



URBANA VIRTUAL ACADEMY (UVA) OPTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the Urbana Virtual Academy (UVA) Option? UVA is a completely online program offered by the Urbana City School (UCS) District due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Who is this option for? Any current UCS student grades K-12 who is unable to attend any in-person schooling.

Will my student still be a UCS student? Yes, this option is a part of the UCS educational program, but students will not attend any brick and mortar school.

Who will the teacher be? Current UCS teachers will facilitate the UVA option. However, the curriculum for UVA is planned to be provided by Jefferson County ESC. UCS teachers will facilitate and deliver the Jefferson County curriculum. It will not be an exact match to the traditional UCS curriculum, but it will follow Ohio Learning Standards.

Who is a good candidate for this option? Any student K-12 who is immunocompromised and not able to attend traditional school or any student who has someone at home who is immunocompromised and concerned about social distancing within the traditional school day. The students in UVA need to have a parent to serve as a learning coach.

What is the parent responsibility for this option? Because this is a self-contained, self-paced curriculum, a parent's role will be different depending on a student's ability to work on their own. Parents will need to provide the basics for success, including internet connectivity, and also help monitor a student's progress.

How long will my student be online each day? Elementary students will need to complete approximately 3 to 5 hours worth of work per day, depending on the grade level. Kindergarten students would have approximately 1 to 1.5 hours per day. Junior high and high school students would be expected to spend more time online. The online platform monitors the length of time the student is logged in and working. A teacher will communicate with the student and parent related to a lack of progress.

What technology will I need? Each family that selects the UVA option will be allowed to borrow at least one Chromebook. Each student in grades 6 through 12 will be able to use their school issued Chromebook. If there are multiple K-5 students in the family, there may need to be a personal device used to complete work. The family must also have an internet connection.

What is the role of the parent in the UVA option? In grades K-8, the parent is expected to be a learning coach for their child. The younger the student, the more the parent must be involved. Parents will receive basic training in the online instructional system and be expected to assist their child(ren) as needed.

Is there a cost for the UVA option? Although not determined yet, the school fees for UVA will be no more than students who select the District Flex Plan. Student fees in 9th to 12th grade will be determined based on the course schedule. If a student is taking an AP class, they will have an additional fee for the AP exams.

Can I enroll part-time in the online option and attend traditional school part-time? No, the purpose of this option is for students who are unable to attend traditional brick and mortar schooling for social distancing. Therefore, instruction will be online full-time for these students.

What if my child is enrolled in this option full-time but needs to access IEP related services, such as Speech or Occupational Therapy? Itinerant related services will be arranged for your child, as agreed upon by the IEP team. This may include teletherapy services, in-person services, or a combination of both.

Can I sign up for the UVA option at any time during the school year? No, students need to be enrolled in UVA by August 7, 2020. Emergency enrollments during the school year may be approved with appropriate documentation.

What if my child enrolls in UVA and doesn't like it? Can they go to the District Flex Option? All enrollments in the online option are expected to remain in the program for no less than one semester.

How will my child be graded? Grading for the UVA option will be similar to the traditional program. Traditional letter grades will be given in grades 5-12 and a standards-based report card will be used for grades K-4.

What if my child has a disability? Will they still receive specially designed instruction? Yes, these services will be provided but may be in a remote setting using a service such as Zoom.

What if I suspect my child has a disability? Child Find Law will still apply to all UCS resident students participating in this option. Should you suspect that your child has a disability, please work with your building principal to request a multi-factored evaluation. Should the district also suspect a disability, your child may be asked to come into the school for in-person testing with a school psychologist.

Can my child still participate in extracurricular activities? Yes. All eligibility requirements must also be met to participate.

Is this the same type of online learning that my child did last spring? No, last spring UCS implemented an emergency remote learning program. UVA is a full-time online school. Students will complete all core classes and electives.

Will my child still have access to counseling/school counselors during the school day? Yes. School counselors will be available by appointment, but in a remote setting by phone or using a service such as Zoom.

Will my child be able to enroll in College Credit Plus classes? No, CCP is not offered through the UVA option. We recommend taking the AP alternative to the classes a student wanted to take via CCP.

What classes will my child take? UVA courses will follow the UCS course selection as much as possible.

If a student uses the UVA option the first semester and in-person second semester, will topics covered match up? The UVA option will use the same Ohio content standards, however the pacing of the material may be different than in-person learning.

Can work be completed on the weekends? Are teachers available after hours or on weekends to answer questions? Students are able to work seven days per week. Teachers may only be available during their normal work hours.

Will there be interaction with UCS teachers, virtual students and in-school peers? UVA Option students and in-school students are ALL students of UCS, however interactions between the two groups during the school day will most likely not be possible.

Will students have the opportunity to work with partners/small groups? The UVA option is an independent online learning platform. There is no small group instruction.

Will there be live classes or only pre-recorded? The program is a complete online platform, monitored and assisted by a teacher facilitator. There are no live classes. All curriculum elements are contained so that a student can progress through the course independently with assistance from a UCS teacher communicating and facilitating on a regular basis.