

Introducing the Universal Encouragement Program

Guidance Assessment for Students in Middle School, High School, and Beyond

The Universal Encouragement Program (UEP)

The Universal Encouragement Program (UEP) is a *free* guidance assessment, reporting, and communication system for schools and education support programs. The UEP enables school counselors and education support professionals to collect key data on student interests, needs, experiences, and perceptions about their education and career development. The purpose of the assessments is to inform efforts to enable higher levels of academic success, educational attainment, and career development. Online questionnaires take 10-20 minutes to complete, and results are available immediately upon data submission. Guidance assessments enable counselors and education support professionals to

- Improve academic and career counseling
- Identify gaps in postsecondary and career preparation
- Identify students who are at-risk
- Reveal guidance programming needs and opportunities
- Indicate progress in meeting guidance objectives
- Convey information electronically to targeted groups of students

The program is available to schools and education support programs at no cost.

Assessment Forms

UEP assessment forms target students in grades 6-8 (Form 1), 9-12 (Form 2), and graduates and former students (Form 3). Students report

- Demographic information
- Education interests, experiences, and involvement
- Career interests and experiences
- Interest in guidance and academic services
- Risk factors and potential limitations

Assessment Reports to Focus Prevention and Intervention Efforts

Group reports aggregate student responses, providing counselors and other youth-serving professionals with detailed group portraits that inform and provide rationale for service-delivery, program development, and advocacy. Group reports may be used to compare student subgroups or to compare populations at different points in time. Individual reports summarize a student's academic strengths and weaknesses, education and career interests, planning experiences, and interest in specific guidance information and services. Individual student reports to parent/guardians foster informed parental involvement in supporting students' academic progress and education and career planning.

Factor-based group reports provide summaries of school disengagement indicators and characteristics associated with not continuing education and training beyond high school. The student involvement preferences report summarizes student interest in guidance programs and services. All factor-based reports enable electronic communication with targeted groups of students and their parents. Users may generate customized factor-based reports to identify specific target groups.

Career and Postsecondary Encouragement (CAPE) Network

Users of the assessments form the CAPE Network. Members of the network support the ongoing development of the assessment and reporting system on an advisory basis.

Registered users receive an authorizing code and password for their school or program permitting access to student forms and data reports on the web. Authorized users may view reports through use of a simple web tool. The UEP assures the security and confidentiality of student data and permits no unauthorized use or access to student data.

Register at www.capenetwork.org.

More information, including previews of the instruments and sample reports, is at www.capenetwork.org/docs.htm.

The CAPE Network Universal Encouragement Program is a product of [Encouragement Services, Inc.](#), a nonprofit corporation committed to college access and career development services. For more information, contact Scott Gillie, scott@esi.c, telephone: 812.876.5055.