2023 UC Graduate Student Experience Survey administration report

The UC Graduate Student Experience Survey (UCGSES) was administered to over 60,000 graduate and professional students at all 10 UC campuses and received over 13,000 completed responses. This report provides summaries on survey duration, completion and response rates, and representativeness.

Survey duration

UCGSES was launched earliest on April 3, 2023 for UC Merced and latest for UC San Francisco on May 31, 2023. The survey was closed for all campuses by July 14, 2023 with an average of 76 active days for each campus compared to 70 in 2021. On average, 9 email reminder messages were sent for each campus, compared to 7 in 2021 (Table 1).

Campus	Launch date	Close date	Active days 2023	# Reminders 2023	Active days 2021	# Reminders 2023
Berkeley	4/10/2023	6/20/2023	72	5	77	6
Davis	4/4/2023	6/30/2023	88	8	84	7
Irvine	4/17/2023	6/30/2023	75	5	54	6
Los Angeles	4/17/2023	6/30/2023	75	9	79	7
Merced	4/3/2023	6/23/2023	82	13	87	12
Riverside	4/24/2023	6/30/2023	68	11	50	13
San Diego	4/25/2023	7/7/2023	74	12	71	6
San Francisco	5/31/2023	7/14/2023	45	4	44	3
Santa Barbara	4/19/2023	7/12/2023	85	5	75	3
Santa Cruz	4/11/2023	7/7/2023	92	14	79	9
Average			76	9	70	7

Table 1. Administration days for UCGSES 2023

Completion rates, response rates, and representativeness

Tables 2-3 provide information on completion and response rates by campus and representativeness by gender and race/ethnicity.

Response rate refers to the percentage of students surveyed who answered at least one survey question after the consent form, regardless of submitting the survey or not. The overall response rate is 26 percent, which is similar to the 2021 response rate of 27 percent. Campus response rates vary from 18 to 46 percent (Table 2).

Completion rate refers to the percentage of students relative to the total number of respondents, who responded to at least one survey item (students are allowed to skip questions) after the consent form and clicked the "submit" button at the end of the survey. The overall completion rate is 84 percent, which is the same as the 2021 completion rate. Campus completion rates vary from 78 to 92 percent (Table 2).

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Representativeness is a measure to indicate the degree to which survey respondents represent the population. We determined representativeness by comparing respondents and the population by key characteristics, such as gender, race/ethnicity, residency, discipline, etc. In general, the respondents are representative of the population by most demographics. However, female respondents are overrepresented by about five percentage points and male respondents are underrepresented by about four percentage points (Table 3).

Completion and response rates and a representativeness analysis by campus and student demographics will be published in UC's Information Center at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-survey-completion-and-response-rates.

Campus	Student population	Completers	Respondents	Completion rate	Response rate
Berkeley	12,304	3,388	3,888	87%	32%
Davis	7,925	1,511	1,887	80%	24%
Irvine	6,821	1,423	1,693	84%	25%
Los Angeles	12,935	2,630	3,178	83%	25%
Merced	731	308	335	92%	46%
Riverside	3,303	952	1,138	84%	34%
San Diego	8,160	1371	1,643	83%	20%
San Francisco	3,063	442	565	78%	18%
Santa Barbara	3,205	603	741	81%	23%
Santa Cruz	1,949	689	810	85%	42%
Systemwide	60,396	13,317	15,878	84%	26%

Table 2. Completion and response rates by campus and systemwide

Table 3. Representativeness of survey respondents by gender and race/ethnicity

Chavastavistics	Popula	ation	Respondents		
Characteristics	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Gender					
Male	29,372	49%	6,802	43%	
Female	29,570	49%	8,646	54%	
Nonbinary	652	1%	249	2%	
Other/Unknown	802	1%	181	1%	
Race/ethnicity					
African American	3,221	5%	766	5%	
American Indian	381	1%	100	1%	
Hispanic/Latinx	7,445	12%	1,910	12%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	12,169	20%	2,901	18%	
White	16,987	28%	4,690	30%	
International	17,791	29%	4,911	31%	
Unknown	2,402	4%	600	4%	
Total	60,396	100%	15,878	100%	