# University of California Cost of Attendance Survey (COAS)

University of California Office of the President

March 8, 2023

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Cover Letter and Statement of Consent

What is COAS?

The Cost of Attendance Survey (COAS) is an online survey administered every second year to a sample of all University of California undergraduate students. This survey is an important tool to better understand the day-to-day expenses of students. COAS data is used to estimate the total cost of attendance at UC campuses, which can influence financial aid policies and programs designed to help keep UC affordable for years to come.

Prizes

As an appreciation for your time, prize drawings will be held once per week while the survey is open. When you complete the survey, you will automatically be entered for a chance to win a prize in the remaining drawings.* Prizes are valued at approximately $8,250 and include the following:

- Six $500 gift cards (one awarded weekly while supplies last)
- Seventy $75 gift cards (seven awarded weekly while supplies last)

The earlier you respond, the more chances you have to win. Winners will be notified via email and provided with additional details about their prize.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation is voluntary. Your decision to participate will not affect your grades or your relationship with UC or benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may withdraw from the survey at any time, or skip questions that you do not wish to answer, with the exception of a small number of questions that are used to route you to appropriate sections of the survey.

Benefits

While there may not be any direct benefit to you from participating, COAS gives students an opportunity to comment on the cost of the education they are receiving in the context of their daily lives. This information helps the University evaluate and improve undergraduate programs and services.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your personal information, limited to your name and email address, is used strictly for sending survey invitation and reminder messages. Such information is only accessible by survey administration staff. After the survey is closed, your name and email address will be deleted from all survey datasets. Your student ID will be used to match survey responses against other data such as, but not limited to, your
demographics, enrollment records, graduation data, applicant data, and post-baccalaureate data. This data is used for analysis and reporting.

Please be assured that your responses will be kept confidential and the results of the study will be reported only as aggregate (group level) data. Any identifiable information that is obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential. When this information is stored on third party secure platforms and secure file transfer suppliers, confidentiality will be maintained and your privacy protected according to the University of California privacy and security policies. This information will only be disclosed when required by law. All data used in public reporting will be reviewed to ensure that your identity cannot be ascertained. Information will be retained in compliance with UC’s Record Retention Schedule https://recordsretention.ucop.edu/.

**Asking Questions and Reporting Concerns**

If you have any questions about this study or how responses will be used, please contact survey staff at costofattendancesurvey@ucop.edu.

**Consent to Participate**

By selecting "Agree," I am providing my consent to this survey research effort, as described above.

I understand and will participate.

**Agree (1)**

**Disagree (2)**

*To enter the prize drawings without completing the survey, you must send an email to CostofAttendanceSurvey@ucop.edu with COAS Prize Entry in subject line and include your full name and student ID in the body of the email. This email must be received by June 6 to be entered in the final drawing. If you would like to be entered in the interim prize drawings, your eligibility starts one day after our receipt of your email.*
Survey Instructions

Please follow these instructions when responding to the survey questions:

If you have a spouse, children, or other dependents, please include their housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses.

If you are single with no dependents and share any of the expenses asked about in the survey (e.g., housing, food, transportation, personal, health expenses) with roommates or family members who live with you, please report your share only.

On this survey, all expenses are to be reported for the current academic year, 2022-2023. When reporting weekly or monthly expenses, please estimate costs for a typical week/month within the current academic year, not necessarily the current week/month.

Only include expenses for those items specifically requested by each question. There is space provided near the end of the survey for any expenses that do not fit into the predefined categories.

Use the toolbar provided in the survey, not your internet browser, for backward and forward navigation.

You can leave the survey at any time and your answers will be saved. To access the rest of the survey, log in again to pick up where you left off.
Questionnaire
Living Quarters

For this academic term, where do you live?

- With parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (1)
- With other relative(s) (2)
- University dormitory or residence hall (3)
- University apartment or house (4)
- Off-campus non-university apartment, house, or room you are renting (5)
- Off-campus non-university dormitory or residence hall (6)
- House you own or are buying (7)
- Co-op (8)
- Homeless or no consistent place to sleep (e.g., couch surfing, living in car, no local home) (9)

Do you have children or dependents (excluding your spouse) for whom you provide at least 50% of their financial support?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

What is your current marital status?

- Single (separated, divorced, widowed, or never married) (1)
- Married (2)
- Registered domestic partner (3)
Housing Expenses

The following set of questions will ask you about your living accommodations and expenses while residing in an off-campus apartment, a house you own, living with your parents or another relative, a co-op, or other non-university housing.

In the context of these questions, “housemates” refers to the number of people with whom you share a whole apartment or suite and “roommates” refers to the number of people with whom you share a bedroom. For example, if you live in a residence hall room with one other person, your answer to <housemates> would be “not applicable” and your answer to <roommates> would be “one”.

Display This Question:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If Living Expenses</th>
<th>For this academic term, where do you live? = With parent(s) or legal guardian(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Or Living Expenses</td>
<td>For this academic term, where do you live? = With other relative(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or Living Expenses</td>
<td>For this academic term, where do you live? = Off-campus non-university apartment, house, or room you are renting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or Living Expenses</td>
<td>For this academic term, where do you live? = Off-campus non-university dormitory or residence hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or Living Expenses</td>
<td>For this academic term, where do you live? = House you own or are buying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or Living Expenses</td>
<td>For this academic term, where do you live? = Co-op</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In what zip code do you live while attending the University?

________________________________________________________________

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If you live in a house or apartment, how many housemates do you have who contribute toward rent?

Exclude yourself, spouse, children, or other family members.

- None (0)
- One (1)
- Two (2)
- Three (3)
- Four (4)
- Five (5)
- Six (6)
- Seven (7)
- Eight (8)
- Nine (9)
- Ten (10)
- Eleven (11)
- Twelve (12)
- Thirteen (13)
○ Fourteen (14)

○ Fifteen or more (15)
How many roommates do you have (with whom you share a bedroom)?

Exclude yourself, spouse, children, or other family members.

- None (0)
- One (1)
- Two (2)
- Three (3)
- Four (4)
- Five (5)
- Six or more (6)

What is your share of the monthly housing costs for your residence?
Include rent, mortgage payments and property taxes, payments to parents or other relatives in return for living with them, etc.
If any utilities are included in your rent or monthly housing payment, please include them here. If utilities are paid separately from the housing payments, do not report them here.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $200 (2)
- $200 to $399 (5)
- $400 to $599 (6)
- $600 to $799 (7)
- $800 to $999 (8)
- $1,000 to $1,199 (9)
- $1,200 to $1,399 (10)
- $1,400 to $1,599 (11)
- $1,600 to $1,799 (12)
- $1,800 to $1,999 (13)
- $2,000 to $2,199 (14)
- $2,200 to $2,399 (15)
- $2,400 or more (16)
Display This Question:

- If Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = With parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
- Or Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = With other relative(s)
- Or Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = Off-campus non-university apartment, house, or room you are renting
- Or Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = Off-campus non-university dormitory or residence hall
- Or Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = House you own or are buying
- Or Living Expenses: For this academic term, where do you live? = Co-op

Taking seasonal variations into account, what is your share of the average monthly utility costs for your residence?

Please include gas/electricity, water, trash, landline telephone, internet, etc.

If any utilities are included in your rent (as reported in the last question), please do not report them here.

Monthly Average
○ Nothing (1)
○ Less than $25 (2)
○ $25 to 49 (3)
○ $50 to $74 (4)
○ $75 to $99 (5)
○ $100 to $124 (6)
○ $125 to $149 (7)
○ $150 to $174 (8)
○ $175 to $199 (9)
○ $200 to $224 (10)
○ $225 to $249 (11)
○ $250 or more (12)
Food Expenses

Do you have a campus meal plan?

- Yes (includes meal plans purchased as part of a housing contract) (1)
- No (2)

Do you receive food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the CalFresh program, or any other food aid programs?

Check all that apply.

- Cal Fresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (1)
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) (3)
- Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) (4)
- Community Food Bank or Meal Provider (5)
- UC Campus Food Pantry (6)
- Other Assistance Program (7)
- None, I do not receive food assistance (8)
Display This Question:

If Food Expenses Do you have a campus meal plan? = Yes (includes meal plans purchased as part of a housing contract)

How many meals per week are covered by your meal plan?

- All of my meals (1)
- Most of my meals (2)
- Half of my meals (3)
- Less than half of my meals (4)

Display This Question:

If Food Expenses Do you have a campus meal plan? = Yes (includes meal plans purchased as part of a housing contract)

How often do you buy meals outside of your meal plan (e.g., restaurant, cafe, vending machines, groceries, or take-out)?

- Never (0)
- 1 to 3 times a week (1)
- 4 to 7 times a week (2)
- 8 to 11 times a week (3)
- 12 to 14 times a week (4)
- 15 or more times a week (5)
Display This Question:

If Food Expenses
Do you have a campus meal plan? = Yes (includes meal plans purchased as part of a housing contract)

In addition to your campus meal plan, what are your weekly expenses for snacks and meals eaten outside of your meal plan (e.g., restaurant, cafe, vending machines, groceries, or take-out)?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 or more (10)
If Food Expenses
Do you have a campus meal plan? = No

Where you currently live, what is your share of the weekly expenses for groceries?
NOTE: Please include only food expenses; items such as cleaning supplies and toilet paper will be included in a later question.

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 or more (10)

How often do you buy meals outside of what you prepare at home (e.g., restaurant, cafe, vending machines, or take-out)?

- Never (0)
- 1 to 3 times a week (1)
- 4 to 7 times a week (2)
- 8 to 11 times a week (3)
- 12 to 14 times a week (4)
Display This Question:

**If Food Expenses**

Do you have a campus meal plan? = No

What are your weekly expenses for snacks and meals eaten away from your local residence (e.g., restaurant, cafe, vending machines, or take-out)?

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 to $174 (8)
- $175 to $199 (9)
- $200 or more (10)
Phone Expenses

For your cellular/mobile phone, what is your share of the total monthly cost of your plan? Do not include the cost of the phone itself.

Monthly Average

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $40 (2)
- $40 to $59 (3)
- $60 to $79 (4)
- $80 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $119 (6)
- $120 to $139 (7)
- $140 or more (9)
Transportation Expenses

How many miles do you commute (one way) to campus?

- Less than 1 (1)
- 1 to 5 (2)
- 6 to 10 (3)
- 11 to 20 (4)
- 21 to 30 (5)
- 31 to 40 (6)
- 41 to 50 (7)
- 51 to 60 (8)
- More than 60 (9)

For the current academic year (2022-23), please indicate ALL of your local modes of transportation while attending school (i.e., for transportation to and from the campus for school-related purposes and to and from work, buying groceries, running errands locally).
Check all that apply:

- Walk (1)
- Bike/Scooter/Skateboard (2)
- Car or Motorcycle (3)
- Public transportation (4)
- Rideshare (Lyft, Uber) (5)
- Car Share (Zip Car, Getaround, Relayrides, etc.) (6)
- Bike/Electric Scooter Share (7)

For the current academic year (2022-23), please write in your monthly costs associated with each of the modes of transportation you indicated. (INCLUDE bus fare, ride/car share costs, bike or scooter maintenance, etc. EXCLUDE personal car expenses, which will be asked in the following question. Do not include long distance travel to hometown or for vacation).

Monthly expense in dollar amount (whole numbers only)

- Car or Motorcycle (5) ________________________________
- Public transportation (6) ________________________________
- Rideshare (Lyft, Uber) (7) ________________________________
- Car Share (Zip Car, Getaround, Relayrides, etc.) (8) ________________
- Bike/Electric Scooter Share (9) ________________________________
If you own/finance or lease a motor vehicle, please report the amount you pay each month on the following:

Monthly expense (whole numbers only)

- Car/Motorcycle Payment (5)
- Insurance (6)
- Gas (7)
- Parking (8)
- Tolls (9)
- Maintenance (4)

How much do you pay per year on vehicle registration?
Annual Expense (Enter a number between 1 and 999, whole numbers only)

For the current academic year (2022-23), do you travel to and from the residence(s) of your parent(s) or your permanent residence (if different from your local residence)?
If you regularly travel to multiple locations, please select the one which you visit most often.

- Yes, I travel to a residence(s) within California (1)
- Yes, I travel to a residence(s) outside California, but in the U.S. (2)
- Yes, I travel to a residence(s) outside the U.S. (3)
- No, I do not travel to a non-local residence (4)
Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), do you travel to and from the residence(s) of your paren... I= No, I do not travel to a non-local residence

For the current academic year (2022-23), what are your typical expenses (e.g., airfare, bus fare, train fare, car share, gasoline) for traveling to and from the residence(s) of your parent(s) or your permanent residence?

For the Current, Nine-Month Academic Year

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $200 (2)
- $200 to $399 (3)
- $400 to $599 (4)
- $600 to $799 (5)
- $800 to $999 (6)
- $1,000 to $1,199 (7)
- $1,200 to $1,399 (8)
- $1,400 or more (9)
**Personal Expenses**

What are your monthly expenses for clothing, shoes, laundry, toiletries, hair care, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and other household *necessities*?

**Monthly Average**

- [ ] Nothing (1)
- [ ] Less than $50 (2)
- [ ] $50 to $99 (3)
- [ ] $100 to $149 (4)
- [ ] $150 to $199 (5)
- [ ] $200 to $249 (6)
- [ ] $250 to $299 (7)
- [ ] $300 or more (8)
What are your monthly expenses for health care costs not covered by insurance (e.g., copayments, medication, and deductibles associated with medical, dental, and mental health care)?

Monthly Average

- Nothing (1)
- Under $25 (2)
- $25 to $49 (3)
- $50 to $74 (4)
- $75 to $99 (5)
- $100 to $124 (6)
- $125 to $149 (7)
- $150 or more (8)
What are your monthly expenses for recreation (e.g., nonacademic books, television subscriptions, movies, concerts, sporting events, nonacademic software, club fees or dues and athletic or recreation fees over and above what is included in campus fees)?

Monthly Average

- ○ Nothing (1)
- ○ Less than $50 (2)
- ○ $50 to $99 (3)
- ○ $100 to $149 (4)
- ○ $150 to $199 (5)
- ○ $200 to $249 (6)
- ○ $250 to $299 (7)
- ○ $300 or more (8)
Books, Supplies, and Computers

Do you have a desktop or laptop computer that meets your educational needs?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Display This Question:

If Books, Supplies, and Computers Do you have a desktop or laptop computer that meets your educational needs? = No

What technology do you use to complete assignments?

Check all that apply:

☐ Tablet (1)

☐ Phone (4)

☐ Computer lab (5)

☐ Borrow computer (6)

☐ Other (7)  __________________________________________________
What are your average expenses for course books each quarter/semester (e.g., textbooks, course readers, textbook rentals, digital textbooks)?
Per Quarter/Semester

- Less than $150 (1)
- $150 to $199 (2)
- $200 to $249 (3)
- $300 to $349 (4)
- $350 to $399 (5)
- $400 to $449 (6)
- $450 to $499 (7)
- $500 to $549 (8)
- $550 to $599 (9)
- $600 or more (10)
What are your average expenses for other necessary educational supplies or equipment (e.g., online subscriptions (ALEKS, BACON, etc.), interactive clickers, art supplies, etc.)? Per Quarter/Semester

- Nothing (1)
- Less than $25 (12)
- $25 to $49 (2)
- $50 to $74 (3)
- $75 to $99 (4)
- $100 to $124 (5)
- $125 to $149 (6)
- $150 to $174 (7)
- $175 to $199 (8)
- $200 to $224 (9)
- $225 to $249 (10)
- $250 or more (11)
For the current academic year (2022-23), have you purchased any of the following items to use generally for school related purposes?

Check all that apply:

☐ A desktop or laptop computer (1)

☐ A tablet (2)

☐ Additional hardware (e.g., monitor, hard drive, printer) or repairs outside of an extended service contract (3)

☐ Additional software (e.g., word processing, spreadsheets, graphics, statistical analysis, programming languages) (4)

☐ None of the above (5)

Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you purchased any of the following items to use gen... = A desktop or laptop computer

And For the current academic year (2022-23), have you purchased any of the following items to use gen... = A tablet

For the current academic year (2022-23), what have been your expenses for the purchase of a desktop or laptop computer or a tablet that you generally use for school-related purposes?
○ Nothing (1)
○ Less than $400 (2)
○ $400 to $649 (3)
○ $650 to $899 (4)
○ $900 to $1,149 (5)
○ $1,150 to $1,399 (6)
○ $1,400 to $1,649 (7)
○ $1,650 to $1,899 (9)
○ $1,900 to $2,149 (10)
○ $2,150 to $2,399 (11)
○ $2,400 to $2,649 (12)
○ $2,650 to $2,899 (13)
○ $2,900 to $3,149 (14)
○ $3,150 or more (15)
Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you purchased any of the following items to use gen... =
Additional hardware (e.g., monitor, hard drive, printer) or repairs outside of an extended service contract

For the current academic year (2022-23), what have been your expenses for additional computer hardware (e.g., modem, monitor, hard drive, printer) and repairs or service for the computer you generally use for school-related purposes?

Do not include hardware or service costs already included in the cost of the computer or expenses that occurred prior to this year.

☐ Nothing (1)
☐ Less than $400 (2)
☐ $400 to $649 (3)
☐ $650 to $899 (4)
☐ $900 to $1,149 (5)
☐ $1,150 to $1,199 (6)
☐ $1,200 to $1,399 (7)
☐ $1,400 to $1,649 (8)
☐ $1,650 to $1,899 (9)
☐ $1,900 to $2,149 (10)
☐ $2,150 to $2,399 (11)
☐ $2,400 to $2,649 (12)
☐ $2,650 to $2,899 (13)
☐ $2,900 to $3,149 (14)
☐ $3,150 or more (15)
For the current academic year (2022-23), what have been your expenses for software or applications (e.g., word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, statistical analysis, programming languages, digital media software) directly related to coursework or research?

Do not include software or application costs included in the cost of your computer or tablet, or expenses that occurred prior to this academic year. Do not include games or other entertainment software or applications.

- [ ] Nothing (1)
- [ ] Less than $100 (2)
- [ ] $100 to $149 (3)
- [ ] 150 to $199 (4)
- [ ] $200 to $249 (5)
- [ ] $250 to $299 (6)
- [ ] $300 to $349 (7)
- [ ] $350 to $399 (8)
- [ ] $400 to $449 (9)
- [ ] $450 to $499 (10)
- [ ] $500 to $549 (11)
- [ ] $550 to $599 (12)
- [ ] $600 or more (13)
For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while you are enrolled?

Do not include volunteer or other unpaid work.

○ Yes (1)

○ No (2)

Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while y... = No

Which of the following best describes your primary reason for not working for pay while you are enrolled during the current academic year (2022-23)?

○ I could not find a job (1)

○ My school work did not allow time for a job (2)

○ Family obligations did not allow time for a job (3)

○ I did not need the additional income (4)

○ I did not want to work (5)

Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while y... = Yes

For the current academic year (2022-23), how many hours per week on average have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while you are enrolled?

Do not include volunteer or other unpaid work.

Enter a number between 1 and 100.

__________________________________________
Display This Question:
If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while y... = Yes

For the current academic year (2022-23), what has been or what do you expect will be your average wage per hour from all jobs worked while you are enrolled?

- [ ] Less than $15.50 (1)
- [ ] $15.50-$15.99 (2)
- [ ] $16.00-$16.99 (3)
- [ ] $17.00-$17.99 (4)
- [ ] $18.00-$18.99 (5)
- [ ] $19.00-$19.99 (6)
- [ ] $20.00-$20.99 (7)
- [ ] $21.00-$21.99 (8)
- [ ] $22.00-$22.99 (9)
- [ ] $23.00-$23.99 (10)
- [ ] $24.00-$24.99 (11)
- [ ] $25.00 or more (14)
Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while you... = Yes

For the current academic year (2022-23), how many weeks would you say that you have worked or expect to work for pay?

- All the weeks you are enrolled (1)
- Most of the weeks you are enrolled (2)
- Half the weeks you are enrolled (3)
- Less than half the weeks you are enrolled (4)

Display This Question:

If For the current academic year (2022-23), have you worked or do you expect to work for pay while you... = Yes

For the current academic year (2022-23), how much will you earn from all the jobs you have held or will hold?

Include what you have earned so far AND what you expect to earn before the end of this academic year.

Enter a number between 1 and 90000. Do not include commas, decimal points, or a dollar sign.

Do you send money to parents or siblings to assist with family expenses?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
Please tell us about any other necessary expenses you have had during the current academic year (2022-23) that were not included in any of the questions above.

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Please use the space below for any comments you have about this survey, including any problems you may have had or suggestions.

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Submission and Exit Message

Submission Message
Please click "Submit" to complete the survey.

Completer Message
Thank you for participating in the 2023 Cost of Attendance survey. Your help is much appreciated, and we truly value the information you have provided.
You have been entered for prize drawings and we will notify you via email if you win.
Thank you again for your time!

Declined Survey Message
Thank you. You will no longer receive email reminders to complete this survey.
If you change your mind later on, you can always go back to the survey site and log in using your student ID.