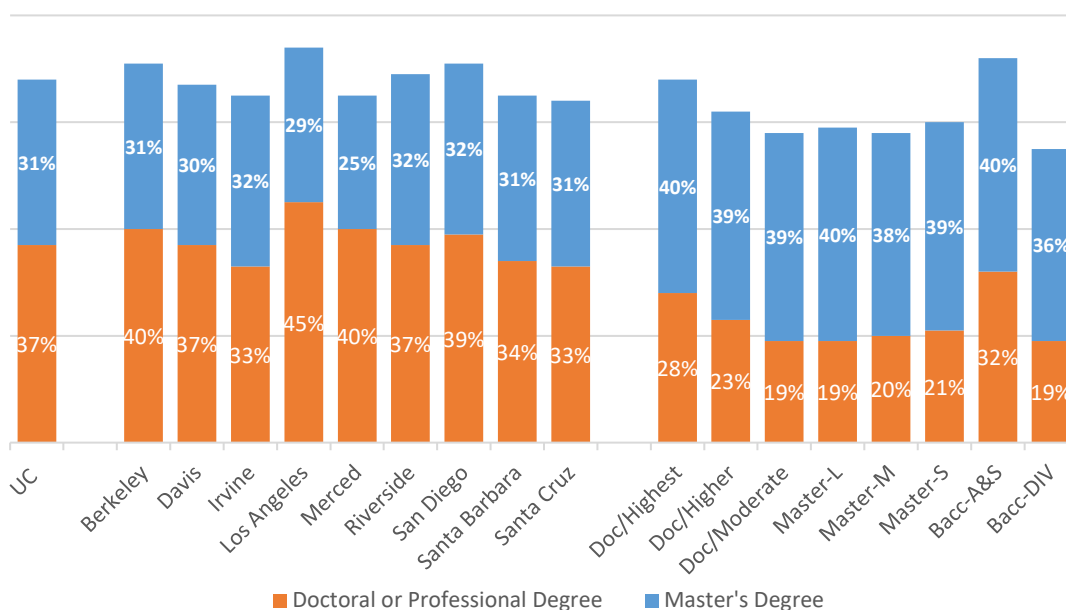


UC undergraduates are more likely to plan to earn a doctoral or professional degree

The University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) and the National Student Survey of Engagement (NSSE) both ask undergraduate students about the highest degree they plan to earn (see the questions in the Appendix). The graph below shows that UC¹ students are as likely as those in “Doc/Highest” universities (Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activities) by Carnegie Classification to plan to earn a graduate degree and more likely to plan to earn a graduate degree than students in other research universities. It is also interesting to find that proportionally, more students at UC plan to earn a doctoral or professional degree than students in any other types of institutions by Carnegie Classification. For example, 37 percent of UC students plan to earn a doctoral or professional degree compared to only 28 percent of those in “Doc/Highest” universities and 23 percent in “Doc/Higher” (Doctoral University – Higher Research Activities) universities. Not surprisingly, students in “Bacc-A&S” colleges (Baccalaureate Colleges – Arts & Sciences) are most likely to plan to earn a graduate degree, but they (32 percent) are less likely to plan to earn a doctoral or professional degree than UC students (37 percent). It is important to note that two surveys ask the question differently, which may result in different responses.

The highest degree undergraduates expect to earn



Source: UCUES, <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/ucues-data-tables-2018>

NSSE, http://nsse.indiana.edu/html/summary_tables.cfm

¹Among UC’s nine undergraduate campuses, UC Merced is classified as “Doc/Higher” (Doctoral Universities: Higher Research Activities) by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and all other campuses are “Doc/Highest” (Doctoral Universities: Highest Research Activities) institutions. Source: <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/downloads.php>.

Appendix

The UCUES Question

What is the highest academic degree or credential that you plan to earn eventually?

- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
- Teaching credential
- Business master's (M.B.A.)
- Other professional master's (M.Ed., M.PP., M.PH., M.FA., M.LIS., M.SN., M.SW., M.ARCH., etc.)
- Academic master's (M.A., M.S., etc.)
- Law degree (L.L.B., J.D., etc.)
- Medical doctorate other than M.D. (D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc.)
- Medical doctor (M.D.)
- Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)
- Multiple doctoral degrees (M.D./Ph.D.)
- I do not know yet
- If other, please elaborate

The NSSE Question

What is the highest level of education you ever expect to complete?

- Some college but less than a bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
- Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)