

2026 Graduate Student Support Survey administration report

The Graduate Student Support Survey is administered every three years at the University of California. The results from the study are used to inform UC policymakers about the competitiveness of financial award packages offered by UC campuses and by UC's top competitor institutions. The 2026 Graduate Student Support Survey was conducted by Institutional Research and Academic Planning in collaboration with Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs.

Response rate

The survey was administered to all admitted academic doctoral students for fall 2026. About 40% (2,328) of invited participants completed at least one item of the survey (Table 1). Of the participants who started the survey, 86% (2,001) completed the survey by advancing to the final question and submitting their responses (they were permitted to skip questions, if desired).

Table 1. Completion and response rates by gender and ethnicity

Gender					
Man	2,750	1,067	39%	910	85%
Woman	2,698	1,104	41%	957	87%
Nonbinary	137	59	43%	50	85%
Transgender Man	11	<10		<10	
Transgender Woman	24	<10		<10	
Other/Unknown	222	84	38%	71	85%
Ethnicity					
African American	165	67	41%	54	81%
American Indian	34	18	53%	16	89%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,132	415	37%	357	86%
Chicano/Latinx	493	204	41%	182	89%
International	2,083	861	41%	731	85%
White	1,622	615	38%	530	86%
Other/Unknown	313	148	47%	131	89%
Overall	5,842	2,328	40%	2,001	86%

Note: Response rate includes all students who answered the survey, both those who submitted the survey and partial completers. The completion rate is the percentage of students who submitted their survey relative to the total number of participants who started the survey.

Sample representativeness

The respondents generally represent the population by ethnicity and gender (Table 2).

Table 2. Sample representativeness of survey respondents

Characteristics	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Gender				
Man	2,750	47%	1,067	46%
Woman	2,698	46%	1,104	47%
Nonbinary	137	2%	59	3%
Transgender Man	11	<1%	<10	<1%
Transgender Woman	24	<1%	<10	<1%
Other/Unknown	222	4%	84	4%
Ethnicity				
African American	165	3%	67	3%
American Indian	34	<1%	18	<1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,132	19%	415	18%
Chicano/Latinx	493	8%	204	9%
International	2,083	36%	861	37%
White	1,622	28%	615	26%
Other/Unknown	313	5%	148	6%
Total	5,842		2,328	

Other survey administration information

Each campus provided a list of admitted PhD students, contributing to a single master list across the UC system. Students admitted to multiple campuses received the same number of emails as students admitted to a single campus. One survey invitation and nine reminders were sent via email through Qualtrics between May 19, 2026 and July 15, 2026. Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs provided 32 \$75 Amazon gift cards and two grand prizes of \$500 as incentives to increase student participation.