

2025-2026

YEAR IN REVIEW

UC Irvine
Division of Career Pathways

career.uci.edu

WHO WE ARE

VISION / MISSIONS / VALUES

UC Irvine's Division of Career Pathways (DCP) works with the campus and employer communities to position students for career success. We provide a comprehensive portfolio of career discovery, internship, employment, and graduate school admissions services to engage first-year students through PhDs and recent alumni in their career development.

VISION

All Anteaters thriving in meaningful careers.

MISSION

The Division of Career Pathways educates and engages UCI students and alumni to realize their career potential by:

- Coordinating with the campus community in the professional development of students.
- Providing students and alumni with tools and support to attain their career goals.
- Facilitating employer involvement with UCI to promote quality workplace experiences.

VALUES

- ***Student-Centered***: We design our services to empower students to enhance their career readiness.
- ***Collaboration***: We work with internal and external partners to increase our impact.
- ***Inclusion***: We create an environment in which all individuals feel welcome and included.
- ***Innovation***: We strategically develop sustainable and data-informed solutions.
- ***Integrity***: We act with honesty, trust, respect, empathy, and appreciation.

This report highlights the use of Division of Career Pathways (DCP) services and technologies within the 2025-2026 year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, unless otherwise noted).

To learn more about us, please access the DCP website at career.uci.edu or scan this QR code:

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

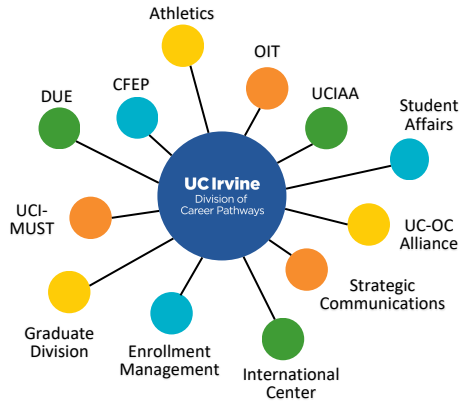
INTEGRATING AND SCALING CAREER ENGAGEMENT

DCP-led **135** workshops/webinars reached **2,454** students.

Delivered **192** requested programs and outreach sessions, reaching **9,267** students through partnerships with faculty, staff, and student organizations (**8% increase** from previous year).

1,100 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in DCP Anteater Essentials course.

Combined: More than **12,870** student engagements through career programming this year (**up 15%** from previous year).



CAREER EDUCATION EMBEDDED ACROSS CAMPUS

Equipped UCI's academic leaders with **school-specific career engagement and outcomes data** to inform strategic planning and advance a more connected, data-informed career ecosystem.

Career Conversations trainings delivered to Counseling Center/COACH, International Center Peers, Social Ecology Peers as well as 116 faculty, staff, and student leaders.

Strategic collaborations expanded with **UC Irvine schools, Student Affairs, Graduate Division, Athletics, CFEP, DUE, UCI-MUST, UC-OC Alliance, OIT, Enrollment Management, International Center, Alumni Association, and Strategic Communications.**

SUPPORTING THE COMPLEX NEEDS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Awarded a $15,000 grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to create a PhD career readiness program called **The PhD Career Experiment.**

Partnership with **Graduate Division** with the A2i Career Foundation, Career Transition Series, and the 3rd Immersion Conference for PhD Students with **GPS-STEM**.

Inaugural **Virtual Career Accelerator** in collaboration with the Writing Center **200** students registered with **2,000** page views.

Will be expanded and rebranded as the Grad Career Advancement Lab for 2026-27

INTERNSHIPS & CAREER EXPERIENCES

EXPANDING ACCESS TO INTERNSHIPS

Enrollment in **Uni Studies 193** increased 6%. This course grew **54% since 2022.**

73 *unique employers engaged, including:*

14% increase

100 students across 4 classes

FOX · Goldman Sachs · infineon · Johnson & Johnson · pwc · Uber · Segerstrom Center for the Arts · SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP · WASSERMAN

INTERNSHIPS / FELLOWSHIPS LISTED ON Handshake

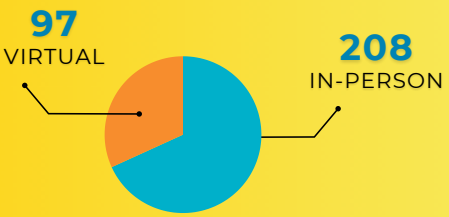
28,826



98%

5% increase

INTERNSHIP PREP SERIES



305
ATTENDEES

LAUNCHING IN 2026
ANTEATERS GO TO WORK

A scalable job-shadowing initiative connecting students with employers and workplace environments.

UC IRVINE GRADUATING SENIOR SURVEY

More students demonstrating competitive career skills from leadership or internship experiences

66% IN 2023 VS **69%** IN 2025

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION REMAINS STRONG THROUGH STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

25 in-person employer programs + **6** virtual sessions

1,631 students attended DCP hosted employer events (in-person or virtual)

EMPLOYERS INCLUDED: abbvie, Central Intelligence Agency, Veeva, mks, Edwards, Wells Fargo, Parker Aerospace, Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

Held first **Student Athletics Career Fair** and jointly hosted **EngiTech networking event**.

Expanded strategic employer outreach resulting in **351 employers** participating in in-person programs and events despite a challenging job market.

Collaboration with many schools and DCP Club Affiliate student groups expanded this year as we worked together to support and amplify employer engagement efforts.

Career Fairs Connected Thousands With Employers and Grad Schools

4 Career Fairs
- **286** Employers
- **6,000+** Students

2 Grad School Fairs
- **169** Organizations
- **1000+** Students

Handshake CAMPUSWIDE REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

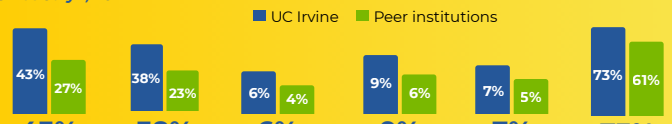
29,057 UNIQUE STUDENT LOGINS

471,324 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

37 CURATED COLLECTIONS
CREATED FOR SCHOOLS AND CAREER INTERESTS

UC Irvine outperformed peer institutions across all six Handshake student engagement benchmarks.

Peer Benchmarking: Percentage of Students Reached
Since July 1, 2024



- **43%** Engaged with **applications, appointments, career fairs**, or **events**.
- **38%** Submitted an **application**
- **6%** Participated in an **appointment**
- **9%** Checked in to a **career fair**
- **7%** Checked in to an **event**
- **73%** Activated a **profile**

UC Irvine Winner Top 40 Handshake Career Spark Awards 2025
Top 2% in the nation for student engagement

PEER INSTITUTIONS:
California State University Fullerton, UC Riverside, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, Loyola Marymount University, University of Washington, SDSU San Diego State University, The University of Arizona

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO SCALE STUDENT SUCCESS

3,380

CAREER ASSESSMENTS

+99% OVER LAST YEAR

4,885

IRIS PROFESSIONAL PHOTO BOOTH SESSIONS

+37% YEAR OVER YEAR

5,746

VIDEOAI PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

NEW SERVICE IN FY26

Focus 2 — MAJOR SELECTION AND CAREER DECISION MAKING STARTS HERE



biginterview

5,035

RESUMES REVIEWED BY BIG RESUME
(formerly ResumeAI)

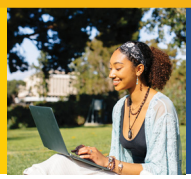
SteppingBlocks via UCI IRAP partnership expanded access to alumni outcomes data with new dashboard.

Career Learning at Scale

1,200+ Students Enrolled in Anteater Career Essentials (undergrads) and Grad Career Advancement Lab (graduate students)

ANTEATER CAREER ESSENTIALS





A *FREE*, fully self-paced career development online course designed for undergraduate students.

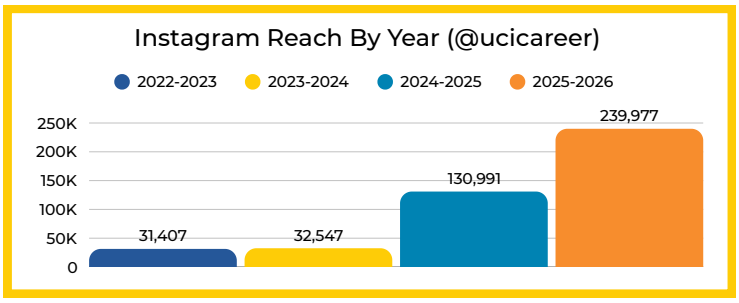
- Asynchronous and flexible
- Complete modules anytime
- Practical job search guidance
- Virtual office hours and peer discussion
- Optional, Job Search Fundamentals digital credential

MARKETING REACH

EXPANDING VISIBILITY THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

30% Increase in followers year over year

TO NEARLY 7,000 FOLLOWERS



Instagram Reach: The number of unique users that saw the DCP's Instagram content at least once. **83% increase from previous year.**

Partnerships with Strategic Communications and school-based marketing teams broadened reach.

EMAIL OPEN RATES AVERAGED

61% vs. industry standard of 36%

DCP CLUB AFFILIATES PROGRAM SUPPORTED

26 UC Irvine student organizations

45% greater volume of employer programming







DCP'S MARKETING REACH CONTINUED TO OUTPACE INDUSTRY STANDARDS

89 Marketing and communications UC Irvine professional staff brought together

22 UC Irvine campus departments, schools, divisions, and units represented

Quarterly, convened campuswide marketers to support cross-promotion and partnership development.

PARTNERS INVESTING IN ANTEATER SUCCESS



Creating New Pathways to Career Success

Launched participation in the **Orange County Department of Education** Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Along with UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts, DCP is the first higher education entity to participate. The program provides students with pathways to earn U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates.

Supported by approximately $70,000 in program funding.

Bringing Students Into the Workplace

Launched **Anteaters Go To Work,** connecting students directly with employers through workplace visits that provide firsthand exposure to industries, careers, and professional environments.

Made possible by a $15,000 **UCI Anteater Grant Initiative** award.



Expanding Career Readiness and Student Support

Support from the **Burroughs Wellcome Fund** enabled DCP to develop The PhD Career Experiment, an innovative new approach to graduate student career readiness.

Contributions through the **Cheng Family Foundation** and **UCI Giving Day** helped sustain DCP's Professional Profile PhotoBooth, giving students the opportunity to make a great first impression, and maintain full staffing of our student-facing front desk.

CAREER ECOSYSTEM

BUILDING THE UCI CAREER ECOSYSTEM



- DCP is actively strengthening UCI's career ecosystem, connecting schools, faculty, staff, employers, and campus partners to make career development an integral part of every student's UCI experience.

This collaborative approach expands access to career opportunities and resources, making career readiness built-in, not opt-in.

EXTENDING THE CAREER ECOSYSTEM

Equipping Students for a Changing Market

- Scalable job search support: DCP's Anteater Career Essentials (ACE)
- Partnership with UCI Compass to create student AI literacy learning pathway
- AI training within Handshake

Improving Relevance and Engagement

- Handshake: curated job and employer collections
- Career readiness trainings for staff, faculty, and student leaders

Advancing Work-Based and Industry Aligned Learning

- OCDE Youth Apprenticeship Program
- Anteaters Go To Work – group employer visits



2026 – 2027 GOALS

- **Expand real-world career exploration** through Anteaters Go To Work visits to at least 15 employer workplaces.
- **Make career readiness part of the student employment experience** by embedding career skills development into campus jobs.
- **Scale career education** by expanding Anteater Career Essentials to support students at every stage of career development.
- **Advance UCI's leadership in AI and career readiness** through innovative resources, national presentations, and partnerships with Handshake and UCI OIT to bring AI literacy learning to all students.
- **Equip students to navigate an evolving graduate education landscape** and make informed decisions about their academic and career futures.

IN CLOSING

THANK YOU

Thank you to our campus partners, faculty, staff, and employers who made these achievements possible. Together, we expanded career readiness opportunities for students, strengthened UCI's employer partnerships, and leveraged innovation to facilitate access. As we look ahead, we invite continued collaboration to ensure every Anteater thrives in meaningful career pathways.

To learn more about the services in this report, feel free to contact us at career@uci.edu and access our webpage: career.uci.edu.

To learn more about UCI alumni post-graduation career outcomes, access UCI's alumni outcomes data or the University of California Office of the President's UC Alumni at Work dashboard.

