

**2026 Graduate Student Support Survey
Survey Instrument
University of California Office of the President**



Graduate Student Support Survey

The Graduate Student Support Survey is conducted by the University of California every three years. The results from the study are used to inform UC policy makers about the competitiveness of financial award packages offered by UC campuses and by UC's top competitor institutions.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

If you are interrupted while taking the survey, you may return to the point you left off and finish it any time by clicking the link sent to you in your email. If you have any questions on the Survey, please contact: DoctoralStudentSurvey@ucop.edu.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your personal information, limited to your name and email address, is used strictly for sending survey invitation and reminder messages. Such information is only accessible by survey administration staff. After the survey is closed, your name and email address will be deleted from all survey datasets. Your student ID will be used to match survey responses against other data such as, but not limited to, your demographics, enrollment records, graduation data, applicant data, and post-baccalaureate data. This data is used for analysis and reporting.

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. When this information is stored on third party secure platforms and secure file transfer suppliers, confidentiality will be maintained and your privacy protected according to the University of California privacy and security policies. This information will only be disclosed when required by law. All data used in public reporting will be reviewed to ensure that your identity cannot be ascertained. Information will be retained in compliance with UC's Record Retention Schedule <https://recordsretention.ucop.edu/>.

If you agree to take the survey, please select 'Agree' and then click '>>' to continue.

Agree
Disagree

*To enter the prize drawings without completing the survey, you must send an email to doctoralstudentsurvey@ucop.edu with 'GSSS Prize Entry' in subject line and include your full name in the body of the email. This email must be received by July 21st 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.

1. [decision] Have you made your final decision about where to attend graduate school?
 - a. Yes (*answer question 2*)
 - b. No (*skips to end of survey submission page*)
 - c. Decided not to enroll in graduate school in 2026-27 (*skips to end of survey submission page*)

2. [enrl_choice] Where will you enroll in Fall 2026?
 - a. University of California campus
 - b. Non-University of California college or university

3. [UC_attend or nonUC_attend] Which <UC or Non-UC from question #2> institution will you attend?
 - a. Select institution name from drop-down menu

4. [program] Which program will you enroll in?
 - a. Select program of study from drop-down menu

5. [UC_num_campuses] How many University of California campuses were you accepted to?

6. [NonUC_num_campuses] How many colleges and universities other than the University of California were you accepted to? **Skip to end of survey if 0**

7. [nonUC_2choice or UC_2choice] If you had to choose a school other than <UC or Non-UC school from question #3> and you could only choose among the <non-UC schools if chose a UC in #2; UC schools if chose a non-UC in #2> **that accepted you**, which institution and graduate program would you then choose to attend?
 - a. Select institution name from drop-down menu

8. [program_2choice] Which program would you choose?
 - a. Select program of study from drop-down menu

Institutional Support

The following questions will ask you about the financial support you were offered for the doctoral program you plan to enroll in. If it is helpful, please refer to your offer letter (the financial aid offer letter is sometimes different from the enrollment offer letter).

[Supp_enrlUC] [Supp_enrlNOUC] Did you receive any financial support from [university name from #3]

Yes

No (**If no, skip to the next section**)

9. [yrs_sup_enrl_UC[and [yrs_sup_enrl_nouc] How many years of financial support did [university name from #3] offer you?

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years
- 6 years
- 7 or more years

Following are some questions about the types of financial support you will receive during your first year academic year 2026-2027 while attending <UC or non-UC school from #3>.

Please do not include the following types of support for this question:

- **Housing grants**
- **Tuition and fees**
- **Health insurance benefits**
- **Portable awards (e.g., NSF, Fulbright, NIH, EPA, International Govt. Scholarships)**

10. [1fullyear_financ_enrl_2026] How much were you offered in your financial package (i.e., stipend, academic student employment) in academic year 2026-27, including summer 2027?

Amount for full year: _____

I do not know what my financial package is for my first year.

11. [1year_support_enrl] How much of that first-year funding is covered by each of the following funding sources?

Fellowship/scholarship/grant by <UC or non-UC school from #3> for academic year 2026-27:

\$ _____

Research assistantship salary for academic year 2026-27

\$ _____

Teaching assistantship salary for academic year 2026-27

\$ _____

I do not know how my first-year financial package is broken down by these categories.

If they don't know EITHER of the two above, then send the survey taker to the next section.

12. [fees_tuition_enrl_2026] You have indicated that for the academic year 2026-27, you will have the following support while attending < UC or non-UC school from #3>: <Total Support \$ from #10>

Will your financial aid package of \$[piped in dollar amount]? at < UC or non-UC school from #3> be used to cover any portion of tuition and fees?

- a) Yes (Answer the tuition question)
- b) No (skip next question)

13. [feestuition_2026] How much will you need to pay for assessed tuition and fees (including personal health insurance) during the 2026-2027 academic year? If you don't know the exact dollar amount, an estimate is okay.

-[open text box- only numbers accepted as responses]

-I do not need to pay anything for fees or tuition

Multi-Year Support

14. [support_yr_enrl] [If entered two or more years in question #9] Please list the total amount of institutional financial support available from <UC or non-UC school from #3> for each academic year after 2026-27.

Total Institutional Financial Support = Fellowship/scholarship/grant + Research assistantship salary + Teaching assistantship salary.

Total Support in Second Year (2027-28): \$ _____

Total Support in Third Year (2028-29): \$ _____

Total Support in Fourth Year (2029-30): \$ _____

Total Support in Fifth Year (2030-31): \$ _____

Total Support in Sixth Year (2031-32): \$ _____

Total Support in Seventh Year (2032-33): \$ _____

Repeats questions above for second-choice school if applicable

Portable Support (awards that can be used at any school)

15. [portable_support] Will you receive any outside/portable awards that can be used at any institution? (e.g., NSF, Fulbright, NIH, EPA, International Govt. Scholarships).

- a. Yes (display #16 port_supp_enrl)
- b. No (skip to #17 rating_factors_enrl)

16. [port_supp_enrl] How much will you receive in total (including tuition, fees, etc.) from portable support while enrolled at <UC or non-UC school from #3> in academic year 2026-27?

17. [rating_factors_enrl] Please rate <UC or non-UC school from #3> on each of the factors that influenced your decision. Select N/A for factors not important to your decision.

	Above Average	Average	Below Average	N/A
Program reputation				
Matches my research interest (s)				
Quality of faculty in my program				
Amount of financial support offer				
Types of financial support offered (e.g. fellowship vs. TA)				
Multi-year support offer				
Campus location suits me				
Diversity of students				
Diversity of faculty				
Availability of affordable housing				
Affordability of tuition and fee levels				
Program offered a caring and friendly environment				
High quality research facilities				
Contact with program				

Questions repeat but for <Competing UC or non-UC school from #7>

18. [open_comment_2026] Please share any final comments you would like to share about this survey before you submit your responses:

[complete_text] You are about to complete the survey. When you click ">>", you will submit your survey and cannot go back to make changes.

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.

Your response has been recorded.

Conclude Survey