

AAP's Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 5 ISSUE N.1



Articles inside this issue:

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- Summer Highlights
- AAP New Staff/Promotions
- Unit Updates
- Announcements

AAP'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AAP Director's Message



Dear AAP Scholar,

I would like to take this time to welcome you back to campus, and if you are a new student entering this year **CONGRATULATIONS** on your acceptance and enrollment to UCLA! AAP has a long and rich history of working with students like yourself and we are excited about supporting and assisting you with graduating from the nation's #1 Public University. As you begin the new academic year, I would like to share a few tips with you.

- Effective time management and study habits can significantly impact your academic performance. I encourage you to create a study schedule that allows you to cover all subjects while leaving room for breaks and relaxation. Consistency is key!
- Setting academic goals are important. Ask yourself "What do I aim to achieve this year?" Whether it's maintaining a certain GPA, excelling in a particular subject, or participating in academic competitions, setting clear goals will keep you motivated and focused.
- You should explore extracurricular activities. College isn't just about academics; it's also about personal growth and exploration. Challenge yourself to engage in extracurricular activities that align with your interests, be it sports, arts, clubs, or volunteering. These experiences can help shape character and open new doors... And they're very impressive on the resume.
- Be proactive with your education. Don't wait for challenges to arise be proactive! If you're facing any kind of difficulties, seek help early. AAP Staff, Peer Learning Facilitators, faculty members, and your fellow peers are there to support you on your learning journey.
- **Don't wait to explore your post-graduation plans.** It's never too early to start thinking about your future beyond college. I encourage you to schedule a meeting with one of AAP's Graduate Mentors or Academic Counselors to discuss your post-secondary options. This conversation will provide invaluable insights and guidance as you map out your educational and career path.

Remember, success is a journey, not just a destination. You should embrace each experience, both in and out of the classroom, and make the most of the opportunities that this incredible campus has to offer.

Have a great academic year and we look forward to working with you. Sincerely.

Dr. Charles J. Alexander Associate Vice Provost for Student Diversity Director, Academic Advancement Program

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AAP *Diverse* Feature: Dr. Alexander



Diverse: Issues in Higher Education is a leading news source with a reputation that spans over 40 years, dedicated to providing critical insights on diversity issues within the U.S. higher education system. In a recent issue that was published on September 13, 2024, our very own AAP Director, Dr. Charles J. Alexander was featured. Dr. Alexander took the opportunity to highlight the 53-year-long history of the Academic Advancement Program and our strong commitment to social justice. This includes ensuring that every AAP student recognizes they belong here at UCLA.

Below, is a snippet from the featured article:

"We've created what we call an academic home for students who are from marginalized communities or communities that are underrepresented or low-income communities...We hire a lot of students to be peer mentors, peer counselors, peer learning facilitators...With that kind of structure and those kinds of environments we create . . . a community where everyone is supporting each other, and people who have gone through the university like them are in a role to inspire and to motivate them. Then, you see the successes."



Summer Highlights

FRESHMEN & TRANSFER SUMMER PROGRAM













The Freshmen & Transfer Summer Program (FTSP) welcomed 320 freshmen and transfer students this past summer. Led by AAP staff, Peer Counselors, Peer Learning Facilitators, and faculty, the program provided F-TSP scholars with the opportunity to gain a head-start in and out of the classroom that ensured their continued success while studying at UCLA. Every week, students attended classes and Peer Learning sessions, participated in workshops with campus partners, engaged in fun events and off-campus excursions hosted by Peer Counselors, and came together to celebrate AAP during annual summer events. Students who completed the program earned credit towards graduation, developed skills to apply to their academic and professional pursuits, and built relationships with their community members to last a lifetime!



Summer Highlights

VICE PROVOST INITIATIVE FOR PRE-COLLEGE SCHOLARS (VIPS)











VIPS hosted 95 high school students across three (3) residential summer programs, ranging from one-week to five-weeks. All scholars participated in culturally relevant workshops centered around Science, Technology, Art, Nutrition and Dialogue (STAND). Additionally, rising 11th and 12th grade scholars earned UCLA course credit by enrolling in English Composition and Education courses. VIPS also hosted several panels and sessions that allowed our students to engage with faculty and staff across campus, as well as UCLA alumni and community members working as artists, activists, educators, researchers, health and tech professionals. During our programs, VIPS scholars build community within and between their cohorts through communal recreation time, lunch, and community movie screenings, which were followed by intentional discussions to promote critical thinking. We are proud of the hard work and dedication our scholars put in during the summer, and to the UCLA undergraduate mentors that worked so diligently with them.



New AAP Staff



JENNIFER VASQUEZ

OFFICE COORDINATOR, COUNSELING



Please share a little bit about yourself and your educational background.

Jennifer Vasquez is the proud first-born daughter of Oaxacan immigrants, born and raised in the Palms Community in Los Angeles, CA. She is a first-generation college graduate and alumni of UC Berkeley, where she received her B.A. in Sociology and minor in Education. She comes to AAP with a passion for equitable education opportunities, community and shared cultural capital. Before UCLA, she was a Partnership Success Manager at an EdTech tutoring company where she led an ESL program for emerging bilingual students. She hopes to one day go back to school to receive her graduate degree in a mix of disciplines like education, business, social work and public health.

In her spare time, enjoys going on nature walks, beach bike riding, attending social events, trying new food places, catching up with friends and spending time with family.

How have your own personal experiences impacted your decision to work with AAP students professionally?

I identify with our students heavily. I was also a first-generation, low-income, student of color facing the monster that is college, on my own. I understand the frustrations and challenges that our students go through on a daily basis because I was in their shoes too. This population is very dear to me because of this. In being there for them, I also show up for my younger self. For this reason, I also currently mentor students in my community to pursue a higher education, explore various career pathways and have conversations with their parents. I'd like to see a change in the higher education institutions population.

In what ways does your program/unit impact BIPOC/underrepresented students at UCLA and what is your role in facilitating that impact?

I am part of the AAP Counseling team as their office coordinator and we are a fully student-facing unit. I am one of the first points of contact for students and I get very excited when I see a student go from distressed to calm after they have had all their questions answered by one or a team of our counselors. I help facilitate that connection.

What are some of your goals in this new role?

Some goals in this new role are to restore community, get to know everyone in AAP, establish trust with students, create sustainable systems, incorporate a community of care in the workplace, have difficult conversations, advocate and show up for students, embrace diversity in all ways, learn new things, and most importantly, grow both professionally and personally.



New AAP Staff



MONTSERRAT JUAREZ

OFFICE COORDINATOR, GPS & MCNAIR



Please share a little bit about yourself and your educational background:

I am a recent UCLA graduate, earning my B.A. in Labor Studies and Chicana/o Studies in June 2024. As a first-gen Latina and a commuter student, I initially felt uncertain about how to get involved at UCLA. Fortunately, I joined the AAP family when I became a student worker for Graduate and Professional School (GPS) Exploration Services (formerly known as Graduate Mentoring) and a McNair Peer Mentor. Being part of AAP allowed me to access vital services, such as Counseling and PLF sessions, and participate in GPS's research program, CDSJ (The Carter Huggins Community Development & Social Justice Program). These experiences enriched my academic journey and ignited my passion for supporting others in navigating their educational paths.

How have your own personal experiences impacted your decision to work with AAP students professionally?

As a first-gen Latina who navigated undergrad during a pandemic, building community at UCLA was challenging. However, every time I walked into Campbell Hall, I felt an immediate sense of warmth and belonging that encouraged me to ask questions and grow both academically and personally. The support from AAP was instrumental; through mentorship and resources, I found my footing during a tumultuous time. Inspired by those who uplifted me, I am committed to giving back to my AAP community. I want to support fellow students navigating their undergrad journeys and help them explore the countless programs and resources AAP offers.

In what ways does your program/unit impact BIPOC/underrepresented students at UCLA and what is your role in facilitating that impact?

GPS and McNair support BIPOC/underrepresented students at UCLA by offering research programs and graduate and professional school mentoring services that will support them every step of the way. We offer a space where students can conduct their own research and receive one-on-one mentoring from graduate mentors, including assistance with personal statements and graduate applications. Additionally, our workshops cover essential topics such as cover letters, financial literacy, pre-med, and more. We also encourage students to share their suggestions for future workshops. My role is to provide administrative support for both units, ensuring that AAP students can access the best resources available for conducting research and navigating graduate and professional school applications.

What are some of your goals in this new role?

In this new role, I look forward to mentoring the GPS and McNair Student Staff Team and supporting AAP students interested in our research programs and services tailored to their academic and professional needs.



New AAP Staff



PAOLA PÉREZ

AAP ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION



Please share a little bit about yourself and your educational background.

As a Mexican-American daughter of immigrant parents with a strong family support system, I earned my B.A. in Sociology with a focus on social inequality from UC San Diego. Through my work with college access programs, I developed a passion for promoting equitable educational opportunities for minoritized students. To practice this passion and develop my counseling skills, I earned my Master of Education degree in Educational Counseling from USC. Currently, I am pursuing my doctorate degree here at UCLA in the Educational Leadership Program.

How have your own personal experiences impacted your decision to work with AAP students professionally?

My parents' sacrifices shaped my belief in education's impact and inspired me to become an educator. As a Summer Bridge participant (similar to F/TSP!), I gained insight into the systemic inequities facing underrepresented students and built a supportive community that eased my college transition. This experience has driven my commitment to seek spaces where I can best provide support for other first-generation, low-income, students of color. Through my work with programs like Pasadena City College's Pathways, East LA College's MESA, and most recently Loyola Marymount University's Upward Bound Program, I strive to create transformative change like what Summer Bridge provided me. AAP embodies that change here at UCLA, and I am so grateful to be part of a critical space that is so many students' second home.

In what ways does your program/unit impact BIPOC/underrepresented students at UCLA and what is your role in facilitating that impact?

The AAP Administration Unit serves as a vital link between all AAP units, ensuring that professional staff are supported in their efforts to serve AAP scholars. As the Assistant Director of Administration, I support the Director of AAP by overseeing daily operations, and providing managerial, administrative, and personnel support across our programs. This role enables me to effectively meet the needs of BIPOC and underrepresented students, ensuring they receive the holistic support necessary for their success.

What are some of your goals in this new role?

In my role, I will strive to strengthen our AAP professional and student staff community with critical care. I also hope to enhance campus partnerships to increase collaborative resources for our AAP scholars.



AAP Staff Promotions



FAYE TESORO

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PEER LEARNING



Please share a little about yourself and your educational background.

I was born and raised in Davao City, Philippines, and moved to the United States as a teenager. I earned my B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Cognitive Science from UCLA, where I was supported by the AAP community. As a first-generation and low-income college and graduate student, I've gone through the challenges of navigating the educational landscape. This experience motivated me to push boundaries and pursue an M.A. in Psychology at Cal State LA with research focusing on familial culture and relationships while working part-time as a lab manager in one of the Psychology Labs at UCLA.

As the Office Coordinator for GPS/McNair, what was your role in supporting BIPOC, first-generation students from low-income backgrounds?

In my previous role as the Office Coordinator for GPS/McNair, I had the privilege of supporting BIPOC, low-income, first-generation students in meaningful ways. I provided guidance and resources to AAP undergraduate students who are interested in exploring research and pursuing graduate school, while also assisting them with the application process for the various research cohort programs available through GPS/McNair. Additionally, I helped facilitate connections between AAP students and current graduate students at UCLA who served as mentors. This mentorship program provided valuable insights and encouragement while fostering a sense of community among students from similar backgrounds. It was a rewarding experience to be part of a team dedicated to empowering and uplifting BIPOC and first-generation students, ensuring they had access to the resources and support necessary for their academic success.

What are some of your goals in your new role as AAP Peer Learning Assistant Director?

In my new role, one of my primary goals is to assist in the expansion of our program by creating more opportunities for peer learning, ensuring students have access to the support they need. I also strive to be a strong advocate for our Peer Learning Facilitators and student workers, ensuring their voices are heard and their contributions recognized. Additionally, I am committed to fostering collaborations with other departments and organizations to build a supportive network that enhances our students' experience.



AAP Staff Promotions



TIM MAHLANZA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COUNSELING



Beginning May 1, 2024, Tim Mahlanza became the Assistant Director of AAP Counseling. As a native Angeleno, he is a proud AAP Bruin alumnus. Tim started his academic advising journey as an undergraduate student, working for the then-Orientation Program (New Student and Transitions Programs) as a New Student Advisor and Coordinator. For three years, Tim also served as a Peer Counselor for College Academic Counseling. He completed his bachelor's degree in Sociology with minors in Music History and LGBTQ Studies. The undergraduate counseling positions, along with his AAP Counseling appointments, are what led Tim to explore a professional career in higher education.

Tim's first full-time position in advising was in College Academic Counseling as a Student Affairs Assistant. He served in this role for 4 years before moving to the Chemistry and Biochemistry department as one of the undergraduate advisors. In 2017-18, he had the opportunity to serve on the Prizes and Donations Committee for the UC Academic Advisors Conference that UCLA hosted. After almost 10 years in the Chemistry and Biochemistry department, Tim was pleased to return to his undergraduate roots as an AAP College Counselor in 2020. In his return to AAP, it has brought great joy to work with AAP staff and students. He currently serves on a College committee and continues his lifelong passion for student advocacy.

As an AAP College Counselor, I had the privilege of working with our BIPOC students. For the past year, I had the opportunity to serve as the counselor liaison for AAP's VIPS program. I held weekly office hours in the VIPS office and had the chance to attend some of their events throughout the year.

My goal as Assistant Director is to empower both my team and our students. Together, the Counseling team continues to support the ongoing challenges and needs of our students. I also want to be a pillar of support to my Director, Vivian Salazar and our office coordinator, Jennifer Vasquez.

AAP Unit Updates

AAP COLLEGE COUNSELING



AAP College Counseling is available both in-person and virtually to help you with your UCLA journey. Appointments can be scheduled in one of the following ways:

- Stop by 1205 Campbell Hall, Mon. & Fri. 12pm-3pm; Tues.-Thurs. 10am-3pm
- Send us a Message Center request (MyUCLA>Ask A Question>AAP Counseling)
 - Please be sure to send us your availability for 2 weeks with your request
- Login to REACH Virtual Drop-In advising, Mon.-Fri. 11am-3pm; Tues.-Fri. 10am 3pm
 - Come Visit Us at REACH!!

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (GPS) EXPLORATION SERVICES

With an emphasis on social justice, equity, and representation, Graduate & Professional School (GPS) Exploration Services helps AAP students develop their interests, life experiences, and career competencies as they explore their post-baccalaureate goals.

GPS provides:

- Tools, services, and networks to challenge systemic and institutional racism as students engage in the world of work.
- Graduate Student mentors with similar experiences and knowledge to guide and support student's academic and career journey.
- Personalized undergraduate research opportunities to prepare students for graduate school or professional careers and programs.



PEER LEARNING



As we begin Fall quarter, we will continue to integrate AAP's Community of Care initiative into the Peer Learning Unit. AAP services including peer learning will offer in-person sessions unless otherwise noted. We know that peer learning is an important support service for many of our scholars and we are working hard to continue to support you as much as possible. We will be using Campbell Hall for all in-person peer learning sessions during Fall 2024. We will continue to provide the AAP community with the support needed while maintaining safe and productive workspaces.

RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

The Research, Assessment and Evaluation (RAE) unit maintains data on the Academic Advancement Program and AAP students while designing and implementing assessments and evaluations that examine their progress and outcomes. AAP RAE also provides AAP students with the opportunity to engage independently and collaboratively with institutional research projects that can inform real world practices and decision-making within the program from data cleaning, coding, and visualization to analyses and report writing. Learn more about how to get involved under the Join Our Team tab.



VICE PROVOST INITIATIVE FOR PRE-COLLEGE SCHOLARS UCLA's Vice-Provost's Initiative for Pre-College Scholars (VIPS) Program was established in



UCLA's Vice-Provost's Initiative for Pre-College Scholars (VIPS) Program was established in 2005 in collaboration with key stakeholders at UCLA in response to the declining number of underrepresented students admitted to and enrolled at competitive four-year universities. VIPS is a partnership between UCLA and the Los Angeles and Pasadena school districts that prepares historically underrepresented students in 11 high schools to become competitively eligible for admission to UCLA and other flagship universities, and to encourage pursuit of graduate and professional education using a social justice framework and holistic approach.

AAP Unit Updates AAP COUNSELING

HOW TO CONTACT

AAP COUNSELING FALL 2024

Academic inquiries & appointment scheduling

COUNSELING HUB

[In-Person] @ **1205 Campbell Hall Mon & Fri 12-3pm**

Tues - Thur: 10 am - 3 pm



MESSAGE CENTER

General academic questions or request for advising appointment



VIRTUAL REACH DROP-IN

[on ZOOM] IO mins Drop-In Advising

Mon - Fri: 10 am - 3 pm



Scan to Join the Zoom!

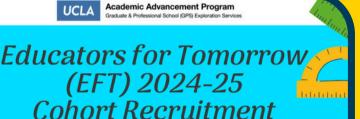




AAP Unit Updates

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (GPS) EXPLORATION SERVICES





Interested in graduate school? Want to pursue a career in higher education or k-12 teaching/adminstration?

Join us for an info session:

Oct. 25th 12:00pm-1:00pm Nov. 7th 10:00am-11:00am Nov. 15th 2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/EFT-Info-Sessions

To apply, visit: tinyurl.com/EFT-General-Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Monday, Nov. 18th, 2024 at 11:59pm.

Questions? Contact amasei@college.ucla.edu



AAP Unit Updates

MCNAIR

2024 UCLA NATIONAL MCNAIR CONFERENCE







Over 350 McNair scholars and staff from across the country gathered at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center for the 2024 UCLA National McNair Conference, held from July 24 to July 26, 2024. Scholars presented their research, participated in a book talk with Is Grad School for Me? authors Drs. Yvette Martinez-Vu and Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, and networked with over 50 graduate and professional school recruiters at the Graduate Opportunities Fair. Additionally, scholars had the opportunity to visit CalTech, USC, and UCLA's beautiful campus. The Conference wrapped with a trip to the Hollywood Bowl to enjoy the musical performances by Masego and the legendary Chaka Khan.

AAP Unit Updates PEER LEARNING

WE ARE HIRING!

Become a Peer Learning Facilitator



Apply now!



Overall GPA of 3.0+ in relevant courses & Math 33B Chem 140

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Qualifications:

- Understanding of the mission and vision of AAP Peer Learning Unit
- Completion of at least one full academic year preferred
- AAP members preferred

Psychology 110, 115, 120A

Math 33B, 131A, 115A

Chem 14C, 14CL, 20B

LS7B, LS7C

Physics 1A/C, 5A/B

PIC 10B, EPS SCI 15, ASTR 5

PRIORITY DEADLINE EXTENDED:

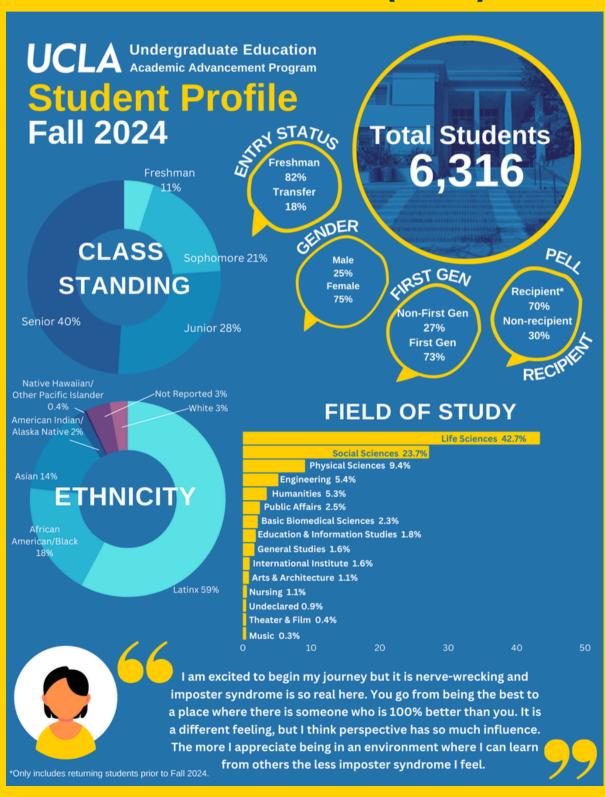
November 1st, 2024 at 11:59 pm

**Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Hourly Pay Rates \$20.95-\$26.91

AAP Unit Updates

RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION (RAE)



AAP HAPPENINGS





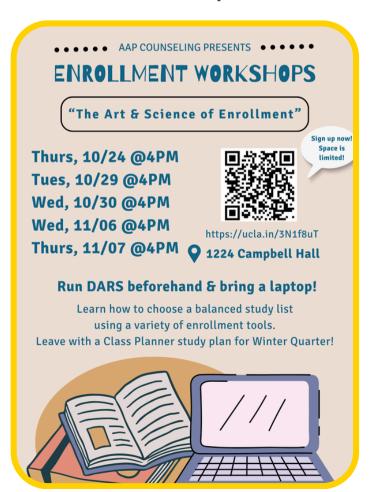


NOV HAPPENINGS

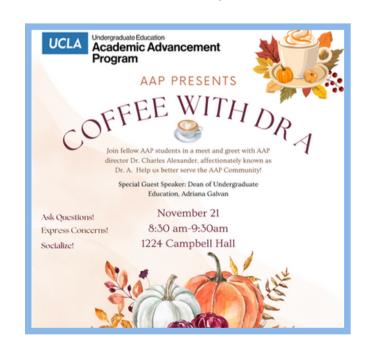


2024

AAP Counseling - Enrollment Workshops



Coffee with Dr. A November 21, 2024





AAP HAPPENINGS





NOV HAPPENINGS



2024

GPS LinkedIn Workshop Nov 6, 2024



McNair Application Workshops Nov 12 - 14, 2024





AAP HAPPENINGS





NOV HAPPENINGS



2024

GPS EFT Workshop Nov 7, 2024

Nov 15, 2024

Nov 6, 2024 Nov 14, 2024

Luskin Public Affairs Info Session

UCLA Academic Advancement Program
Graduate & Professional School (GPS) Exploration Service

Educators for Tomorrow (EFT) 2024-25 Cohort Recruitment

Interested in graduate school? Want to pursue a career in higher education or k-12 teaching/adminstration?

Join us for an info session:

Oct. 25th 12:00pm-1:00pm Nov. 7th 10:00am-11:00am Nov. 15th 2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/EFT-Info-Sessions

To apply, visit:

tinyurl.com/EFT-General-Application

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Questions? Contact amasei@college.ucla.edu



UCLA Undergraduate Program

PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAJOR INFORMATION **SESSION**

INFORMATION SESSION DATES

Session #1: November 6, 2024 at 1pm-2pm via Zoom Session #2: November 14, 2024 at 5pm-6pm at 4320 Public Affairs Building

Join us at the Public Affairs Major Information Session to learn about the B.A. in Public Affairs, major requirements, application process, and how Luskin supports your academic goals!

The information session is open to first- and second-year students who are interested in the Public Affairs major.

Scan the OR Code to RSVP



Learn more about the Public Affairs Major at luskin.ucla.edu/undergrad









DEC HAPPENINGS



2024

CalKids Claim your funded college savings account!



What is it?

CalKIDS is a program from the State of California that provides funds for all newborns and eligible low-income public school graduates attending college and career training.

Seed Deposit Newborns: \$100-\$175 Low income: \$500 Foster care: \$500 Unhoused: \$500

Who's eligible?

California public high school graduates: Class of '22, '23 & '24

Eligible students must meet one of the following standards*:

- Low income
- English Learners
- Foster YouthUnhoused
- Migratory

*Student eligibility is defined by the Local Control Funding Formula on Fall Census Day Oct 2021

> All California newborns born on or after July 1, 2022

How does it work?

To claim your account, visit CalKIDS.org
Students will need:

- County where student was enrolled
- Date of birth
- SSID Number*

*SSID can be obtained by contacting hig school or found in high school transcript

To use your funds, you must be:

- 17 to 26 years old
- Enrolled at an eligible college, university, technical, or vocational institution

Claim your funded college savings account today!

UCLA CalKIDS Institute uclacalkids@g.ucla.edu

Learn more at CalKIDS.org (888) 445-2377



Find us at

CAMPBELL HALL OR WWW.AAP.UCLA.EDU



Academic Advancement Program (AAP)

@aapucla

Graduate Professional School (GPS) & Exploration Services: @ucla_aapgps

McNair:

@ucla_mcnairscholar

Peer Counseling

@aap_peercounseling

Peer Learning:

@aappeerlearning

Research, Assessment & Evaluation:

@ucla_aaprae

Vice Provost's Initiative for Pre-College Scholars:

Othevipscholars





















Thank you for a great AAP summer!

















