

# University Honors



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025AY



# Director's Message

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## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

What an inaugural year!

As the Faculty Director of University Honors, I am pleased to report that our program continues to thrive!

Building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Dr. Richard Cardullo, the wonderful University Honors staff and I were able to provide our students with many enriching activities: five field trips to cultural events, including “Hamilton” at the Pantages; a class presentation by renowned muralist, Robert Vargas; and a dialogue between Chancellor Kim Wilcox and New York Times best-selling author and former UCR Honors student, Ryan Holiday, organized by faculty fellow, Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, Susan Straight. Our students distinguished themselves academically, as well. Of the 124 who completed capstone projects, 70% had immediate plans to attend graduate or professional school. Fourteen students graduated as Howard H Hays, Jr. scholars and 17 were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Fifteen students studied abroad and eight participated in UCDC. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of University Honors, we raised over \$16,000 on Give Day, winning four campus-wide fundraising challenges.

All this to say—our students are doing University Honors proud. I thank all of you who make our program possible: the Howard H Hays, Jr. Family; our faculty fellows, faculty-mentors, and instructors of our Honors courses; and our alumni.

Sincerely,



Begoña Echeverria, PhD  
Howard H Hays Jr., Chair and Faculty Director  
Professor, School of Education  
Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education

# About Honors

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### MISSION STATEMENT

University Honors engages a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff in the creation of global citizens through high-impact experiences that emphasize original scholarship, contribution, creativity, and innovation.

### VISION STATEMENT

University Honors will be nationally recognized as a model college that produces graduates who are highly sought for premier opportunities and who continue to develop as lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and future leaders.

### PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE



#### PROMOTING CREATIVITY & INNOVATION



#### CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF CONTRIBUTION



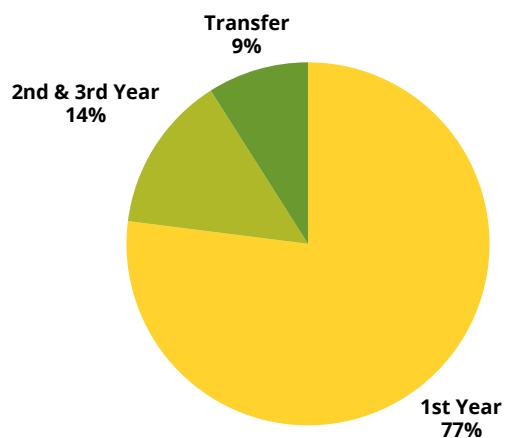
#### CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

# Statistics

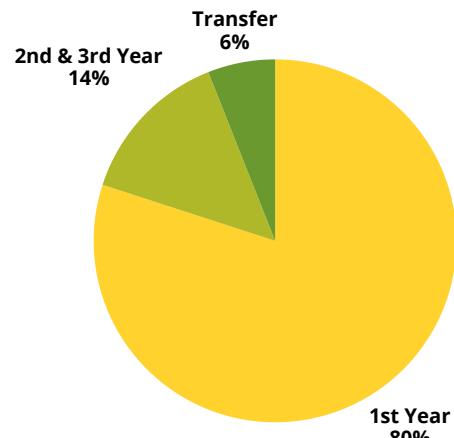
## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### Fall 2024 Admissions

#### Applicants



#### Admits



#### Statement of Intent to Register



#### Grade Point Average at Admission

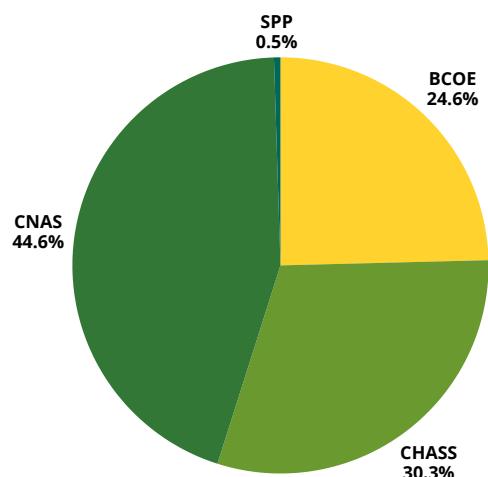


# Statistics

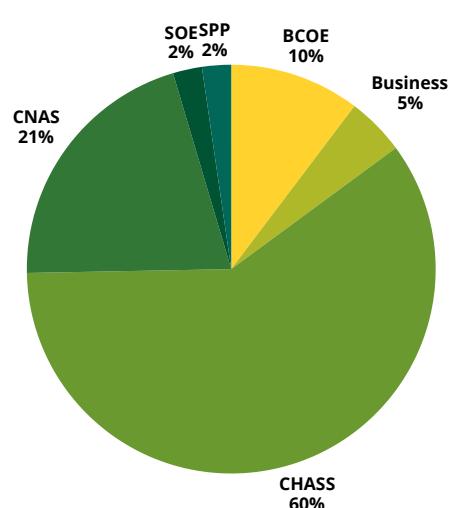
## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### College & School Distribution

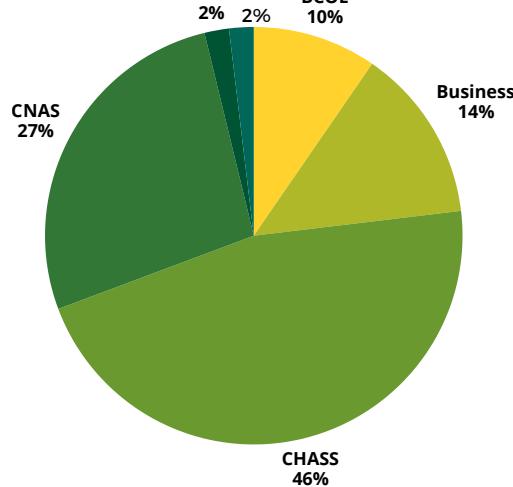
#### First-Year



#### Second-Year & Third Year



#### Transfers



### Scholarships

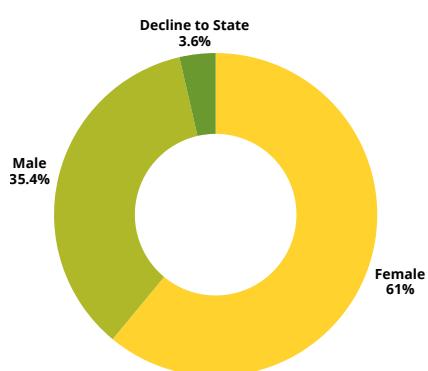
	Regent's Scholars	Chancellor's Scholars	Achievement Scholars
First-Years	0	6	8
Second-Year & Third-Year	0	0	2

# Statistics

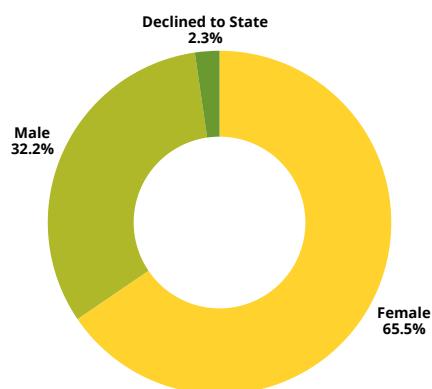
## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### Gender

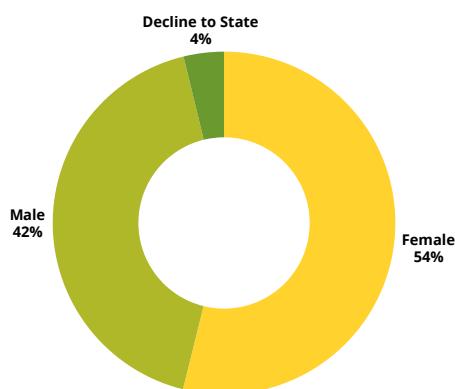
#### First-Year



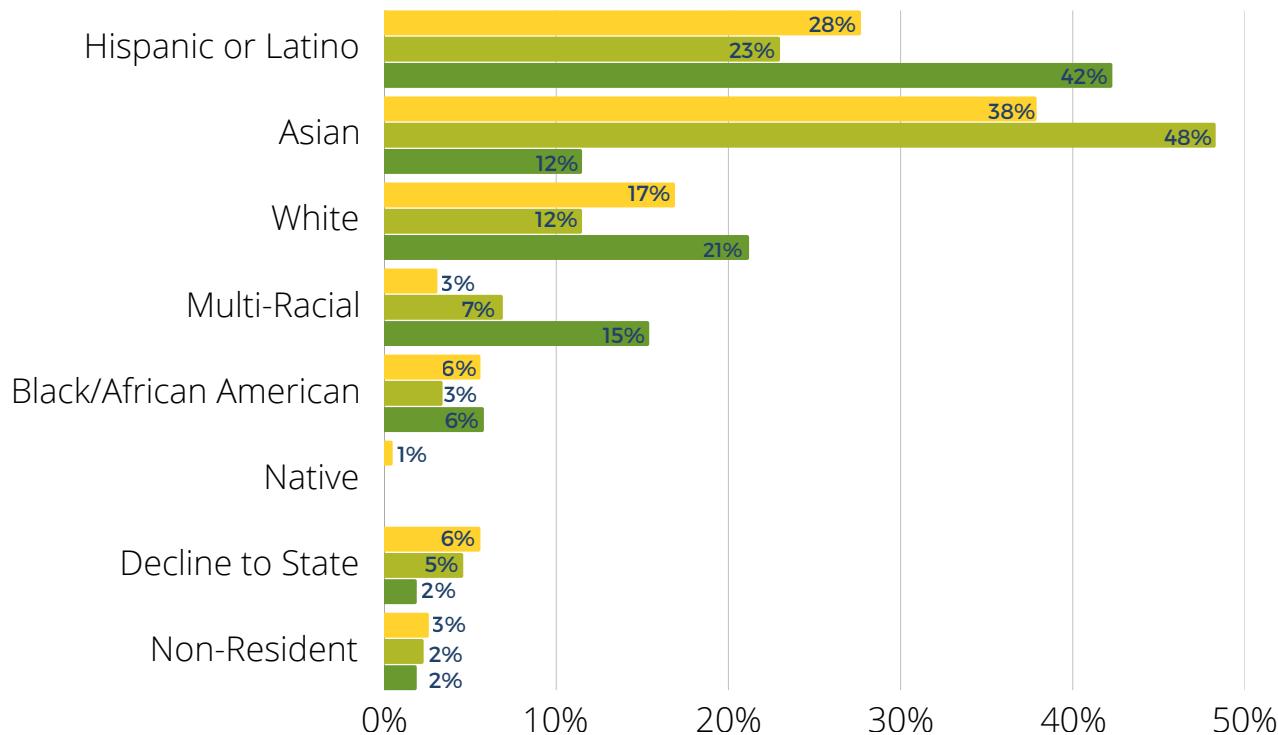
#### Second-Year & Third Year



#### Transfers



### Ethnicity



First-Year

Second-Year &  
Third Year

Transfer

# Statistics

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



### First Generation & Low Income

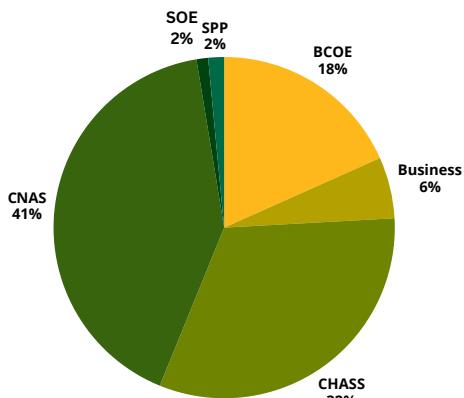
	First-Generation	Low-Income	First-Generation & Low-Income
First-Years	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Second-Year & Third-Year	<b>20%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Transfers	<b>46%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>15%</b>

# Fall 2024 Continuing Students Statistics

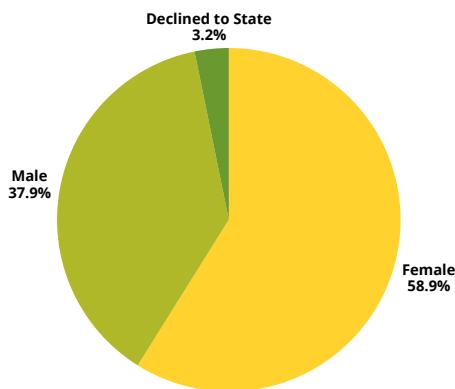
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## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

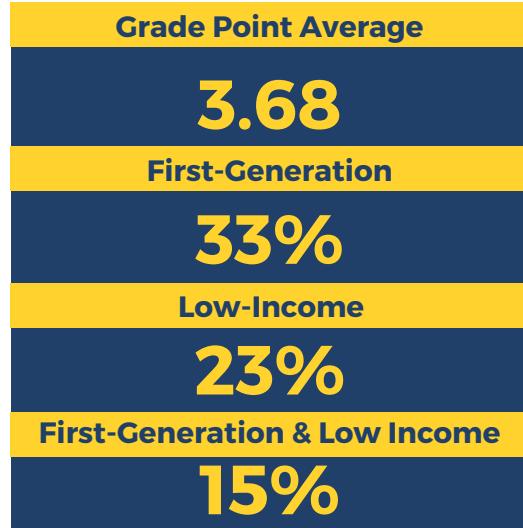
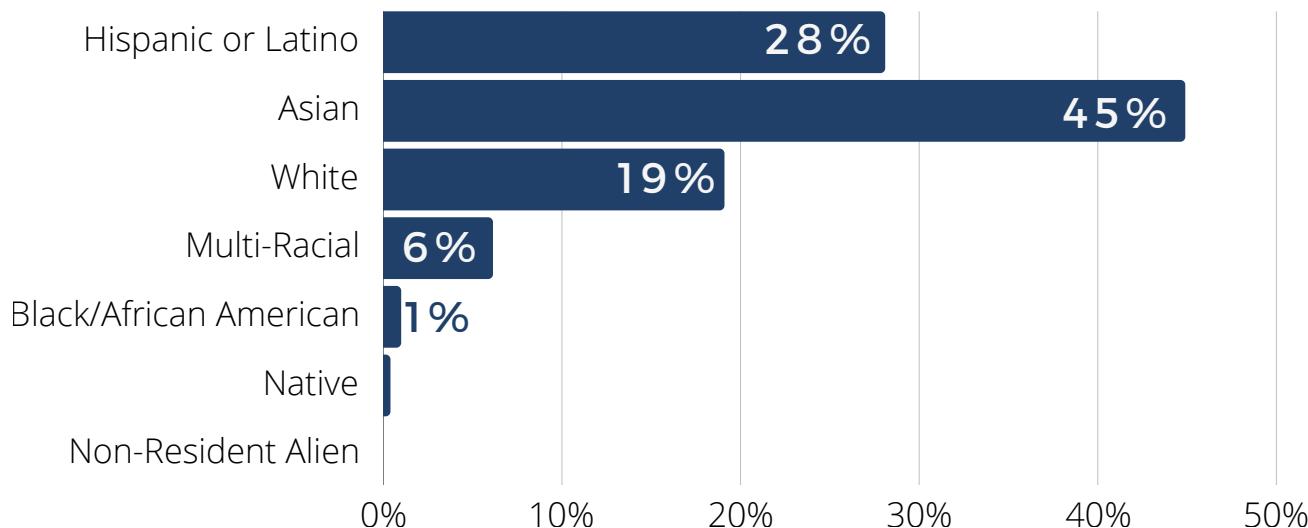
### College & School Distribution



### Gender



### Ethnicity



### Scholarships



# University Honors Faculty Fellows

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**DAVID COCKER**  
BCOE



**NIGEL HUGHES**  
CNAS



**KELLY HUFFMAN**  
CHASS



**AMANDA LUCIA**  
CHASS



**KELECHI KALU**  
CHASS



**SUSAN STRAIGHT**  
CHASS



**XÓCHITL C. CHÁVEZ**  
CHASS  
**FACULTY IN RESIDENCE**  
PENTLAND HILLS



**VORRIS NUNLEY**  
CHASS  
**FACULTY IN RESIDENCE**  
GLEN MOR



**RICHARD EDWARDS**  
CHASS  
**FACULTY IN RESIDENCE**  
XCITE

# Faculty & Course Statistics

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



3

**FACULTY IN RESIDENCE**

5

**FACULTY LED FIELDTRIPS**

- Hamilton at the Pantages
- Norton Simon Museum
- A Conversation with Ryan Holiday & Chancellor Wilcox
- Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
- Huntington Library

25

**COURSES**  
**Course Enrollment**

Fall: 720  
Winter: 465  
Spring: 435

# Honors Recognition

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Category	Recipient(s)
Howard H Hays Jr. Scholars	Anna Azanon Lily Caplon-Guin Daniela Cruz Manahil Khan Noel Lofton Ulises Mata Madison Oliva Gianna Pelayo Alexandra Rochin Angie Salinas Anthony Stevens Nakanlaya Tupsamphan Ila Youssefi Alexa Zelaya
Phi Beta Kappa	Ever Blaine-Johnson Arabella Brouwer Jonah Damian Hannah Dela Cruz Cecile Diroll Karin Funaki Uma Ganeshan Kytan Guu Angelina Hernandez Spandana Janapati Lauren Kizer Emma Krane Garrett Sakomizu Adi Shukla Marah Solloum Michelle Wang Alexa Zelaya

# Honors Recognition

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Faculty-Mentor(s)	Graduates with Highest Distinction
<b>Mentor: Cathy Lussier</b>	<b>Jennifer Ibarra</b>
<b>Capstone: M-Fit Study 2</b>	
<b>Mentor: Liz Watkins</b>	<b>Roseanne Jeries</b>
<b>Capstone: Perpetuating Stigma: The Teacher's Role in Diagnosing ADHD</b>	
<b>Mentor: Jack Eichler</b>	<b>Angie Lopez</b>
<b>Capstone: Using a Mixed Methods Analysis to Evaluate Higher Order Learning in Large Enrollment Organic Chemistry Courses</b>	
<b>Mentor: John Medearis</b>	<b>Allison Wang</b>
<b>Capstone Title: Local Public Radio Storytelling With 91.9 KVCR News</b>	
Faculty-Mentor(s)	Graduates with High Distinction
<b>Mentor: Matthew Casselman</b>	<b>Akhil Malhotra</b>
<b>Capstone Title: Enhancing Chemistry Education: Analyzing the Impact of 3D Models Using Eye-Tracking Technology</b>	
<b>Mentor: Bruce Link</b>	<b>Karin Funaki</b>
<b>Capstone Title: The Impact of Parasocial Contact on Our Tendency to Stigmatize People with Mental Disorders</b>	
<b>Mentor: Jimmy Calanchini</b>	<b>Mindy Hoang</b>
<b>Capstone Title: Social Perceptions of Fashion</b>	

# Honors Recognition

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Faculty-Mentor(s)	Graduates with High Distinction
<b>Mentor: Bruce Link</b>  <b>Capstone Title: The Latinx Health Paradox: A Facade of Wellness</b>	<b>Emily Manus</b>
<b>Mentor: Wes Sims</b>  <b>Capstone Title: An Evaluation of the Preschool Life Skills Curriculum for Students With and Without Disabilities</b>	<b>Abigail Pelleri</b>
<b>Mentor: Erica Heinrich</b>  <b>Capstone Title: Progesterone and Estrogen Influence Baseline Breathing Parameters and Chemoreflexes in Menstruating Women</b>	<b>Taleen Shomar</b>
<b>Mentor: Christophe Katrib</b>  <b>Capstone Title: Acintey-A9 108B: Siamese Futurism, A Science Fiction Journey Through Thai Beliefs</b>	<b>Nakanlaya Tupsamphan</b>
<b>Mentor: Nicholas Sheets</b>  <b>Capstone Title: Psychiatric and Substance Use Concerns Treated in U.S. Emergency Departments: A Review of the Samhsa Database</b>	<b>Ila Youssefi</b>
<b>Mentor: Kalina Michalska</b>  <b>Capstone Title: Does Proximity to Warehouses Influence Latine Childrens Emotions and Perceptions of Climate Change?</b>	<b>Alexa Zelaya</b>

# Study Abroad & Academic Internship Participation

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

UC EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM: 7  
OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD PROGRAM: 8

### UC WASHINGTON CENTER (UCDC) PARTICIPANTS

### UC CENTER SACRAMENTO (UCCS) PARTICIPANTS



**2**

F24



**1**

W25



**3**

S25



**2**

Su25



**0**

F24



**0**

W25



**0**

S25



**0**

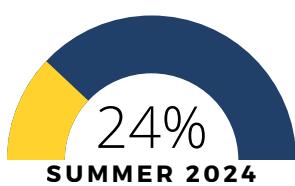
Su25

# High Impact Educational Experiences Participation

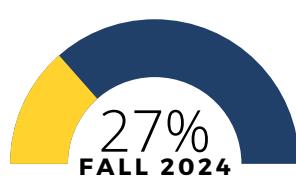
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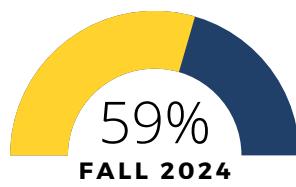
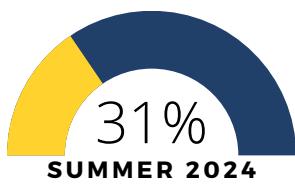
## Research, Creative Activity, Scholarly Work



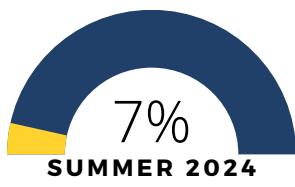
## Scholarship Recipient



## Member of On-Campus or Off-Campus Organization



## Unpaid Internship



# High Impact Educational Experiences Participation

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## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### Leader of On-Campus or Off-Campus Organization



### Part-Time Job or Paid Internship



### Fellowship Recipient



### Presenter at Discipline-Specific Conference



### Member of an Honors Society



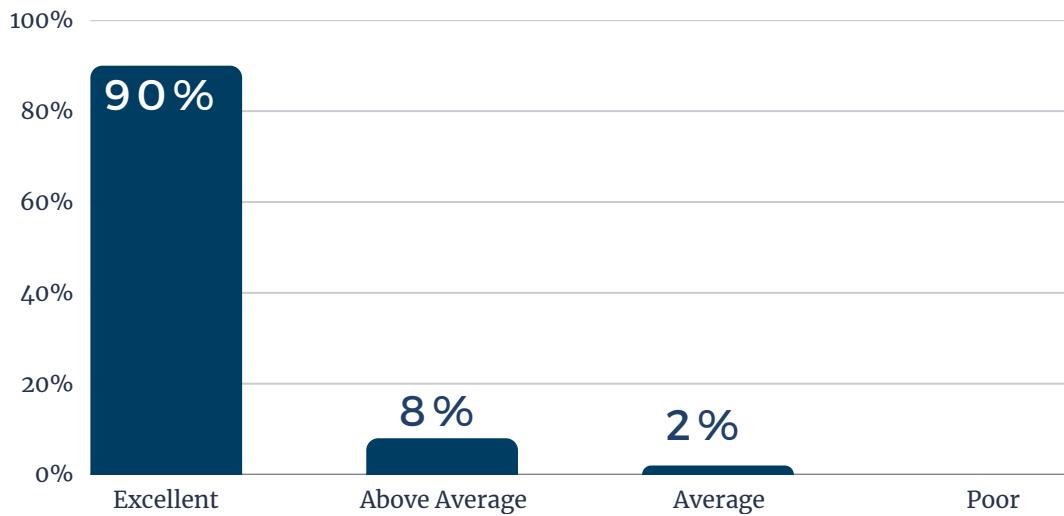
# Ambassador Program

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



University Honors Ambassadors work with the Honors team to enhance student development through peer mentoring, workshops, and extracurricular activities for Honors students.

## Peer-Mentor (Hangout) Evaluations



**14**

Number of Ambassadors

**5**

Ambassador Events

**108**

Hangouts Offered  
Students Per Hangout: 2

**167**

Students Mentored

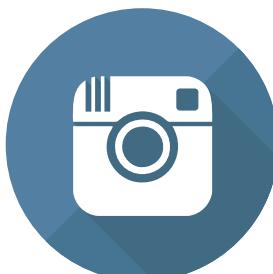
# Marketing & Media

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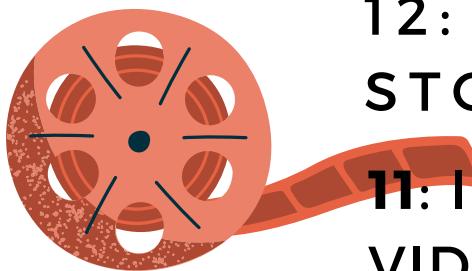
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**1344**  
FACEBOOK LIKES



**1,967**  
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



**12:** INSTAGRAM  
STORIES POSTED  
**11:** INSTAGRAM FEED  
VIDEO POSTS



**372**  
TWITTER FOLLOWERS



**400**  
YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

# Graduate Statistics

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## *University Honors Cording Ceremony*



### Capstone Project Submissions

0

SUMMER 2024

4

FALL 2024

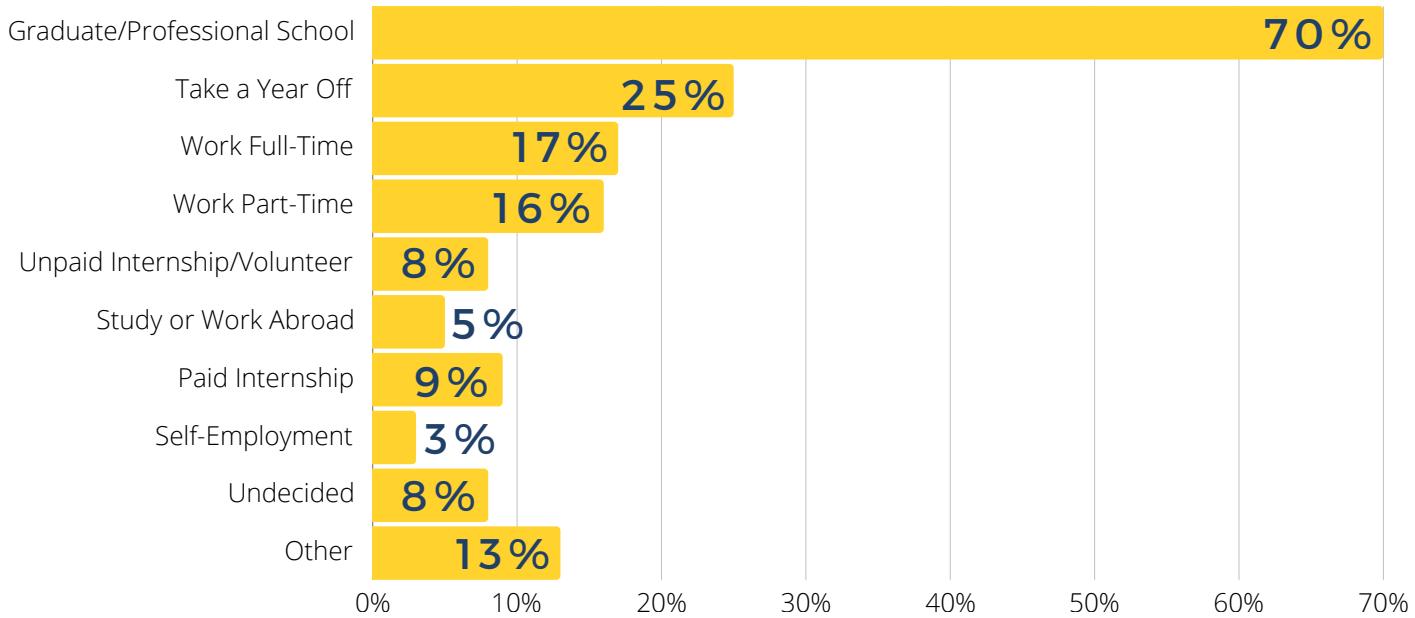
9

WINTER 2025

115

SPRING 2025

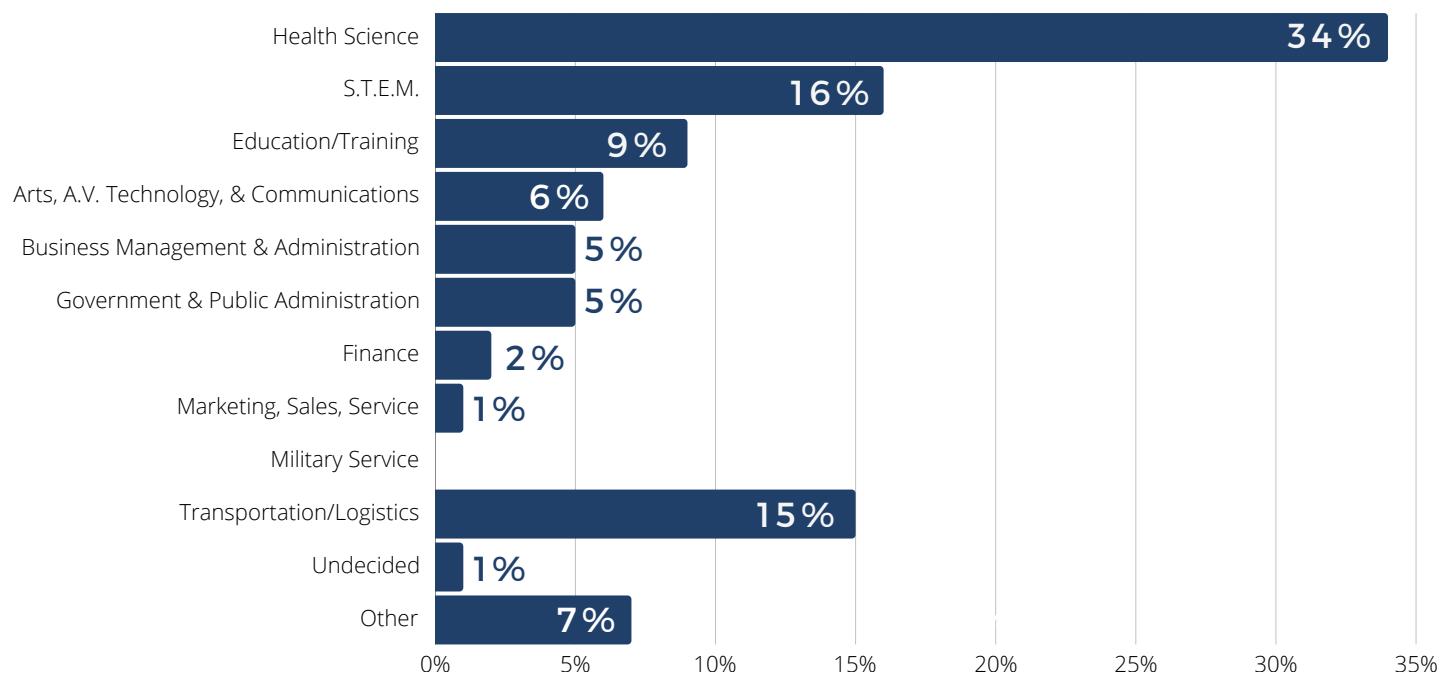
### Post-Graduation Plans



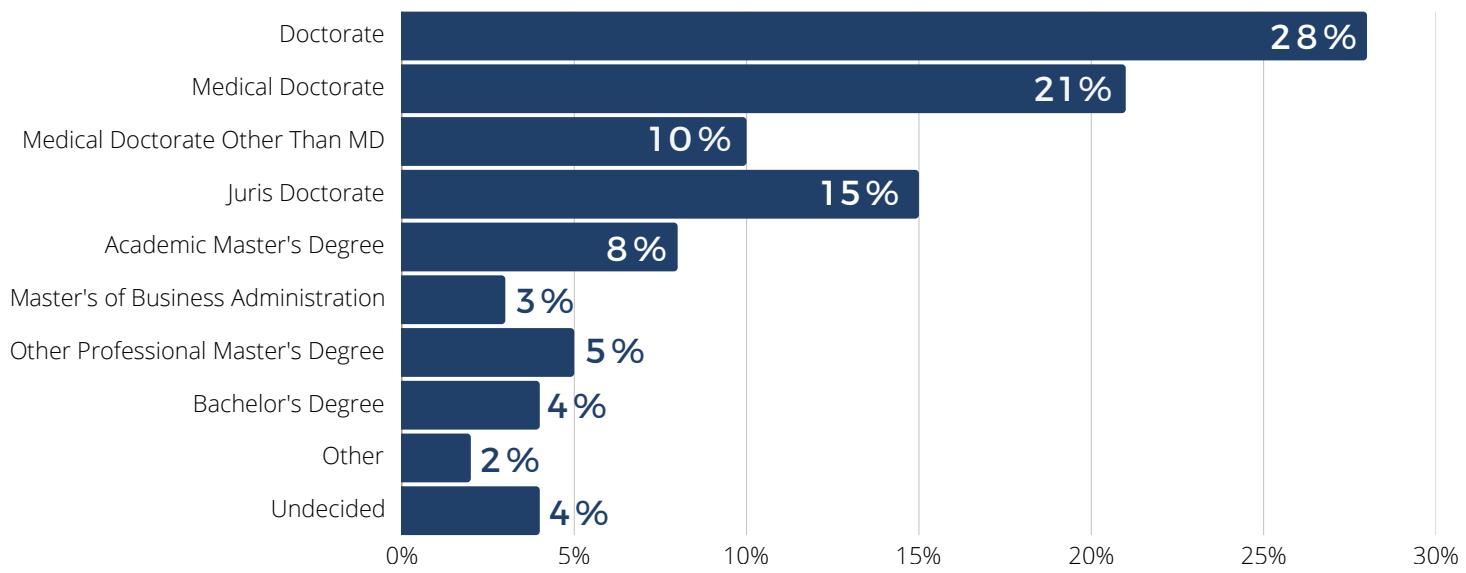
# Graduate Statistics

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### Career Aspirations



### Highest Academic Degree Planned



# Student Profiles

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### **Jennifer Ibarra**

2024-2025 University Honors Valedictorian  
Education, Society, and Human Development

Jennifer designed and taught a student-led R'Course on Disneyland Imagineering for six quarters, successfully merging storytelling, engineering, and education to make STEM accessible. As the founder of the Dependents and Military Families Organization, she built a supportive community for military-connected students and by teaching English abroad to K-12 foster youth in Mérida, Yucatán. Her research addressed how structured active learning can reduce achievement gaps and promote equity in math instruction for historically marginalized students.

**"I will be attending UCR for the Master's in Education and TEP Multiple Subject Credential."**



### **Noel Lofton**

2024-2025 Pillars of Excellence Award Recipient  
Business Administration

Noelle leveraged her experience as a student parent and returning adult learner to mentor peers and maximize resources. Her Honors Capstone critiqued the outdated 150-hour CPA licensure rule, proposing innovative, competency-based alternatives to widen access to the accounting profession. She volunteered weekly with the Highlander Abroad Advisory Committee (HAAC) and mentored international graduate students through the MBPP Buddy Program. Noel was also a strong ally and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, by promoting international education and inclusive spaces on campus.

**"I will begin working for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration as a Tax Auditor."**



## Lance Santana

2024-2025 Pillars of Excellence Award Recipient  
Business Administration

Lance established a team to develop an AI chatbot for project managers, teaching an R'Course on Natural Language Processing, and advancing research on conversational agents for chronic disease management. Driven by his experience with a learning disability, he volunteered over 800 hours as an elementary school TA and camp counselor, and actively serving as a peer mentor and advocate on student disability resource panels. He now channels his passion for educational accessibility into pursuing a career in machine learning, dedicated to creating a start-up focused on equitable educational technologies.

**"I will be attending UC Berkeley for the Masters in Information Management & Systems."**



## Allison Wang

2024-2025 Pillars of Excellence Award Recipient  
Political Science

Allison interned with KVCR News (NPR) to produce local radio features and teaching an R'Course on public radio storytelling, resulting in student stories being aired to an audience of up to 60,000 weekly listeners. She fostered a strong connection with the Inland Empire community, spotlighting local people and events in her features, and participating in public service internships with the Governor's Office and Representative Takano's D.C. Office. Allison's research focused on pandemic politics in Malawi and African representation in political science research as a member of DPERL.

**"I will be attending USC for the Masters in Public Administration (MPA) Program."**



## Christina Zhu

2024-2025 Pillars of Excellence Award Recipient  
Biology

Christina served as the Chief Honors Ambassador for University Honors, where she mentored students, led capstone preparation workshops, and supported the development of the interdisciplinary course "Is Graduate School for Me?". Her research focused on the impact of hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy in newborns at UCSF and drug resistance in cancer, culminating in a publication and a capstone collaboration with the UCR School of Medicine. She celebrates global citizenship by assisting elderly immigrants with translation in Chinatown clinics and by supporting over 150 individuals facing mental health crises as a counselor for the Crisis Text Line.

**"I will be taking a gap year, but plan to enroll in a graduate program in the future."**



# Expenditures

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED**

**\$242,420**

## **HOWARD H HAYS RESEARCH FUNDS AWARDED**

**\$34,600**

## **FACULTY FELLOW STIPENDS**

**\$32,000**

## **FACULTY FELLOW FIELDTRIPS**

**\$4,391**

## **COURSE REIMBURSEMENTS**

**\$80,000**

# University Honors Team Members

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**BEGOÑA  
ECHEVERRIA,  
PH.D.**

HOWARD H HAYS, JR.  
CHAIR AND FACULTY  
DIRECTOR

**AARON BUSHONG**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
DIRECTOR



**JANE E. KIM**

ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR

**LATOYA AMBROSE**

SENIOR UNIVERSITY  
HONORS COUNSELOR



**MAYRA JONES**  
UNIVERSITY HONORS  
COUNSELOR

**MARIA ROSA**  
UNIVERSITY HONORS  
COUNSELOR



**JOVAN SMITH**  
UNIVERSITY HONORS  
DATA & ENROLLMENT  
SPECIALIST

**KRISTINE PARADA**  
UNIVERSITY HONORS  
OFFICE COORDINATOR



900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
381 SKYE HALL  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92521

[HONORS.UCR.EDU](http://HONORS.UCR.EDU)

# Giving

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



### UCR Give Day 2025

UCR Give Day Leading Project Page: University Honors

**4**

Challenges Won

**70**

Total Donors

**\$6,035**

Total Raised

**GIVE**

**VOLUNTEER**

Contributions will be used to enhance the services provided to our students, helping us continue to create legacies of student success. Consider giving back to University Honors by being a featured speaker, career mentor, or other such collaborative engagement.