

2020 Graduate Student Support Survey administration report

The Graduate Student Support Survey is administered every three years at the University of California. The results from the study are used to inform UC policymakers about the competitiveness of financial award packages offered by UC Campuses and by UC's top competitor institutions. The 2020 Graduate Student Support Survey was conducted by Institutional Research and Academic Planning in collaboration with Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs.

Response rate

The survey was administered to all admitted academic doctoral students for fall 2020. About 50% (4,469) of invited participants completed and submitted the survey. Another 17% completed at least one item, but did not submit the survey (Table 1).

Table 1. Completion and response rates by gender and ethnicity

	# Population	# Completes	Completion Rate	# Partial	Response Rate
Gender					
Male	4,698	2,184	46%	794	63%
Female	4,097	2,167	53%	771	72%
Unknown	217	118	54%	33	70%
Ethnicity					
African American	198	104	53%	38	72%
American Indian	18	8	44%	7	83%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,025	525	51%	192	70%
Hispanic/Latinx	387	184	48%	75	67%
International	3,031	1,422	47%	522	64%
Multi Ethnicity	965	493	51%	174	69%
White	2,788	1,435	51%	471	68%
Other/Unknown	600	298	50%	119	70%
Total	9,012	4,469	50%	1,598	67%

Note: Response rate includes all students who answered the survey, both completers and partial completers.

Sample representativeness

The total respondents who completed or partially completed the survey represent 67% of all doctoral students admitted for fall 2020. The respondents generally represent the population by ethnicity. There is a slight overrepresentation of female respondents than male respondents compared to the population (Table 2). Weights will be calculated to adjust this difference for analysis and data reports.

Table 2. Sample representativeness of survey respondents

Characteristics	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Gender				
Male	4,698	52%	2,978	49%
Female	4,097	45%	2,938	48%
Unknown	217	2%	151	2%
Ethnicity				
African American	198	2%	142	2%
American Indian	18	0%	15	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,025	11%	717	12%
Hispanic/Latinx	387	4%	259	4%
International	3,031	34%	1,944	32%
Multi Ethnicity	965	11%	667	11%
White	2,788	31%	1,906	31%
Other/Unknown	600	7%	417	7%
Total	9,012	100%	6,067	100%

Other survey administration information

One survey invitation and ten reminders were sent via email through Qualtrics between May 7, 2020 and August 7, 2020. Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs provided twenty \$75 Amazon gift cards and one grand prize of \$500 as incentives to increase student participation.