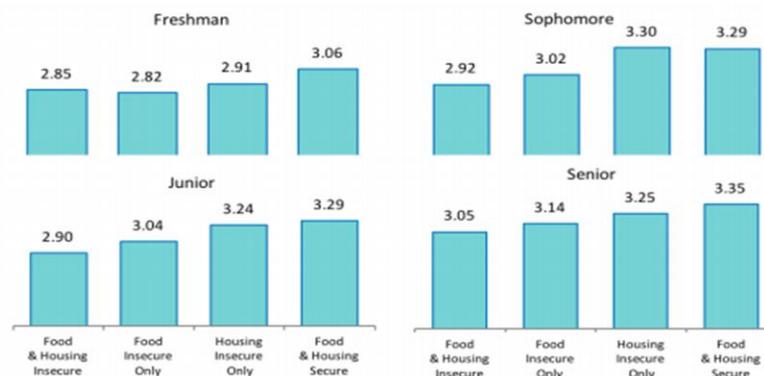


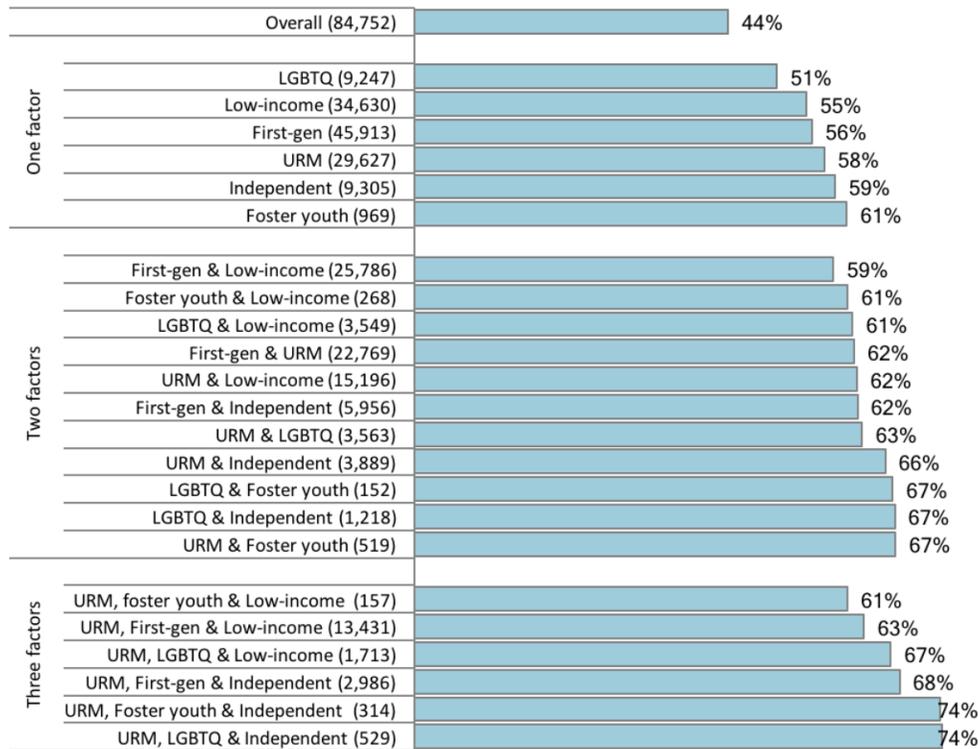
Fact Sheet: Addressing Basic Needs at the University of California

Background:

- Access to student basic needs—safe and secure housing, sufficient healthy food, health care (including emotional and mental health care), financial stability, child care, technology and transportation—is a key indicator of academic and professional success. Without a reliable support network that ensures these needs are consistently met, students may suffer negative health outcomes and underperform, fall behind or discontinue their studies.
- California has the highest level of poverty in the country, with 19 percent of the state’s population qualifying under the U.S. Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure. The high cost of living, mainly due to the cost of housing and child care, is a major contributor to this poverty level, but many factors contribute to the challenges our community members face in accessing basic needs.
- Approximately 42 percent of UC students come from families earning less than \$50,000 per year. These students are particularly vulnerable to poverty, homelessness and food insecurity, and UC strives to build support networks that ensure all students have access to resources that help address their basic needs.
- The 2017 [Global Food Initiative](#) (GFI): Food Access and Housing Security at the University of California [report](#) published data on the disproportionate effects of food insecurity across intersectional identities and the impact of a lack of food and housing security on students’ academic performance. Overall, the more insecurity that is disclosed, the lower a student’s academic performance/GPA is throughout their undergraduate studies.
- More than 80,000 students—nearly 37 percent of all UC undergraduates—receive Pell Grants, the highest percentage of Pell Grant recipients of any top research university in the country. UC Pell recipient graduation rates are comparable to the rest of the student body. To ensure that UC’s lowest income students continue to succeed, it is imperative that UC addresses basic needs insecurities in a holistic way.



Average undergraduate GPA and basic needs insecurity



Note: The number within the parenthesis indicates the estimate of the number (weighted count) in the student population subgroup who had experienced food insecurity.

Figure 5. Percent of undergraduate students experiencing food insecurity by associated factors

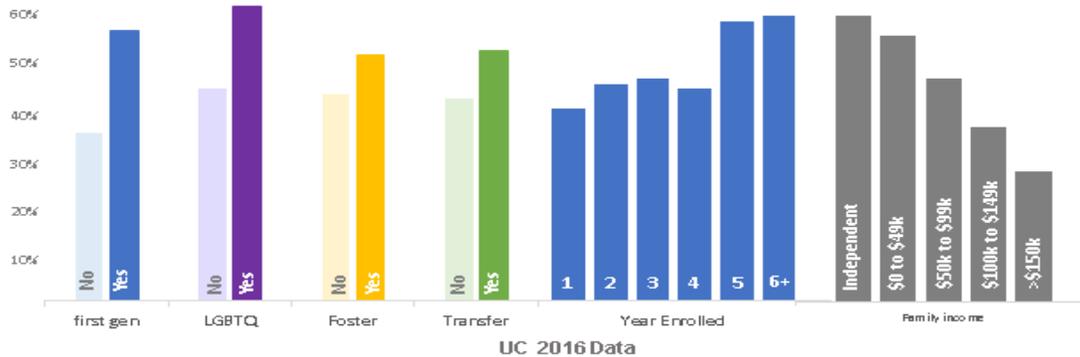
Food Insecurity:

- UC is a pioneer in the field of student hunger research, publishing two of the largest studies about student access to food and nutrition (2016, 2017), sponsored principally by GFI. These studies have found that 44 percent of undergraduate students and 26 percent of graduate students have experienced food insecurity.
- In July 2016, UC President Janet Napolitano allocated \$3.3 million in new funding over two years to expand and enhance the food resources available to students. Campuses had the flexibility to establish new programs or grow existing ones, depending on the specific needs of the student populations. Additionally, California Governor Gavin Newsom provided \$18.5 million in his 2019-20 budget to address ongoing food and housing insecurity across the state.
- With this funding, all 10 UC campuses employed additional staff for expanded food pantries, provided economic crisis support to students, increased registration for California's CalFresh nutrition assistance program (also known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP), expanded services to graduate and professional students and launched pilot programs to help establish best practices in food security.
- According to the 2017 GFI report, UC students are more likely to experience food insecurity if they are 24 or older, African American or Hispanic, first-generation, from a foster care background, LGBTQ, financially independent or from low-income families, transfer students or have been enrolled for five or more years.

More UC students from underrepresented groups experience food insecurity

BUT

Food insecurity impacts all UC students regardless of income



Housing Insecurity:

- Five percent of both UC undergraduate and graduate students said they had experienced homelessness at some point during their enrollment.
- The [UC Student Housing Initiative](#), launched in 2016 by President Napolitano, is on track to meet a goal of 31,000 new affordable beds by fall 2024, in both undergraduate residence halls and at other campus-owned communities.
- Recognizing both a shortage in housing stock and rapidly increasing housing costs, the Student Housing Initiative harnesses the expertise and resources of the UC system to accelerate the creation of affordable student housing on all campuses.
- From 2016-18, more than 5,000 beds were added, with 25,900 to be added between 2019-24.
- According to the 2017 GFI report, UC students are more likely to experience homelessness than other students if they must take longer to finish their degrees, have a foster care background, are from an underrepresented community or are 24 or older.

Child Care Insecurity:

- The cost of child care is often one of the largest expenses a family faces and access to high quality child care is difficult. UC campuses provide a range of on-site services to assist student parents, including care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- In addition to local and state subsidies and resources, some campuses have additional grant programs for student parents, such as the [Parent Grant](#) at UC Berkeley and the [Community Based Care Grant](#) at UC Davis.
- All UC campuses have built family-oriented housing to accommodate students with families, children, and partners.
- Data from UC Berkeley's [2017 housing survey](#) shows that 44 percent of students with children have considered leaving UC Berkeley because of their housing situation.

UC Basic Needs Master Plan:

- As UC continues to invest in the additional resources that students need to successfully complete their degree programs, UC will move to implement a master plan to prioritize basic needs resources and efforts, as well as distribute information about these services.
- While UC is taking dramatic steps to establish basic needs services for students at each campus, the University also recognizes the value of centralizing programs, resources and information about additional services and funding for a “basic needs center” on each

campus. Establishing these centers is a priority for the UC, especially as additional resources are brought online or expanded.

- These centers will provide a space for students to meet their basic needs—whether to pick up emergency food and personal care products, prepare food, rest, seek emotional support, volunteer or visit with other students—and provide basic needs staff with a place to centralize information, simplify access to additional resources and conduct outreach to vulnerable student populations.
- While experiencing basic needs insecurity can have negative social and mental health impacts, a 2019 survey of 1,855 UC students showed that the campus food pantries improved social wellbeing among students.

