

The Universal Encouragement Program

Universal 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, communications, and evaluation 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 academic 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 10-30 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
- Measure group and sub-group change over time

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

Customizable Assessment Forms

UEP assessment forms target students in grades 6-8 (Form 1), 9-12 (Form 2), and graduates and former students (Form 3). UEP administrators may delete questionnaire items and add items unique to the school or program. The UEP forms collect

- Demographic information
- Education interests, experiences, and involvement
- College readiness characteristics
- Career interests and experiences
- Interest in guidance and academic services
- Factors that affect chances for graduation, college continuation, college success, and career readiness

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 key benchmarks, risk factors, and characteristics associated with academic success and postsecondary participation. 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 (optionally) their parents/guardians. Users may generate customized factor-based reports to identify specific target groups.

Career and Postsecondary Encouragement (CAPE) Network

The CAPE Network is an online professional community of UEP users who are interested in guidance assessment and support the ongoing development of the Universal Encouragement Program. Community members receive updates about new features and planned enhancements. To join the community, go to www.capenetwork.groupsites.com/join.

Registration

Online registration takes only a few minutes. UEP registrants receive administrative privileges for their school or program permitting access to student forms and data reports on the web. Administrators may view reports, customize the assessment forms, and authorize other users to access their school or program data. Encouragement Services, Inc. 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.](http://www.ESI.org), a nonprofit corporation committed to improving college and career readiness. For more information, contact Scott Gillie, scott@esi.cc, telephone: 812.876.5055.