

Administration Report of 2019 PhD Career Pathways Student Survey

Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) at the University of California Office of the President administered the 2019 PhD Career Pathways Student Survey to over 32,000 currently enrolled academic (26,047) and professional (6,573) doctoral students between April 2, 2018 and June 11, 2018. This report provides information on completion and response rates. The instrument developed by the CGS (Council of Graduate Schools) and more detailed information about survey administration and results are available at the IRAP survey services website: <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning//services/survey-services/PCPS.html>.

STUDY POPULATION

This was a census survey. All academic and professional doctoral students enrolled during the 2019 Winter/Spring term were invited to participate in the survey. However, there is a gap between the time of seed file preparation and actual survey launch date. There can be students who were enrolled at the time when seed information was extracted but graduated or not enrolled at the time when survey was launched. The survey was targeted to currently enrolled students. To verify enrollment status, the survey includes a screening question to ask invited participants to self-identify their enrollment status. If a student selected “No” to this screening question, which indicates this student was not currently enrolled at a PhD/doctoral program, that student was not considered as valid invitees, and thus was excluded from the final valid invitation counts. While UC opened this survey to all doctoral students, the CGS Qualtrics instrument was designed only for PhD students. It specifically indicates PhD in all of the program related questions. UC modified the instrument so that it will show as “doctoral” rather than “PhD” for non-academic doctoral students in those questions. However, because many questions are irrelevant to their programs, only about 2,000 of them responded to the survey, with a response rate of 30 percent, compared to 52 percent for academic doctoral students.

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RESPONSE RATE

Response rate refers to the percentage of students in the survey population who agreed to participate in the survey and responded to at least one survey question beyond the screening question. This includes both survey completers and partials. Completers are those who submitted the survey by clicking the “Submit” button on the last page of the survey, and partials are those who responded to at least one survey question beyond the screening question, but did not submit the survey.

PhD Participants

Respondents: 13,640. The final cleaned data file contains 13,640 PhD respondents, excluding respondents who answered “Yes” to the first screening question but did not answer any questions further. This translates to a response rate of 52 percent. Table 1 summarizes the response rate of PhD students for the system and by campus.

Completes: 12,320. The final cleaned data file contains 12,320 completed PhD respondents, who responded to at least one survey item after the first screening question and clicked the “submit” button at the conclusion of the survey. This translates into a completion rate of 47 percent.

Partial completes: 1,322. These participants responded to at least one item after the first screening question, but did not click on the “submit” button to submit the survey. 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.

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Table 1. Response and Completion Rate for PhD Participants

Campus	Valid Invites	Completes	Completion Rate	Respondents	Response Rate
UC Berkeley	4,954	2,307	47%	2,546	51%
UC Davis	3,428	1,749	51%	1,913	56%
UC Irvine	2,763	1,471	53%	1,632	59%
UC Los Angeles	4,478	1,994	45%	2,208	49%
UC Merced	585	353	60%	378	65%
UC Riverside	2,057	1,090	53%	1,204	59%
UC San Diego	3,301	1,243	38%	1,411	43%
UC San Francisco	762	426	56%	464	61%
UC Santa Barbara	2,323	1,129	49%	1,257	54%
UC Santa Cruz	1,396	558	40%	627	45%
Total	26,047	12,320	47%	13,640	52%

Professional Doctoral Participants

Respondents: 1,992. The final cleaned data file contains 1,992 non-academic doctoral respondents, excluding respondents who answered “Yes” to the first screening question but did not answer any questions further. This translates to a response rate of 30 percent. Table 2 summarizes the response rate of non-academic doctoral students for the system and by campus.

Completes: 1,578. The final cleaned data file contains 1,578 completed non-academic respondents, who responded to at least one survey item after the first screening question and clicked the “submit” button at the conclusion of the survey. This translates into a completion rate of 24 percent.

Partial completes: 414. These participants responded to at least one item after the first screening question, but did not click on the “submit” button to submit the survey. These participants may also be

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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 2. Response and Completion Rate for Professional Doctoral Participants

campus	Valid Invites	Completes	Completion Rate	Respondents	Response Rate
UC Berkeley	21	16	76%	17	81%
UC Davis	1,412	382	27%	472	33%
UC Irvine	849	167	20%	227	27%
UC Los Angeles	2,067	400	19%	510	25%
UC Merced	0	0	0	0	0
UC Riverside	0	0	0	0	0
UC San Diego	749	112	15%	155	21%
UC San Francisco	1,475	501	34%	611	41%
UC Santa Barbara	0	0	0	0	0
UC Santa Cruz	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,573	1,578	24%	1,992	30%

Note: Campuses without any invited professional doctoral students either did not have professional doctoral programs in 2018 or did not include professional doctoral students in the seed file.