

2018 PhD Career Pathways Alumni Survey

Institutional Research and Academic Planning at the University of California Office of the President administered the 2018 PhD Career Pathways Alumni Survey between November 14, 2018 and March 12, 2019. The survey was developed by the Council of Graduate Schools and focused on PhD recipients' employment and doctoral experience at the university where they earned their doctoral degrees. This report provides information on completion rates and representativeness of PhD alumni.

STUDY POPULATION

This survey was designed to include all PhD recipients from UC's ten campuses during the 2002-03, 2009-10, and the 2014-15 academic years. However, we administered it to professional doctoral recipients of the same exit years as well. We were not able to find valid email addresses of all these alumni, so the actual sample includes 7,156 PhD alumni and 1,221 professional doctoral alumni with a valid email address. Table 1 presents PhD participants by campus.

RESPONSE RATE

Response rate refers to the percentage of students in the survey population who responded to the survey. This includes respondents who completed at least one survey question other than consent form and submitted the survey (completes), and those who completed at least one survey question other than consent form but did not submit the survey (partials).

Respondents: 3,085. The final cleaned data file contains 3,085 respondents, excluding respondents who did not answer any survey questions. This contributes to an overall response rate of 43%. Table 1 summarizes the response rate for the system and by campus.

Completes: 2,223. The final cleaned data file contains 2,223 completed respondents, who responded to at least one survey item and clicked the "submit" button at the conclusion of the survey. This translates into a completion rate of 31%.

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Partial completes: 862. Partial complete means that at least one item was answered, but the “submit” button was not clicked. These participants may also be considered dropouts. These surveys were closed out at the end of the administration period, capturing all information provided by the respondent up to the day of survey closure.

Table 1. PhD Alumni Response and Completion Rates by Campus

Campus	Total Invites	Total Respondents	Response Rate	Total Completes	Completion Rate
Berkeley	1,789	958	54%	704	39%
Davis	1,147	425	37%	299	26%
Irvine	522	202	39%	143	27%
Los Angeles	1,336	587	44%	411	31%
Merced	45	9	20%	8	18%
Riverside	289	108	37%	77	27%
San Diego	719	402	56%	305	42%
San Francisco	294	121	41%	92	31%
Santa Barbara	747	147	20%	98	13%
Santa Cruz	268	126	47%	86	32%
Systemwide	7,156	3,085	43%	2,223	31%

REPRESENTATIVENESS

Table 2 provides representativeness by campus, showing the percentage of survey respondents as the population. Overall, respondents represent about 30% of the total population. However, it varies across campuses, with Berkeley having the highest representation at 39% and Santa Barbara having the lowest at 17%.

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Table 2. PhD Career Pathways Alumni Survey Respondent Representativeness

Campus	Total Degree Awards	Total Respondents	Representativeness
Berkeley	2,440	958	39%
Davis	1,363	425	31%
Irvine	924	202	22%
Los Angeles	2,031	587	29%
Merced	45	9	20%
Riverside	588	108	18%
San Diego	1,183	402	34%
San Francisco	360	121	34%
Santa Barbara	884	147	17%
Santa Cruz	401	126	31%
Systemwide	10,219	3,085	30%