

# A Survey Study on Student Basic Needs at University of California



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# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Assessing food insecurity
- UC surveys of basic needs
- Survey results
- Future directions

# What is Food Insecurity?

Uncertain or limited ability to get adequate food  
due to lack of financial resources (USDA)

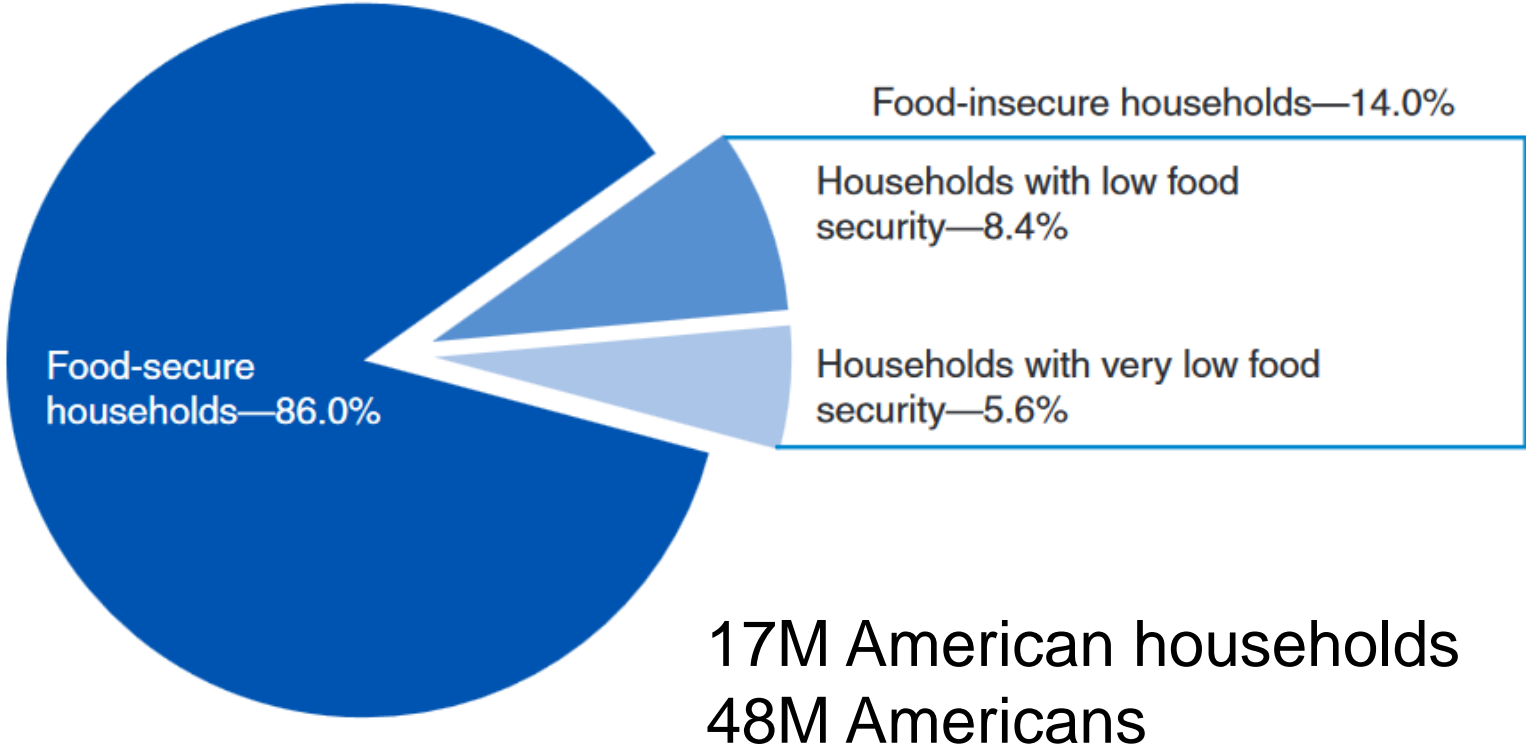
Leading to reductions in:

- Diet **quality** (low food secure)
- Diet **quantity** (very low food secure)



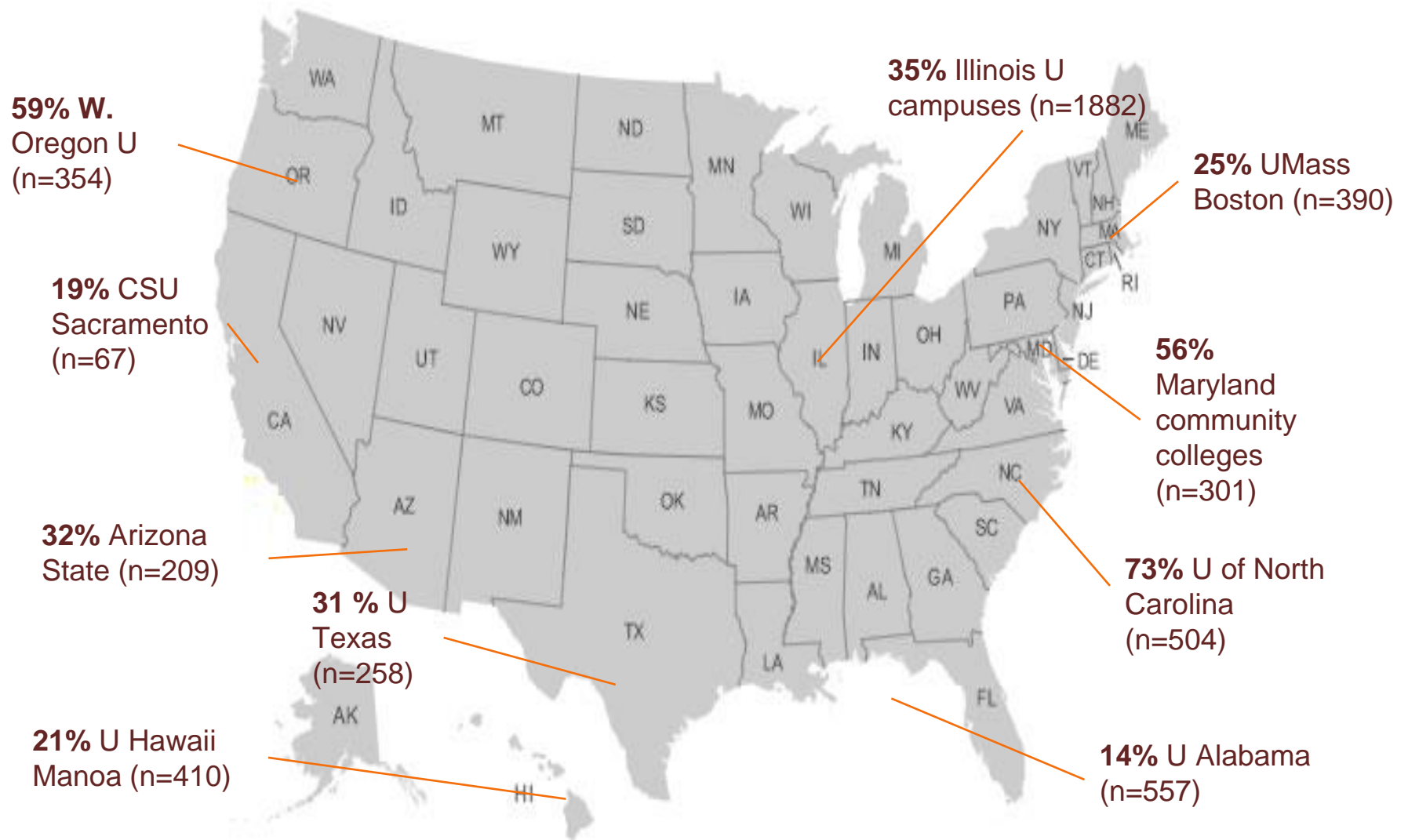
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

# Food Insecurity in U.S. Households



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2014 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement

# Food Insecurity in U.S. Colleges



# UC Global Food Initiative

*“Addressing how to sustainably and nutritiously feed a world population expected to reach 8 billion in 2025”*



- Identify best practices and share widely
- Use the power of UC research and extension to help individuals and communities; and
- Deploy UC’s research to shape, impact and drive policy discussions at the local, state, national and international levels.



Global Food  
Initiative

<http://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/>

# GFI Food Access & Basic Needs Leadership



# Assessing food security/insecurity

## USDA Modules

- 18-item – households w/children
- 10-item – households w/o children
- 6-item module



<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools/#guide>



# Assessing food security/insecurity

- Six-item module by USDA

<b>Q1.</b> For the following statements, please say whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the past 12 months.				
	Often True	Sometimes True	Never True	
<b>a.</b> The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
<b>b.</b> I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
<b>Q2.</b> In the last 12 months:			Yes	No
<b>c.</b> Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>d.</b> [If 'Yes' is selected to Q2-c] How often did this happen?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Almost every month <input type="checkbox"/> Some months but not every month <input type="checkbox"/> Only 1 or 2 months				
<b>e.</b> Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>f.</b> Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Assessing food security/insecurity

- **Two-item module**

For the following statements, please say whether the statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the past 12 months.

	Often True	Sometimes True	Never True
<b>a.</b> I was worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>b.</b> The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Assessing food security/insecurity

- Defining food security/insecurity

Six-item module	Affirmative Response
a. The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	1
b. I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	1
c. Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	
d. [If 'Yes' is selected to c] How often did this happen?	
almost every month, some months but not every month/only 1 or 2 months	2/1
e. Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?	1
f. Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?	1

0 – 1: high or marginal food security

2 – 4: low food security

5 – 6: very low food security

} *food insecurity*

# Assessing food security/insecurity

- **Defining food security/insecurity**

Two-item module	Affirmative Response
a. I was worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.	1
b. The food that I bought just didn't last, and I didn't have money to get more.	1

0 : food security

1 – 2: **food insecurity**

Research on development and validity of a 2-item screen to identify families at risk for food insecurity shows that an affirmative response to Item 1 and/or Item 2 of the HFSS (Household Food Security Survey, a validated instrument from the USDA) provided a sensitivity of 97% and specificity of 83% (Hager et al, 2010).

Hager, R. et al. (2010). Development and validity of a 2-item screen to identify families at risk for food insecurity. Pediatrics.

## UC basic needs surveys

	<b>Student Food Access and Security Study (SFASS)</b>	<b>Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)</b>	<b>Graduate Student Well-Being Survey (GSWBS)</b>
Population	Undergraduates & Graduates sample	Undergraduates population	Graduate sample
Survey time	April-May, 2015	March-August, 2016	Jan.- Apr., 2016
# Responses	8,932	63,132	6,764
Response Rate	14%	33%	50%
Periodicity	One-time administration	Every two years	One-time administration
Survey Module	Six-item	Two-item	Two-item

# UC basic needs surveys in the future

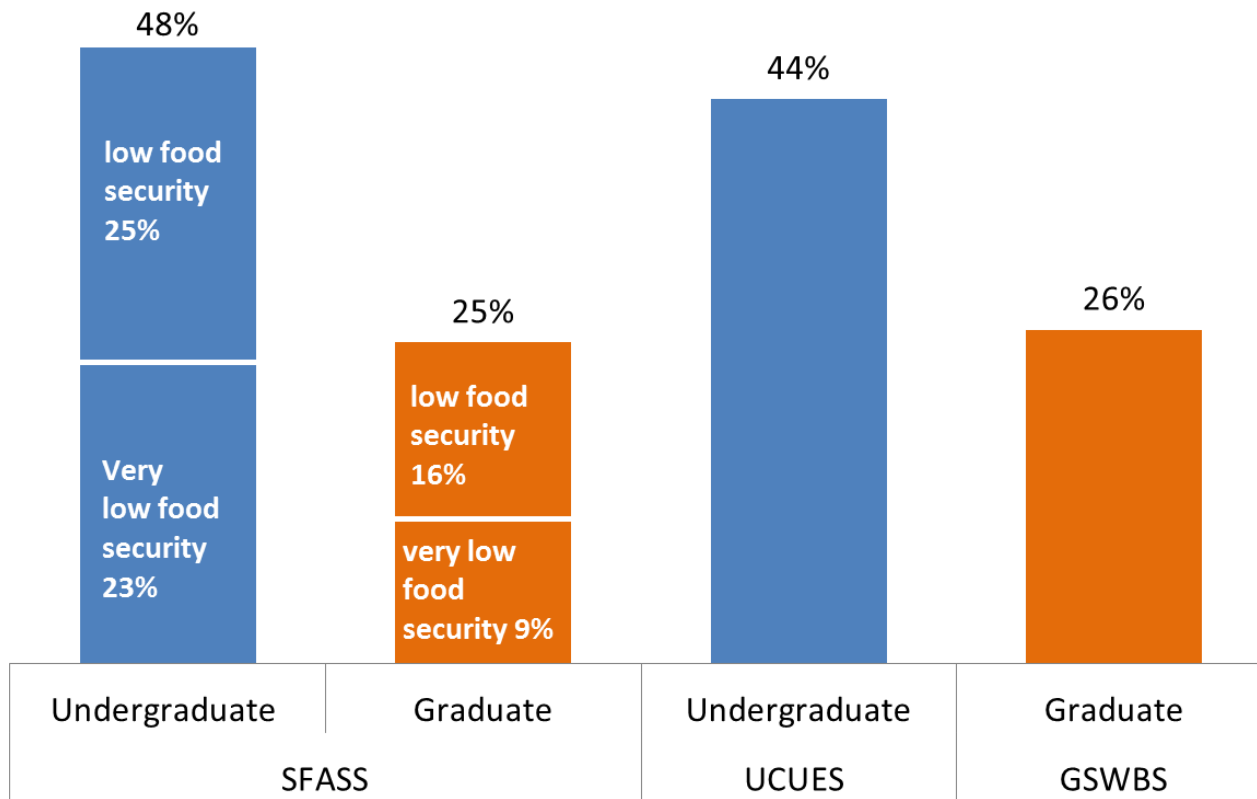
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	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Graduate</b>
Survey	Undergraduate Experience Survey	Cost of Attendance Survey
Module	Six-item	Six-item
Administration	Every two years	Every two years

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# UC basic needs survey results

Prevalence of food insecurity UC undergraduate and graduate students experienced.



# UC basic needs survey results

Prevalence of food insecurity UC undergraduate and graduate students experienced.

## Global Food Inequity: Food and Basic Needs Security at the University of California

A comprehensive basic needs report will be published soon.



# Conclusion: Food Insecurity is unacceptably high among students



LOCAL / CALIFORNIA

## Four in 10 UC students do not have a consistent source of high-quality, nutritious food, survey says



UCLA student volunteers stock the shelves at UCLA's "food closet," in the Student Activities Center on campus. (Luis Sinco / Los Angeles Times)

By [Teresa Watanabe](#) and [Shane Newell](#)

### In Case You Missed It



What happens when a white officer shoots a black man, but no one releases a video

7:25 AM



Watch: Day 1 of the Democratic National Convention in less than 3 minutes

1:41 AM

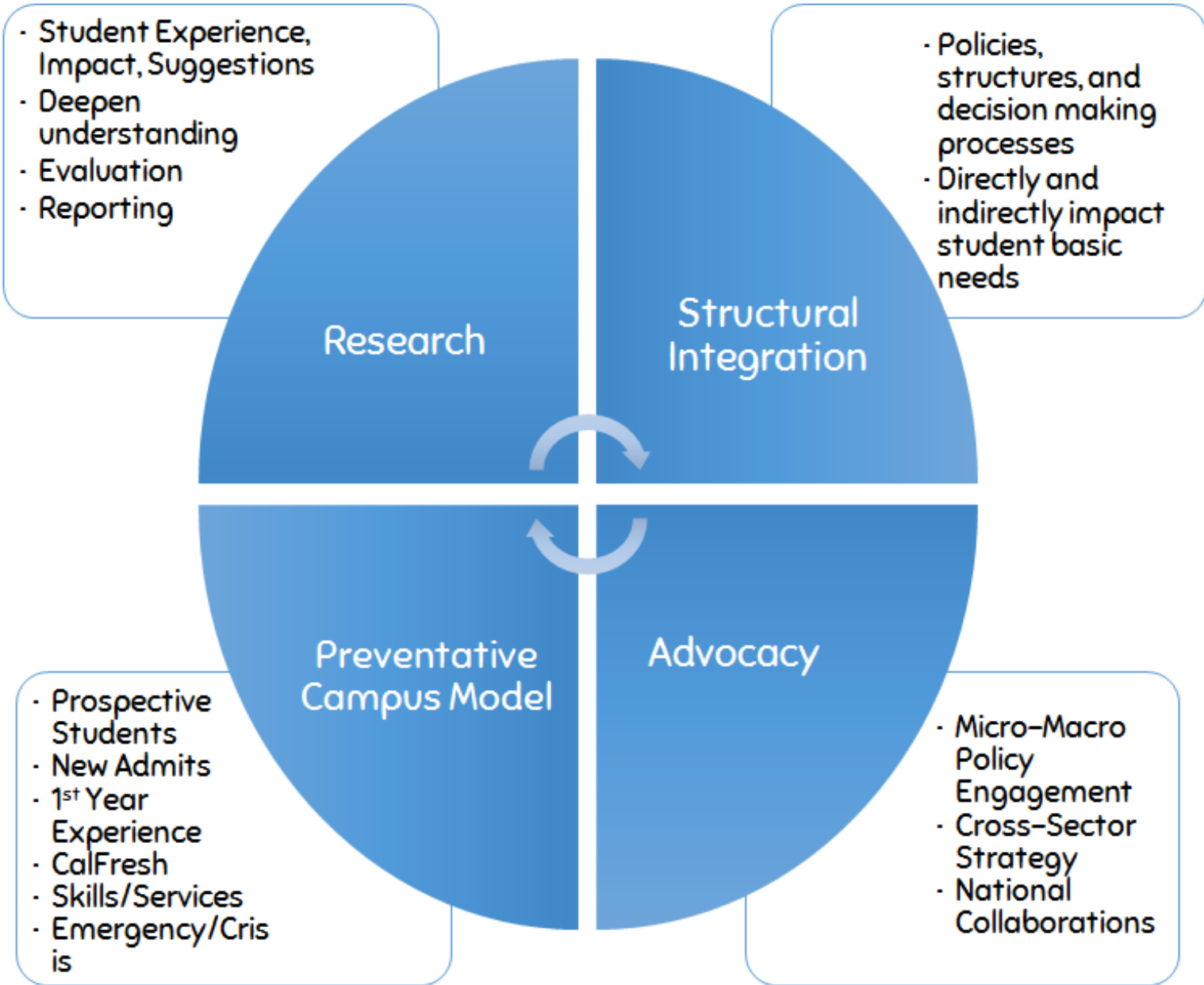


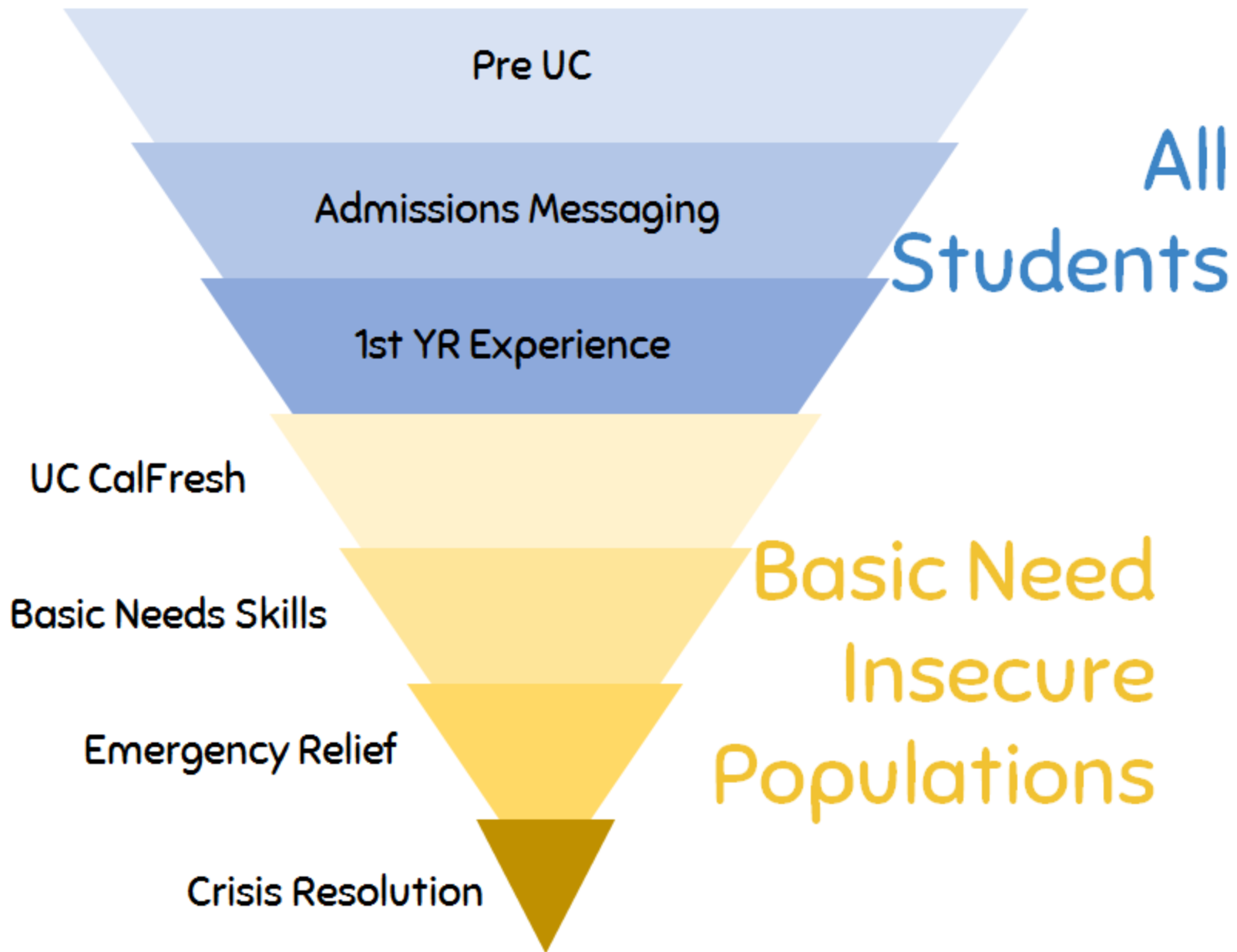
Justin Bieber lookalike died of drug overdose at Motel 6 in Los Angeles, coroner says

4:00 AM

[See More](#)







Thanks! Questions?



Explore the UC story through data at UC Information Center!

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter>