

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS Urban Experience Program

SFAC Report FY 2015



**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)**  
**FY2015 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**

Urban Experience Program

**1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms: your unit’s mission, how you accomplish your unit’s mission and a justification of your unit’s student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.**

The mission of the Urban Experience Program (UEP) is to improve the retention/graduation rate of UH by providing exceptional support and services to UH students who are potentially encumbered by a multiplicity of factors, such as, but not limited to unmet financial need and ethnic minority status. In addition, those who seek upward mobility through higher education without FASFA determined financial stress are represented in the UEP population. The majority of the UEP students are the first in their families to attend college and approximately 82% received the federal Pell Grant. UEP represents a dynamic mix of abilities, academic preparation, social, ethnic, national origin, regional, age and gender diversity. Some of the UEP students have personal or family situations that present obstacles to success. Many of the UEP students held multiple jobs this year while maintaining a full- course load. Overall, the students who succeeded did so by overcoming adversities. The Horatio Alger story is indicative of most of the UEP students and of the UEP program itself, especially this year. Our UEP culture is to work hard, work smart and work together. Our motto is “Lift as you climb.”

**The existence of the Urban Experience Program depends on the funding provided by SFAC.** UEP, independently and in collaboration with campus partners, provides the following programs and services: limited academic tutorials, career development workshops, academic monitoring, individualized counseling, assistance navigating financial aid programs and processes, financial grants, cultural and academic programs, guidance with course selection, and enrichment activities which enhance persistence and promote retention. Students are offered individual attention and receive support according to their wishes.

UEP creates a critical link between students, alumni, resources, mentors and activities to encourage students to pursue academic excellence and to stay on course to complete a first degree and to pursue graduate degrees. UEP accomplishes its mission by first offering students’ program elements that research indicates enhance academic success. Grants are available as well. This past fiscal year, we awarded a total of 34 grants. The unique elements of the UEP program are the non-traditional support and the intensity of the support provided. For example, tutorials are not time restricted; students can work with a tutor for hours and call when questions arise. UEP accepts students with academic problems (probation, warning, and suspension) and works with these students to develop successful and loyal UH alumni. UEP makes a commitment to each student by providing personal, individualized support services. Students are free to call the Director anytime and there are UH faculty members who have committed their personal time and energy to assist students with academic and personal issues. UEP Friends and Family network of volunteers from various disciplines and professions work with the UEP students altruistically. The UEP program offers students the opportunities to develop and refine basic office skills, professional behavior and ethical standards via internships or work in the UEP office.

The array of academic support, advising, individual attention, engagement and internships results in great benefits to the students. This year 20 of the 127 UEP students graduated. The Retention/Graduation rate, as calculated this year is 94% for this reporting year, one of the highest on campus. **UEP is grateful and appreciative for the support of SFAC.**

Good Academic Standing for FY 2013 GPA (2.0 - 4.0):118 Students: 93%

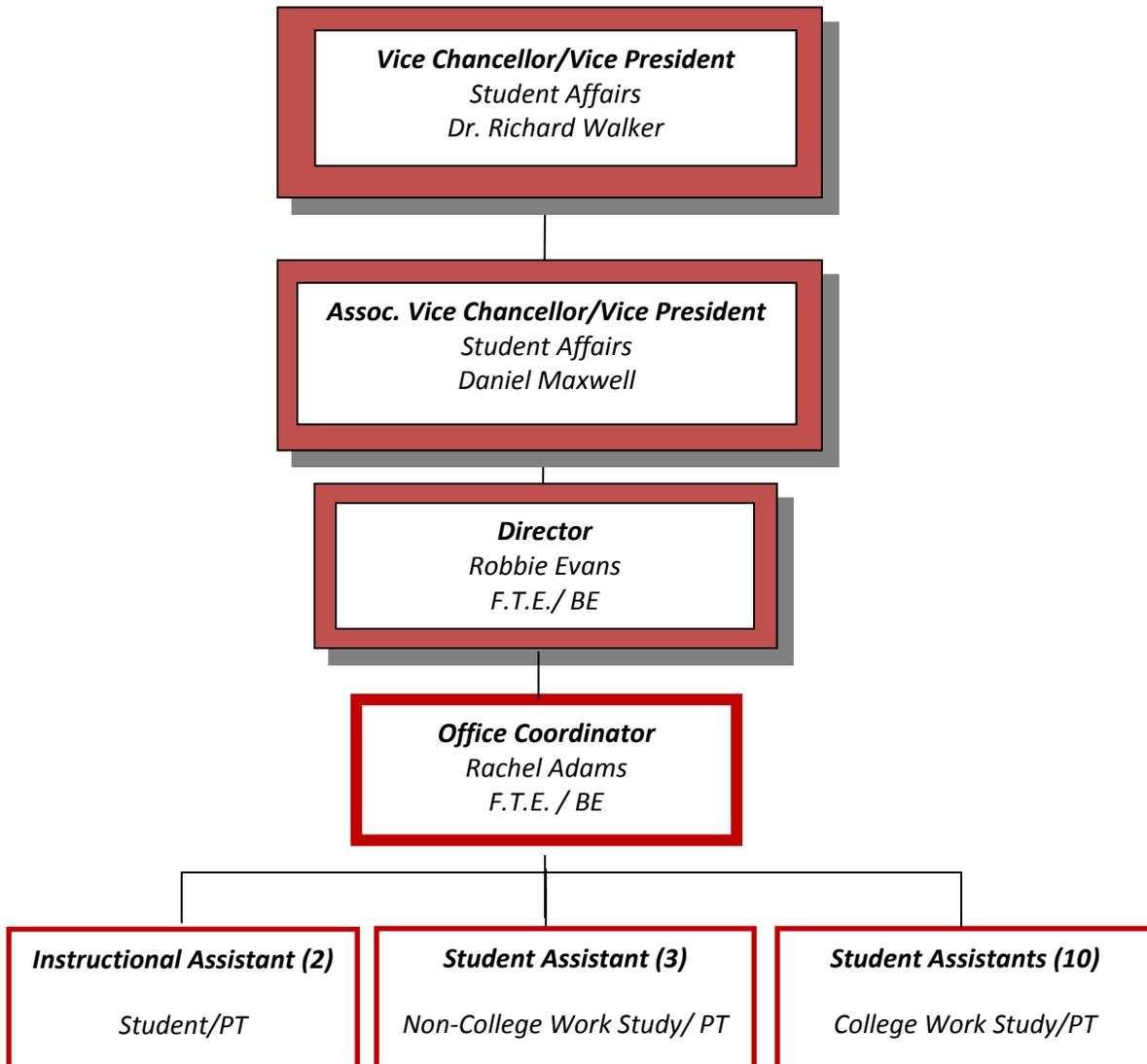
Retention and Graduation Rate: 119 Students: 94%

Total Student Participation: 127

2. Provide an organization chart of your unit. Large units may need to have an overview chart and then more specific charts for each program. Where you have multiple staff in the same position (e.g. counselor, advisor, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.

**URBAN EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



3. List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2012-2013 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives ([http://www.uh.edu/dsa/about\\_student\\_affairs/strategic\\_plan.html](http://www.uh.edu/dsa/about_student_affairs/strategic_plan.html)) and University of Houston Strategic Goals (<http://www.uh.edu/president/vision-priorities/>) to which they relate. Please comment on your success in achieving these strategic initiatives/action steps. If a strategic initiative/action step changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new strategic initiatives/action steps, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these items.

### **Urban Experience Program (UEP) Strategic Plan**

i. **Strategic Initiative 1:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by providing, through UEP, a personalized and comprehensive support program for participants in order to maximize their academic potential. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

#### **UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Continue to offer the award-winning Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System for all students of UEP, free of charge.
  1. UEP partnered with the College of Engineering PROMES in hosting the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System at the University of Houston. Only 10% of UEP students attended the event. Four students indicated that they utilized the learning system. 100% experienced an increase in their semester GPA. On average, UEP students who utilized the system saw a 0.7 increase in their semester GPA. The following fiscal year will show an increase of student participation in the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System.
- b. Provide personalized services and support.
  1. Students have visited the office to discuss personal matters with the Director a total of 129 times in FY 2013.
  2. Mid-semester the Urban Experience Program sends out Grade Verification reports for all of its students. Out of the 100 students reports were administered reports, we received responses from 59 students' professors. Out of the 59 students that received responses, 33% of the students scheduled appointments to speak with the Director. During the meeting, various topics are discussed including how to improve your grade performance, tutoring, and study strategies. From this individual attention, those who participated (18) in an appointment with the Director, 100% incurred an increase in their academics.

ii. **Strategic Initiative 2:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by offering programming and events that promote financial stability.

#### **UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Implement a new program to aid in assisting with the enrollment process for social services, including SNAP (previously Food Stamps), and other services for non-traditional students with children for health insurance and TANF benefits. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)
  1. FY 2013 was the first year that this service was implemented. There were a total of 21 participants in this service from May 2013 (the start of this service) until August 2013. The service is offered once a month and may increase according to demand.
  2. Through conversation and interviews, formal and informal, the Urban Experience Program had determined that UEP students consistently maintain a need for improved access to social

services. An assessment was designed to determine students' need and defining the on-campus process of obtaining these benefits. The survey was administered once on January 30, 2013 and remained available for one complete month.

3. UEP determined that UEP/UH students appreciate a safe, secure, confidential, convenient environment to enroll in social benefits. Based on the survey from January 30, 2013, when asked on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the lowest selection and 5 being the highest), how would the students rate "the need of a food assistance program [social service benefit called SNAP, previously food stamps] for college students", 60% indicated a 5, while the other 40% indicated a 4. Once again, when asked about the importance of the "need for a food assistance program [social service benefit called SNAP, previously food stamps] for students at the University of Houston", 60% indicated a 5. When asked "do you feel a food assistance program [social service benefit called SNAP, previously food stamps] option would be beneficial for you...", an overwhelming 80% indicated a 5.
  4. There were inquiries from other institutions, such as Lone Star Community College and Navarro College, in regard to the concept and how to establish it at their universities. UH staff members are also inquiring about participating in the service.
- b. Offer Financial Empowerment Workshops for students explore options of being financially stable while they are in college with experts in the field.
1. UEP hosted three Financial Empowerment Workshops in fiscal year 2013.
  2. 25 of the total 47 students that attended the Financial Empowerment Seminar with Covenant Community Capital on October 1, 2012 were UEP students. 27 students attended the Financial Empowerment Seminar on February 22, 2013 and 17 students attended the last Financial Empowerment Seminar on April 18, 2013.
- iii. **Strategic Initiative 3:** Create opportunities for students to develop and understand positive goals and values, hence the program motto "Lift as You Climb". (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

#### **UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Offer community engagement opportunities.
  1. UEP programmed volunteer activities at the Covenant House on December 7, 2012 and at the Community Garden on April 7, 2013. In addition, UEP students volunteered on a panel discussion promoting higher education to middle school students at Kids University on July 18, 2013. UEP students are encouraged to volunteer in the office throughout the semester, this reporting year students volunteered on 137 different occasions. UEP students also participated in other volunteer activities collectively and individually.
- b. Collect student data regarding personal involvement in the community via the Good Citizens Report.
  1. Each student was asked to provide a list of volunteer activities for this past reporting period. A total of 42 reports were collected in fall 2012 and spring 2013. The median number of groups or organizations that UEP students participate with is 8. Students participated in 63 unique volunteer activities in fall 2012 and 144 unique volunteer activities in spring 2013. The median annual hours that UEP students spend participating in "Good Citizens" activities is 153, compared to the national median annual hours that people 16 to 24 years of age spend on volunteer activities, which is 40. (According to the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012.)

2. Students recognize the importance of good citizenship and contributing to the community. All students who completed the Good Citizenship Report confirm, through written statements, that being a “good citizen” is important. Students have mentioned that good citizenship increases their leadership abilities. One UEP student mentioned “It [volunteering] taught me to be a good leader”. Students also mention that “Volunteering... led me to engage myself in many different responsibilities, it is evident to state that it had done a great deal in helping me to realize that having great citizenship is a highly important factor that truly leads to making the world a better place if not now for the generations to come in the future.” The data shows that students connect being a good citizen to the mission of UEP. A student stated that “UEP demonstrates being a program of good citizenship and gives opportunities and voices concern to its members. They have volunteer opportunities which show the members how to give back to their community.”

**iv. Strategic Initiative 4:** Create a student development program that offers participants a life-long network of support. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

**UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. To expand corporate partnerships and community partnerships with the new Director of Advancement and within the overall Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services fundraising priorities.
  1. UEP has successfully expanded partnered with the Houston Food Bank in offering students an on-campus process for applying for social services.
- b. Continue interaction with UEP alumni through the UEP Alumni Association.
  1. There are 20 new UEP alumni that are available to participate in the UEP Alumni Association.
- c. Continue interaction with UEP alumni through formal and informal methods.
  1. UEP successfully communicates with the alumni through its departmental newsletter, “The Urban Experience Program Newsletter”.

**4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned strategic initiatives and/ or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data.**

**i. Strategic Initiative 1:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by providing, through UEP, a personalized and comprehensive support program for participants in order to maximize their academic potential. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

**UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Continue to offer the award-winning Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System for all students of UEP, free of charge.
  1. The Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System program offered during this reporting year will continue to be offered as a systematic method of study designed to improve the GPA of our students. The method used to collect the data of the reported success of the program is to communicate with the students who have attended the program and identify those who actively use the system. Once the students are identified, we compare the previous semester GPA to the current semester GPA.
  2. UEP Tutorial Supplemental and Supplemental Instruction will continue to be offered. Tutors in UEP specialize in tutoring in the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning Systems and select subjects,

- including math and history. We will work to incorporate the system into the UEP culture. UEP offers Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System DVDS, books, and work notebooks in-office for UEP students' review. Dr. Freddie Frazier Mathematics Tutorial DVDs are also available in UEP's Recommended Reading Library for students to check out. In the upcoming fiscal year, we plan to increase the use of the tutorial program and assessment.
3. UEP students are informed of campus and off-campus academic support and referred to Learning Support Services (LSS) for academic support. UEP and other UH and High School students are informed of resources for books, counseling, test preparation and other student support services at the University and elsewhere. The participants were encouraged to improve their Study Skills by attending LSS and CAPS workshops and seminars on time-management, note taking, test taking and overcoming Math Anxiety.
- b. Provide personalized services and support.
1. Typically, office staff and the UEP network use phone contact, office flyers, verbal reminders, emails, discussions, social gatherings and personal contact to ensure that UEP students were aware of campus issues, voted in student government elections, become aware of community and local issues, and voted in local elections.
  2. Each applicant was asked to be assessed for career interest (Strong) personality and learning styles (LSI and LASSI). In FY 2013, we had an additional 21 students participate in the Myers Briggs/STRONG assessment, that is offered free of charge for UEP students in partnership with University Career Services.
  3. Students approach the Director about issues that may influence their academic success. UEP students were encouraged to walk in and discuss their University experiences. Discussions led to referrals to appropriate counseling, medical, academic and personal. The UEP program is not an 8 to 5 program; the Director continued to work closely with students who are free to make contact during and after office hours.
  4. From the individual attention of Grade Verification Reports, 100% of the 18 students that participated in an appointment with the Director incurred an increase in their academics. This is evaluated through comparing the grade that the professor indicated mid-semester versus the ending semester grade.
  5. UEP participants were required to attend academic advising session with their major advisor at least once each semester. Students confirm the interaction with their academic advisor through the completion of an Academic Advisor form or proof of email communications.

ii. **Strategic Initiative 2:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by offering programming and events that promote financial stability. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

**UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Implement a new program to aid in assisting with the enrollment process for social services, including SNAP (previously Food Stamps), and other services for non-traditional students with children for health insurance and TANF benefits.
  1. This is a new service that was developed in response to students concerns about the process of obtaining social services. The responses were evaluated through interviews, which is a part of our personalized services, and surveys.
  2. There were a total of 21 participants in this service from May 2013 (the start of this service) until August 2013. The maximum amount of students that can participate in the enrollment process in one day is 6; this service is offered once a month.

3. In meeting the needs of UEP students, students were asked their opinions of UEP offering this service. There were 100% positive responses, select responses are listed below:
  - “I think this is absolutely amazing!!! Once again the Urban Experience Program has thought of innovative ways to enhance the college experience for students who need it. I’m just waiting to see what’s next. Thank you Urban Experience Program.”
  - “I honestly believe that this would be a great opportunity for students to feel safe and confident in getting a service that would be very beneficial to them. Food stamps are deemed 'embarrassing' and the fact that college students have the availability to get them in a safe, comfortable environment would serve best justice to those actually needing the help/service”
  - “I think this would be good for students at UH who need food and don't know their options or are scared to go to a food stamp office. Also, it is good to for students to be in an environment that they feel comfortable in.”
  - “I think it is a great idea and more colleges should offer that to the students who don't receive meal plans”.
- b. Offer Financial Empowerment Workshops for students explore options of being financially stable while they are in college with experts in the field.
  1. UEP identifies students’ interest in all of its services through surveys and personal needs assessments. In a line rating activity conducted with a sample of UEP students, 42% stated that their interest/needs were in financial empowerment and stability.
- iii. **Strategic Initiative 3:** Create opportunities for students to develop and understand positive goals and values, hence the program motto “Lift as You Climb”. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

#### **UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. Offer community engagement opportunities.
  1. UEP plans civic engagement opportunities and promotes other opportunities for community service through its newsletter or in-office announcements.
- b. Collect student data regarding personal involvement in the community via the Good Citizens Report.
  1. Each student was asked to provide a list of activities for this past reporting period. They are also asked to provide a statement that supports their good citizenship and what they have learned from their community involvement. Students report that good citizenship “is a duty that each and every one of us is responsible for” and “we aren’t just put on this earth to live and die, but to be the best citizen that we can be – we do this through service, not just to work and provide for ourselves but working to help others.” Good citizenship also has helped students improve their social skills. One student stated “I learned how to approach and encourage people I don’t know.” This leads to an openness and awareness of diversity, a unique component of services offered by UEP.

iv. **Strategic Initiative 4:** Create a student development program that offers participants a life-long network of support. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

**UEP Supporting Goals:**

- a. To expand corporate partnerships and community partnerships with the new Director of Advancement and within the overall Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services fundraising priorities.
  1. UEP will begin working with the Director of Advancement in expanding its partnerships.
- b. Continue interaction with UEP alumni through the UEP Alumni Association.
  1. The mission of the Urban Experience Program (UEP) Alumni Association is to build a community of support and fellowship for past, present, and future “Urbanites”. The association focus is to advance UEP with great traditions, a sense of pride and loyalty, with a core focus on the program’s motto “Lift As You Climb”.
  2. Meetings are conducted as physical meetings, via conference call, or group email communication.
- c. Continue interaction with UEP alumni through formal and informal methods.
  1. UEP recognizes that the communication with alumni results in their continuous support of the program. UEP alumni consistently contribute to the program through offering jobs and internships for students, participation on the alumni board and the grant committee, guest speaking at events, and supporting the program in other ways.

**5. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2014) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections. In addition, if your unit concluded FY 2013 with a Fund 3 addition to Fund Equity, please describe the conditions which caused the addition.**

The Office Coordinator position remained unfilled until late October 2012, and the lapsed salary went to fund equity. The position was unfilled because of the lack of support for filling the position initially, but reporting relationship changed in summer 2012 which allowed UEP to post and fill the position.

The fund equity amount of \$27,210 was recently swept due to the denial of filling the previously approved permanent part-time Special Projects position, which was anticipated to be filled in the fall of 2012. The money allocated for this position went into lapsed salary as well.

**6. Please list your 2014-2015 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiative.**

- i. **Strategic Initiative 1:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by providing, through UEP, a personalized and comprehensive support program for participants in order to maximize their academic potential. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)
- a. Continue to offer the award-winning Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System for all students of UEP, free of charge.
- Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System  
This private skill mastery system will be made available to UEP students. Those unable to attend the workshop sessions will learn from their peers and the Directors. This system involves innovative techniques for managing time and processes for reviewing subject matter.
  - Tutorials and workshops  
Continue to offer tutoring and supplemental instruction. Continue to encourage the participants to improve their Study Skills by attending workshops and seminars on time-management, note taking, and test taking.
- b. Provide personalized services and support.
- Applicant Evaluation and Career Search  
Continue to require each applicant to complete an application, be interviewed and assessed for career interest, personality and learning styles.
  - Academic Advising  
Continue to require participants to attend a mandatory academic advising session with their major advisor at least once each semester.
  - Informal Support Counseling  
Continue to encourage UEP students to walk in and talk to the Director and Office Coordinator regarding issues that may influence their academic success and their University experience.
  - Monitoring of academic progress  
Continue to request written and verbal feedback of participants' progress. Continue to request that Grade progress reports be completed by instructors of UEP students by mid-semester to identify students who might need additional academic support.
  - Recommended Reading Library  
Continue to offer reading materials to enhance students learning and opportunities for achieving academic success. Students are able to check out materials, with flexible return dates. Titles include CLEP Study Guide, GMAT Study Guides, and Dr. Freddie Frazier Mathematics DVD Tutorial. The Recommended Reading Library contains current titles that are not available at the M.D. Anderson library on-campus, such as the CLEP – The College-Level Examination Program and the DAT Examination study guide.

*Co-Curricular Involvement and Leadership Experiences*

- Nioletti  
This student group provides s opportunities to demonstrate leadership as they organize campus events such as the visits of role models such as the Mayor, former astronaut Bernard Harris. These speakers were open to the campus community.

- The Urbanite Newsletter  
Students demonstrate leadership by writing for the Urbanite Newsletter. This activity keeps the students involvement with current events and the campus community as they attend events that become the basis of their articles.

ii. **Strategic Initiative 2:** Create opportunities to ensure success of students by offering programming and events that promote financial stability. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

- Financial Stability Opportunities  
UEP will continue to make available financial empowerment workshops as part of this effort, and provide resource material and counseling to assist in the process.
- Employment Opportunities  
Working with UH Career Services, UEP alumni, and communities partners UEP helps students secure job opportunities during the academic year and the summer. In spring 2013, UEP assisted two students in obtaining off-campus work-study positions and noted that they recommend UEP to other students looking for off-campus employment. Each summer UEP students are offered opportunities for paid internships, such as with the Bernard Harris Science Camp and the Change Happens community group's Kids University. Summer 2013, three UEP students were employed in the Kids University. In addition, several students have an opportunity to work in the UEP office and develop technical skills and professional work habits. UEP works to continuously expand these opportunities. In FY 2013, UEP employed 25 students.

*To secure grant and contributions*

- Grant Applications  
UEP has secured small contributions in the past. The Division of Student Affairs has implemented a centralized fundraising effort in conjunction with UH Advancement. UEP will begin working with the UH Advancement in identifying other grants and opportunities for fundraising.

iii. **Strategic Initiative 3:** Create opportunities for students to develop and understand positive goals and values, hence the program motto "Lift as You Climb". (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

*Foster global learning and inclusion*

- Expose students to diverse speaker and programs  
UEP will continue to sponsor events (e.g. plays) and speakers who address cultural issues and issues of diversity. In addition, UEP will require, to the extent feasible, UEP students to attend each semester a certain number of the many global and inclusive learning experiences made available to the campus such as the programs sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, the LGBT center, the Center for Students with Disabilities and the many cultural events sponsored by student groups and other campus entities. UEP plans to organize discuss groups to discuss what was learned at these experiences.

- Voting  
Democracy depends on an informed citizenry. UEP will prepare students to be active citizens by encouraging them to participate in the voting process by registering students to vote, even becoming deputized to register voters, and to participate in forums that illuminate the issues on the ballot and being debated. UEP also keep students informed through the Urban Experience Program newsletter.

### **Innovation, Transparency, Accountability** *Employing Technology*

- Going Paperless  
UEP will employ technology to “go paperless” which will be environmentally helpful and allow the timely retrieval and use of accurate information.

#### *Assessment*

- Assessment Techniques  
UEP has identified and will employ several techniques for assessing learning outcomes and program objectives: (1.) UEP will assess the impact of its learning initiatives by identifying the impact of these initiatives on students’ gpa and graduation, especially as it relates to the impact of Guaranteed 4.0; (2) Interview drop-outs and students whose gpas drop to ascertain if financial instability played a factor and whether it could have been avoided; and ( 3) survey students to determine if their willingness to engage in civic activities increases over time.

### **Communication, Brand, Initiatives**

- iv. Strategic Initiative 4:** Create a student development program that offers participants a life-long network of support. (DSA Strategic Initiatives 1, 3, 5, and 6; UH Strategic Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)
- a. To expand corporate partnerships and community partnerships with the new Director of Advancement and within the overall Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services fundraising priorities.

#### *Partnerships for Student Success*

- Campus Partnerships  
UEP will partner with Career Services in expanding job and internship opportunities for students. On retention, UEP will collaborate with the Office of Community Relations & Institutional Access on initiatives designed to improve the retention and graduation rate of Black and Hispanic students, particularly the males. UEP partners with PROMES in offering students the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System, free of charge.
- Off Campus Partnerships  
UEP will partner alumni and community groups that can offer internships or part-time employment to students. Alumni and community partners will be asked to serve as mentors and to provide services and resources for students particularly when crisis situations occur.

### ***Branding and Marketing***

- **Branding**

UEP has revised all of its brochures and marketing materials to convey a consistent image and brand. UEP will intensify its outreach and collaboration with Admissions to expand the number of UEP participants.

**7. What are the other possible sources of funding available to your unit and what efforts are being made to access them (e.g. grants, donations, etc.)? If you receive funds from other sources, please briefly describe the source, purpose, and duration of the funding and report the amounts received in the appropriate rows/columns on the SFAC Spreadsheet.**

UEP will be working with the new Director of Advancement in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services on identifying specific programs and services which could be possibly underwritten by a gift or corporate partner. While the division is developing its first set of priorities for the current fiscal year, UEP will be submitting case statements for eventual support with outside funding.

#### **In Kind Gifts and Service Contributions**

From time to time, particularly when events are planned, various companies and individuals donate food, and other services to help the event be a success. For example, Randall's, UC Leisure Services, UH Dining Services, Half Priced Books provided in-kind donations during FY 2013.

Partners also donate resources to support our services. On April 12, 2013, Guaranteed 4.0 Learning Systems donated three Guaranteed 4.0 Books, one Guaranteed 4.0 Workbook, and Once Guaranteed 4.0 DVD; a value of \$249.89.

**8. Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.**

While the UEP program collaborates with many other units, programs, and departments on this campus and UH Downtown, there is no other program of this kind in Texas. This unique program gives personal attention, support, and comprehensive services to educationally underserved and economically disadvantaged students. Our purpose is to increase retention and academic success at the University of Houston. Our objective is to produce a high achieving student with a social conscience. In order to accomplish these goals, UEP provides the missing elements that successful students have had all their lives. We will continue to provide access to education, and encourage students to educate themselves to the highest level possible. As educational expenses rise, students of modest means find it difficult to afford to attend the colleges and universities, UEP helps to bridge that gap. Students who are the first in their generation to attend college require advice, personal attention to spoken and unspoken needs, and the network of support that families and good contacts would ordinarily provide.

UEP strives for a family like atmosphere. Our students are most likely to be without the resources to obtain an education. UEP strives to create an atmosphere and environment for academic success, for mastery of the subject and triumph over less than optimal circumstances. Our students are most likely to be without parental support or other familial support systems. UEP students come from diverse

backgrounds. The impetus to address the needs of students from the Foster Care system came from the former Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Elwyn C. Lee. UEP actively recruits and supports students from the foster care system. FY 2013, UEP participated in the Texas REACH Conference on June 3-4, 2013, which seeks to improve access and attainment of higher education for former foster youth in Texas, and represents the University of Houston as a resource for students from the foster care system on [www.texasreach.org](http://www.texasreach.org). UEP also hosted a tour for high school junior and senior students from the foster care system on July 30, 2013. This tour introduced them to the University of Houston campus and promoted upward mobility through higher education. UEP's Director Robbie Evans is on the board of the Houston Alumni and Youth (H.A.Y) Center, which aids foster youth and alumni, ages 16-21. UEP has been asked to participate in a research study with the University of Houston Educational Psychology department to evaluate former foster youth adapting to college. It is now difficult to identify students on campus from the foster care system due to changes in administrative policy, but UEP is currently identifying new ways to identify students, along with H.A.Y. Center and the PAL Program. At times, one out of ten UEP students have been from the foster care system.

The UEP program accepts and assists students with academic problems. We wish to **encourage, enlighten, empower, and embrace the students**, our future leaders. The UEP program has developed a focus on students who are the most vulnerable in our society: foster care students, victims of dysfunctional families, students without traditional parental and family support, and students facing academic status problems.

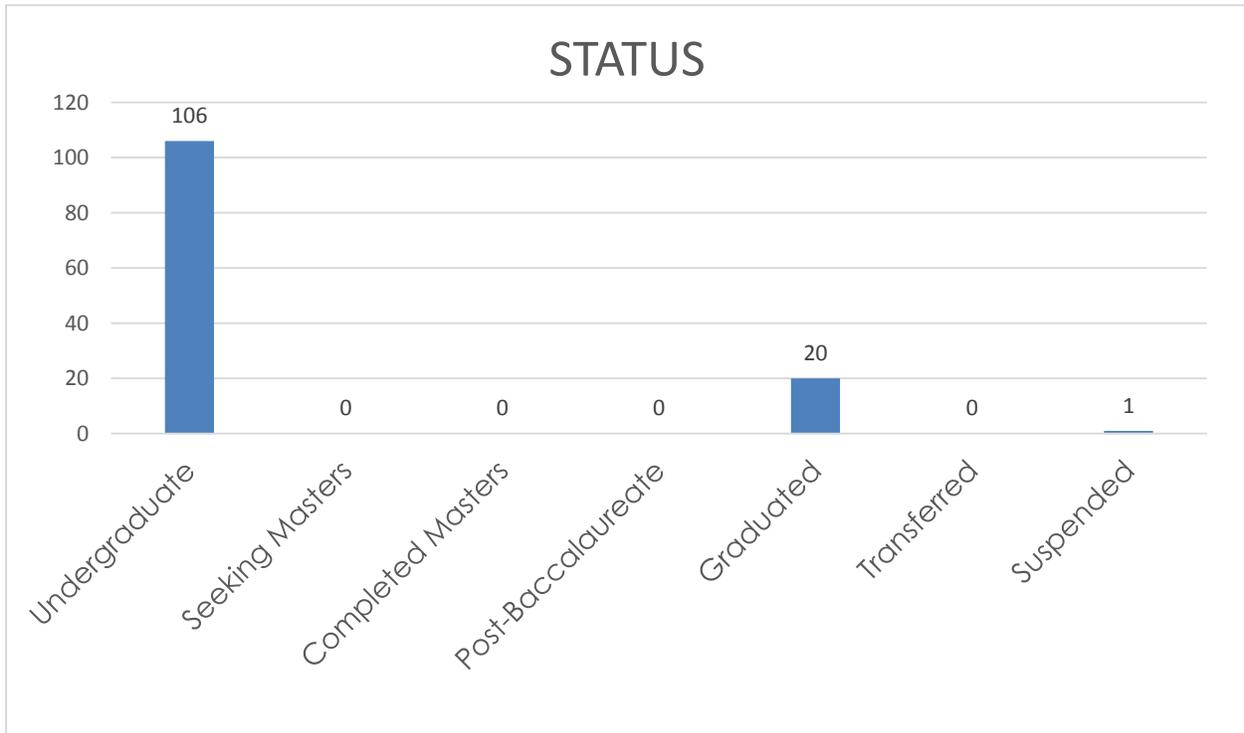
*The Urban Experience Program strives to meet critical unaddressed needs. There is tremendous need for a comprehensive program to provide for the needs of our students who seek to educate themselves and find it challenging to do so without a system of support. UEP provides that support system missing from many large universities.*

The belief that no student should be left behind, and the passion to find the support needed for each student is what really sets UEP apart from other student success initiatives. Many of our students have serious needs that must be addressed after 5 p.m. and often on the weekends. For example, it is not uncommon for some students to be without a home to visit for during the holidays, spring break or the summer; some even lack sources for meals during these same periods. Through networking and hard work, UEP strives to identify resources and people who can help to eliminate whatever obstacles stand in the way of student success. Due to this philosophy, UEP can now count among its alumni entrepreneurs, authors, lawyers, pharmacists, engineers and medical students.

*The need to serve educationally underserved and economically disadvantaged students is great as explained by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Plan and the Texas Department of Protective and Family Services. This agency oversees the Child Protective Services Division. The Texas Foster Care System is a part of this agency.*

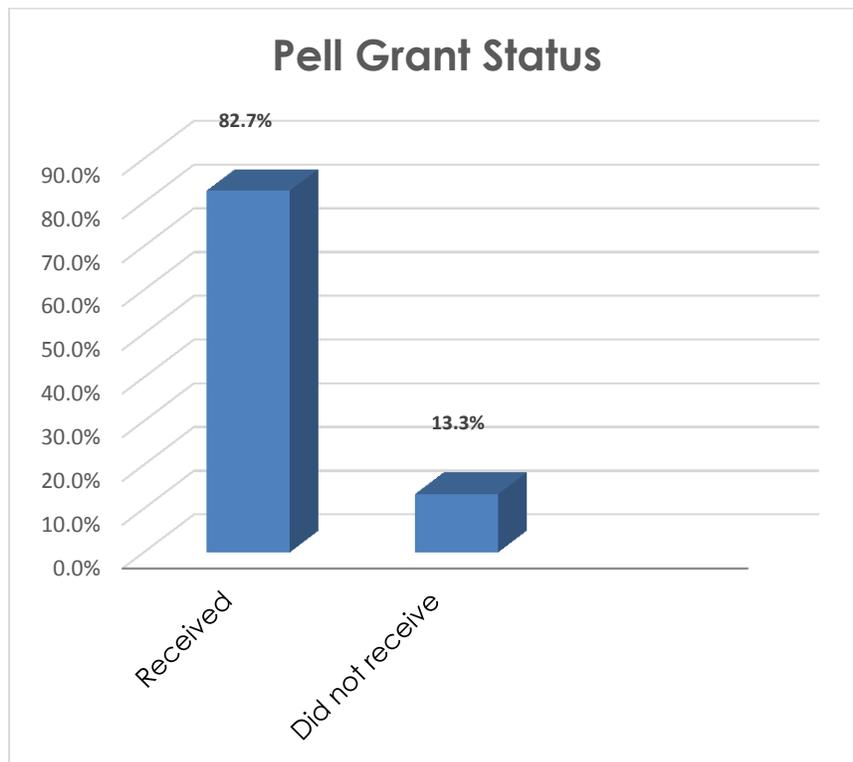
UEP Students Academic Details

| Status             | Number     |
|--------------------|------------|
| Undergraduate      | 106        |
| Seeking Masters    | 0          |
| Completed Masters  | 0          |
| Post-Baccalaureate | 0          |
| Graduated          | 20         |
| Transferred        | 0          |
| Suspended          | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>127</b> |



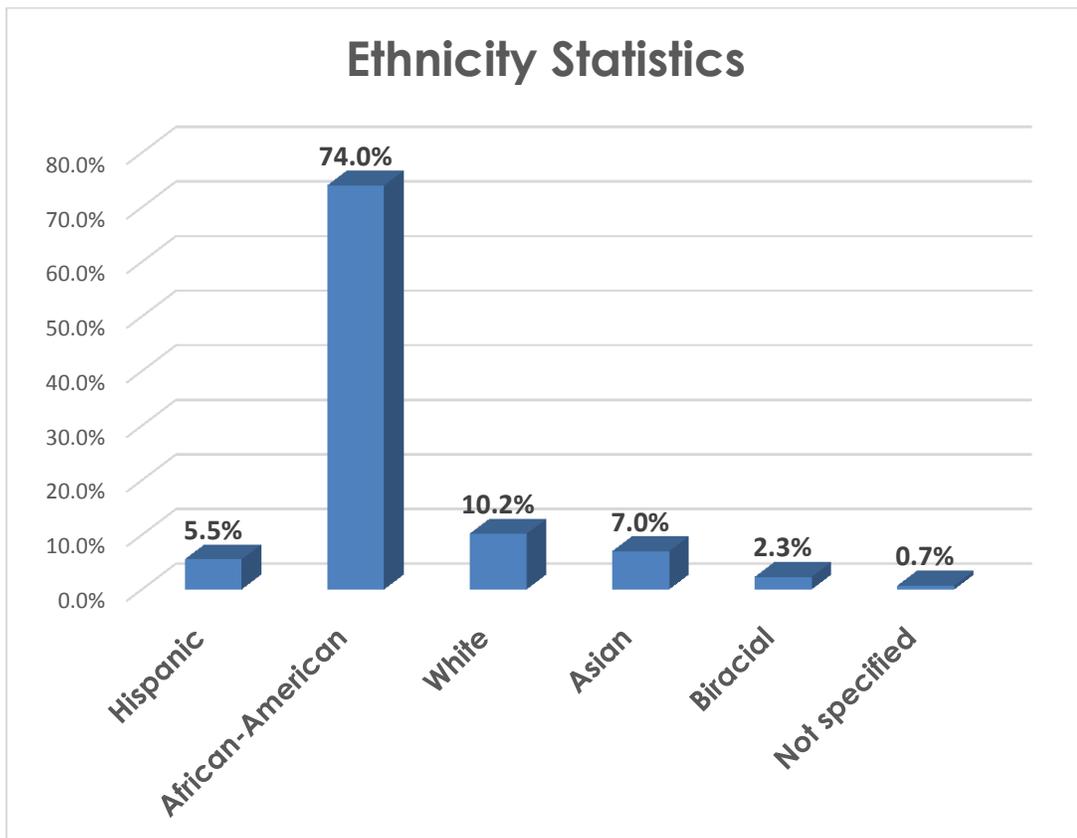
**UEP Federal Pell Grant Details**

| <b>Pell grant status</b> | <b>Number of Students</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Received</b>          | <b>105</b>                | <b>82.7%</b>      |
| <b>Did not receive</b>   | <b>22</b>                 | <b>13.3%</b>      |



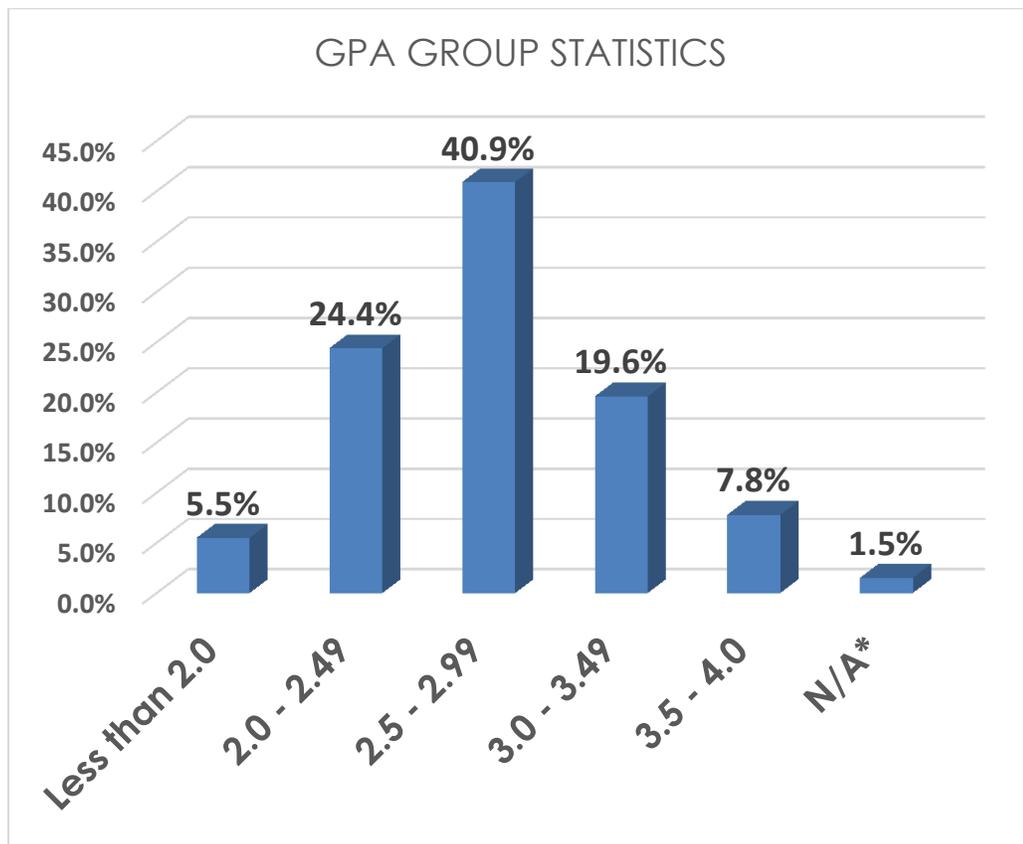
**UEP Ethnicity Statistics**

| <b>Ethnicity</b>        | <b>Percentage</b> | <b># Student</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Hispanic</b>         | <b>5.5%</b>       | <b>7</b>         |
| <b>African-American</b> | <b>74.0%</b>      | <b>94</b>        |
| <b>White</b>            | <b>10.2%</b>      | <b>13</b>        |
| <b>Asian</b>            | <b>7.0%</b>       | <b>9</b>         |
| <b>Biracial</b>         | <b>2.3%</b>       | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>Not specified</b>    | <b>0.7%</b>       | <b>1</b>         |



**UEP Student GPA Group Detail**

| <b>GPA GROUPS</b>    | <b>#Students</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Less than 2.0</b> | <b>7</b>         | <b>5.5%</b>  |
| <b>2.0 - 2.49</b>    | <b>31</b>        | <b>24.4%</b> |
| <b>2.5 - 2.99</b>    | <b>52</b>        | <b>40.9%</b> |
| <b>3.0 - 3.49</b>    | <b>25</b>        | <b>19.6%</b> |
| <b>3.5 - 4.0</b>     | <b>10</b>        | <b>7.8%</b>  |
| <b>N/A*</b>          | <b>2</b>         | <b>1.5%</b>  |



\*In this case, N/A indicates that students have not established a University of Houston GPA. Students are either incoming freshmen or transfer students.

**UEP Graduated Student Details**

| <b>Graduated Year</b>  | <b>#students</b> | <b>%</b>    |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Fall'12</b>         | <b>10</b>        | <b>50%</b>  |
| <b>Spring'13</b>       | <b>8</b>         | <b>40%</b>  |
| <b>Summer'13</b>       | <b>2</b>         | <b>10%</b>  |
| <b>Total Graduated</b> | <b>20</b>        | <b>100%</b> |

