



# Santa Ana College's *University Link Program*





# HISTORY

The University Link (ULink) program has been proudly serving Santa Ana College students since 2001. **ULink is a transfer bound program that transfers students to all universities.** ULink provided Santa Ana College students the opportunity to receive a guaranteed admission to the University of California, Irvine. However, as of Summer 2023, UCI discontinued our guaranteed admission. ULink has continued to operate as a learning community for students interested in transferring.

# MISSION

We strive:

- For students to complete 30 transferable units by the end of the first academic year to include English Composition, Critical Thinking and College Mathematics.
- To increase the percentage of students who become transfer ready, attain transfer degrees or transfer within two to three years.

# ULink Structure

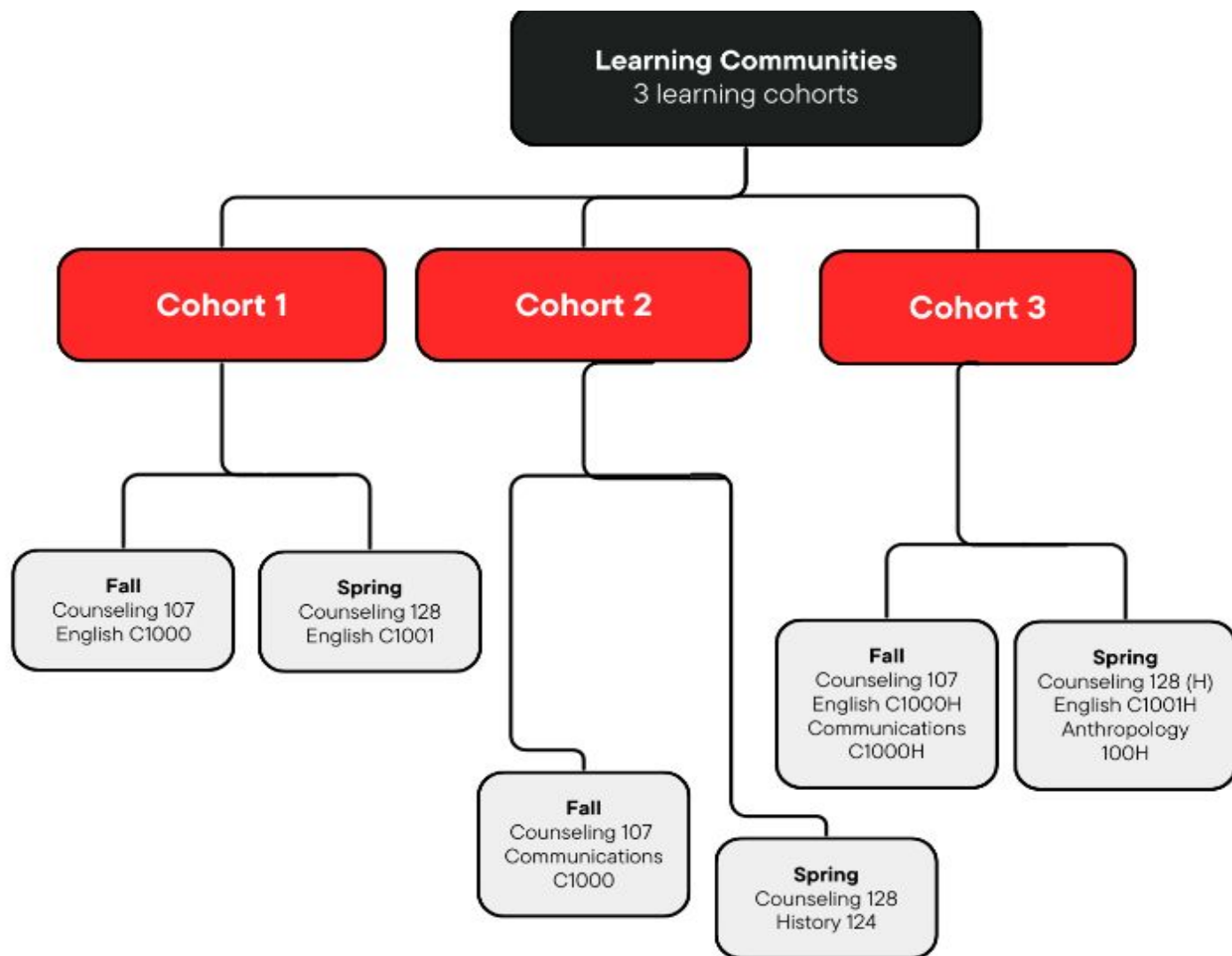


**UniversityLink (ULink)**  
Community-Transfer-Service

**Learning Communities**  
3 learning cohorts

**Academic Counseling**

**Service Learning**



**Academic Counseling**

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graph TD; A[Academic Counseling] --> B[Student + Counselor]; B --> C[Meet a minimum of once a semester to create and update Student Education Plan];
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**Student + Counselor**

**Meet a minimum of once a  
semester to create and  
update Student Education  
Plan**



Service Learning

ULink + Service  
Learning

Students complete a  
minimum of 50 hours of  
Service Learning during  
the academic year.



# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

- Persistence: First Primary Term to Secondary Term
  - 2024-2025: 97.5%
  - 2023 - 2024: 97%
  - 2022-2023: 91.3%
- Transfer
  - Fall 2024: 48
  - Fall 2023: 36

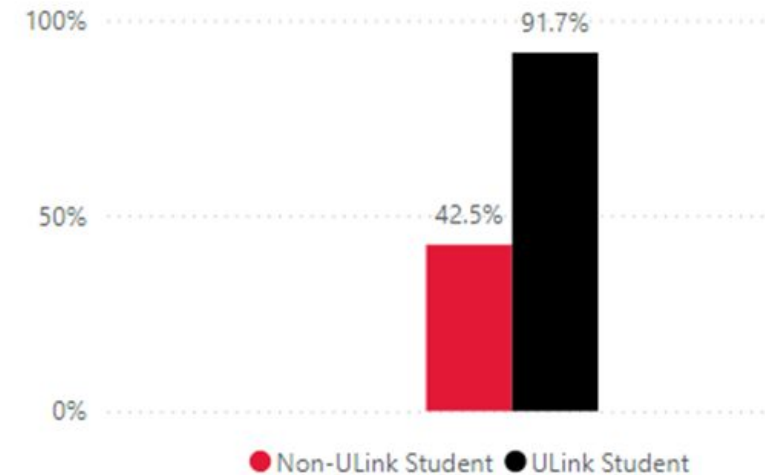
\*33% increase



# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

- Transferrable English course success rates among ULink and non-ULink students.



\*No significant differences in transferable math success rates among ULink students and non-ULink students.

# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

Within ULink programming and coursework, we incorporate all four of the Guided Pathways Pillars:

1. Pillar I - Clarifying the Path
2. Pillar II - Enter the Path
3. Pillar III - Stay on the Path
4. Pillar IV - Ensure Learning

# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

**Pillar I - Clarifying the Path:**

- As part of ULink, students are required to complete a comprehensive Student Education Plan with a ULink counselor. This is also tied into an assignment within Counseling 107, ULink Digital Portfolio. This provides the student an opportunity to integrate their interests with a major and career..

*“ULink has helped me adapt to college and create strong connections with my professors and classmates. ULink also informed me of resources that are at my disposal to help me achieve my academic goals, and they gave me the motivation I needed to continue to pursue my dreams.”*

*- Denise Ramirez, Political Science, UCI Fall 2024 Transfer*



# QUESTION 1

## **Pillar I - Clarifying the Path (continued):**

- We help to clarify the transfer pathway by providing college tours (Fall 2023 UC Riverside, Spring 2024 Cal Poly Pomona), we provide a TAG workshop in class to explain the benefits and the “why” of TAG, and we coordinate a TAP workshop with the University Transfer Center to help students begin their UC application process.
- ULink students are required to complete Service Learning hours and are encouraged to volunteer at a site that is connected to their major and/or career interests. This way, students can gain experience, engage with their community, and better understand if the path they have chosen is the best fit with real-life experience.

***“The ULink program helped me from the very beginning when I started at SAC. I was guided through the program on what classes I needed to take and how it was important to start early in order to achieve my transfer goal. The ULink counselors were very helpful in giving advice and looking to support us in many ways. Being within the program I have become more knowledgeable about how to transfer. I always recommend other SAC students to join the program because it will definitely help them succeed.”***

***- Lauren Nieto, Nutrition, Sacramento State Fall 2024 Transfer***

# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

## **Pillar II - Enter the Path:**

- We work to help students enter the path first by engaging with outreach to recruit students interested in transferring to a university through Early Decision.
- In CNSL 107 – The Freshman Experience, we assist/guide students with the transition to college life and expectations.
- ULink is an intensive support program providing counseling to all students and supporting them in their connected cohort classes.
- Completing Service Learning hours and their education plan, mentioned above, contribute to Entering the Path.

***“ULink has helped me by figuring out what type of classes I needed to take which was really helpful for me because I’m the first generation in my family to go to college so I didn’t know what I was going into.”***

***- Maria Luna, Studio Art, CSUF Fall 2025 Transfer***

# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

**Pillar III - Stay on the Path:**

- ULink faculty work hard within our learning communities to address academic concerns as quickly as possible. With accessible counselors, interventions can be implemented to support the student to stay on their desired path. The student sees their counselor in their Counseling course each week and at least one other time a week in their paired academic course. We can easily address questions and concerns that come up and often offer referrals to students as well.

***“ULink has been a helpful resource in keeping me organized and connected throughout my academic journey. It's made it easier to access important information and stay on top of deadlines. Thank you for providing a platform that supports student success!”***

***- Ashley Islas, Criminal Justice, CSULB Fall 2025 Transfer***



# QUESTION 1

## **Pillar III - Stay on the Path (continued):**

- We collaborate with other departments like Health Services and the Library to help retain students within our program and SAC to address mental health and academic supports available.
- Community at-large Involvement: Students participate in completing a minimum of 50 hours of Service Learning. Students are asked to volunteer with a non-profit organization.

***“ULink has helped me find a sense of belonging and a community where we all share the common goal of seeing each other thrive.”***

***- Alma Valdez, Psychology, UCI Fall 2025 Transfer***

***“ULink’s counseling services helped me find out exactly what I needed to do in order to successfully transfer and take the courses I needed. Before ULink, I felt like I didn’t really have a clear direction to head in, but after receiving some counseling, I started to figure out more and more about what I want to do in the future. So for that, I’m pretty grateful to say the least.”***

***- Jaime Alejandro Luy, Japanese Language & Literature, UCI Fall 2023 Transfer***

# QUESTION 1

**Which equity goal(s) did your program address or primarily focus on?**

**Pillar IV - Ensure Learning:**

- In our courses, CNSL 107 and 128, our students are asked to reflect upon their experiences/identities and then apply them to the concepts being taught in class. In Counseling 128, this course is focused on Community Activism; we are working to develop student leaders. Our students are asked to learn how to become responsible group members within a collaborative learning environment.

***“ULink has helped me understand the college system and the transfer process. ULink helped me in my first year of college because the cohorts built a learning community. Also, ULink counselors assisted me with my educational plan and finding a major.”***

***- Daniela Derramadero, Psychology & Journalism, UCLA Fall 2024 Transfer***

# QUESTION 1

## Pillar IV - Ensure Learning (continued):

- In ULink we also encourage students to attend campus-wide programming to continue to form a strong connection with Santa Ana College and learn new information.
- We see ULink students with an average of 95.35% persistence from Fall to Spring.

***“ULink has guided me through my first and second year of college. I was so scared and unsure what I wanted to do in school and which path I should take. With the guidance of ULink, the process was easy and not stressful. When I had questions, ULink answered all of them. ULink helped me through the process of transferring and prepared me for the university, kept me on track, and followed up. ULink overall cares for the students.”***

***- Sandra Andres, Psychology, UCI Fall 2023 Transfer***



# QUESTION 2

**What approaches or processes has your program or activity implemented to foster and further a culture of equity at SAC?**

## **Structured Learning Community**

ULink uses a cohort-based learning environment to ensure students have consistent support (from faculty and staff) and peer connection from the outset. Within our curriculum, we focus on using culturally relevant material.

## **Personalized Academic Guidance**

ULink offers students dedicated access to counselors and faculty to help level the playing field, particularly for first-gen students and/or those unfamiliar with the higher education system.

# QUESTION 3

**Share two to three specific examples of how your program has helped reduce equity gaps and contributed to the SEAP-focused outcomes outlined in the SEAP 2022–25 Student Equity Plan.**

ULink reduces structural barriers around awareness, planning, and momentum to transfer—barriers often disproportionately impacting underserved students.

UniversityLink's model of embedded, guided support directly addresses structural inequities by providing personalized planning and smoother navigation toward transfer.

ULink works to normalize and broaden student experiences through participating in and welcoming into the classroom a variety of groups. For example:

- Black history month panel with whole class
- LGBTQ Center, SAC Pride!
- Health and Wellness Center
- Added DSPS disclaimer – public acknowledgement

# QUESTION 3

## ULink Recipients of the 2025-26 SAC Scholarship Awards

- Yesenia A.: \$1,000
- Allison A.: \$500
- Celeste C.: \$1,500
- Gonzalo C.: \$11,925
- Alejandro D.: \$3,500
- Christopher E.: \$5,600
- Emma F.: \$1,000
- Angela G.: \$3,500
- Christopher G.: \$3,500
- Zelma G.: \$1,300
- Eddie M.: \$500
- Annalucia M.: \$500
- Andre M.: \$1,000
- Nayeli R.: \$7,000
- Danisha S.: \$3,600
- Jane S.: \$5,350
- Yocelin U.: \$9,250
- Alma V.: \$3,000

**Total Awarded to SAC ULink Students: \$63,525!!!**



# QUESTION 4

**Based on your responses above, what do you think is working well that you hope to continue in the upcoming academic year?**

- Educational planning and regular counselor follow-up.
- A variety of presentations from Santa Ana College (library, health center, SAC Pride!, Service Learning, etc.) and the greater Santa Ana community.
- College tours and presentations





# THANK YOU!

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