UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Overview:
UC Online

UC ONLINE OFFERS HIGH-CALIBER LEARNING IN A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

UC Online is a systemwide initiative to create high-caliber online classes in UC's undergraduate curriculum that capitalizes on interactive technology to enhance learning.

The program develops unparalleled, lower-division courses taught by UC faculty for course credit to both UC and non-UC students alike. It does not offer online degrees.

With at least one course in development at all nine undergraduate campuses in 2012, UC Online's inaugural year involves creation of over 20 courses in subjects ranging from precalculus and chemistry to politics and climate change to art and dance.

Over the next year, the program will work with campus colleagues to establish mechanisms that support cross-campus enrollment, so that students at any UC campus can enroll in any UC Online course for credit without having to go through a time-consuming, cross-campus enrollment process.

EXPANDING ACCESS AND MAXIMIZING RESOURCES

As the means by which student learning evolves, UC is committed to bringing its century-long commitment to excellence and academic leadership to these emerging realms of instruction. A recent poll of UC students found that fourth-fifths of respondents would be interested in taking online courses if they could earn credit toward their degree. UC Online is tapping into a growing demand for this kind of learning.

The program, which aims to be financially self-sustaining, provides new opportunities for students who benefit from this kind of learning. The program will:

- Offer prospective students increased access to UC's unmatched intellectual capital.
- Generate new revenue that can be returned to academic departments.
- Create a cost-effective yet academically-rich means of expanding access to high demand, lower-division courses.

FACULTY DRIVEN AND DESIGNED

While a number of other top-tier universities are investing in online education, none of these institutions are doing what UC is doing – offering lower-division undergraduate online courses taught by UC faculty and for full course credit to both UC and non-UC students.

For existing students, the program offers an additional option for certain undergraduate courses. For non-matriculated students (such as high-achieving high school students or transfer students) UC Online offers the opportunity to learn from UC professors and earn credit students can apply toward earning their college degree.

The program includes a research component that will gather extensive data on what works best in online learning – data that will be used to help improve courses and shape their development.

It encompasses the development of a technology platform that will bring cutting edge social and interactive capabilities to online learning. This platform will give faculty maximum flexibility to design courses tailored exactly to how they wish to teach, and will provide for a level of student interaction with both peers and instructors that may in some cases exceed what is possible in a lecture hall.