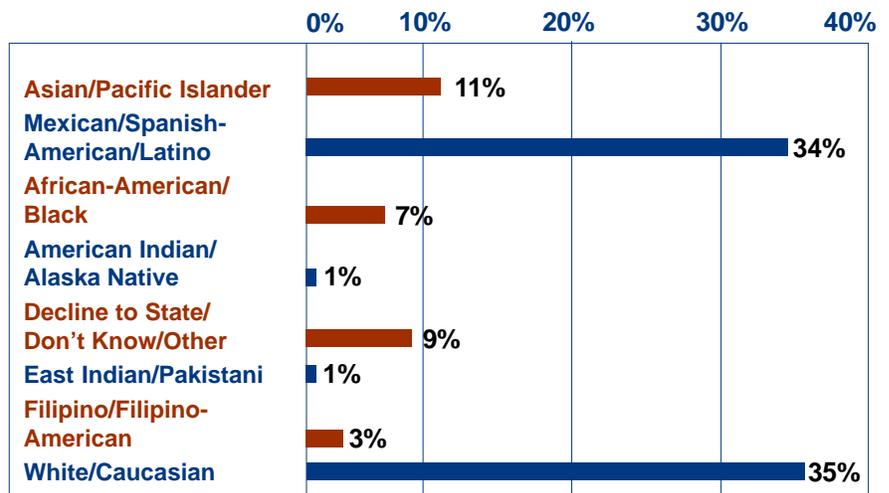
UCCP managed to accomplish this with a \$4 million budget appropriated by the state. Over and above the 6,066 online AP and Honors courses taken by students in 2002/03, UCCP also provided 12,896 students with SAT/ACT Test Prep courses and 20,088 students with an AP Exam Review service. Plus, UCCP provided an invaluable outreach program to California teachers through its Online Teaching and Learning Institute. When viewed from this standpoint, UCCP managed to provide all of its programs and services at a cost that could be considered a bargain to the state.

The Force Behind the Engine

Keeping pace with such growth is the challenge that drives UCCP. In order to meet that challenge, it must have a solid infrastructure in place. UCCP currently employs 22 full-

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UCCP 2002-2003 Course Enrollments by Ethnicity





time staff comprised of online course-delivery and content specialists, AP teachers, technology-support personnel, student-services experts, and administrative-support personnel. A cadre of about 20 part-time cybermentors who are upper division undergraduate students from UC campuses throughout the state provide invaluable student support and academic advisement services through an innovative virtual-classroom student-services program hosted by UCCP. Six Regional Coordinators, down from eight because of budget cuts, located throughout the state, help to serve individual schools with a host of academic and technical-support issues. A voluntary UCCP Policy Committee helps the entire UCCP enterprise and is comprised of one individual from each University of California campus selected from nominees provided by the UC Office of the President and the UC Academic Senate.

How it All Works

The entire UCCP experience is governed by guidelines and procedures that have been fine-tuned and perfected to ensure success.

All of UCCP's courses and services are provided through a combination of leveraged business and academic partnerships. The talent and expertise of a fully stretched UCCP staff manages to hold itself together and produce results that are relevant to maintaining its forward-thinking, long-term sustainability.

“I’ve always dreamed and desired to pursue a college education and one of the best possible ways I could have prepared for it and increased my chances for acceptance would have been to take on several AP courses. Thankfully, because of UCCP, my future looks brighter than ever.

- David Kong, Student, Bravo Medical Magnet

Business partnerships are with top-notch vendors who supply UCCP with sophisticated, professionally developed online AP and Honors courses. Academic partnerships are with UC-system course-development experts from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and UCLA, as well as talented AP teachers from across the state. All of these collaborations have resulted in UCCP's ability to produce its own dynamic, media-rich online courses in recent years.

Participating high schools must enter into an agreement, called an “enrollment packet,” that is managed by the UCCP regional coordinators. In particular, regional coordinators ensure that UCCP courses will be used to expand access and build capacity, not replace teachers by supplanting any existing programs.

UCCP student-services personnel assist students with registering and enrolling for online courses as well as monitoring their progress.

UCCP also piloted an innovative cybermentor program last year. The cybermentor program matches targeted UCCP students with upper-division undergraduates to provide subject-matter tutoring and higher-education advisement services via a virtual classroom.

Moving Toward Sustainability

Since 2002/03, UCCP itself has built and provided six self-developed online AP courses, one Honors Course and one college preparation courses to its students. Currently it has five more online AP courses under development.

The self-production of courses has and will continue to incur development costs, but it also opens up a new door of opportunity for UCCP to derive potential revenue through the development of a new business model whereby school districts from anywhere in the country could possibly enter into leasing agreements for these courses from UCCP. Implementing this kind of business model will take time and a more concerted infrastructure-building effort while still attempting to maintain its current operational structure with a limited staff. This model will allow UCCP to continue offering its online college- preparation courses and services for free to California students who truly need them.



For more information,
contact UCCP Director
Moises Torres, Ed.D.
e-mail: moises@uccp.org
phone: 831.460.3035
Web site: <http://www.uccp.org>