

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT SURVEY

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The [Graduate Student Support Survey](#) is conducted by the University of California every three years. Data from the survey is used to inform UC policy makers about the competitiveness of financial award packages offered by UC campuses and by UC's top competitor institutions.

Reasons to Participate in the Survey:

- You could win a cash prize of \$500 or a \$75 Amazon gift card
- Your answers help us understand what financial and other factors played a part in choosing a UC or non-UC institution
- The data from this survey helps us determine and correct deficiencies in award packages so the University of California can continue to attract the best and brightest students

You can contact the Survey manager at DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What's the purpose of the survey?

A: The purpose of the survey is to help the University administrators better understand the financial aid offered to students admitted to UC doctoral programs and the choices that those students make about what institution to attend.

Q: How long will it take?

A: The survey is very short. It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes of your time.

Q: What if I'm not going to UC? Should I still fill out the survey?

A: Absolutely! This survey is for all applicants who were admitted to UC doctoral programs. It is important for us to hear from you even if you have decided not to attend UC.

Q: Who sponsors this survey?

A: The survey is sponsored and conducted by the University of California Office of the President, the system management office for UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Los

Angeles, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz.

Q: How was I selected?

A: All new students admitted to a doctoral program at any UC campus for the fall term of the current academic year were invited to participate in the survey. In order for the results of the survey to be useful, a high response rate is essential. Thus, it is vitally important that the selected applicants participate in the survey.

Q: Are my responses confidential?

A: Yes. We guarantee that your survey responses will be treated with absolute confidentiality. This means that no responses will be published or analyzed in a way that identifies you personally to the extent permitted by law. Your responses will not affect your chances of winning a prize. Your survey ID number allows us to confirm that you completed the survey so that you can be entered in our random drawing. Your survey ID also enables us to combine your responses with other institutional data that will be important in the analysis of the survey results. See the 'Confidentiality' section for more information about confidentiality.

Q: Do I get anything for completing the survey?

A: If you complete and submit the survey before it closes, you will be eligible to win a Grand Prize of \$500 or a \$75 amazon.com gift card. Prize winner will be randomly selected and will be notified soon afterward.

Q: I get an error message "Please enter a valid number..."

A: When entering numbers into numeric fields, please enter numbers only. Do not use dollar signs, commas or spaces. The survey will see these as invalid amounts.

Q: Where do I find the actual survey?

A: The email invitation or reminder sent to you contains the link to this FAQ page and your personalized link to the actual survey. To obtain a new link, you can also email DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu. In your email, please include your first and last name and the campus to which you were admitted.

Q: Who should I contact regarding my own financial support?

A: Decisions about student financial aid awards are made by each UC campus and department. The Office of the President does not make financial support awards.

Q: I think I may have received this survey in error.

A: This survey is intended for students accepted into an academic PhD graduate program at UC. The UC campus and department to which you applied are the primary authority and have the best information on your admissions status. If you received an invitation in error, please write to DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu, and you will be removed from the list.

Q: Where can I find more information about the survey?

A: If you have any questions about the survey, please contact DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu.

PRIZES

Participants are eligible to win a **\$75 Amazon gift card** or a **Grand Prize of \$500**. Winners will be announced in July.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All responses to the survey will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Your information will not be analyzed or shared in any manner that permits you to be personally identified to the extent permitted by law.

Researchers at the UC Office of the President-Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs department conduct large student surveys every year. In all our survey work, we have guaranteed confidentiality to all our respondents.

There is a difference, however, between anonymity and confidentiality: anonymity guarantees that there is no record of a respondent's identity, while confidentiality guarantees that information about respondents will be kept in confidence and used appropriately. Because any communication requires some record of respondents' identities, we cannot guarantee anonymity.

We ensure all respondents that any information we have on record for you and any additional information you provide to us via the survey will be treated confidentially. Any questions regarding the survey or confidentiality should be directed to DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu.

* To enter the prize drawings without completing the survey, you must send an email to doctoralstudentsurvey@ucop.edu with 'GSSS Prize Entry' in subject line and include your full name in the body of the email. This email must be received before the Survey is closed to be entered in the final drawing. If you would like to be entered in the interim prize drawings, your eligibility starts one day after our receipt of your email.