A LIFELONG PIONEER of Higher and Continuing Education

SUCCESS with Plenty of Soul

Many Paths ONE DESTINATION

A More Intelligent FUTURE

Photo: UCI Campus

Summer quarter begins June 21
This is my last message to you in this quarterly magazine. I will be retiring on June 30th after 49 years in the University of California’s continuing education program.

My reflections on my career and the wonderful advances we have witnessed over the past half century are detailed in an article I have written which appears in this magazine. In this letter, I have the chance to express my feelings as I make this transition. Those feelings are dominated by an overwhelming sense of gratitude, toward our students, my colleagues, my university, and for the chances I have had to make a positive difference.

First, I thank you, our students. Without you, and the contributions to our society you make because of the learning you gain from your time with us, my career would mean nothing. In fact, I escaped the corporate world of concern over quarterly earnings and advancing shareholder value to find a new world of personal achievement through educational advancement. In the process I, like you, became a dedicated life-long learner (it took me fifteen years to gain my terminal degree), understanding the personal costs involved in making an investment of time and money in advancing my knowledge and skills. This empathy with those who we serve continues to inspire me.

Second, I thank the many colleagues, too many to mention here, who worked with me to achieve our goals. The major regret I have in leaving for retirement will be the daily absence of interactions I have with my colleagues.

Third, I thank the University of California, both Berkeley (27 years) and Irvine (22 years) for serving as a wonderful organization upon which so much of my life has been built. The benefits I derived from UC include not only a 49-year career and employment, but the meeting of my wife Maya (52 years ago, during the People’s Park riots at Berkeley), two degrees which shaped my thinking and approach to life, a wonderful place to live (University Hills on the UCI campus), and, of course, generous retirement benefits. What a privilege to work for such a huge force for good, justice, and equality!

I will miss so much as I leave my job, particularly the involvement in the wonderful changes I see coming for all of us for whom learning is a continuing part of our lives. I do however look forward to becoming much more of a consumer, rather than producer, of continuing education — to be able to direct my learning activities toward more self-sustaining understanding. So, I join all of you, once again, on the continuation of an amazing journey.

Sincerely

Gary W. Matkin, Ph.D.
Dean, Continuing Education
Vice Provost, Career Pathways
International Alumni Insights: Perspectives & Advice for Prospective Students

Instructor Q&A: Jesus Salcedo, Data Analytics

In the Words of a Graduate: Sam W. Girgis, Human Resources Management

Alumni Spotlight: Waheed Akberzie, Finding a Calling in Clinical Trials

Programming a Career in Python

Certificate Programs

CareerZOT Talk: 5 Tips to Break Down Barriers and Not Accept Limits

HOW TO enroll

Online: ce.uci.edu

Mail:
UCI Division of Continuing Education
Student Services Office
510 E Peltason Dr., Irvine, CA 92697

Download enrollment form at ce.uci.edu/enrollmentform. Please allow 7-10 days for your enrollment to be processed.

SUMMER 2022
Courses Begin: JUNE 21

FALL 2022
Registration Opens: JULY 14
Courses Begin: SEPTEMBER 19
Student Achievement Award winner and Business Administration graduate Melody Wang balances her career at City of Hope by writing poetry and co-hosting a podcast focused on creativity and healing.

Melody Wang navigates her life’s journey with the soul of a poet and the mission of a healer. Currently Research Operations Analyst at City of Hope, the DCE alumna followed in the footsteps of her father, who was a research scientist at the iconic Duarte medical center. All the while, she has kept her creative fires burning, as a poet with a published collection “Night-Blooming Cereus” and a new podcast “Create to Heal.”

Melody’s career at City of Hope began immediately after she graduated from UC San Diego, getting her degree a year early so she could move home to be with her father, who had been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. “I was grateful to start work at City of Hope where I had interned and where my father had been employed, which was 20 minutes away from where we lived,” she said.

The sensitive and compassionate care Melody’s father received while undergoing cancer treatment inspired her to go back to school. “My dad had been through rounds of surgery, radiation and chemo. During that time, his social worker really made a difference in my dad’s quality of life, especially in those last few months before he lost his battle.” Melody was so moved, she decided to enroll at USC to get a Master’s in Social Work to go with her B.A. in Sociology from UCSD.

Melody’s path eventually led to UCI where she expanded her skillset with a Business Administration certificate, earning a Student Achievement Award along the way. “I felt like I needed a new challenge, especially with the pandemic,” she said. “And I realized that business administration was something I’d love to delve more deeply into. What drew me to UCI and the certificate program was the well-rounded curriculum, which is both challenging and worthwhile in terms of transferable skills that would serve me well in business administration and other areas of my life.”

—Melody Wang, Business Administration program graduate

“Tell us about your experience with the program. What skills and knowledge did you acquire?”

This was a really stimulating program and I enjoyed every moment of it. The instructors were all knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and supportive. They covered many critical aspects of business administration including finance, marketing, leadership, management, human resources, and process optimization. I particularly enjoyed interacting with the instructors and fellow students in the group projects and discussion boards.

Everyone was respectful and it was encouraging to be in such an interesting space with like-minded people on similar
paths. I also appreciated that it was fully online, which allowed me to attend classes and complete homework on nights and weekends. I am fortunate to be at a company that truly supports personal growth and development, and this was one of the recommended programs.

**How did it feel to win a Student Achievement Award for your leadership, commitment to learning and other qualities?**

I felt very honored and humbled. I was nominated by one of my instructors, Janet Randolph, and I feel like I really benefited from her course modules, feedback on my assignments, and the stimulating discussions with colleagues. My personal favorite courses were Essentials of Management and Leadership and Fundamentals of Digital Marketing for Business and Administrators.

**What sort of impact did your certificate have on your career?**

I was able to immediately apply the skills I acquired in the program toward my day-to-day job. Shortly after I completed my certificate, I was promoted to Research Operations Analyst within my current department. I’m really enjoying learning different systems and supporting my department in this new capacity.

On a side note, earlier in the year my Business Director and Business Manager nominated me for a City of Hope VIA award in the category of “Service with a Sense of Urgency.” A couple of weeks ago, I got the news that I was selected as an honoree, and it felt really nice to be recognized.

**I understand you’ve held many positions at City of Hope.**

I’ve worked there for over 12 years, in several departments. Currently I’m working in the department of Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics. I handle the financial operations for our department, preparing, analyzing, and interpreting financial reports for all our budgets and expenses.

**Somehow you find time to co-host the “Create to Heal” podcast. Tell us about that.**

At the beginning of this year, my friend Patricia Varga and I were just brainstorming about how awesome it would be to have a safe space where we could have conversations from the heart and encourage each other and others in creative endeavors as we embark on our unique journeys of healing. We aim to use this podcast space to cultivate healing, creativity, and interview different guests from all walks of life. We always use poetry and creativity to engage audience participation as well.

**What inspired you to write “Night-Blooming Cereus”?**

These little poems are dear to me and touch upon themes of loss, trauma, grief — especially after my father’s passing and my own healing process. I have a soft spot in my heart for the night-blooming cereus and its gentle reminder of the brevity and sacredness of life. My mom has a few of these in her backyard garden and has always asked me to stay to watch them unfurl. Last summer was the first and only time I stayed to watch them blossom and it was magical.

**How does poetry enrich your life?**

Poetry has been an outlet for me from an early age. Each poem gives me something different, whether it is abstract expression, a way to excavate meaning from traumatic experiences in my life, or simply a way to remember and capture a certain moment in time.

It has made me realize that, ultimately, we are all interconnected, and there is value in realizing that one is never truly alone. As the spiritual teacher Ram Dass stated, “We are all just walking each other home.”

● [ce.uci.edu/busadmin](http://ce.uci.edu/busadmin)
Meet a Paralegal Program Graduate
Darlene Jones-Green shares her educational and career journey to becoming a successful Paralegal and now law student.

*ce.uci.edu/legal*

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*ce.uci.edu/transfer or see page 5.*

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- Construction Management Certificate
- Introductory English (Supplementary Authorization)
- Introductory Mathematics (Supplementary Authorization)
- Online Brewing Courses
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Your UCI DCE certificate qualifies for transfer credit toward a bachelor’s or master’s degree at our partner universities. Take advantage of the knowledge you’ve already earned toward that college degree you’ve always wanted. ce.uci.edu/transfer
Laureen Oldham, France
ACP Digital Marketing

Why did you choose to enroll in the Accelerated Certificate Program in Digital Marketing & Communications (ACP DMC)?
I wanted to learn more about this particular subject. I believe it is crucial for every marketer to understand the digital era we are living in. In addition to the academic aspect of it, I wanted to learn marketing from an American perspective.

What did you enjoy most about your experience in the program?
I really appreciated the time teachers were willing to give us to ask questions, interact with them and discuss class subjects or other matters. The courses were very qualitative. I learned a lot and I use that knowledge on a day-to-day basis.

What were the benefits to studying remotely?
Time! I had a lot of time to study, and because of this, when I didn’t really understand something or wanted to delve into the subject more deeply because I was passionate about it, I had time for discussions with other students and our instructors. I also really appreciated the fact that I could attend class anywhere in the world and wasn’t stuck in one place during the whole quarter.

How has the skills and knowledge you gained in the program supported your undergraduate studies?
I learned the basics of marketing and this program helped me understand those baselines but on a deeper level and from another perspective. Meaning that I graduated with more knowledge, more confidence, and a different way of seeing marketing and communications.

Any advice for prospective students who are considering studying at UCI DCE?
Engage as much as possible with teachers, students, and the UCI staff. It is a great way to enhance your experience and take full benefit from it. Participate in activities as much as you can, connect with people, ask questions, and share your knowledge and experience! Everyone will benefit from it! ☺️
Why did you choose to study at UCI Division of Continuing Education?

Well, before I chose to enroll at UCI DCE, I completed rigorous research on some of the best universities in the U.S. and EU, but what caught my attention was the program opportunities. I was able to enroll in two Accelerated Certificate Programs (ACPs), one in International Finance and one in Project Management and participate in an Internship Experience. This 9-month pathway also allowed me to apply for OPT, so I could work legally in the U.S. for up to one year in the area in which I studied, in this case, Project Management.

What did you enjoy most about your experience in ACP Project Management?

The opportunity to apply what I learned on a daily basis brought me the most joy. The opportunity to learn from experienced instructors who have excellent professional knowledge was a plus. As a Project Manager, leading cross-functional teams and sharing classes and assignments with students from all over the world gave me the confidence to perform global function technologies in any program or project.

What skills and knowledge did you gain from the program and Internship Experience, and how did these impact your career?

The Internship Experience showed me how to apply in-depth disciplinary knowledge contributing to the development of new techniques, and the improvement of process and workflow for IT and business in LATAM and the U.S. For example, I was able to lead, plan, execute, and track projects with analytical thinking and wisdom. I have now successfully managed programs and projects in finance, banking, and other industries, earning the distinction as a local expert who can interface with business and technology teams coordinating PMO, architecture, infrastructure, application engineering, SMEs, quality and production assurance teams world-wide to support project delivery and operations from C-levels to local LOBs.

You’ve been an active student ambassador for UCI DCE, communicating with prospective students and telling them about your experience. Can you tell us why you continue to give back in this way and what your connection to UCI means to you?

I believe that little acts can change the world! As an active student ambassador for UCI DCE, I have a chance to help people all over the world to choose their paths, changing their destinies for the better by improving their skills in the same way that I have changed mine.

You have a network of friends that you made while you studied at UCI. Can you tell us about some of those friendships and how they have enriched your life personally and/or professionally?

I have made some good friends from Brazil, China, Deutschland, France, Japan, Spain, U.S., and much more! UCI gave me the opportunity to meet all these people. Most importantly, this bond still exists today! All the connections I made during my time at UCI DCE enriches my ability to network by sharing professional experiences and opening my mind to what is happening in their countries.

ip.ce.uci.edu/acp
Q. Why did you decide to become an instructor?

A. When I obtained my degree in Psychometrics, I knew that my career would require three skills: analyzing data, reporting research findings, and presenting results. Of these three skills, my presentation skills were by far the weakest, so I decided to look for jobs that would force me to improve my presentation/teaching skills. My first job out of grad school was for the statistical software company SPSS. I worked as an Education Consultant and traveled around the country, teaching clients how to analyze data using SPSS products. It was through this experience that I discovered how much I love teaching and presenting information.

Q. What’s unique about your teaching style?

A. My dad was a chef, and he taught me that there are no bad foods, only bad cooks. For me, there are no difficult concepts, only disorganized teachers. As part of my education, I took many courses and seminars on how to teach. I followed these principles for the first part of my teaching career. Around 2006, I completely changed my teaching style because I knew I could do better. As a student, I was a different type of learner that took what an instructor taught, digested it, and then translated it back to myself in a way that was meaningful and useful – I try to do that for my students. The way I teach is through repetition and capitalizing on the ways that students learn (visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic). I also remove all the unnecessary fluff that creates confusion or the illusion that concepts are difficult.

Q. What’s your favorite lesson to teach and why?

A. I know we use computers to analyze data, and we will never again analyze data by hand. Yet I believe it is vital that students understand how algorithms work so that they can comprehend the intricacies behind predictions and how algorithms do their “magic.” Understanding the inner workings of algorithms also provides insights into why models breakdown, as well as identifying model limitations.

Q. What advice would you give to anyone interested in pursuing a career in data analytics?

A. Most people that go into data analytics focus on the sexy aspects of the profession, namely the algorithms. Although they are fun, the real creative and challenging aspect of data analysis lies in data preparation and manipulation. Here you can create new variables, answer important questions, and reconceptualize the meaning behind the data. Spending as much time as possible on how you can rethink variables so that you can extract that extra little bit of information is extremely valuable. Also I would say that dissecting the results and predictions from models to determine where they are most useful, where they breakdown, how they can be improved, and for whom they work best, is really, really imperative. I find that the seemingly insignificant tasks tend to be the most important.

“The way I teach is through repetition and capitalizing on the ways that students learn (visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic). I also remove all the unnecessary fluff that creates confusion or the illusion that concepts are difficult.”
By enrolling in **Concurrent Enrollment**, you can take advantage of a full catalog of UCI undergraduate and graduate courses without formal admission to the university, based on available space and permission of the course instructor and/or department. Courses carry university credit, may count toward a degree, and are taught by distinguished UCI faculty. Registration in Concurrent Enrollment does not constitute admission to UCI.

**Concurrent Enrollment is ideal for you if you are:**
- returning to school
- completing degree requirements from another college or university
- a high school student wanting to get a head start on college
- considering applying for admission to UCI
- preparing for graduate or professional school
- a lifelong learner

**When are Concurrent Enrollment classes offered?**
Concurrent Enrollment is offered during the fall, winter, and spring academic quarters.

**How many classes can I take?**
You may enroll in a maximum of 2 courses not to exceed 8 units per quarter. Students intending to transfer course credit to another college or university should first verify acceptance of the course at that institution.

**How do I obtain a UCI catalogue or schedule of classes?**
Course descriptions are listed in the UCI General Catalogue, online at catalogue.uci.edu. The schedule of classes can be viewed online at websoc.reg.uci.edu.

[ce.uci.edu/concurrent]
Artificial intelligence (AI) is about to get a lot smarter and far more ubiquitous, leading to a range of lucrative career opportunities. AI’s speed and capabilities have been limited by relying on cloud computing to run “computationally intensive” AI algorithms, sending large amounts of data to the cloud for processing and then back to the device.

“This back-and-forth communication, possibly over limited bandwidth links, reduces the speed at which an application can run,” Jannett said. “But embedded AI makes decisions locally, allowing a quicker response to local events so local decisions can be made much faster. It reduces or sometimes eliminates the need to send data to the cloud.”

The benefits are myriad. Along with faster response time and increased reliability and mobility, embedded AI can strengthen security and privacy. It also can lead to lower costs and allow for new, more powerful applications that are not feasible with cloud-based AI.

Robots will become much more interwoven in the fabric of everyday life, from smart automation in manufacturing to robots in last-mile delivery, potentially having a substantial impact on the supply chain. Advanced robotic systems, industrial as well as in the home, could use vision and hearing to evolve and learn more about managing their assigned tasks, Jannett said.

“Virtual assistants may make a significant transition from the voice-enabled digital assistants that we use on smartphones and smart speakers to new collaborative robots that can see, speak, understand our spoken intent and converse on a wide range of subjects, perhaps...
implemented as avatars. They may even talk with you while riding in your car. Imagine what can be done with an embedded AI supercomputer that is about the size of a coffee mug!"

**A career on the cutting edge**

The Developing Embedded AI Systems certificate program prepares students for success by providing all the tools needed to capitalize on this next major shift in AI technology. The curriculum is designed to expand career options for embedded systems professionals; software, data, and electrical engineers; data and computer scientists, and more.

Courses explore the specialized frameworks, technologies and platforms needed for creating a new generation of AI devices. Students get extensive hands-on experience investigating the advanced near real-time signal processing methods and machine learning (ML) models behind AI applications that process video, audio, and other signals.

"Students begin by studying TinyML, the field of applying ML technologies to embed AI in resource-constrained devices such as low-power micro-controllers," Jannett said. "Then they explore the features of new and highly specialized AI hardware that might be used in consumer electronics, along with compact embedded AI supercomputers that might be used in autonomous vehicles and robots."

Students gain a comprehensive background in deep-learning neural networks, programming in Python as well as C++ and C. In the program’s final course, students apply all the tools they have acquired to develop an actual prototype for an embedded AI application.

For professionals who want to take their knowledge and experience a step further, the Embedded Systems Engineering certificate program can be an excellent addition, providing a significant advantage for anyone who wants to master embedded AI.

"To work with embedded AI, it is important for professionals to be conversant with the ML approaches, workflows and deployment issues related to this field," Jannett said. "Embedded systems engineering skills are critical for developing and deploying embedded AI systems."

**An autonomous future**

Increasing demand is making it difficult for companies to find enough qualified candidates with the mix of essential skills needed to work in this field. More than 66,000 job openings in related fields were listed in the most recent annual EMSI survey, with more than 5% projected growth through 2029. Median annual compensation is $119,000, with highly experienced professionals earning up to $180,000 (Emsi Burning Glass – economicmodeling.com).

Expect demand to continue growing at an exponential pace, as the technology continues to evolve and expand its reach in the corporate world and at home. Embedded AI will become ubiquitous as products become smarter, more interconnected and, well, more human-like in nature.

There seems to be no limit to what this technology can eventually accomplish, becoming a part of our lives in ways we perhaps can’t envision in 2022.

"According to Jensen Huang, the CEO of NVIDIA corporation, in the future expect that everything that moves will be fully or partially autonomous," Jannett said. "And embedded AI will be a critical part of these systems."

**ce.uci.edu/embeddedAI**
Why did you choose UCI Division of Continuing Education’s HR Management certificate?

As I was looking to expand my knowledge in several areas related to business management and human resources, I chose the HR Management certificate because of its strong name, which is not only marketable to the employer but rigorous and creates a strong atmosphere of critical thinking, collaboration, and learning. I truly recommend UCI Continuing Education due to the strong alumni network and the ability it provides the student to build more tools to apply to the workplace. Human Resources is a very diverse field that is not only in high demand in the workplace but relies on practical application, not just theory. The program gave me these tools and allowed me to expand upon my understanding of business, both from a soft and hard skills perspective.

What did you enjoy most about your experience in the program?

The aspects I enjoyed most were the group projects and the ability to collaborate with the diverse student body, which allowed for a strong alumni connection and the opportunity to build long-term business relationships on LinkedIn. The applications of the group projects were not only beneficial to learning and applying in the workplace, but also strong building blocks for the graduate program I went on to complete at Azusa Pacific University in Organizational Development. I was able, based on the network I built at UCI, to leverage those contacts and build connections to help others get jobs and help me in the business that I ran.

What was your favorite course in the program, and why?

Although I have a bachelor’s degree in Business Management, and the Foundations of Management course was one of the best I’ve ever taken due to its focus on people development, organizational behavior, and even managerial accounting and analysis of systems, my favorite course was a tie between Compensation and Rewards Systems and Talent Acquisition, Management and Retention. In my experience, both are equally vital. The compensation course tied in statistics, finance and even economic concepts with benefit reward systems that are extremely important to the world of HR and finance. This allowed for the ability to utilize quantitative and qualitative methods of research. The talent acquisition course was equally as important due to the nature of recruiting, a fundamental area in HR. There were plenty of other courses in the program that were exceptional, such as Introduction to Employee Benefits and Leading Successful Organizational Change, but those two courses stood out to me the most in terms of application and educational enjoyment.

What impact did earning your HR Management certificate have on your career?

The program has made a huge impact, both from an academic perspective and career standpoint. First, I was able to connect with my fellow peers and all course instructors on LinkedIn. This allowed me to not only find positions but to help others to do the same, and I developed a strong connection by which I have gained credible mentorship. From an academic perspective, it allowed me to apply management and HR concepts in my graduate work and narrow down my area of focus and concentration. From a career standpoint, I was able to utilize my recruiting, training, and people development skills in the positions I’ve had since finishing my program. UCI Continuing Education’s HR Management certificate not only helps students land positions in the workplace, but it also expands their knowledge and understanding of the great field of human resources.
Your Gateway to Graduate Study

Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program
Two-year program designed for people who are interested in applying to health profession programs and are in need of science prerequisites and guidance. This program is particularly suited to people who are career-changers and non-science undergraduates. It gives students the necessary academic preparation and competitive advantage that can help them get accepted into medical school or other desired allied health program.

Post-Baccalaureate Program in Psychological Science
Designed for anyone with a bachelor’s degree (in any discipline) with an interest in pursuing a graduate degree and/or career advancement in psychology. This certificate program provides the opportunity to acquire foundational knowledge, research experience, and/or internship experience needed to make your graduate school application more competitive.

Post-Baccalaureate Programs
Learn about admission requirements, curriculum, and application deadlines at ce.uci.edu/postbacc
Paving a career path to help others, Waheed Akberzie is driven by his hope to find lifesaving therapies, which began with his DCE certificate.

When U.S. troops left Afghanistan last year, DCE graduate Waheed Akberzie and his family were more than just concerned spectators watching from home. They had left the country in the late '80s, when Waheed was only six months old, but they still had relatives living there — including one of Waheed’s cousins, with their wife and young child.

"People in Afghanistan are generally optimistic," Waheed said. "My cousin, like a lot of others, was convinced that once American troops left, their own army would be able to hold. That was the popular opinion, but we begged him to get out. We could see what was happening on TV. He had just bought a house, but we finally convinced him, and they left for Pakistan."

Waheed knows how fortunate he and his family are to have left the war-torn country when they did. He often thinks of how different his life would be if they had stayed. "I realize how blessed and lucky I’ve been to grow up in Southern California. It makes me feel very grateful to have the opportunities I’ve been given."

Full of gratitude and fueled by a desire to help others, Waheed’s American journey led him to pursue an education in Biotechnology, and eventually a career changing certificate in Clinical Trials: Medical Devices and Drug Development.

The certificate program helped open the door to his former job as a Clinical Logistics Coordinator at Kite Pharma. As a member of the Clinical Study Team, he earned valuable experience leading to his current role as a Clinical Trials Management Associate at Gilead Sciences, leading clinical trials and helping move potentially life-saving medications through the approval pipeline. Before enrolling with UCI, he had taken only one class in drug development while going for his B.S. in Biology at Cal State Channel Islands, but it inspired him to pursue the subject further.

"Without my DCE certificate I wouldn’t have my current position," he said. "Not only did the program satisfy one of two years of clinical research experience required by The Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) before sitting for their exam, but it also prepared me to pass the exam and move up to my new position at Gilead."

Giving back, moving forward
The first in his family to attend college, Waheed got a jumpstart on his journey with the help of Project ACCESO, a program at Cal State Channel Islands that was launched by Dr. Phil Hampton, one of the school’s professors, with the help of a $6 million grant. It helped provide two years of research experience at CSUCI and also allowed students to tutor underprivileged students in STEM subjects.

"Project ACCESO was everything for me," he said. "I got to work with students in local high schools and middle schools, teaching them how to design and print in 3D. We even had a competition to see who could make the most efficient windmill blades. It was so amazing to see them design and print their ideas on 3D printers."

The research experience provided by ACCESO led directly to Waheed’s first job at Thermo-Fisher Scientific at AMGEN, as a senior site specialist. The job fueled his interest in clinical research, and when a colleague joined UCI’s certificate program and landed a job at UCLA before even completing it, Waheed decided to follow suit.

"That got me into the UCI program which further inspired and stoked my love for clinical research, and led to a new role at Kite Pharma," Waheed said. "Both ingrained in me my love of working on clinical trials."

A career on the cutting edge
The Clinical Trials: Medical Device and Drug Development certificate program fills a growing need for researchers who
can design and implement successful clinical trials to move innovative medicines and devices forward through the FDA pipeline.

It provides a strong foundation in managing, coordinating, and monitoring clinical trials in line with laws, regulatory requirements, and best clinical practices. It also can prepare students like Waheed to take and pass the SOCRA exam to become a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP®).

"Without UCI I wouldn't have gotten my job at Kite which started me on my trajectory in the clinical world and towards my CCRP®," Waheed said. "It's a prestigious designation, and just qualifying to sit for the exam helped support obtaining my current position at Gilead. Vetting is a big part of getting hired in this field; companies like Gilead need to know you have the chops, and the DCE certificate is a very robust way to demonstrate that."

Waheed was especially impressed with the small class sizes and opportunities to interact one-on-one with the instructors. "The Regulatory Requirements and Clinical Data Management courses were among my favorites," he added. "I was also attracted to the flexible schedule. Students can advance in the program at their own pace; since I worked full-time, I took one course a quarter."

Shortly before he received his CCRP® designation he successfully obtained his current position at Gilead, leading clinical study teams, generating study plans, making sure milestones are met, helping select academic sites for studies, and ensuring the trials are properly executed, among other duties.

"I love my day-to-day work and support of different patients on many different trials, all trying to find the next great therapy and cure."

Waheed plans to continue learning and advancing in the field, while staying true to his roots and giving back to the next generation. He still drives to Oxnard from his home in Thousand Oaks to volunteer with the CSUCI-sponsored Science Carnival, an event that promotes STEM subjects and higher education.

"Not only did the program satisfy one of two years of clinical research experience required by The Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) before sitting for their exam, but it also prepared me to pass the exam and move up to my new position at Gilead."

− Waheed Akberzie, Clinical Trials Program Graduate

“The Science Carnival is a great event,” he said. “Students and alumni man activities and experiments, helping kids make perfume, bath bombs, collecting strawberry DNA, and so forth. The purpose is to inspire young students in the area into the STEM field and hopefully college, as they’re surrounded by college students and professors at the event. I’m honored to help.”

− ce.uci.edu/clinicaltrials
Thank you to our international partners!

Our successful growth and achievements are the direct result of our partnerships with educational agencies, universities, and organizations around the world. During these unprecedented times, our valuable partners held the crucial role of maintaining personal connections with our global student community—despite the challenges laid ahead of them. Their dedication and commitment to international student mobility has been a vital component in their academic success and career goals.

In recognition of their exemplary efforts, we would like to thank you, our partners, for your support and dedication to making our Mission come true every day for every student. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration and a bright and brilliant future together.

To find out more about how to become a partner, visit our Partner With Us page.
Program Benefits
• Discuss global esports issues and current trends.
• Understand developers, athletes, fans, sponsors, and media.
• Examine relationships in esports communities and understand how their different roles affect each other.
• Apply effective communication strategies and presentation tactics to specific esports scenarios.
• Learn essential components in the building, managing, and closing of esports related events and projects.
• Discover organizational structure, brand building, and promotion and funding opportunities.
• Program graduates get access to career resources through DCE Career Services to assist with resume writing, interview skills, job searches and one-on-one career advising.

Summer Courses
June 20-July 31, 2022
• Overview of Esports
• Esports Project Management: Live Events
• Esports Marketing
August 1-September 11, 2022
• Esports Operations
• Effective Communication in Esports

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A Lifelong Pioneer of Higher and Continuing Education

On June 30th I will retire, 49 years to the day that I began my career at the University of California in continuing education. I have been exceedingly lucky in my journey through this nearly half century, first for being associated with two great UC institutions, Berkeley and Irvine, and second because my career spanned the beginning of the second revolution in higher education.

The first revolution took place almost eight centuries ago, in 1440 with the invention of the printing press. For the first time in history there was an efficient way to capture the wisdom of the past and pass it down to future generations—each adding to the store of knowledge.

The second revolution began in the early 1990s with the adoption of internet technology and digitization by higher education. Today, this technology has been integrated in higher education, so naturally, that we forget how short a time this second revolution happened.

My experience with this second revolution began in 1994 when the Sloan Foundation approached UC Berkeley Extension with the first of over $2 million in support to launch online education. By today’s standards those first online courses, offered by AOL, were a bit primitive, based simply on the transmission of learning via a new channel.

Over the years, online education began to change teaching and learning at its very core, with the introduction of learning assets not available to classroom-based instruction. At first, I was a bit scared of the new technology, but soon saw amazing possibilities for it, particularly for continuing education students—a population always pressed by time and place restrictions. Suddenly, those restrictions were removed by a very efficient delivery system.

I brought my enthusiasm for online instruction to UCI in March of 2000, and almost immediately, was granted an amazing opportunity—to help build an online degree program with UCI’s department of Criminology, Law, and Society. Then Executive Vice Chancellor, Michael Gottfredson, allocated $500,000 to allow us to build the courses. This became the first online degree in the UC system and is now the top-rated online degree in criminology. With that start, we began conversion of our courses to online delivery. By the start of the COVID pandemic, about 70 percent of our courses were offered online.

Online education for UCI degree students started when I was director of Summer Session. With the approval of the academic senate, we began to put UCI degree courses online in the Summer and, over about three years, demonstrated to the senate that online delivery is a valid method. Eventually UCI led the UC system in offering more online regular degree courses than all UC campuses combined.

The revolution continued with some very interesting developments—those that gained and sustained my interest over my time at UCI. The first was the advent of open education. In 2000, just after my arrival here, I met Marshal Smith and Cathy Casserly of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, who were interested in creating open online education. Over the next eight years, UCI received over $2 million from the Foundation to develop and study open education, including one of the earliest gifts the Foundation made, which was to sponsor a national convocation regarding open repositories, offered at UCI in 2001. Joining MIT and its efforts to place all its courses online for free, UCI developed its own OpenCourseWare website which today contains hundreds of UCI courses. We then joined forces with the Foundation and MIT to start the OCW Consortium (now the Open Education Consortium) which has grown to about 250 members in 44 countries. I was one of the founders of the consortium, working on its bylaws and serving as founding treasurer.

Gary W. Matkin, Ph.D.
It was through this association that I found new purpose in my career—a world in which everyone can learn anything, any time, any place, for free. One example of a step toward this goal is the offering of 17 UCI degree chemistry courses on YouTube, available to anyone having access to the internet. Over 60,000 students visit our open chemistry courses on YouTube per month.

One of the most exciting and beneficial developments in the second revolution was the advent of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). First offered by Stanford in 2011, these free courses attracted thousands of students. By mid-2012, UCI partnered with Coursera, the largest provider of MOOCs in the world. We offered six courses on Coursera in January 2013. Today we have over 175 courses on Coursera and are one of their top five university partners (out of a total of 350). Since 2013, UCI courses on Coursera have attracted over 4 million learners, with over 1 million completing the courses, about 70 percent of which are outside the U.S.

The second development now emerging in the second revolution, and one not yet well understood, is the advent of digital credentialing, sometimes called badges. Digital credentialing allows universities to verify workplace relevant competencies for students, in a way that a transcript cannot. Students control the distribution of their earned badges and can place them on resumes, LinkedIn accounts, or anywhere that accepts a digital file. Of course, this benefits students who have a credible third party (the university) certifying their job-related skills. It has also proven to improve pedagogy—courses with badges embedded in them see higher rates of student engagement. Further, it reinforces university commitment to relevance in its educational offering—an important demonstration as students and parents weigh the cost of education against its benefits.

The digital credentialing movement will have great significance in maintaining university reputations, worldwide. We have just developed a Digital Credentialing Center, authorized by the provost, with oversight from our faculty. To date, about 7,000 badges have been created with a remarkably high percentage being shared by students on other sites. UCI is a leader in creating an institution-wide approach to digital credentialing, and our division has been the initiator and will be the administrator of campus-wide badging.

It was through this association that I found new purpose in my career—a world in which everyone can learn anything, any time, any place, for free. One example of a step toward this goal is the offering of 17 UCI degree chemistry courses on YouTube, available to anyone having access to the internet. Over 60,000 students visit our open chemistry courses on YouTube per month.

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The second revolution has energized me and kept me in my career for all these years. I am sad to be leaving now, as the second revolution continues to unfold. I am as excited as ever about the future of teaching and learning in our society. I am departing with anticipation of wonderful new advances toward my goal of free and open learning for all and expect to benefit personally from the advances as I continue to learn in retirement.
Many paths one destination

Graduate Justin Lim pursued several career paths on his way to becoming a Certified Professional Contract Manager™.

Contract management might not sound as exciting as some higher-profile careers. Many newly minted grads and aspiring business professionals may not be aware of it at all. But when you consider the advantages — high demand and career prospects across multiple fields, to name a couple — it starts to look downright attractive.

In fact, contract managers (CMs) are rock stars in their organizations, interfacing with multiple departments from marketing to finance, legal to HR, creating and negotiating contract and procurement strategies on the buying and selling side that can streamline operations, potentially saving companies millions of dollars.

Far from a dry routine of paper-pushing, contract management requires a great deal of innovation and on-the-fly strategizing, said Justin Lim, Contract Management Program Graduate and current Subcontracts and Commodity Manager in the Strategic Sourcing team at Parker Aerospace - Military Flight Control Division in Irvine.

“A contract manager is the one who executes leadership within an organization to resolve business problems from a contractual perspective,” Lim said. “The position does require a good deal of innovation and creativity. With contracting, there are some cases that are similar, but every situation is in fact different. Every case has its own uniqueness, so a one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t work.”

Contract managers are invaluable assets to their organizations, and with a large percentage of current CMs due to retire soon, demand has never been higher. Consider that nearly 480,000 open positions were listed in the most recent EMSI survey, with about 10% annual growth projected through 2029 (Emsi Burning Glass – economicmodeling.com).

“We definitely need more talented contract managers,” Lim said. “The demand has always exceeded and will continue to exceed the supply. So many CMs come from the Baby Boomer generation and are beginning to retire, so the job market will continue to accelerate.”

An eclectic skillset

There’s no single roadmap to a career in contract management. In fact, blazing your own trail can be an advantage, but some basic hard and soft skills are essential. According to the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), the position requires effective writing and interpersonal communication, strong customer service, business acumen and human relations.

“Getting a solid foundation in a range of proficiencies is important for succeeding as a contract manager,” Lim said. “And in the end, it’s important to find a program that ties it all together.”

Contract managers come from a range of backgrounds; a degree in law, finance or accounting can be especially helpful, Lim said, but not necessary.

“Definitely a background in contract law and finance can be helpful for contract management, but there are many paths to a successful career,” he added. “My undergraduate major was economics, and I loved my major, but I wouldn’t say it’s the most advantageous for a career in contract management. You should take any challenging subjects which can give you opportunities to think outside the box and come up with creative business solutions.”

Once established, CMs can easily transfer their expertise from one industry to another, anything from military and government agencies to multinational corporations, small businesses and even nonprofits.

One man’s journey

Inspired by his father, a pro basketball player and coach
in South Korea, Lim initially decided to major in physical education at Korea University. After his sophomore year, he joined the country’s army for a mandatory 26-month term, then decided to travel abroad following his discharge. “I wanted to see the world and explore different cultures, so I moved to the U.K. for nine months and had a great experience, made a lot of friends. After that I went back to Korea and started thinking about my future. That’s when I decided to transfer to University of Hawaii and shift my major to economics with interests in international trade and finance.”

After graduation he returned to Korea and met his future wife, who grew up in Calabasas. The two of them later made their way to Orange County.

Newly resettled, Lim found work in procurement and subcontracting, but he always intended to develop his expertise in contract management with a program providing applicable theoretical and practical training. When the COVID pandemic shut down the world, he felt the time was right to make a move, and he chose UCI’s Contract Management certificate program.

“I decided to invest my time during lockdown developing a strong foundation of contract management knowledge,” Lim said, “My company suggested that the UCI program would be a great option. Based on my research and our company’s recommendation, I started class in spring 2020.”

To realize his goals, Lim felt he needed to augment his education with certification from the NCMA, a highly valued credential that puts qualified candidates at the front of the pack. After completing the program, he was armed with enough credits to take, and pass, NCMA’s Certified Professional Contract Manager™️ (CPCM) exam.

“CPCM certification™️ shows that a contract manager has a great passion and seriousness for their work,” he said, “I think it’s a great career foundation for anyone with a four-year undergraduate degree who wants to pursue this career more seriously. The NCMA holds many events and seminars, so it also provides great opportunities to network and make connections.”

Certified success
Providing a comprehensive path to this lucrative career, the Contract Management certificate program addresses the core competencies and subject matter recognized in the NCMA Contract Management Body of Knowledge (CMBOK), the bible of the industry. This includes contract formation, negotiation, financial analysis, and risk management.

Coursework covers the latest advances in commercial and government sectors, including innovative approaches to international business. Students get a solid background in managing federal contracts, strategic alliances, global outsourcing and more. And course credits can be applied toward the CPCM exam.

“I think UCI offers a well-structured contract management program,” Lim said, “All my instructors were more than willing to help and were very responsive to any questions students asked. I highly recommend the program for anyone who is interested in contract management, or even contract professionals who want to advance their careers.”

● ce.uci.edu/cm

“We definitely need more talented contract managers. The demand has always exceeded and will continue to exceed the supply.”

– Justin Lim, Contract Management Program Graduate
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For additional information please contact Tanya Zabalegui, Liaison for Corporate Engagement & Partnerships, at tanyaz@uci.edu

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**June 24** – Dr. Joshua N. Weiss is the co-founder of the Global Negotiation Initiative at Harvard University and a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Negotiation Project.

  
  This unique book will reveal exactly how to negotiate effectively and productively by changing your approach to negotiation by learning key strategies and techniques from real world examples.

**July 29** – Nada Lena Nasserdeen is the founder and CEO of Rise Up For You, Leadership and Career Confidence Coach, #1 Best Selling Author, and a 2x TEDx Motivational Speaker.

- **Book:** *Closing the Gap Between You and Your Potential*
  
  In this inspiring and empowering book, Neda draws personal life-changing experiences and professional experiences as a past international performer, executive, educator, and now entrepreneur to show how we can close the gap between ourselves and our untapped potential.

**August 26** – Michael Houlihan & Bonnie Harvey, Founders of Barefoot Wines, authors and founders of Business Audio Theater

- **Book:** *The Barefoot Spirit: How Hardship, Hustle, and Heart Built America’s #1 Wine Brands*

  Barefoot Wines creators had no money or experience when they started the company, but they made up for that with creativity, resourcefulness, guts, and grit. By the time they sold the brand, they had helped transform the wine industry.
Mastering the most popular and versatile programming language can open the door to a lucrative career in the tech sector.

While the digital revolution has rewired and upgraded nearly every aspect of modern life, it has barely scratched the surface of what's possible. A new wave of nascent and future-forward applications is taking tech to a whole new level, turbo-charging demand for skilled programmers across a spectrum of disciplines — and at the center of it all is Python, the hottest and most accessible coding language in the U.S.

Python has jumped past Java and JavaScript as the most in-demand language for 2022, according to CodingNomads, a California-based tech education company that analyzed thousands of job postings. By all accounts it will dominate the tech sector for decades to come.

The open-source and highly versatile programming language is used in a wide range of advanced applications including high-demand fields such as data science, artificial intelligence, software engineering, machine learning and predictive analytics. Learning Python is a key entry point for new programmers looking to stake their claim in the world of tech.

"Python was written to be beautiful, simple and useful," said William Henry, instructor for the Python for Data Science, Web and Core Programming certificate program. "That's why it has become so popular. It can be used widely, and as more people use it, the more in demand it becomes — there is a snowball and network effect. It's also relatively easy to learn which means it is a great first language for those that are new to programming."

Python has a very large user base, with ongoing updates and support across many industries. And it can open doors to applications that are written in other programming languages. The most popular data science and machine learning programs, for instance, are written in the more complex C++ or C, but Python is the language used most for accessing their database libraries.

"Think of it like driving a car," Henry said. "The engine may be written in C, but the controls are written in Python. Because of this, Python is probably the most popular language used in machine learning, data science and analytics. It's also a very popular language for web applications. The only time I wouldn't recommend it as a first programming language is if you knew you wanted a career as a front-end developer."

Front-end developers, such as web designers, will primarily need to be fluent in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, so it's best to learn those first. Henry pointed out that Python is used on the server side and can power the back end of a web app.

Learning from the ground up
Intended for new programmers as well as current professionals, the program gives students a solid foundation in Python concepts and styles, including data structures, processing, databases, and networked application program interfaces. Students can choose a final specialized course in either Python for Data Analytics/Data Science or Accessing Web Data with Python.

"Python was written to be beautiful, simple and useful. It's also relatively easy to learn which means it is a great first language for those that are new to programming."

— William Henry, Python for Data Science, Web and Core Programming instructor
“Students in the program learn Python from the ground up,” Henry said. “They complete the program with solid understanding of Python, which will prepare them for the continual self-learning that is required to excel in the field, and they will have been introduced, via hands-on work, to applications such as data science and web frameworks.”

The program, which takes 9 to 15 months to complete, can prepare students for success in a range of fields and applications. “Python programmers are needed in software engineering, full-stack development, data science — just about every tech field you can think of.”

Demand for Python programmers is soaring. For example, there were nearly 1 million annual job openings for software developers listed in the most recent labor market data available from Emsi Burning Glass, with more than 27% growth projected through 2029. Median annual salary is $103,000, upward of $160,000 for highly experienced professionals.

Navigating a path with Python

Henry stresses that Python programmers need to build specialized skillsets in the field or fields they’re interested in. Python and other programming languages are always applied to a specific discipline, and Python is sort of a universal language that translates to a multitude of opportunities.

“If you want to work in, say, machine learning, it’s not enough to just know Python,” Henry said. “To build a career in this field you’ll need to learn about math, algorithms, machine learning workflow and other elements. Having said that, Python can be your primary language in many other languages. Keep in mind that technology moves fast, so it’s important to always keep learning, on the job and with courses.”

For those interested in building a career in data science, a background in computer science, statistics or math would be most beneficial. There are many continuing education courses specific to web apps that cover both front- and back-end; these can be highly beneficial for a career in full-stack web development or design. For core programming, it’s good to learn Java or any programming language that complements Python proficiency.

New Python programmers — even absolute beginners — shouldn’t be intimidated by the career path stretching before them. After all, as Henry points out, the tech world moves at a breakneck pace, but the same might be said of career advancement. Take his path, for instance. Henry didn’t start programming until he was in an Applied Mathematics graduate program.

“I was intimidated at that time, but looking back, that seems ridiculous,” he said. The first language he learned was MATLAB, a programming platform designed for engineers and scientists to analyze and design systems and products.

“I used MATLAB at my first job and then learned Python when I started working at the Naval Research Lab in Monterey as a contractor around 2014. Fast forward eight years. I’m now the technical director and co-founder of Elate and have been the primary full-stack developer for the company.”

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Python is a popular programming language that is fast, free, easy to use, and runs on all major hardware platforms. Learn the language of choice for high-demand job fields such as data science, machine learning, predictive analytics, big data, and web analytics.

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- Post-Baccalaureate Premedical
- Post-Baccalaureate in Psychological Science
- Water-Energy Nexus Certificate
Breaking down barriers is a challenge that surrounds us, in all aspects of our lives. And that carries over into the workplace.

Barrier breaking should not be about staying in your lane or being something that the world expects you to be. The world puts differences in a box because the world wants us to fit in, but why are we forced to fit into it?

Breaking barriers is an uphill battle, and it does not guarantee big wins or uber success. But this uphill battle is worth the effort because it will allow you to look for hope and optimism.

Here are 5 ways to break down barriers and not accept limitations.

1 **Unite People and Find Commonality**
   There is a commonality that can be rebuilt and reestablished in the office—especially as we return to work. Commonality encourages people to bring their perspectives to the table, so that business growth and success is based on collaboration, innovation, and creativity.

2 **Learn to Win—and Accept a Loss**
   Winning drives us to be strategic, competitive, and thought-provoking. But there is a flip side to be considered and accepted. We can’t always win, and we cannot be discouraged by the fear of loss. Loss brings knowledge, allows us to face obstacles, and to learn to get up, even when we do not want to.

3 **Empower Yourself and Those Around You**
   Empowerment and engagement are crucial foundational elements that can lead staff to greatness. People do not want to be a number or be told what to do. They want to contribute, they want a say, and to understand how their destiny fits into the fabric of the organization.

4 **Focus on Listening**
   We put up barriers when we feel like we don’t have a voice. As leaders and peers, we must listen to each other. The act of listening is where the magic comes from. Listening is our best chance at success, because all the talk in the world is not going to move the needle.

5 **Live in the Moment but Plan for What is Next**
   Although we do need to be mindful and stay in the moment, we also need to base our inspiration on the promise of what is next. That determination should drive us – whether that is to become an entrepreneur or to support your organization.

“There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect.”

Ronald Reagan
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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCI Division of Continuing Education (OLLI at UCI) is a community of learning explorers who seek to engage our minds and enrich our lives through education. We are a member-led organization with a mission to provide the most meaningful learning experience possible – because we are passionate and active knowledge seekers just like you!

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Upcoming Free Events

Instructional Design: Career Pathways & Trends in a Thriving Industry
Wednesday, April 27
11am-12pm (PDT)

Live-Onlne ACT/SAT Strategy Workshop
Tuesday, May 3, 6-7pm (PDT)
Thursday, June 2, 6-7pm (PDT)

Live-Onlne GRE Strategy Workshop
Tuesday, May 3, 6-7pm (PDT)
Wednesday, May 25, 6-7pm (PDT)

TEFL Workshop: Tips for English Teachers
Friday, May 13
4-5pm (PDT)

Live-Onlne GMAT Strategy Workshop
Thursday, May 19
6-7pm (PDT)

Paralegal Career and Program Information Session
Wednesday, June 8
6:30-7:30pm (PDT)

Contract Management Career and Program Information Session
Thursday, June 9
11am-12pm (PDT)

Live-Onlne LSAT Strategy Workshop
Thursday, June 9
6-7pm (PDT)

ESL Lesson: Improving Your English
Friday, June 10
4-5pm (PDT)

Summer Book Club – The Book of Real-World Negotiations
Friday, June 24, 12-1pm (PDT)

Summer Book Club – Closing the Gap Between You and Your Potential
Friday, July 29, 12-1pm (PDT)

Summer Book Club – The Barefoot Spirit: How Hardship, Hustle, and Heart Built America’s #1 Wine Brand
Friday, August 26, 12-1pm (PDT)

ci.uc.edu/events