

UAP Highlights 2023-2024



2023-2024 was a year of numerous activities within Undergraduate Academic Programs (UAP). From hosting events and leadership opportunities, to our efforts to recruit a diverse population of new students, to welcoming students in Orientation, to providing holistic advising support to thousands of students with a variety of needs and aspirations, and celebrating our graduating students' achievements, UAP is celebrating a year of growth, innovation (and fun)! The following document captures some of the ways in which UAP fulfilled its mission and met its Student Learning Outcomes:



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

Students will be equipped to develop an integrated course of study in alignment with their academic, professional, and personal interests.

1



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

Students will be equipped to foster relationships with faculty, staff advisors, and peers that enhance their educational experience.

2



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 3

Students will be equipped to engage in community building.

3



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

Students will be equipped to recognize pathways to achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals.

4

Assessment Workgroup

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

Our UAP assessment workgroup launched a pilot survey in Spring and Summer 2024 to assess students' experience with advising. Responses from students were overwhelmingly positive and included the following:

"Everyone is welcoming, and the advising is informational as there is no right or wrong question when asking. They want the best for students."

"I feel more informed and confident in how I can plan my schedule now."

"It helped ease my mind about where I am in college and that I am not behind."

"The advisors that I met with took the time to answer any clarify questions I had. They all gave very detailed responses that allowed me to understand not only the process that was being talked about, but the implications that came with it."

Summer Pilot. We will be fully implementing the survey in 2024-25.



Events and Engagement

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 3

There was a significant increase in attendance at Quarterly Events (e.g., Slice of Advising, Study Break) when compared to the 2022-2023 academic year, reflecting a growing interest and participation among students (64% increase according to CardSwipe check-in numbers).

We thoughtfully selected and distributed sustainable, practical promotional items to both current UC Davis CA&ES students as incentives during events and to prospective students during outreach trips. These items not only served as a meaningful way to engage students but also aligned with our commitment to sustainability, leaving a lasting impression on both current and future Aggies.

- Social media engagement via Instagram and Facebook also saw an impressive 21% rise during the same period, indicating a broader online reach and stronger digital presence.

- Students were not only attending events but actively staying through the entire duration, demonstrating high levels of interest and involvement. Many engaged directly with advisors and staff, fostering the sense of connection that we strive to achieve with these opportunities.

Some students shared positive feedback with comments such as, “I’m so glad you’re doing this!” and “Thank you, I’ve been looking forward to this event!”



- There was a noticeable strengthening of bonds within our student leadership teams, including Student Assistants, Peer Advisors, Aggie Ambassador Officers, and Aggie Jumpstart peer mentors. This was achieved by intentionally planned events throughout the year, beginning with a Fall Kickoff and bookended by an Ice Cream Social in the Spring.

Front Desk Team/ Peer Advising

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 3

During the 2023-24 year, the Front Desk team developed and implemented a new safety training for peer advisors to provide them with critical information on how to respond to various emergency situations. We also worked collaboratively with a major advisor partner to create and host two new community building events for college-wide peer advisors. We offered a winter quarter college peer advisor “Destress and Decompress” event with beading and mandala coloring, and a spring quarter “Lawn Games and Pizza” social event. These events allowed peer advisors from across the college to connect with each other, learn about the various departments, and have fun. Finally, we are delighted that one of our senior peer advisors, Reévan Cole, was the recipient of the spring 2024 Eleanor and Harry Walker Advising Award in recognition of her incredible dedication to supporting students.



Integrated Program Advising

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 3

Supported by Provost funding, UAP launched an Integrated Advising model in which two Dean's Office advisors provide holistic advising support to designated major departments. Collaborating with major advisors, lead faculty and CAOs, our Integrated Program Advisors will provide a wide-range of holistic support to students. The new advising model also creates opportunities to strengthen connections between major advising and Dean's Office Student support services.



International Advising

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

The CA&ES Deans Office regularly reaches out to international students and encourages them to meet with their advisors. In addition to invitations to events, the CA&ES Deans Office provides specialized advising appointments for international students every Fall quarter, collaborates with retention centers for on-campus presentations, and sends email invitations on a quarterly basis, to the First-Year international students who have yet to meet with an advisor.

Approximately 90% of our Fall 2023 First-Year international students (114 out of 129) were in contact with either a CA&ES Dean's Office advisor or their major advisor by the end of their first academic year (end of Summer 2024). Student contact includes advising appointments, participation in UAP events, CA&ES Advising email responses, and Aggie Advising participation, from the beginning of Fall 2023 to the end of Summer 2024 (September 13th, 2024). The Fall 2023 International Appointments were also great for our new CA&ES Integrated Program advisors, Andra and Erin. Participating in these appointments gave our new advisors the opportunity to advise our students on the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR), English Composition, AP/IB/A-level credit, GE requirements, and strengthen their knowledge on all these different policies at the same time. Both Andra and Erin were heavily involved in the outreach and advising portions of this project and did a fantastic job connecting with our students.



NACADA Presentation

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

Ignition: How to Be the Spark and Connect

Lili Bynes and two major advisors, Liz Price and Maria Saldaña provided a poster presentation at the NACADA Region 9 Conference in San Jose, 2024. Conference attendees were able to scan a QR code at the poster to download a worksheet to guide the user through steps to build campus community as a tool of professional networking. This was to help advisors develop and re-develop their professional networks in the wake of the pandemic and return-to-work experiences. Participants were able to also ask questions about lessons learned and successes in our UC Davis implementation experiences of similar activities.



Outreach and Recruitment

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

UAP participated/facilitated 110 outreach events (this is counting multiple day events as one outreach event) that included recruitment fairs, school visits, and yield events such as Aggie Day, webinars, and tours. We attended 68 college fairs (21 more than last year) and visited 8 schools.

There were 24 prospective student tours (more than double last year's number) and 11 school group tours

School / Organization	Number of students
Center for Land Based Learning FARMS Program	26-40
Armijo High School	60
Dongguk University	5-10
Union Mine High School	26-40
Mariposa County High School	5-10
Chico FFA	11-25
Shasta TRIO	60
Center for Land Based Learning and Grant Union High School	26-40
Center for Land Based Learning and Luther Burbank High School	26-40
Del Campo High School	50
True Love Baptist Church	26-40
Total: 11 groups	321-415 students



Support for Students in Academic Difficulty

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

UAP continued to serve students who are in academic difficulty, hosting a series of webinars for almost 200 students throughout the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Since 2017 the webinars have provided students with a judgment-free space to ask advisors questions about academic policies, to discuss how to return to good standing, and to set goals for future quarters. In January 2024, the Subject to Dismissal workgroup attended and presented at the CCLASS Sí, Se Puede Academic Success Institute. The primary objective of the Sí, Se Puede Academic Success Institute was to provide support to 80 students currently facing academic notice and dismissal to ensure that the students began their winter quarter with the necessary guidance and information to return to good academic standing. Our SD workgroup met with students in our college in a small group setting to discuss advising and academic resources. We provided our direct contact information to students so they could reach out for more personalized support.



Student Leadership

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 3

Aggie Ambassadors

159 Students participated in Aggie Ambassadors engaging in and volunteering at over 70 events throughout the academic year.

Service Projects

51 students participated in five different quarterly projects throughout the academic year including Duck Days, Girls on the Run, Davis Community Gardens, and Davis Community Meals.

Twelve students and one staff member traveled to Fresno and Yosemite to participate in a week-long service trip volunteering at agencies such as RIDE Foundation (Recovery in Deserving Equine), Poverello House, Kings River Conservation District, and Yosemite National Park.

Here are some quotes from student reflections:

“My favorite part was being able to give back to nature because I feel like it made me appreciate it so much more, like going to sit by Kings River after cleaning and helping maintain it was amazing and just felt that much more rewarding. The same goes for hiking in Yosemite and seeing amazing views after our strenuous trail work.”

“My favorite part [of] this trip was getting to have fun while volunteering! I really appreciate how kind everyone was, whether it was our group or the staff at the places we volunteered. I was happy to make a difference, even if it was small. My least favorite part was that a lot of these volunteer opportunities made me feel sad, whether it was

the animals in the shelter or the number of kids there were at the Poverello House. But I feel that it is necessary to see. I gained a deeper understanding of how some of these organizations are run, as well as how appreciative they are to receive help.”

“As an Environmental Science major in ecology, biodiversity, and conservation track, ecological restoration done at both the dam and at Yosemite is something I would love to pursue. Additionally, being an Asian American Studies minor, serving marginalized communities is at the forefront of what I’m passionate about. I really felt as if I fulfilled both of my areas of interest this week and I hope to find an intersection of the two in my future career”

“I gained perspective by seeing all the different areas that needed help. This is important because the world is full of so many experiences and I want to understand them to the best of my ability. I gained passion. I feel like I really found something I enjoy doing which has been one of the main goals at college”

Thirty-six students volunteered for one or multiple days at World Ag Expo representing UC Davis and CA&ES in February 2024. At World Ag Expo we engaged with hundreds of prospective students, alumni, teachers, and other college stakeholders. We were joined by representatives from Undergraduate Admissions.

For the first time since 2019, UAP attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis with two staff members and six students in October 2023.



Undeclared Exploratory Programs

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 1

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 2

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME 4

In addition to meeting with 99% of our Exploratory students, we updated our website for a more user-friendly experience, greater visual appeal, and to share testimonials/insights from EXP students:

"I heard EXP students from other universities were put into classes, so I liked how UCD allow[ed] me to pick and enroll in my own classes and [I] had 'free range.'"

"Being at UCD in CA&ES has been very pleasing and strong. I had a few advising appointments, and all the advising appointments have met my expectations."

UC DAVIS

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Quick Links

About > Students > Research > Outreach > News & Events > Giving >

Undeclared, Exploratory Program

Home > Students > Academic Majors and Minors > Undeclared, Exploratory Program

About the Undeclared/Exploratory Program

Many students come to UC Davis not knowing what major they want to pursue, which careers most interest them, or how to begin the major selection process. Being part of the Undeclared/Exploratory program offers students the opportunity to explore their academic options, personal interests, strengths, and career goals with the guidance of advisors who can help them prepare to declare a major and ensure successful academic progress toward the completion of a Baccalaureate degree.

Meet the CA&ES Dean's Office Advising Team

Schedule an Appointment

See What Students Are Saying About This Program

"This major provided me with the opportunity to explore different classes, which I did, and I felt free to pick classes to experiment."

"I heard EXP students from other universities were put into classes, so I liked how UCD allow[ed] me to pick and enroll in my own classes and [I] had 'free range.'"

Undeclared Webinar

Watch this advising webinar for undeclared majors.

Watch the video

Online Resources for Major Exploration

About > Students > Research > Outreach > News & Events > Giving >

Frequently Asked Questions

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

- > Where can I learn more about the majors offered at UC Davis?
- > How can I find a field of study that I'm interested in?
- > What should I do if I already know which major I am interested in?
- > Where can I go for advising as an Undeclared/Exploratory student?
- > Where can I get help planning my schedule as a new Undeclared/Exploratory student?
- > When do I need to declare my major?
- > What is the Change of Major process?
- > What happens if I do not declare a major by 90 units?
- > I received an email warning me that a hold may be placed on my account because I have not yet declared a major. What should I do?

Documents

[Exploratory Sample Schedules](#)

Team

Greg Anderson
Associate Director

Alina Bara
Academic Advisor

Lili Bynes
Academic Advisor

Vien Cantorna
Advising Assistant

Leslie Charlton
Director

Hong Dao
Academic Advisor

Robin Ducatillon
Office of Student Support
Embedded Case Manager

Sue Ebeler
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Corrine Hawes
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Academic Advisor

Jennifer Jackson
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Flora Jathanna
Student Engagement and
Events Coordinator

G. Erin Kandola
Academic Advisor

Olivia Knizek
Student Health and
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Joseph Lee
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Nick Lee
Aggie Jumpstart and
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Alissa Magorian
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Andra Soria
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Vanessa Talavera
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Charles Williams
Academic Advisor

Clarissa Wong
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Undergraduate Academic Programs Mission, Vision and Values:

Vision

We will be leaders in the creation of a community of support that engages and empowers all students to succeed academically and beyond.

Mission

Undergraduate Academic Programs (UAP) in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences invests in students holistically from recruitment to graduation with strategic outreach, thoughtful advising, and innovative programming experiences. We support and challenge students to develop meaningful connections and build community while empowering them to achieve their educational goals. UAP uses inclusive and collaborative approaches to immerse students in the college's mission to understand agricultural, environmental, and social sustainability through research, education, and public engagement opportunities.

Values

Diversity: We recognize that our student population has varied backgrounds, academic interests, and post-graduation goals. We seek to empower each student to uniquely contribute to our college and university.

Innovation: Excellence in student learning and research motivates staff and faculty to continually challenge and reevaluate existing student success practices. We understand that student services should be dynamic and individualized, in order to best serve our student population.

Respect: We are committed to creating an inclusive environment, so students feel comfortable asking questions and engaging in dialogue.

Integrity: We provide students with intentional, accurate advising and meaningful skill-building leadership and engagement opportunities. Students are expected to synthesize information, reflect on experiences, and think critically to make educated decisions.

Awareness: We interact in a way which we are aware of students' academic, mental, and physical health. By maintaining campus partnerships, we direct students to available resources to meet varying needs.