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Institutional
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2025 UC Graduate Student Experience Survey administration report

The UC Graduate Student Experience Survey (UCGSES) was administered to over 60,000 graduate and professional students at all 10 UC campuses and received over 12,000 completed responses. This report provides summaries on survey duration, completion and response rates, and representativeness.

Survey duration

UCGSES was launched across a two-month period with the earliest launch on February 11, 2025 (UC Santa Cruz) and latest launch on April 7, 2025 (UC Merced). The survey was closed for all campuses by June 30, 2025 with an average of 84 active days for each campus compared to 76 in 2023. On average, 11 email reminder messages were sent for each campus, compared to 9 in 2023 (Table 1).

Table 1. Administration days for UCGSES 2025

Campus	Launch date	Close date	Active days 2025	# Reminders 2025	Active days 2023	# Reminders 2023
Berkeley	3/11/2025	5/27/2025	78	9	72	5
Davis	2/19/2025	4/14/2025	55	9	88	8
Irvine	3/4/2025	6/27/2025	116	9	75	5
Los Angeles	3/5/2025	5/30/2025	82	15	75	9
Merced	4/7/2025	6/27/2025	109	13	82	13
Riverside	2/25/2025	6/13/2025	99	17	68	11
San Diego	2/14/2025	5/23/2025	53	6	74	12
San Francisco	3/25/2025	5/16/2025	89	7	45	4
Santa Barbara	3/31/2025	6/30/2025	83	16	85	5
Santa Cruz	2/11/2025	5/5/2025	80	10	92	14
Average			**84**	**11**	**76**	**9**

Completion rates, response rates, and representativeness

Tables 2-3 provide information on completion and response rates by campus and representativeness by gender and race/ethnicity.

Response rate refers to the percentage of students surveyed who answered at least one survey question after the consent form, regardless of submitting the survey or not. The overall response rate is 22 percent, which is less than the 2023 response rate of 26 percent. Campus response rates vary from 18 to 43 percent (Table 2).

Completion rate refers to the percentage of students who completed and submitted the survey (students are allowed to skip questions) relative to the total number of respondents, who responded to at least one survey item after the consent form. The overall completion rate is 90 percent, which is 6% more than the 2023 completion rate. Campus completion rates vary from 87 to 95 percent (Table 2).

Representativeness is a measure to indicate the degree to which survey respondents represent the population. We determined representativeness by comparing respondents and the population by key characteristics, such as gender, race/ethnicity, residency, discipline, etc. In general, the respondents are representative of the population by most demographics. However, respondents identifying as women are overrepresented by about six percentage points and respondents identifying as men are underrepresented by about six percentage points (Table 3).

Completion and response rates and a representativeness analysis by campus and student demographics will be published in UC's Information Center at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-survey-completion-and-response-rates.

Table 2. Completion and response rates by campus and systemwide

Campus	Student population	Completers	Respondents	Completion rate	Response rate
Berkeley	12,392	2,818	3,106	91%	25%
Davis	7,810	1,502	1,685	89%	22%
Irvine	6,633	1,243	1,386	90%	21%
Los Angeles	13,261	2,237	2,540	88%	19%
Merced	709	291	307	95%	43%
Riverside	3,468	900	986	91%	28%
San Diego	8,725	1,637	1,793	91%	21%
San Francisco	2,875	465	522	89%	18%
Santa Barbara	2,848	536	616	87%	22%
Santa Cruz	1,906	552	627	88%	33%
Systemwide	**60,627**	**12,181**	**13,568**	**90%**	**22%**

Table 3. Representativeness of survey respondents by gender and race/ethnicity

Characteristics	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Gender				
Woman	27,109	45%	6,932	51%
Man	27,186	45%	5,284	39%
Nonbinary	1,078	2%	321	2%
Transgender man	97	<1%	35	<1%
Transgender woman	115	<1%	19	<1%
Other/Unknown	4,941	8%	948	7%
Race/ethnicity				
African American	3,181	5%	660	5%
American Indian	424	1%	99	1%
Hispanic/Latinx	7,730	13%	1,697	13%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13,222	22%	2,679	20%
White	15,467	26%	3,559	26%
International	18,172	30%	4,342	32%
Unknown	2,220	4%	503	4%
Total	**60,627**	**100%**	**13,568**	**100%**