In a mixed-methods study, the RP Group explored how the Umoja program supports students’ academic, personal, and professional growth. This research compared academic outcomes of Umoja students (n=1,466) with a matched peer group (n=56,316) at 22 colleges and captured the experiences of nearly 80 students at seven colleges via focus groups. All differences in academic outcomes presented here were statistically significant at p < .05.

When comparing the academic outcomes of Umoja students to non-Umoja students...

**First Academic Year Achievements**

- **Fall-to-Fall Persistence**
  - First-time Umoja students had a persistence rate to the next year that was **15 percentage points** higher than non-Umoja students.

- **Award Completion**
  - Umoja students earned a Chancellor’s Office-approved award within four years at a rate that was more than **two times** that of non-Umoja students.

- **Completion of Transfer-Level English and Math Courses**
  - Umoja students completed transfer-level English in one year at a rate that was **more than double** that of non-Umoja students.
  - Umoja students have a lead over non-Umoja students in completing transfer-level math within three years by **7.6 percentage points**.
  - Umoja students completed both transfer-level English and math within three years at a rate that was **7 percentage points** higher than their non-Umoja peers.

- **Transfer**
  - Umoja students became transfer ready* at a rate that was more than **double** that seen among their non-Umoja peers.

- **Chancellor’s Office-approved**
  - Umoja students earned an average of **2 more units** than non-Umoja students.

- **Associate Degree**
  - Umoja students successfully completed their first-year coursework at a rate that was **3.4 percentage points** higher than non-Umoja students.

- **First-time Umoja students** had a persistence rate to the next year that was **15 percentage points** higher than non-Umoja students.

- **Umoja students** completed an average of **3 more units** than non-Umoja students.

- **Umoja students** earned an average of **2 more units** than non-Umoja students.

- **Umoja students** successfully completed their first-year coursework at a rate that was **3.4 percentage points** higher than non-Umoja students.

*The completion of 60 transferable units with at least a 2.0 GPA and successful completion of any transfer-level English and any transfer-level math course by earning grades of A, B, C, P, or CR

Umoja Builds Unity Through Community Support

During the focus group conversations, students shared that the following people, resources, and supports were particularly helpful in advancing their academic, personal, and professional growth.

- **Professors** instill accountability and responsibility for our other Umojians.

- **Counselors** provided academic & emotional support.

- **Peers** contributed to connection to and awareness of African History and Culture.

- **Instructors** pushed me to be better in school because you have that support system in the Village. When you get to know people, they remind you to do your homework or go to class, turn in your work.

- **The Village** as a Source of Support, Affirmation, and Community.

- **For more information, visit the Umoja Community Education Foundation’s website or the RP Group’s Umoja Project webpage.**

-Umoja student

If anybody in the Umoja Program finds out you said you were going to drop [out], you’ve got 20 missed calls, you’ve got [an] email from the program coordinator and counselor and all the students.

-Umoja student

All the professors that I’ve had within ... Umoja would give me the opportunity to get to know them and for them to get to know me.

-Umoja student