



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
HISPANIC ALUMNI (UAHA) FIRST-YEAR TUITION SCHOLARSHIP
RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND GPA OUTCOMES

This report summarizes key academic outcomes for new first-year UAHA Tuition Scholarship recipients (UAHA Scholars) enrolled in Fall 2016 to Fall 2022. These students received the UAHA incoming first-year tuition scholarship and enrolled in required student success courses. The UAHA Scholars program seeks to improve academic outcomes for Arizona resident students through financial support and student success course engagement.

Program Overview

- Renewable tuition scholarships of up to \$4,000 per academic year and \$16,000 over four years.
- UAHA engages students in activities designed to enhance academic success, including required success courses in the fall and spring of the students’ first year. Students are encouraged to participate in Thrive Center and Guerrero Student Center programming.



Through UAHA’s partnerships with the Guerrero Student Center and the Thrive Center in 2022, UAHA scholars take required success courses and familiarize themselves with these centers’ services.



This financial and holistic support helps to retain these scholars, mostly Latinx students, into a second year and beyond.



UAHA’s scholarship programs ultimately support the UA’s mission as a Hispanic Serving Institution to educate Latinx students.

Summary of Key Findings

- Descriptive rates of retention and graduation for UAHA scholarship recipients continue to show strong outcomes, including through the pandemic disruption of 2019-2021.
- Since 2016, UAHA scholarship recipients have retained at 92% or higher, consistently exceeding the UA average for new First-Time students at main campus.
- UAHA tuition scholarship recipients had higher term and cumulative GPAs than the matched peer group in AY 22-23.
- 13 other first-time students received an expanded \$10,000 UAHA Club scholarship, made possible by added funding; all of these students were retained.

95%

Retention rate among UAHA Scholars



89%

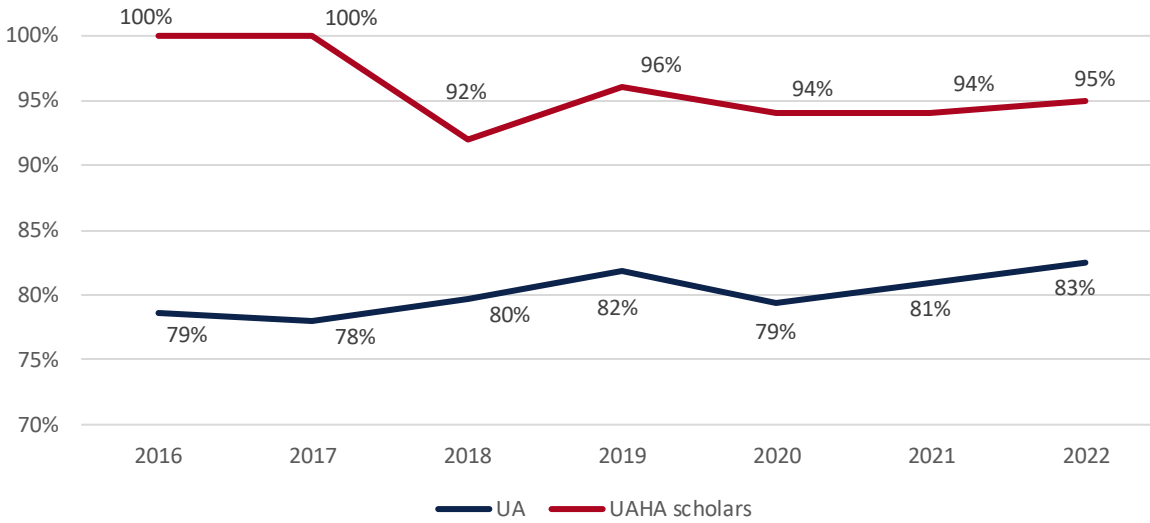
Retention rate in peer group

In AY 22-23, UAHA tuition scholarship recipients saw a 6% lift in their 1st year retention rate when compared to a matched peer group.



2016-2022 Historical Retention Rates

Fig 1. First-Time One-Year Retention Rates: UAHA Scholars compared to UA main campus



Source: UAccess Analytics, Retention & Graduation Dashboard: First-Time. UA First-Time comparison group includes first-year full-time and part-time students at Main Campus

Table 1: UAHA Incoming First-Time Scholarship Recipient Retention & Graduation (by rate and count)

Course Semester	N	Retention %			Graduation %		
		1 st Term	1 st Year	2 nd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	6 th Year
Fall 2016	20	100% (n=20)	100% (n=20)	85% (n=17)	50% (n=10)	70% (n=14)	75% (n=15)
Fall 2017	23	100% (n=23)	100% (n=23)	96% (n=22)	96% (n=22)	96% (n=22)	96% (n=22)
Fall 2018	13	100% (n=13)	92% (n=12)	92% (n=12)	92% (n=12)	92% (n=12)	N/A
Fall 2019	24	100% (n=24)	96% (n=23)	92% (n=22)	71% (n=17)	N/A	N/A
Fall 2020	18	100% (n=18)	94% (n=17)	89% (n=16)			
Fall 2021	17	100% (n=17)	94% (n=16)	88% (n=89%)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Only first-time students, including both FT and PT, were included in this analysis.

2022 UAHA Scholars Cohort Impact Analysis

The outcomes of the 2022 UAHA Scholars cohort give us the clearest picture of the program’s impact. The Fall 2022 UAHA Scholars cohort had an academic year entirely uninterrupted by pandemic restrictions. In this year a strong partnership between UAHA, Guerrero Student Center, and Thrive Center was formalized, with Thrive Center offering the success course in the fall & and Guerrero Student Center offering the success course in the spring.

To examine the impact of the tuition scholarship on student outcomes, Propensity Score Matching (PSM) analyses were used to generate a comparison group of peers who did not receive the scholarship. This technique accounts for factors that influence program participation and retention (see appendix).

Retention

The 2022 UAHA scholarship recipient cohort of 38 almost all identify as Latinx, all receive merit aid, and come to the UA with a mean UA-adjusted high school GPA in the cohort of 3.76.

- 97% of the 2022 UAHA scholarship recipient cohort returned for a second semester, and 95% for a second year.
- This figure is higher than both the overall retention rate for new-First-Time students who arrive at the UA in Fall 2022 (81%) and for the matched peer group in this report (89%).

Table 2: Retention Outcomes Between UAHA FY Scholarship Recipients and Matched Peer Group

Outcome	Scholarship Recipient Cohort		Matched Peer Group	
	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>
Returned 1 st Term	97	37	97	37
Returned 1 st Year	95	36	89	34

Note: one scholarship recipient did not enroll in Spring 2023 but returned Fall 2023. They are not counted among those who returned 1st term, but they are counted among those who returned 1st year.

Term and Cumulative GPA

The UAHA scholarship recipient cohort had higher term and cumulative GPAs compared to the matched peer group.

Table 3: GPA Outcomes Between UAHA First-Time Scholarship Recipients and Matched Peer Group

Outcome	Scholarship Recipient Cohort		Matched Peer Group	
	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>
Fall 2022 Term GPA	3.61	38	3.43	37
Fall 2022 Cum GPA	3.61	38	3.46	37
Spring 2023 Term GPA	3.48	37	3.26	37
Spring 2023 Cum GPA	3.56	36	3.36	37



\$10,000 UAHA Club Scholarship – First-Year Retention

UAHA was also able to offer a \$10,000 club scholarship in 2022-23 enabled by a recent gift.

Eligibility for the UAHA club scholarship was for UAHA club scholars with a 2.5 GPA or higher enrolled full-time to complete 24 or more units in an academic year. Scholarship recipients were selected based on committee review by Hispanic Alumni Club volunteers and UA Alumni Association staff. Award decisions were based on academic merit, financial need, and other relevant measurable qualities of the applicants.

- Twenty-four students in total received UAHA's new \$10,000 club scholarship in 2022-23. In contrast to the tuition scholarship, this funding is stackable with other scholarships and can cover the cost of attendance beyond tuition. No programming or coursework was required.
- Of these students, 13 were new first-year undergraduates; there were also two sophomores, two juniors, six seniors, and one graduate student. The first-year club scholarship students are a distinct group from those receiving the UAHA tuition scholarship described earlier.
- 100% of the 13 first-time \$10,000 club scholarship students were retained for a second year.



Appendix

About UAHA: UAHA was formed in 1982 to serve the Hispanic community by promoting academic excellence among all students. As an official constituent group of the University of Arizona Alumni Association, UAHA assists in the recruitment and graduation of Arizona students who are academically talented and qualify for financial aid.

First Year Scholarship Program Eligibility and Commitments:

Eligibility guidelines include first-year students who are Arizona residents, have received a merit award, with an unweighted high school GPA of at least 3.0, who show knowledge, understanding, and commitment to Hispanic heritage and serving the Hispanic community. Students selected for the scholarship must enroll in two-semester first-year success courses, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and complete minimum units each year for scholarship renewal (see appendix).

Methodology for Propensity Score Matching Analysis:

PSM calculates a Propensity Score (the likelihood of receiving the treatment) using a logistic regression model that includes a series of characteristics related to the treatment; students are then matched based on the similarity of their propensity score and individual characteristics. Analyses were modeled after the 2012-2016 report with minor updates based on data availability.

Dataset included 38 First-Time students who received the UAHA scholarship. Nearly all the students were Hispanic (36 out of 38). Analysis was based only on Hispanic students. A list of 1,224 possible student matches was generated by setting the following criteria based on scholarship eligibility:

- Were admitted as First-Time students during the Summer or Fall 2022 term (though some students were classified as first year, sophomore, or junior due to concurrent high school enrollment in college courses or testing credit)
- Were enrolled during the Fall 2022 term
- High school GPA above or equal to 3.25
- Arizona residents
- US citizens or permanent residents
- Completed FAFSA
- Hispanic students (not a scholarship requirement but nearly all recipients were Hispanic; determined using inclusive Latinx flag)

The only eligibility parameter that could not be limited was the students' ability to "demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and commitment to Hispanic heritage and serving the Hispanic community."

PSM analysis returned 38 matches. PSM methods included a caliper of .1 based on the following student characteristics as shown in Table 4.

- Age
- Gender
- First generation status
- UA-adjusted high school GPA
- Primary major college (collapsed into three categories: STEM, Professional, Other)



Table 4: Additional Demographics of 2022 UAHA Scholarship Recipients & Peer Matched Group

	2022 UAHA Scholarship Recipients (N or mean)	Peer Matched Group (N or mean)
Race		
Hispanic/Latinx	36	38
White	1	0
Two or more races	1	0
Gender		
Men	11	11
Women	27	27
Academic Characteristics		
Age at entry to UA	17.95	17.97
High School GPA	3.76	3.78
First-generation college student	20	19
Full-time student	29	31
Part-time student	9	7
College		
STEM	20	19
Professional/Vocational	12	12
Other	6	7

Note: To better match cases, college was collapsed into a three-category variable. Architecture, Planning & Landscaping, Agricultural & Life Sciences, Engineering, Public Health, Science, and Optical Sciences were collapsed into STEM; Education, Medicine, Nursing, Management, and Pharmacy were collapsed into Professional/Vocational; Fine Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Science, and Letters, Arts & Sciences were collapsed into 'other'.

