

## **Basic Needs at the University of California**

**Addressing the basic needs of students by supporting key financial aid and student support programs and legislation is essential to ensuring students have the resources needed to achieve their full potential.**

- UC urges Congress to make strong investments in the Pell Grant, Federal Work-Study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs, as well as the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).
- UC has endorsed H.R. 3138/ S. 1488, the Enhance Access to SNAP (EATS) Act, and urges members to support the bill by cosponsoring the legislation and including it in the Farm Bill reauthorization.
- UC urges Congress to reintroduce the Basic Assistance for Students in College (BASIC) Act, which establishes a competitive grant program for institutions to address the unmet basic needs of students.

**The rising cost of college, coupled with a high cost of living, has increased the stress of managing expenses, especially among low-income and economically vulnerable students. At the University of California:**

- Thirty-nine percent of UC undergraduates are first-generation, and 60 percent of these students are from lower-income households.
- UC enrolls a higher percentage of Pell Grant recipients than other public or private institutions. At UC, more than 75,000 students – 33 percent of all undergraduates – receive Pell Grants.
- More than 9,600 UC students participate in the Federal Work-Study program, while more than 19,000 UC students rely on FSEOG.

**UC's basic needs initiative seeks to identify the root causes of basic needs insecurity and provide a systemwide safety net so that students can succeed and thrive.**

- The UC Basic Needs Model includes four key areas: research, prevention, sustainability and advocacy.
- It is a holistic and preventive approach that aims to decrease the need for emergency resources.
- All 10 UC campuses have on-site basic needs centers, providing food, emergency housing and a comprehensive range of support services. Any UC student can access services at the basic needs center nearest them, not just on the campus where they are enrolled.

**The long-term strategy to eliminate basic needs insecurity includes target milestones to further expand the proportion of students whose basic needs are being met.**

- By 2030, UC seeks to reduce the proportion of undergraduate and graduate students experiencing food and housing insecurity by 50 percent.

- Forty-three percent<sup>1</sup> of UC undergraduates report experiencing food insecurity, while 8 percent<sup>2</sup> of UC undergraduates reported experiencing housing insecurity in 2022.
- Twenty-one percent<sup>3</sup> of UC graduate students reported experiencing food insecurity, while 3 percent<sup>4</sup> of UC graduate students reported experiencing housing insecurity in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Survey from 2022 (food insecurity tab): <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/student-basic-needs>

<sup>2</sup> Survey from 2022 (housing insecurity tab): <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/student-basic-needs>

<sup>3</sup> Survey from 2021 (food insecurity tab): <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/student-basic-needs>

<sup>4</sup> Survey from 2021 (housing insecurity tab): <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/student-basic-needs>