

Graduate student career development

2025 UCGSES

On-track degree completion

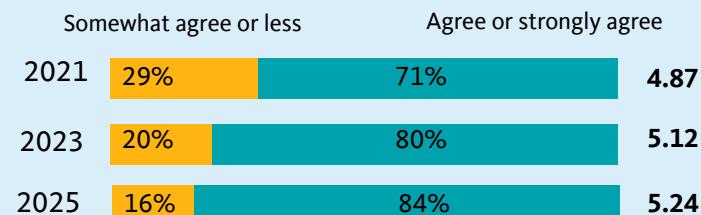
2025 survey results showed improvements to students' reported sense of being on track for an on-time graduation



On track to an on time degree completion

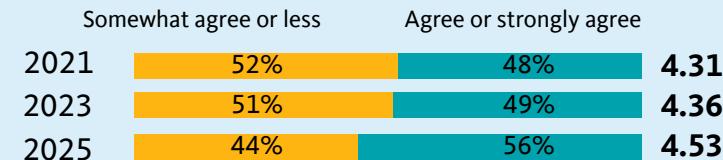
This change over time may reflect the fading impacts of COVID19, when many graduate students had to abandon field study programs, had decreased access to laboratories, and faced other obstacles to timely degree completion. The first administration of UCGSES was in 2021, so there is no comparative data prior to the pandemic.

I'm on track to complete my degree program on time



Career Outlook

I have a sense of direction for my career post-graduation



While students report a greater sense of direction and better support and preparation, responses to 'I'm upbeat about my post-graduation career prospects' increased slightly from 2021 to 2023 before falling to meet 2021 levels in 2025. This conflicting trend may be driven by poorer job market prospects in 2025 compared to previous years

Career support and preparation

2025 survey results showed improvements to students' reported career support and preparation

Career outlook

2025 survey results showed students felt a greater sense of direction for their career, but felt less upbeat regarding their career prospects



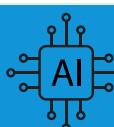
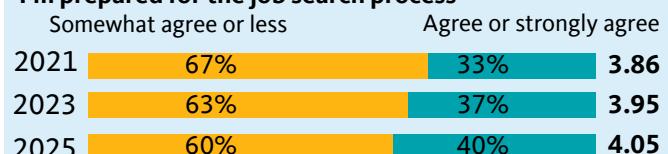
Career Support and Preparation

Students reported improved career support in 2025 for three items:

- My graduate program offers enough career exploration resources
- My graduate program has been preparing me for the career I want post-graduation
- How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your program?
 - The career support I receive in my program

Unsurprisingly, given the improved career support, students reported feeling more prepared for the job search process in 2025

I'm prepared for the job search process



Intersections with career and artificial intelligence

24%



of survey respondents reported using AI to assist with career preparation (e.g., resume writing, interview preparation)

59%



of survey respondents reported having an at least 'good' preparation level for using generative AI in their career