

Background 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, UCC is a health-sciences university with fully accredited academic programs in Medicine and Chiropractic. And academic programs in Medical Imaging Technology, Biomedical Sciences, and Substance Abuse Counseling. The UCC faculty members conduct extensive research 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. 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, to award a PhD in Neuroscience.

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

Number of faculty members in biomedical and behavioral science disciplines

The Institutional Faculty Roster including the School of Medicine, the Substance Abuse Counseling Program, the Medical Imaging Technology Program, the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Chiropractic, consists of a total of 137 full-time faculty members, there are 11 Professors, 32 Associate Professors, 29 Assistant Professors, and 1 Instructor. There are 90 part-time faculty members and 351 ad honorem faculty members who provide services as mentors in clinical sites. Of the full-time faculty, 11% hold Ph.D. degrees, 79% M.D. degrees, and 11% other degrees (BS, MS, Ed.D., MPH, DC).

Number of faculty engaged in research and with external support

Of the 27 basic science faculty, 24 are engaged in biomedical and behavioral research. The corresponding number for the clinical and behavioral sciences research faculty is 35. Fifteen (15) faculty members receive external funding as PIs in 31 active grants. Many of the remaining faculty members, mainly those in the clinical sciences, are supported by external funding for various roles in these projects.

Efforts to provide services to the community

University students and faculty are engaged in a variety of events and organizations, providing a broad range of activities to the community. Services 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 promote the prevention of health conditions for the community take place.

UCC students have organized interest groups dedicated to health. These groups have been recognized for inspiring, nurturing, sharing their knowledge, and aspiring to become health professionals. They also coordinate health events.

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 on 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 also to faculty from other institutions on the island. This ensures an increase in the number of future faculty members and in the number of funded researchers.

Total NIH R01 support in the last fiscal year

None

Institutional Data

Demographics of student body in the sciences

UCC's total fall enrollment for the academic year (2025-2026) is 602 students. The number of undergraduate students enrolled at UCC is 87. The number of students enrolled in graduate programs, MS/PhD/DC, is 178 and M.D. is 337. The number of undergraduate students does not include students from other institutions on the island who visit UCC to perform research.

UCC has graduated 178 students in the academic year (2025-2026).

Demographics of the student body in the sciences	Fall 2021-22	Fall 2022-23	Fall 2023-24	Fall 2024-25	Fall 2025-26
Enrollment Data (last 5 years)	Total No.	Total No.	Total No.	Total No.	Total No.
Undergraduate BS/AD	86	71	90	90	87
Graduate *MS/PhD/DC	103	121	157	168	178
MD students	321	292	311	346	337
Total students enrolled	510	484	558	604	602
Graduation Data (last 5 years)	Total No.	Total No.	Total No	Total No	Total No
Undergraduate BS/AD	19	56	71	73	70
Graduate MS/PhD/DC*	17	26	28	34	44
MD students	77	66	51	77	64
Total student graduated	113	148	150	184	178

*Includes MS students from both programs, the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program and the Counseling on Substance Abuse Program.