

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics

Program Title:

Umoja Scholars

Program Status:

Active from 2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)

Department:

English

Award Type:

Certificate of Achievement (Credit)

Program/Catalog Description

The Umoja Scholars program assists in the academic, personal, and professional development of each student introduced to the UMOJA community. The program’s purpose is to enhance navigational, social, and cultural capital for UMOJA students in support of increasing the success, retention, persistence, and transfer rates of UMOJA students at every intersection. The UMOJA Scholars program facilitates meaningful experiences that pave the way for academic excellence and community engagement. Students follow a pathway grounded in pedagogical approaches that target the participation and illumination students who value an awareness of the connectedness to the African and African American Diaspora.

Control Number:

45959

Credential ID:

No value

Transferability:

No value

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

0801.00

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

Education, General (Pre-Professional) (Transfer)

(SP02) Student Program Award:

Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units

Maximum Credits:

18

Minimum Credits:

17

Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

12/11/2025

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

01/13/2026

External Review Approval Date:

01/13/2026

Proposal Details

Proposal Start:

2026-2027 Fall (2026FA)

What changes have been made to the program:

No value

Program Justification:

The Umoja Certificate of Achievement is being created so that Umoja students who complete Umoja-fied courses can receive an official credential recognizing their academic work and participation in the program. This certificate formally acknowledges completion of the Umoja pathway and supports students’ transfer, success, and academic achievement.

Submission Rationale

• New Program

Program Requirements	
Required CORE (Total 17-18) Complete all of the following	
ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing	4
ENGLC1001 - Critical Thinking and Writing	3
COMMC1000 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
UMJ200 - Umoja Capstone	1
Take one of the following (Total 3-4) Complete the following number of credits: 3-4	
MAT108 - Liberal Arts Mathematics	3
MAT110 - College Algebra	4
MAT130 - Finite Mathematics	3
STATC1000 - Introduction to Statistics	4
PSY155 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences	3
Take one of the following (Total 3) Complete the following number of credits: 3	
ETH101 - Introduction to Ethnic Studies	3
ETH210 - Introduction to Mexican American Studies	3

Recommended Sequences
No value

Program Outcomes	
Umoja Scholars	
PSLO	Performance
Demonstrate an understanding of the Umoja pillars.	70
Demonstrate an understanding of the African diaspora and its social, cultural, and historical significance.	70
Develop leadership and community engagement skills.	70

Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

Goal: The goal of the Umoja Scholars Certificate of Achievement is to formally recognize students who have completed a lower-division general education pattern aligned with transfer admission requirements for both the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems while demonstrating an understanding of the Umoja Community pillars.

Objectives:

1. Increase the number of students participating in the Umoja Campus Program.
2. Improve course success rate for Umoja students including transfer level English and math.
3. Decrease the average units to degree completion for Umoja students.
4. Decrease the average units to Increase the number of Umoja students transferring to public and/or private four-year institutions.
5. Increase the number of Umoja students that earn degrees and/or certificates.
6. Develop leadership and strengthen community engagement skills.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The Umoja Scholars program assists in the academic, personal, and professional development of each student introduced to the UMOJA community. The program's purpose is to enhance navigational, social, and cultural capital for UMOJA students in support of increasing the success, retention, persistence, and transfer rates of UMOJA students at every intersection. The UMOJA Scholars program facilitates meaningful experiences that pave the way for academic excellence and community engagement. Students follow a pathway grounded in pedagogical approaches that target the participation and illumination students who value an awareness of the connectedness to the African and African American Diaspora.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

Students must complete **17–18 units** from the following required coursework:

Required Courses

- **ENGL C1000 – Academic Reading and Writing (4 units)**
- **ENGL C1001 – Critical Thinking and Writing (3 units)**
- **COMM C1000 – Introduction to Public Speaking (3 units)**
- **One Cal-GETC Area 2 course (3–4 units)**
 - MAT 108, MAT 110, MAT 130, STAT C1000, or PSY 155
- **One Cal-GETC Area 6 course (3 units)**
 - ETH 101 *or* ETH 210
- **UMJ 200 – Umoja Capstone (1 unit)**

Minimum Grade Requirement

Students must earn a **“C” or better** (or “P,” if equivalent) in each required course.

Recommended Sequence

Fall Semester (10–11 units)

- ENGL C1000 – Academic Reading and Writing (4 units)
- COMM C1000 – Introduction to Public Speaking (3 units)
- One Cal-GETC Area 2 course (3–4 units)

Spring Semester (7 units)

- ENGL C1001 – Critical Thinking and Writing (3 units)
- ETH 101 *or* ETH 210 (3 units)
- UMJ 200 – Umoja Capstone (1 unit)

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning

The Umoja Scholars Certificate supports statewide transfer and articulation goals and aligns with California's master plan for higher education by increasing student preparedness for transfer to the UC and CSU systems. This certificate ensures that students who participate are demonstrating an understanding of key equity issues such as those represented in Vision 2030. Offering the certificate also enhances student success tracking and institutional accountability within statewide initiatives such as the Vision 2030 and Guided Pathways.

Narrative Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

2026/27: 20 to 25 enrollment, 10 completions

2027/28: 30 to 40 enrollment, 25 completions

2028/29: 50+ enrollment, 30 completions*

We have a three-year plan. We will begin with local learners and then scale to include incarcerated students. We expect enrollment to steadily grow over the first three years.

Narrative Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

This program serves as a transfer preparation certificate within the college's academic offerings and is housed in the Communication, Arts and Languages Division which supports many general education courses. The certificate is distinct in that it does not prepare students for a specific occupation or major, but rather certifies completion of key general education requirements and personal growth and development through the Umoja pillars and community engagement.

Narrative Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

There are no other programs such as this. We are innovating!