

Umpqua Community College

By Bob Johnson

A sweeping horseshoe bend of the North Umpqua River wraps the 100-acre main campus of Umpqua Community College (UCC) at Winchester, Oregon, just north of Roseburg. Beyond the campus, UCC extends its services to communities throughout its district, which includes all of Douglas County except for a small area on the coast.

Established by the voters of Douglas County in 1964, UCC serves more than ten thousand students each year in its lower-division college transfer (AA degree) program, vocational-technical (AAS degree) programs, developmental education programs, community education classes, workshops, and certification programs. Because many students attend on a part-time basis, the college has a full-time equivalency (FTE) of approximately two thousand students.

Umpqua's main campus offers strong technical programs in business, computer science, engineering, human services, nursing, and culinary arts. Its auto mechanics program is certified and sponsored by Toyota. The college also offers a unique, one-year certificate program in viticulture and wine-making through the recently established Southern Oregon Wine Institute.

The most popular lower-division transfer majors include accounting, art, biology, business, chemistry, history, literature, music, social science, and theater. All provide the first two years of baccalaureate degree programs in these fields. Agreements with Oregon's public universities allow students who follow recommended courses of study to transfer without loss of credits.

At UCC's Woolley Center in Roseburg, the college offers a range of adult basic education classes. The college's Small Business Development Center in Roseburg provides assistance for the area's entrepreneurs. At other locations throughout its district, UCC offers commercial driver training, construction technology, and special-interest classes, workshops, and training programs in response to the changing needs of the community.

Most students at UCC come from Douglas County. While many are recent high school graduates, a large number are older students returning to school to train or retrain for a new career. The average age of students at UCC is approximately thirty years. Because UCC has no residence facilities, all students are commuters, with the exception of about five hundred who take online classes.

Approximately 67 full-time faculty and 155 part-time faculty teach in UCC's degree and certificate programs. Another 90 instructors teach workshops and community education classes each term.

UCC is also known throughout the West for its sponsorship of the Pacific Northwest Great Teaching Seminar, a week-long interdisciplinary faculty development workshop held each June at the Menucha Conference Center in the Columbia River Gorge. Begun by UCC faculty members in 1980, the seminar has attracted nearly a thousand participants for an exchange of teaching ideas.

Sources

"Umpqua Community College: The First 30 Years of Excellence." 1994. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/9148994@N04/sets/72157605691081357/>

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