

California Degree Completion Survey
University of California Office of the President
December 14, 2021

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Cover letter and statement of consent

The University of California (UC) is interested in learning more about the needs of students who have started but not finished a college degree. The UC Office of the President is working with the Center for Research and Evaluation at UC San Diego Extension to better understand barriers to degree completion and interest in completing degree programs or earning alternative credentials. This research will inform the development of new programs and resources across the UC system and other California higher education institutions. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and explore some of the resources at the end that might help you reach your educational goals.

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.*

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 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.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your personal information, limited to your name, your original UC campus student ID, and email address, is used strictly for purposes of sending survey invitations, and reminder messages. Such information is only accessible by survey administration staff. After the survey is closed, your name and email information will be deleted from our survey records. Your student ID will be used to match survey responses to background information such as years of your original attendance to UC, gender, race and ethnicity, etc., for aggregation and reporting purposes.

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 and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. Any quotations from responses to open ended questions used in public reporting will

be reviewed to ensure that your identity cannot be ascertained.

Asking Questions and Reporting Concerns

If you have any questions about this study or how responses will be used, please contact survey staff at (510) 287-3378 or surveyteam@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 (4)
- Disagree (5)

*To enter the drawings without completing the survey, you must send an email to surveyteam@ucop.edu. This email must be received by October 25, 2021 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.

Non-completion screen

Q2 Where do you live now?

- In California (1)
- In another state in the USA (2)
- Outside of the USA (3)

Q3 What is your current student status?

- Full-time college student (1)
- Part-time college student (2)
- Not currently enrolled in college (3)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q3 = Full-time college student

Skip To: End of Survey If Q3 = Part-time college student

Q4 How much college experience do you have? Please include experience *at any college or university* where you have enrolled.

- Enrolled but didn't complete any courses (1)
- Completed less than 1 year (2)
- Completed 1 to 2 years (3)
- Completed more than 2 years (4)
- Completed a bachelor's degree (5)
- Completed higher than a bachelor's degree (6)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q4 = Completed a bachelor's degree

Skip To: End of Survey If Q4 = Completed higher than a bachelor's degree

Q5 How close are you to finishing a degree or professional certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- Not very close to finishing any degree or certificate (1)
- A course or two away from completing a professional certificate (2)
- Completed a professional certificate (3)
- A course or two away from completing an associate's degree (4)
- Completed an associate's degree (5)
- A course or two away from completing a bachelor's degree (6)
- Don't know (7)

College experience

Q6 Where have you earned the **majority** of your college or university credits?

- A University of California campus (1)
- A California State University campus (2)
- A California Community College (3)
- A private college or university in California (4)
- A private college or university outside of California (5)
- A public college or university outside of California (6)
- Other. Please specify (7) _____

Display This Question If Q6 = A University of California campus

Q7 Which University of California campus did you earn the majority of your credits at?

- UC Berkeley (1)
- UC Davis (2)
- UC Irvine (3)
- UCLA (UC Los Angeles) (4)
- UC Merced (5)
- UC Riverside (6)
- UC San Diego (7)
- UC Santa Barbara (8)
- UC Santa Cruz (9)

Q8 What has been your **primary** field of study?

- Arts (Theater and Dance, Media, Music, etc.) (1)
- Life Sciences (Biology, Bioengineering, etc.) (2)
- Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering, Structural Engineering, etc.) (3)
- Health (Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, etc.) (4)
- Humanities (History, Literature, Philosophy, etc.) (5)
- Mathematical or Physical Sciences (Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, etc.) (7)
- Social Sciences (Psychology, Education, Economics, Business, etc.) (8)
- None (10)
- Other. Please specify (11) _____

Completion interests

Q9 How interested are you in finishing your degree or earning a professional certificate? If you've already completed an associate's degree, how interested are you in finishing a bachelor's degree or professional certificate?

- Very interested (1)
- Definitely interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Not at all interested (4)

Skip To: Q22 If Q9 = Not at all interested

Display This Question:

If Q9 = Very interested Or Q9 = Definitely interested Or Q9 = Somewhat interested

Q10 What is the **primary** credential you are interested in earning?

- Associate's degree (1)
- Bachelor's degree (2)
- Professional certificate (3)
- Other. Please specify (4) _____

Display This Question:

If Q10 = Professional certificate

Q11 Do you know what type of professional certificate you are interested in earning?

- Yes. Please specify (1) _____
- No (2)

Q12 Where would you consider finishing your **primary** degree or earning a professional certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- A University of California campus (1)
- A California State University campus (2)
- A California Community College (3)
- A private college or university in California (4)
- A private college or university outside of California (5)
- A public college or university outside of California (6)
- A bootcamp or other type of program not part of a college or university (Coursera, edX, etc.) (7)
- Don't know (8)
- Other. Please specify (9) _____

Display This Question:

If Q12 = A University of California campus

Q13 Which University of California campus or campuses would you consider enrolling at to finish your degree or earn a professional certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- UC Berkeley (1)
- UC Davis (2)
- UC Irvine (3)
- UCLA (UC Los Angeles) (4)
- UC Merced (5)
- UC Riverside (6)
- UC San Diego (7)
- UC Santa Barbara (8)
- UC Santa Cruz (9)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = A University of California campus

Q14 Are you open to finishing your degree at a University of California campus different from the one where you earned the majority of your **University of California** credits?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q15 Do you know which college, university, or other program you would **most** like to attend?

- Yes. Please tell us which college, university or other program you would most like to attend (1)

- No (2)

Q16 What area of study would you like to complete your **primary** degree or certificate in?

- Arts (Theater and Dance, Media, Music, etc.) (1)
- Life Sciences (Biology, Bioengineering, etc.) (2)
- Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering, Structural Engineering, etc.) (3)
- Health (Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, etc.) (4)
- Humanities (History, Literature, Philosophy, etc.) (5)
- Mathematical or Physical Sciences (Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, etc.) (7)
- Social Sciences (Psychology, Education, Economics, Business, etc.) (8)
- Don't know (9)
- Other. Please specify (10) _____

Q17 Do you have a specific major or field that you would like to earn your **primary** degree or certificate in?

- Yes. Please specify (1) _____
- No (2)

Q18 How important is it for you to complete your initial University of California degree program?

- Extremely important (1)
- Very important (2)
- Moderately important (3)
- Slightly important (4)
- Not at all important (5)

Q19 If there was an opportunity to complete a General or Liberal Studies degree that will prepare you for a range of career paths with a curriculum guided by your interests and goals, would you be interested in doing so?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Q20 What type of learning experience are you **most** interested in?

- Completely online (1)
- Mostly online (2)
- About half online and half in person (3)
- Mostly in person (4)
- Completely in person (5)

Display This Question:

*If Q20 = Completely online Or Q20 = Mostly online Or Q20 = About half online and half in person
Or Q20 = Mostly in person*

Q21 What type of online learning experience are you most interested in?

- Live online led by an instructor (1)
- Recorded online (asynchronous) (2)
- A mix of live online and recorded online (3)
- I don't have a preference (4)

Display This Question:

If Q9 = Not at all interested

Q22 Why are you not at all interested in finishing your associate's or bachelor's degree or earning a professional certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- I've completed as much education as I want or need (1)
- I don't need a college degree or certificate to reach my personal and professional goals (2)
- I already have too much student debt (i.e., outstanding student loans) (3)
- I am overwhelmed by everything I would need to do to return (4)
- I can't afford to finish my degree or a certificate (5)
- I don't have time to finish my degree or a certificate (6)
- I have outstanding fees or fines at my previous college or university (e.g., unpaid library fines) (7)
- I am just not ready yet (8)
- Other. Please specify (9) _____

Demographics

Q23 What is your current zip code?

Q24 What is your current employment status?

- Working one full-time job (35 hours a week or more) (1)
- Working a full-time job (35 hours a week or more) and one or more other jobs (2)
- Working two or more part-time jobs totaling 35 hours a week or more (3)
- Working two or more part-time jobs totaling less than 35 hours a week (4)
- Working one part-time job totaling less than 35 hours a week (5)
- Unemployed, looking for work (6)
- Unemployed, not looking for work (7)
- Retired (8)
- Serving in the military (9)

Motivations and barriers

Q25 What is the **primary** reason you would like to return to finish a degree or earn a certificate?

- Achieve a personal goal (1)
- Be a role model for others (2)
- Change my career (3)
- Increase my income earning potential (4)
- Obtain a better job or promotion (5)
- Personal satisfaction (6)
- Required by my employer (7)
- Other. Please specify (8) _____

Q26 What obstacles do you face in returning to finish your degree or earn a certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- Application fees (1)
- Balancing work and studying (2)
- Being academically prepared (3)
- Being accepted to a college, university, or program (4)
- Caring for family members or significant others (5)
- Cost of attendance (6)
- Debt from previous enrollment (7)
- Financial obligations/cost of living (8)
- Finding the right college, university, or program (9)
- Getting time off work to re-enroll (10)
- Having to take a learning assessment in order to re-enroll (11)
- Math pre-requisites (12)
- Obtaining financial aid (13)
- Obtaining transcripts from past enrollment (14)

- Other debt (15)
- Stable housing (16)
- Transferring credit from past enrollment (17)
- Transportation to and from school (18)
- Unpaid tuition, fees, or fines from previous enrollment (19)
- Other. Please specify (20) _____

Q27 What would make it easier for you to return to finish a degree or complete a certificate? **Select all that apply.**

- Accelerated courses (1)
- College credit for things I've learned on the job (e.g., prior learning assessment) (2)
- Education benefits from my employer (3)
- Financial aid (4)
- Flexible course scheduling (5)
- Guidance from someone who understands the re-enrollment process (6)
- Help accessing past enrollment information like student ID or login name/password (7)
- Help filling out required forms and other documents for re-enrolling (8)
- Help filling out required forms or other documents in order to graduate (9)
- Help navigating college or university websites/portals (10)
- Help paying an outstanding fee (11)
- Knowing what I want to study/major in (12)
- Money for living expenses (13)
- Online courses (14)
- Stable housing (15)
- Talking with an admissions advisor (16)
- Talking with someone who has successfully re-enrolled (17)

- The ability to stop out and re-enroll when needed (18)
- The ability to transfer college credit from my prior institution to a new one (19)
- Other. Please specify (20) _____

Wrap up

Q28 Is there anything else you would like to share about returning to college to obtain a degree or professional certificate?

Q29 If you would like a member of the University of California to follow up with you regarding the completion of a degree or certificate, please enter your contact information here:

- Name (1) _____
- Email (2) _____
- Phone (3) _____