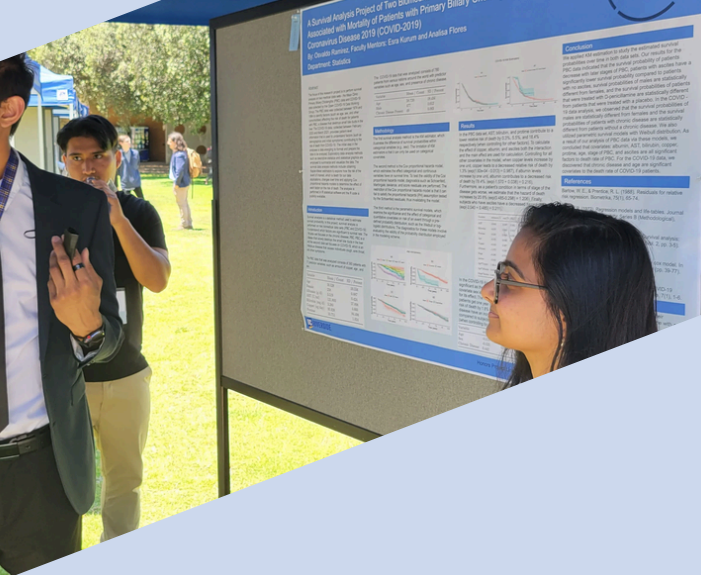


Fall 2025  
PART 2



# 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

Students continuously build transferable skills through their classroom learning. Thus, highlighting these connections can further strengthen their sense of career readiness. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) defines career readiness as “a foundation from which to demonstrate requisite core competencies that broadly prepare the college educated for success in the workplace and lifelong career management.”<sup>1</sup>

The NACE competencies include career & self-development, communication, critical thinking, equity & inclusion, leadership, professionalism, teamwork, and technology.

Faculty can highlight career-readiness competencies in their classrooms by linking learning goals, assignments, and other activities to the NACE competencies. For example, some of these skills are embedded in group work, class discussions, presentations, and writing assignments.<sup>2</sup>

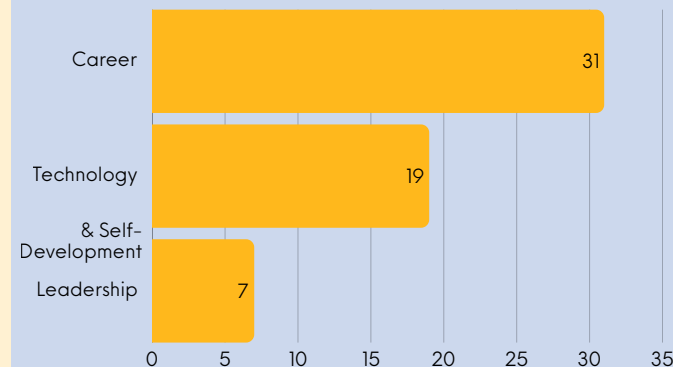
## DATA

As a vehicle to center student engagement with Career Competencies, the Division of Undergraduate Education launched the EXCEL+ program a few years ago and supports career readiness by helping students identify, track, and highlight key competencies defined by NACE.

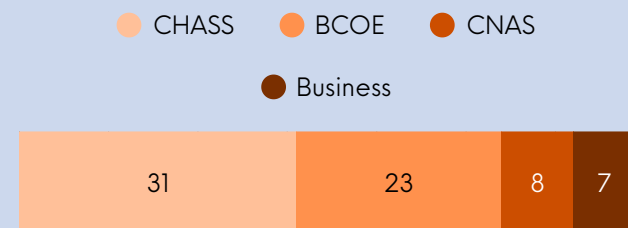
Students submit activities in three categories: Learning, Experiential, and Career Management. Through these submissions, they can earn digital badges that verify and showcase their career readiness skills on resumes and LinkedIn and in preparation for the workforce or graduate/professional school.

As of now, more than 150 activities have been submitted through the EXCEL+ Program. Early data shows that about 50 percent of these are directly tied to academic courses, programs, or structured experiences such as assignments, internships, or student organizations.

Top Competencies (%)



Participation by College (%)



Based on reflections, most students connect their activities to personal growth and transferable skills:

- 70% focus on career and self-development
- 20% highlight leadership or teamwork
- 10% describe technical or analytical learning

## RESOURCES

*EXCEL+ Help students track their career readiness skills*

Please encourage your students to take advantage of this free, self-paced opportunity to stand out in today's competitive job market. Learn more about EXCEL+ at [excel.ucr.edu](https://excel.ucr.edu).

Contact [engage@ucr.edu](mailto:engage@ucr.edu) if you would like a presentation or marketing materials to share with your students.

Sources:

1 [NACE Career Readiness Competencies](#)

2 [How can I integrate Career Readiness into my Academic Course?](#)