

Developing a Truly University-wide Honors Program

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The UC Davis University Honors Program

- **Provide a unifying experience of a selective liberal arts college with the resources and opportunities of a world-class research university**
- **Recruit exceptional students to campus who might otherwise not come here (90% of incoming class reported as such)**
- **Value added to campus through student service-learning projects, innovative pedagogy, and multi-year contributions to research programs**



A brief history: who gets the opportunity?

Integrated Studies Program

- **Regents scholars**
- **Invitation prior to enrollment**
- **Largely used GPA/SAT metrics**
- **Living learning community**

Davis Honors Challenge

- **After enrollment**
- **On campus GPA-based**
- **Separate courses**

Merged UHP Curriculum Four Year Program

Year One & Two

- One UHP GE or major course each quarter
- Courses limited to 25 or fewer students
- Courses are both lower division & upper division

Year Three

- Research Prep Course
- Community Service
- Project (5 options)

Year Four: Capstone

- Complete within major or project with UHP

**The challenge of building inclusive excellence:
Exclusive program(s) existed by definition that did not represent
the University as a whole**

- **As the University was becoming more and more diverse, the honors programs were not, by any consideration**
- **Heavily skewed towards Biology and Engineering disciplines**
- **Diversity is a strength of UC Davis *and should be a strength of its honors program***
- **Changed the model fairly radically (2015 incoming class):**

**Offer high achieving and high potential group of students
closely mirroring the makeup of the incoming student body**

**Worked closely with Colleges, Admissions, Financial Aid,
with full support of Chancellor and Provost**

Overall makeup of the UC Davis University Honors Program (2016 incoming class)

Characteristic	UHP % (2016)	UC Davis % (2015)
College of Ag & Env Sci	19	20
College of Biological Sci	27	27
College of Engineering	13	14
College of L & S	41	39
<i>Div of Social Sciences</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Div of Math & Phys Sci</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Div of HArCS</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>
Female	67	63
URM	28	30
Limited Income	31	32
First Generation	34	39
Weighted GPA	4.27-4.35	3.92-4.23
SAT Total	1880-2220	1770-2120



Continued evolution of the UCD honors idea: beyond the numbers

- **Transition support, adaptive learning tools, increased advising, community building**
- **Peer and faculty mentoring**
- **Interviews, outreach, recruitment**
- **Transfer student program expansion**
- **Leadership and community engagement focus**
- **Cohorts of scholars: Bioethics, Higher Ed, Art-X, etc.**
- **Thematic coursework, programming**
- **Increase diversity of faculty instructors and mentors**

Thank you!

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Partners in Undergraduate
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UHP students and faculty!

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