

COAS 2021 Survey Administration Report

The 2021 Cost of Attendance Survey (COAS) was administered to a sample of over 42,000 undergraduates systemwide at nine UC undergraduate campuses during the Spring term. The sample size is based on that of the 2019 survey. For two campuses with fewer on-campus students, all of the on-campus students were pulled and the sample sizes for the off-campus students were adjusted proportionally. Except for the on-campus students at those two campuses, all other on-campus and off-campus groups were sampled randomly based on the determined sample size. This report provides two measures of survey participation, survey completion and response rates.

Completion rate refers to the percentage of students in the survey population who responded to at least one survey item (students are allowed to skip questions) and clicked “submit” button at the conclusion of the survey. **Response rate** refers to the percentage of students surveyed that responded to the survey. This includes students who submitted the survey (completes), and those who completed or partially completed the survey without submission (partials). Partial respondents may be considered as dropouts. While survey participants can drop out anytime during the survey, the survey tool captures all information provided by the respondents up to the day of survey closure. Students who only endorsed the consent form but did not respond to any survey questions were not considered as partial completers.

- Majority of the survey respondents completed at least one survey question and submitted their responses. The systemwide completion rate is 26 percent.
- All campuses achieved a 20 percent completion rate. The rate ranged from 20 to 33 percent by campus.
- The systemwide response rate including partial respondents is 30 percent. The response rate ranged from 24 to 37 percent by campus.

Table below summarizes completion and response rates of the survey systemwide and by campus.

Campus	Student Population	Survey Sample	Completers	Respondents	Completion Rate	Response Rate
Berkeley	28,616	4,679	1,492	1,676	32%	36%
Davis	29,587	4,918	1,624	1,839	33%	37%
Los Angeles	29,284	5,160	1,304	1,542	25%	30%
Riverside	21,912	6,635	1,710	2,086	26%	31%
San Diego	30,391	5,286	1,339	1,513	25%	29%
Santa Cruz	15,968	3,853	909	1,076	24%	28%
Santa Barbara	21,804	4,621	1,045	1,202	23%	26%
Irvine	26,608	6,270	1,273	1,499	20%	24%
Merced	7,624	1,139	374	421	33%	37%
Systemwide	211,794	42,561	11,070	12,854	26%	30%

The final cleaned data file contains 12,854 respondents. This contributes to an overall response rate of 30 percent, based on a total of 42,561 undergraduates who were invited to participate in the survey. Among the respondents, there are 11,070 completed respondents and 1,784 partial respondents. The completers contribute to an overall completion rate of 26 percent and represent about 86 percent of the respondent population. The partial completers represent about 14 percent of the respondent population.

Both the completion and response rates are similar across ethnic groups except for international students who are much less likely to respond to the survey with a response rate of 17 percent. For further information, please refer to the survey response rate dashboard at

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-survey-completion-and-response-rates>.