

Cultivating Student Success at UCR: Pedagogical Ideas, Data, and Resources to Consider

This brief communication to faculty is developed by VPDUE Rodriguez and the Division of Undergraduate Education staff. The goal is to share pedagogical ideas, relevant UCR data, and resources to consider helping boost UCR student success. We will share this communication 2-3 times quarterly. We hope you find this helpful.

PEDAGOGY

Centering Equity through Flexibility in Today's Classroom

This Fall 2025, UCR is welcoming its largest first year class ever with nearly 7,000 students. Each of these new students is about to experience the extraordinary passion, creativity, and expertise that our faculty bring to the classroom every day and your role in their success is more crucial than ever.

Our overall student population is over 50% first-generation college students, nearly 50% Pell recipients, and a majority of our students come from underrepresented communities.

Approximately 2/3 of our students are from San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles County. Nearly 40% of UCR students are commuters to campus and many students may find themselves balancing multiple obligations like working and caring for family members while navigating classroom deadlines.

We also know that our students come to us every fall with an eagerness to connect, an excitement to learn, and a determination to make a difference in their communities and world. When our students are met with a faculty community who are dedicated to meaningful learning experiences that lead to stimulating inquiry, campus engagement, and career and professional readiness, social mobility is bound to be realized.

As we begin a new year, the importance of flexibility seems more relevant as ever, as we experienced during the pandemic. Ultimately, how you structure your classroom and learning opportunities is entirely up to you but here are some practical ideas to consider: record your lectures, make lectures available on Canvas, provide grace with deadlines on projects and exams, and offer Zoom office hours for students who are facing unique circumstances. In addition, please encourage students to get involved on campus, explore high impact programs, and take advantage of the many peer mentoring and peer advising programs on campus. Encourage students to ask for help when needed. In addition, please share this resource link with students in your syllabus and on Canvas. In conclusion, your passion, commitment, and support, along with

some flexibility will likely be the winning formula to facilitate our students' academic and personal success this year. Have a great start to the Fall quarter!

DATA

The charts in this section show the Academic Profiles of UCR's Incoming First-Year Class. The values for Fall 2025 are preliminary estimates¹.

	2024	2024		2025	
First Gen Status	Headcount	%	Headcount	%	
First Gen	2,470	45.6%	3,361	50.1%	
Not First Gen	2,951	54.4%	3,351	49.9%	
Total	5,421	100.0%	6,711	100.0%	

	2024		2025	
Low Income Fee Waiver	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Qualified for Waiver	2,011	37.1%	2,938	43.8%
Did not Receive Waiver	3,410	62.9%	3,773	56.2%
Total	5,421	100.0%	6,711	100.0%

	2024		2025	
Student Ethnicity	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Chicanx/Latinx	2,152	39.7%	3,002	44.7%
Asian	1,974	36.4%	2,288	34.1%
White	497	9.2%	504	7.5%
Two or more races	288	5.3%	350	5.2%
Black/African American	201	3.7%	257	3.8%
US Nonresident	192	3.5%	220	3.3%
Not specified	101	1.9%	75	1.1%
Native American	10	0.2%	6	0.1%
Pacific Islander	6	0.1%	9	0.1%
Total	5,421	100.0%	6,711	100.0%

1. Data provided by UCR Institutional Research, August 2025.

RESOURCES

The XCITE Center for Teaching and Learning has resources you can use or you can contact them at xcite-help@ucr.edu for one-on-one consultation and support.

Recommended syllabus language for the Academic Resource Center: For academic support, students are encouraged to visit the ARC, a hub supporting students at all skill levels, in all stages of their undergraduate careers. The ARC offers: Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Study Skills Workshops, and Peer Mentoring. Visit https://arc.ucr.edu/ or call 951-827-3721 for more information about hours, location, and the schedule of services.