

Developing a Truly Universitywide 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 servicelearning projects, innovative pedagogy, and multi-year contributions to research programs



A brief history: who gets the opportunity?

Integrated Studies Program Da

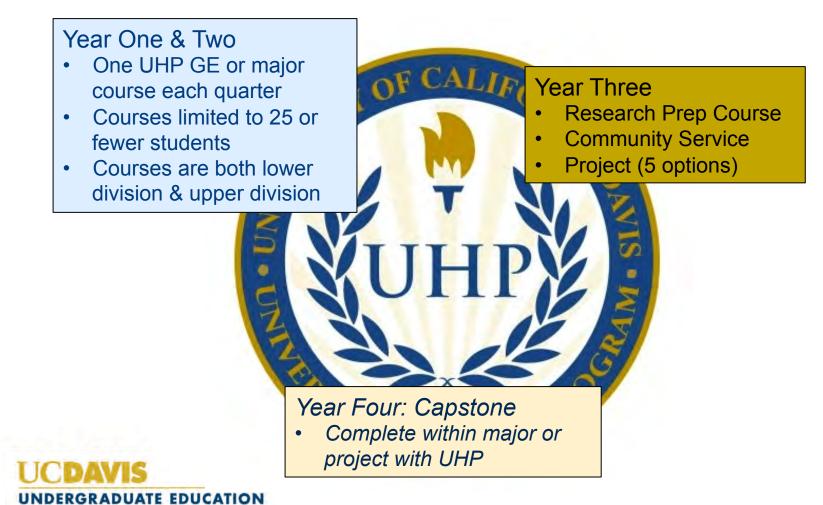
- Regents scholars
- Invitation prior to enrollment
- Largely used GPA/SAT metrics
- Living learning community



Davis Honors Challenge

- · After enrollment
- On campus GPAbased
- Separate courses

Merged UHP Curriculum Four Year Program



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
Div of Social Sciences	21	19
Div of Math & Phys Sci	12	11
Div of HArCS	8	10
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!

Carolyn Thomas

James Shackelford Ari Kelman Eric Rauchway

Linda Katehi Ralph Hexter Ken Burtis



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Partners in Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, and the Academic Senate

UHP students and faculty!



