



A+CE Program Update June 2020

INTRODUCTION

A+CE is UHD's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
Academic **A**chievement through **C**ommunity **E**ngagement

Thesis: Prepare students to **think critically** using
community issues

Target Courses: 1000– and 2000– level courses generally
taken by first time in college (FTIC) students

A+CE Designated Sections

- Fall 2016—Spring 2017: 120 sections
- Fall 2017—Spring 2018: 248 sections
- Fall 2018—Spring 2019: 228 sections
- Fall 2019—Spring 2020: 185 sections

Three Modes to Implement A+CE

- Awareness: students read about the issue
- Integration: students learn about the issue from a class visit by a community leader or by visiting a community organization.
- Involvement: students learn by working in the community for a minimum of two hours

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in A+CE-designated Courses

Two student learning outcomes (all courses must meet at least one):

- SLO 1 (Inquiry & Analysis): Students will be able to analyze community issues with respect to different perspectives, theories, or solutions.
- SLO 2 (Creative Thinking): Students will be able to identify or design creative strategies to address an aspect of a community issue.

SLO 1 is selected much more frequently.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

Direct

Student Artifacts (Signature Assignments) are assessed by faculty using AAC&U rubrics for critical thinking.

Score Levels

- Mastery = Senior (4)
- Proficient = Junior (3)
- Developing = Sophomore (2)
- Basic = Freshmen (0)
- No evidence = (0)

The A+CE Assessment Plan has a success criterion of an average artifact score of 2.5 by the end of the students' second year.

UHD students are at 2.0 (Sophomore Level) at the end of the second year.

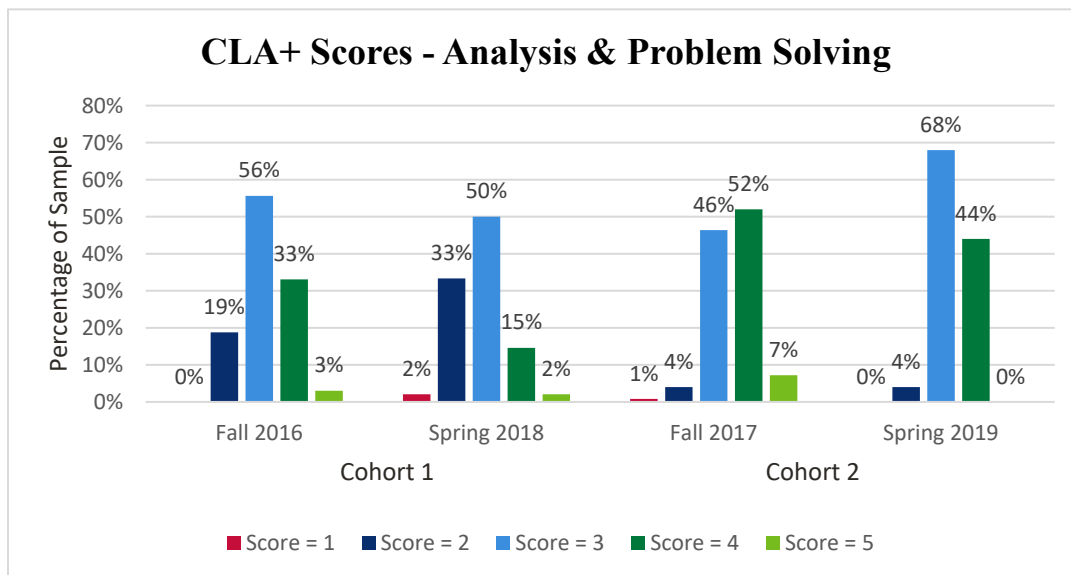
Indirect

CLA+ = Collegiate Learning Assessment

Assess Critical Thinking from the Analysis and Problem Solving Section of the CLA+

Score levels

Below Basic = 1, Basic = 2, Proficient = 3, Accomplished = 4, Advanced = 5



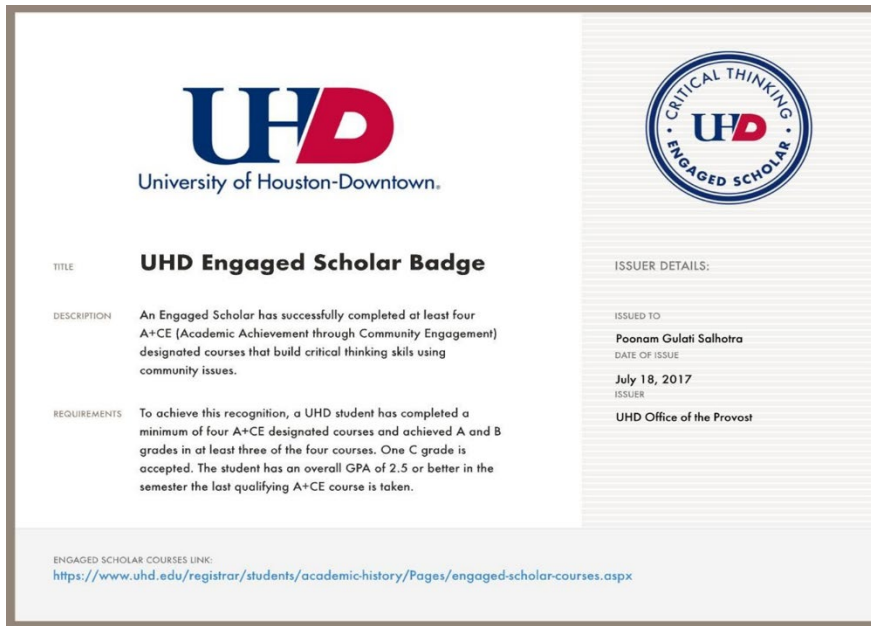
Students were tested in their first and fourth semesters. Cohort 1 started in fall 2016 and Cohort 2 in fall 2017. Most UHD students are at levels 3 (Proficient) and 4 (Accomplished).

Note: the students may not be the same in the two semesters tested, and the numbers in the fourth semester were much less than in the first semester.

ENGAGED SCHOLAR BADGE

Students can earn the digital badge by completing the following requirements.

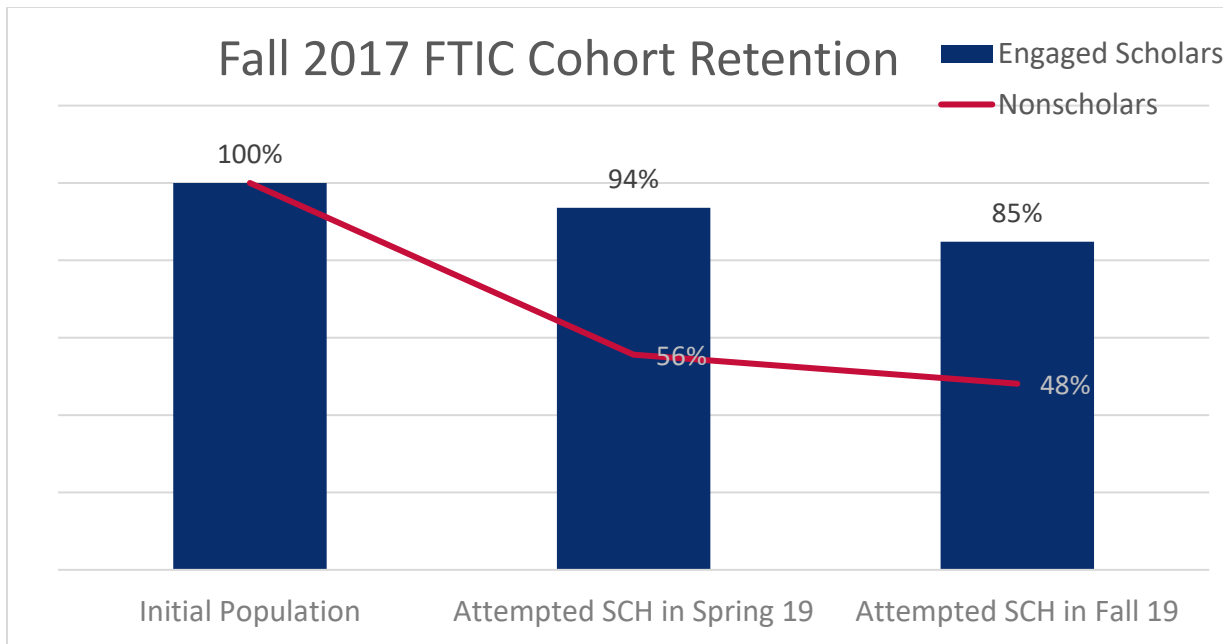
- Minimum of 4 A+CE designated courses
- Maximum of 1 "C" grade
- Overall GPA – 2.5 or higher



Badges Earned

- 302 by end of fall 2019; issued spring 2019, summer 2020

Retention of Engaged Scholars



Retention of Engaged Scholars is much higher than non-scholars.

Testimonials of Engaged Scholars

Alfred Grimaldo, History Major

https://uhdowntown-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/smithca_uhd_edu/EYcgJ3D2TMxKtp--s_PgDZcBYnKnr97e80a3KKpbiG8F-A?e=YJR1Rd

Takese McKensie, Biology Major

https://uhdowntown-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/smithca_uhd_edu/EQ00TakjU_9HvX6vZKTJy0wBriMfh3vph5-yMpQXqbbWuA?e=PZHWOJ

Chinaecherem Eze, Data Science Major

https://uhdowntown-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/smithca_uhd_edu/EZFvEEMYS-FOreBH8thaqzcBS2yOyalBHauHmJlhY3x9SQ?e=Ro5iJE

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