

Institutional Information

1) Institutional Information

The Universidad Central del Caribe (UCC) opened its doors in 1976. UCC was the first private medical school incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Currently, the UCC is a health-sciences university with fully accredited academic programs in Medicine and Chiropractic. And academic programs in Medical Images Technology, Biomedical Sciences and Substance Abuse Counseling. The UCC faculty members carry out extensive studies in basic and clinical biomedical research and provide specialized health care services.

Since 1976, UCC has been committed to providing educational opportunities to students and providing services to the communities where they live. Puerto Rico is home to a large number of Hispanic-Americans. In fact, of the roughly 62.9 million Hispanic Americans, 3.2 million (5%) live in Puerto Rico <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/PR>. The percentage of Puerto Ricans who obtain a college education is high. According to the Educational Attainment 2022 census, 27% of all Puerto Ricans have completed bachelor's degree.

UCC strives to provide students with excellent opportunities for advanced education. In 2009, UCC received authorization from the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education (PRCHE) to confer a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology, and in 2011 UCC received authorization to award a PhD in Neuroscience.

In 2018, the UCC received authorization from The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) to confer a Doctor of Chiropractic; this degree combines a solid foundation in basic sciences and clinical skills, together with an in-depth immersion into the evidence-based chiropractic field. What this new program, the UCC has become the first and only Chiropractic School in Puerto Rico.

Efforts to provide services to the underserved community

University students and faculty are engaged in a variety of events and organizations providing a broad range of activities to the community. Services to and activities or communities are organized into treatment services, health promotion events, and career orientation activities.

University students and faculty provide free health clinics where screenings for conditions and orientations promoting the prevention of health conditions for the community take place.

UCC students have organized interested groups dedicated to women and men health. These groups have been recognized for inspiring, nurturing, and sharing their knowledge with younger men and women who aspire to become health professionals. They also coordinate specific health events, for example, cardiovascular awareness events for women and prostate/testicular cancer events for men. The Urban Medicine student group has also been recognized for providing treatment to homeless in Puerto Rico and its in Puerto Rico and its medical services in isolated communities in other Caribbean and Central American Countries.

UCC students and faculty also provide orientations to undergraduate and high school students on how to become the next generation of health care professionals by gaining admission to college, graduate programs in the biomedical sciences and health profession programs. The activities include visits to high school and colleges, UCC campus tours, and a week-long "Introduction to Molecular Biology and Graduate School" hosted in the UCC campus.

Service to populations goes from high school to the assistant professor level. UCC hosts postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members providing professional development activities and access to research equipment. These are not only available to UCC faculty but to faculty to other institutions on the island. This ensures an increase in the number of future faculty members and funded researchers.

2) Institutional Data

Demographics of student body in the sciences	Fall 2021-2022		Fall 2022-2023	
	Total No.	%	Total No.	%
Enrollment Data (last 2 years)				
Undergraduate BS/AD	86	16.9	71	14.7
Graduate MS/PhD/DC**	103	20.2	121	25.0
MD students	321	62.9	292	60.3
Total students enrolled	510		484	100%
	Awarded Granted 2021-2022		Awarded Granted 2022-2023	
Graduation Data (last 2 years)	Total No.	%	Total No.	%
Undergraduate BS/AD	19	16.8%	59	39.3%
Graduate MS/PhD/DC**	17	15.0%	24	16.0%
MD students	77	68.1%	67	44.7%
Total student graduated	113	100%	150	100%
Number of students graduating from the applicant institution who have completed the Ph.D. in biomedical sciences	Total No.			
Completed Ph.D. Degrees (last 5 years)	17			
Faculty Data				
Number of faculty members in biomedical and behavioral science disciplines (2021-2022)	Total No.		%	
Full-Time	159		58.0	
Part-Time	115		42.0	
Total Faculty	274			
Ad-Honorem	389			

*includes MS students from both the Biomedical Sciences Program and the Counseling on Substance Abuse Program.

**Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) Program began Fall 2018 – new program

3) Total NIH R01 support in the last fiscal year

None