

COAS 2025 Survey Administration Report

The 2025 Cost of Attendance Survey (COAS) was administered during the spring term to a sample of 86,345 undergraduates systemwide across nine UC undergraduate campuses. To create the sample, the undergraduate population file was split by campus and on-/off-campus housing status. After confirming that each campus-by-housing-status cell included at least 70 students, approximately 35 percent of students from each group were randomly selected for the general sample.

The final survey sample also included all remaining financially independent students for a separate analysis that examines costs for financially independent students, specifically. The full population of financially independent students was pulled to ensure an adequate sample size for this analysis. Therefore, the total sample of 86,345 undergraduates includes both the randomly selected students and the financially independent students.

This report provides two measures of survey participation: response rate and completion rate.

Response rate refers to the percentage of invited students who responded to the survey. Respondents include students who submitted the survey, referred to as completers, and students who answered at least one survey question but did not submit the survey, referred to as partial respondents. Although survey participants could leave the survey at any time, the survey tool retained all information provided before survey closure. Students who only completed the consent form but did not answer any survey questions were not counted as respondents.

Completion rate refers to the percentage of respondents who clicked the submit button at the conclusion of the survey. Because students were allowed to skip questions, survey submission, rather than item-by-item completion, determines whether a respondent is counted as a completer.

The table below summarizes completion and response rates of the survey systemwide and by campus.

Campus	Student Population	Survey Sample	Completers	Respondents	Completion Rate	Response Rate
Berkeley	33,070	12,072	2,952	3,316	89%	27%
Davis	32,273	11,939	3,350	3,804	88%	32%
Los Angeles	33,475	12,350	2,390	2,674	89%	22%
Riverside	22,600	8,603	1,976	2,380	83%	28%
San Diego	34,955	12,991	3,116	3,518	89%	27%
Santa Cruz	17,940	6,727	1,389	1,582	88%	24%
Santa Barbara	23,181	8,287	1,834	2,068	89%	25%
Irvine	30,204	10,393	2,333	2,737	85%	26%
Merced	8,372	2,983	725	819	89%	27%
Systemwide	236,070	86,345	20,065	22,898	88%	27%

- The systemwide response rate, including partial respondents, was 27 percent. Response rates by campus ranged from 22 to 32 percent.
- The systemwide completion rate was 88 percent. Completion rates by campus ranged from 83 to 89 percent.

The final cleaned data file contains 22,898 respondents, yielding an overall response rate of 27 percent among the 86,345 undergraduates invited to participate. Among respondents, 20,065 submitted the survey and 2,833 were partial respondents. Submitted surveys represent 23 percent of all invited students and 88 percent of respondents. Partial respondents represent 12 percent of respondents.

Response rates were generally similar across race/ethnicity categories. International students, who are analyzed separately from race/ethnicity, were less likely to respond, with a response rate of 20 percent; Hispanic/Latino/a students responded at a slightly higher rate of 31 percent. Response rates also varied by gender: male students responded at a lower rate of 22 percent, compared with 30 percent for female students, 34 percent for non-binary students, and 24 percent for students with unknown gender. Because the non-binary group is much smaller than the female and male groups, its response rate should be interpreted with caution.

For further information, please refer to the survey response rate dashboard at <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-survey-completion-and-response-rates>.