

# 2007 Graduate Student Survey - Overview of Results



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## **2007 Graduate Student Survey- Overview of Results Executive Summary**

The 2007 Graduate Student Survey was developed in consultation with the Division of Graduate Studies to evaluate graduate departments/programs and ensure that UCSC graduate students obtain the very best education possible. The survey was administered online to graduate students during Spring Quarter 2007 and garnered a 56% response rate. This report provides summaries for the overall graduate student respondent population regarding: 1) Response rates; 2) Respondent characteristics; 3) Decision to attend UCSC; 4) Financial aid; 5) Housing; 6) Campus social events; 7) Health insurance; 8) Graduate student services; and 9) Employment plans.

### **Notable Findings**

- Graduate students indicated that study of a specific area or subfield within the discipline was considered the most important factor for attending UCSC.
- The majority of graduate students (63%) indicated that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the amount of financial support, although there were differences between Divisions.
- Most graduate students indicated that they were satisfied with their current housing situation.
- The majority (61%) of graduate students do not have a strong opinion regarding their ratings of campus social events for graduate students.
- The majority (86%) of graduate students reported subscribing to the UCSC graduate student health insurance plan (GSHIP), and reported that Primary/Urgent Care, Pharmacy Services, and Dental Plan were most important to them.
- Services used most frequently by graduate students include the Graduate Student Commons and medical services at the Health Center. The Graduate Student Commons, GSA, and the Division of Graduate Studies were rated highest among graduate student services.
- At time of entry at UCSC, the largest percentage (52%) of students recalled anticipating a University-related career. However, when asked about their current employment plans, the percentage of those considering a University-related career decreased to 43%, while the number of students intending to pursue a career in industry (23%) as well as those who were undecided about their career (18%) increased.

## 2007 Graduate Student Survey - Overview of Results

The 2007 Graduate Student Survey was developed in consultation with the Division of Graduate Studies to evaluate graduate departments/programs and ensure that UCSC graduate students obtain the very best education possible. The online survey was designed to solicit graduate students' feedback about the quality of their academic programs as well as graduate student life and focused on the following topics: a) Factors influencing the decision to attend UCSC, b) Quality of department/program & faculty, c) Primary advisor, d) Department/program curriculum, e) Department/program resources, f) Student voice, g) Department/program climate, h) Career preparation, i) TA training, j) Overall satisfaction, k) Career goals, l) Graduate student services, m) Financing graduate school, n) Housing, and o) Graduate student organizations and events. In addition, students were asked to provide open-ended responses throughout the sections in the survey. Open-ended responses were solicited from students related to additional comments regarding the quality of graduate student services, financing graduate study, housing concerns, graduate student clubs and organizations, challenges faced by international graduate students, and strengths and weaknesses of their department/program. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A of this report.

### Method

Graduate students identified to be included in the sample consisted of those who were enrolled in the Winter and/or Spring quarters. During Spring 2007, initial invitations and four weekly reminders containing login and password information were sent electronically addressed from the Dean of Graduate Studies to students' campus assigned email addresses. Flyers containing the survey information were posted at department/program offices and other graduate student areas. In addition, graduate departments/programs were asked to email their graduate students to encourage them to participate in the online survey. As an incentive for participation, students who completed the survey were entered into a random drawing for one of twenty \$50 gift certificates for local restaurants and services.

### Results

Survey data was summarized at different levels. Some survey data is summarized for the graduate student population as a whole, while departments/program specific data summaries are available for other survey items. In addition, special reports were created to address specific topics/issues for certain subpopulations (e.g., international students). The table below summarizes the location of the findings for different sections of the survey.

<b>Survey Section</b>	<b>Summary by department/program</b> Location: <a href="http://planning.ucsc.edu/IRPS/Grad_Survey_07/">http://planning.ucsc.edu/IRPS/Grad_Survey_07/</a>	<b>Summary for overall graduate student population</b> Location: <a href="http://planning.ucsc.edu/irps/surveys.asp">http://planning.ucsc.edu/irps/surveys.asp</a>	<b>Summaries for specific subpopulations and open-ended responses</b> Location: available upon request
Decision to attend UCSC	X	X	
Quality of department/program & faculty ratings	X		
Primary advisor	X		
Department/program curriculum	X		
Department/program resources,	X		
Student voice	X		
Department/program climate	X		
Department/program and career preparation	X		
TA training	X		
Overall satisfaction	X		
Career goals		X	
Graduate Student Services		X	
Financing graduate school	X	X	
Housing		X	
Graduate student organizations and events		X	
International students			X
Program strengths, weaknesses, & suggestions for improvement			X

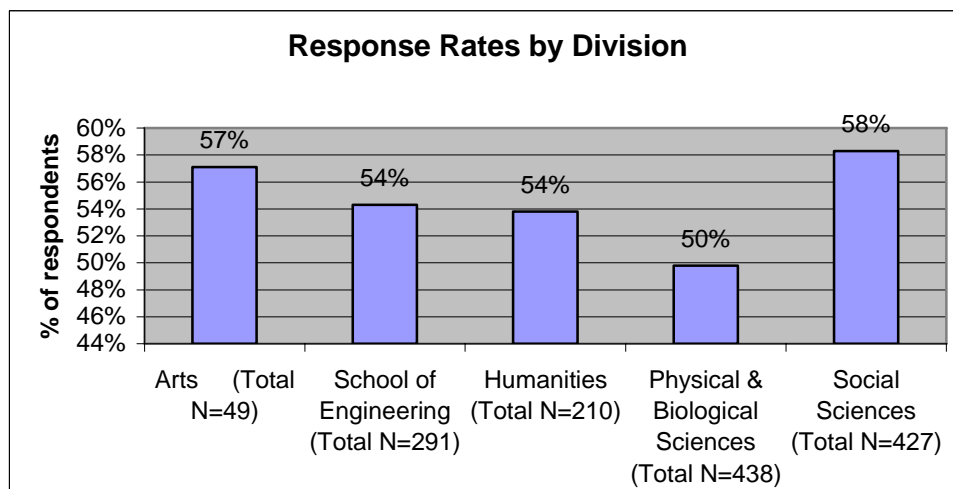
This report provides summaries for the overall graduate student respondent population regarding: 1) Response rates; 2) Respondent characteristics; 3) Decision to attend UCSC; 4) Financial aid; 5) Housing; 6) Campus social events; 7) Health insurance; 8) Graduate student services; and 9) Employment plans.

### **Response Rates**

Survey invitations were emailed to 1,415 graduate students who were enrolled in the Winter and/or Spring quarters. Of these students, 52 who had undeliverable emails/survey invitations or refused participation were removed from the sample, and thus, the total survey population consisted of 1,363 graduate students. The overall response rate was 56% (N=766). Response rates by division as well as department/program are summarized below.

### Response Rates by Division

Response rates by division ranged from 50% to 58%. The highest response rate was among graduate students in the Social Sciences Division.



### Response Rates by Department/Program

Response rates by department/program ranged between 37% and 80%.

Department/Program	Response Rate
Anthropology	65%
Applied Economics & Finance	61%
Astronomy & Astrophysics	71%
Bioinformatics	71%
Computer Engineering Network Engineering	67%
Chemistry	49%
Computer Engineering	53%
Computer Science	54%
Digital Arts & New Media	55%
Earth Sciences	71%
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	37%
Education	56%
Electrical Engineering	55%
Environmental Studies	67%
Environmental Toxicology	80%
History	56%
History of Consciousness	52%
International Economics	69%
Linguistics	75%
Literature	46%
Mathematics	41%

<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology	43%
Music	59%
Ocean Sciences	51%
Philosophy	71%
Physics	47%
Politics	41%
Psychology	64%
Science Communication	80%
Social Documentation	54%
Sociology	60%
Theater Arts	70%

### **Departments/Programs with the Highest Response Rates**

<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Environmental Toxicology	80%
Science Communication	80%
Linguistics	75%
Philosophy	71%
Earth Sciences	71%
Astronomy	71%
Bioinformatics	71%

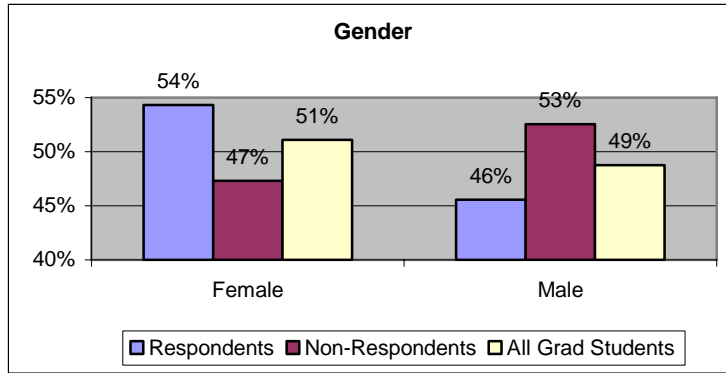
### **Departments/Programs with the Lowest Response Rates**

<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Literature	46%
Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology	43%
Mathematics	41%
Politics	41%
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	37%

## Respondent Characteristics

### Gender

Women were slightly overrepresented among survey respondents compared to the overall graduate student population.



### Ethnicity

The ethnicity of respondents was similar to that of the overall graduate student population. Response rates by ethnicity varied- highest among Native American graduate students and lowest among African American graduate students.

	Response Rate
African American	45%
Asian	58%
Chicano/Latino	52%
European American	54%
Native American	67%
Other Minority	54%
Unknown	48%

### Level

The highest response rate by level was among students obtaining a certificate degree. The lowest response rate was among Doctoral Level 2- Nonreportable students and was most likely due to small population of graduate students earning that degree.

	Response Rate
Certificate	75%
Doctoral Level 1	56%
Doctoral Level 2- Nonreportable	25%
Doctoral Level 2- Reportable	52%
Masters- Professional	53%

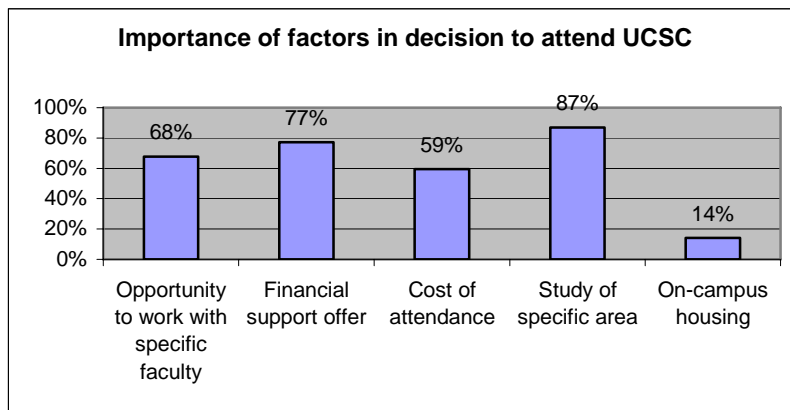


**Entry Term**

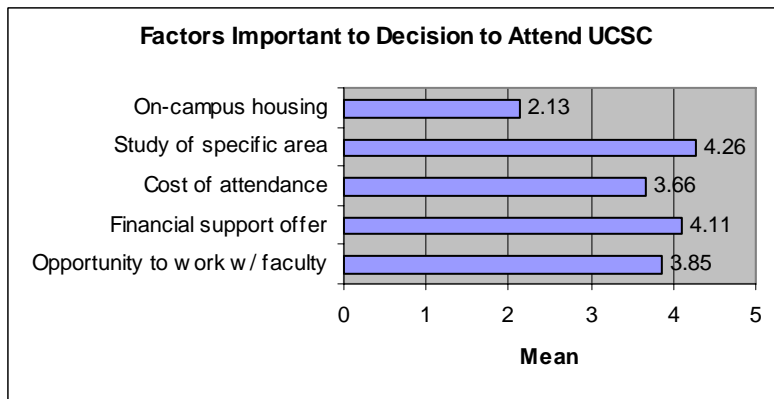
The quarter and year that students entered UCSC ranged from Fall 1984 to Winter 2007. The majority of survey respondents entered in or after Fall 2005 quarter.

**Decision to Attend UCSC**

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of various factors in influencing their decision to pursue graduate study at UCSC. Response options were indicated on a scale ranging from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important). The table below summarizes the percentage of respondents who indicated that the factor was “Important” or “Very Important” to their graduate school decision. Study of a specific area or subfield within the discipline was considered most important by graduate students. Very few students reported considering on-campus housing as important to their decision.

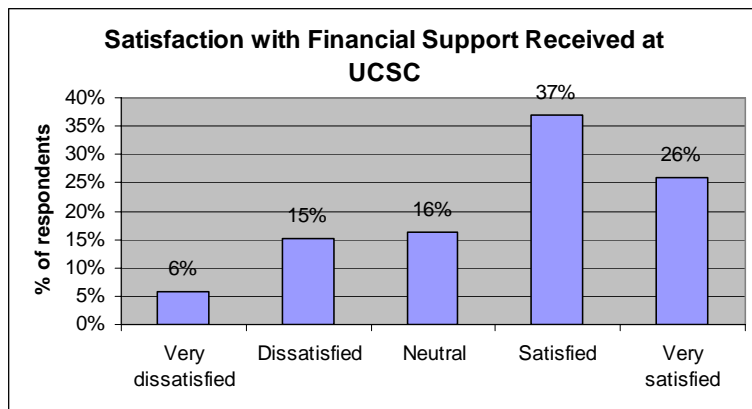


The means for each factor are summarized below.



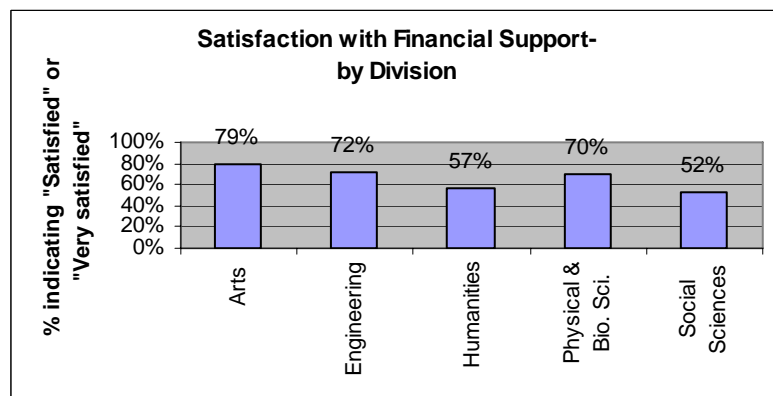
## Financial Aid

The majority of graduate students (63%) indicated that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the amount of financial support (e.g., UCSC fellowships, research assistantships, and teaching assistantships) that they have received while enrolled at UCSC (Mean=3.62, SD=1.18).



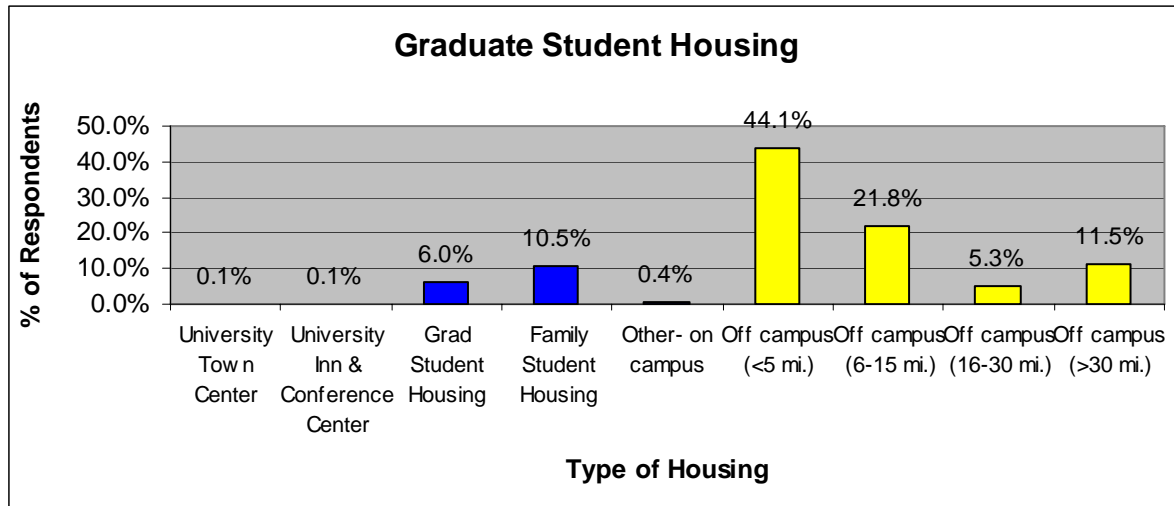
## Financial Aid Satisfaction by Division

Satisfaction with financial support was also calculated by Division. Graduate students in the Social Sciences (Mean=3.38, SD=1.24) and Humanities (Mean=3.38, SD=1.18) Divisions reported the lowest level of satisfaction with their funding. Students in the Arts Division (Mean=4.04, SD=0.69), Physical and Biological Sciences Division (Mean=3.81, SD=1.14), as well as the School of Engineering (Mean=3.85, SD=1.13) reported similar, high levels of satisfaction with funding.

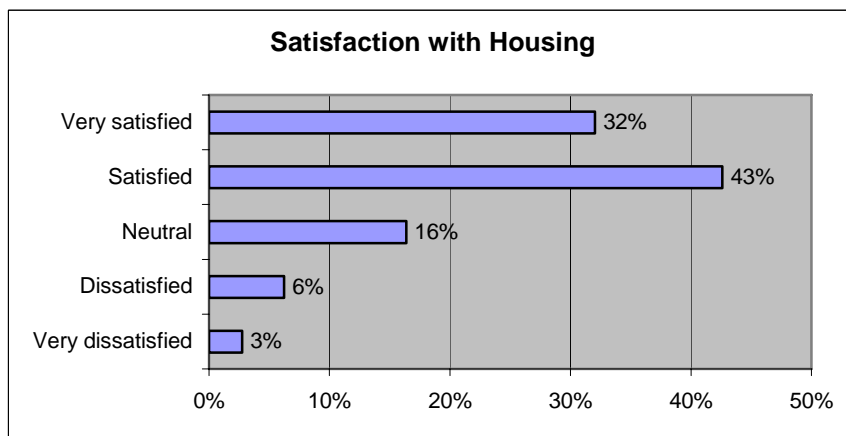


## Housing

The majority of graduate students (83%) reported living off campus. Further, 20% of graduate students living off campus live 16 or more miles from campus.



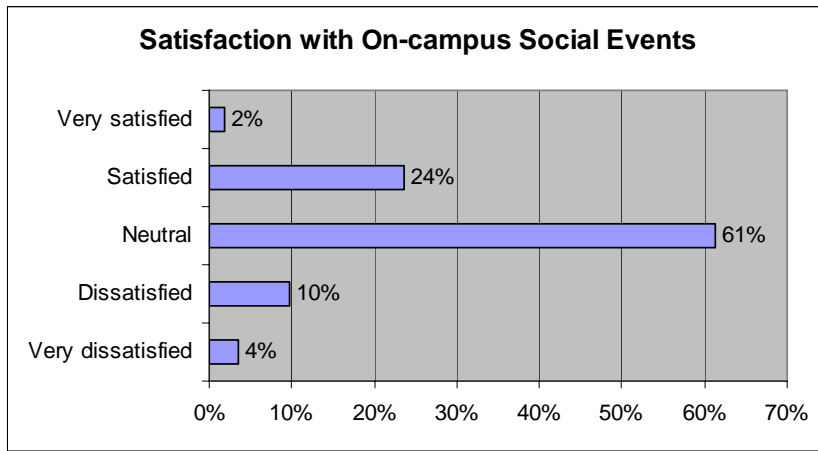
Most graduate students indicated that they were satisfied with their current housing situation (Mean=3.95, SD=0.99).



Of the 120 students living on campus, 79% were satisfied or very satisfied with their housing (Mean=3.96, SD=0.92).

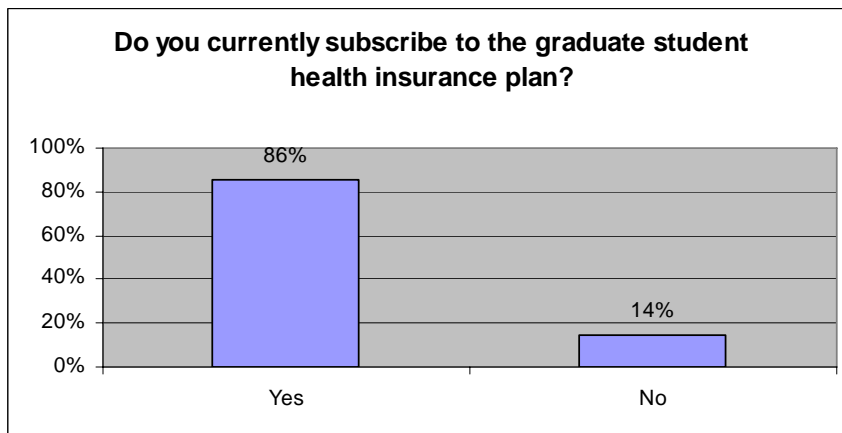
### Campus Social Events

As indicated in the chart below, the majority (61%) of graduate students do not have a strong opinion regarding their ratings of campus social events for graduate students.



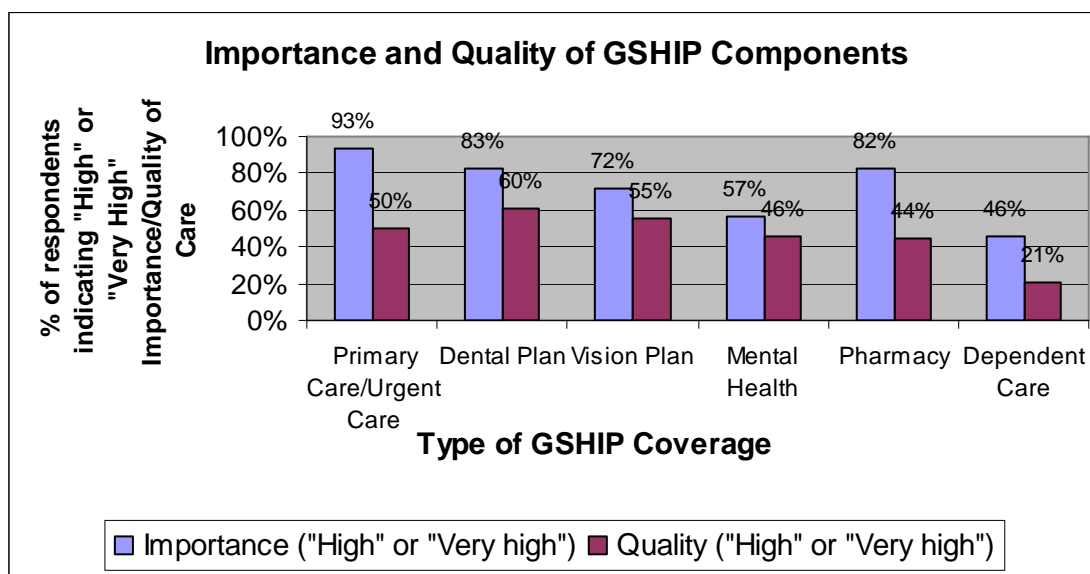
### Health Insurance

The majority (86%) of graduate students reported subscribing to the UCSC graduate student health insurance plan (GSHIP).



Graduate students were also asked to rate the importance and quality of various types of health insurance coverage offered by GSHIP. A large percentage of respondents indicated that primary care/urgent care, dental plan, and pharmacy coverage were the most important components of the health insurance plan. Ratings of quality varied among the different components with the lowest ratings of quality for dependent care and the highest for the dental plan. A summary of the means and frequencies is provided in the chart and table below. Responses were indicated on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high).

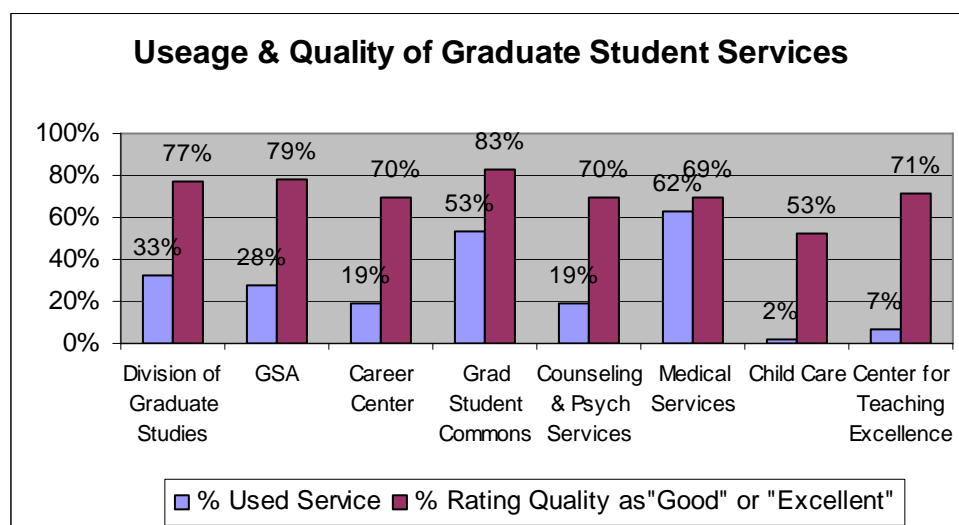
<b>GSHIP Components</b>	<b>Importance Rating (1= Very unimportant, 5=Very important)</b>	<b>Quality Rating (1=Very low, 5=Very high)</b>
Primary Care/Urgent Care	M=4.66, SD=0.71	M=3.32, SD=1.15
Dental Plan	M=4.29, SD=0.90	M=3.09, SD=1.54
Vision Plan	M=3.99, SD=1.17	M=3.00, SD=1.58
Mental Health	M=3.65, SD=1.28	M=2.48, SD=1.77
Pharmacy	M=4.25, SD=1.11	M=3.36, SD=0.96
Dependent Care	M=2.99, SD=1.67	M=2.25, SD=1.18



### Graduate Student Services

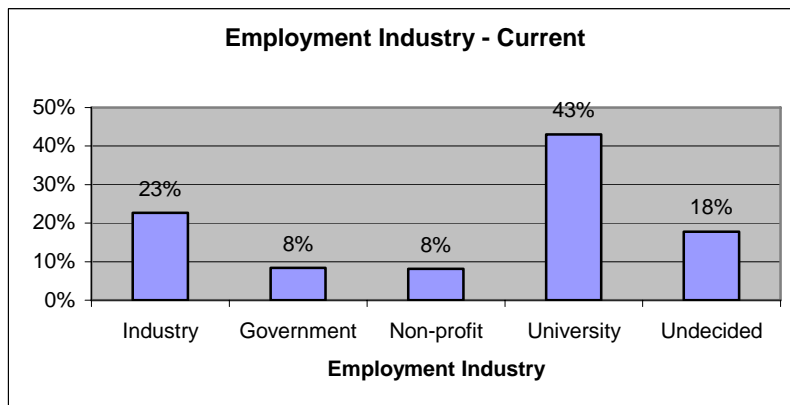
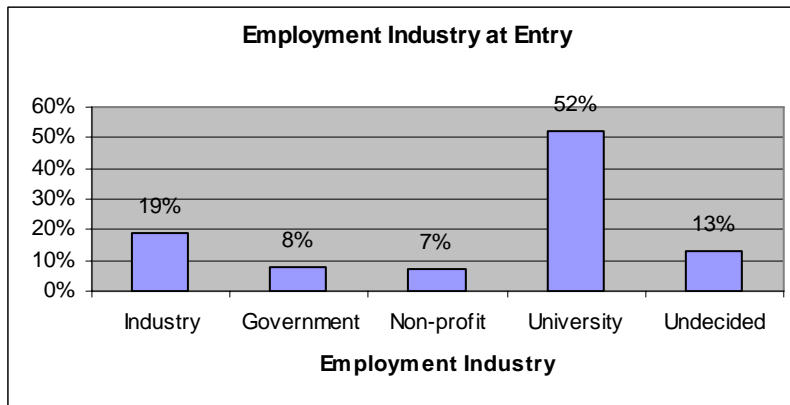
Respondents were asked to rate their frequency of usage and the quality of eight graduate student services. Services used most frequently by graduate students include the Graduate Student Commons and medical services at the Health Center. A summary of the means and frequencies is provided in the chart and table below. Responses related to quality were indicated on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high)

Graduate Student Service	Quality Rating (1=Very low, 5=Very high)
Division of Graduate Studies	M=4.06, SD=0.92
Graduate Student Association (GSA)	M=4.05, SD=0.95
Career Center	M=3.79, SD=1.04
Graduate Student Commons	M=4.14, SD=0.80
Health Center- Counseling & Psych Service	M=3.89, SD=1.04
Health Center- Medical Services	M=3.86, SD=0.92
Child Care	M=3.47, SD=1.58
Center for Teaching Excellence	M=4.00, SD=0.83



### Employment Plans- Past and Present

Respondents were asked to indicate their expected employment industry at the time that they entered UCSC and currently. The largest percentage (52%) of students recalled anticipating a University-related career when they began their graduate studies at UCSC. However, when asked about their current employment plans, the percentage of those considering a University-related career decreased to 43%, while the number of students intending to pursue a career in industry (23%) as well as those who were undecided about their career (18%) increased.



## Appendix A: 2007 Graduate Student Survey

The Division of Graduate Studies is interested in your feedback about your graduate experience at UC Santa Cruz. Your responses will help us evaluate your graduate program and help ensure that our graduate students obtain the very best education possible. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in completing this survey. If you have any questions about this survey, please feel free to contact: graddiv@ucsc.edu or (831) 459-2510.

### Protecting Your Privacy

All personally identifying information including your Student Identification Number will be removed from the final data set so that your identity will never be connected to your individual survey responses. All of your responses will be maintained confidentially, and the results of this survey will be reported only as aggregate data.

Please enter your 7-digit student ID number below to login to the survey.

**Student Identification Number** \_\_\_\_\_

### Graduate Study Information

Graduate program in which you are enrolled

- Anthropology
- Applied Economics and Finance
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Bioinformatics
- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Digital Arts/New Media
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology & Evolution
- Education
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Toxicology
- History
- History of Consciousness
- International Economics
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Mathematics
- Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology
- Music
- Music Composition
- Network Engineering
- Ocean Sciences
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Science Communication
- Social Documentation
- Sociology
- Statistics & Stochastic Modeling
- Theater Arts











**Overall Satisfaction**

Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable/ Don't know
I have benefited from the overall intellectual environment at UCSC.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If I were to start my graduate career over again, I would choose UCSC.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If I were to start my graduate career over again, I would choose my same field of study.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If I were to start my graduate career over again, I would choose my same advisor.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Career Goals**

In which employment sector were your career/employment goals *at the time you entered graduate school* at UCSC?

- Industry (US)
- Industry (Foreign)
- Government (US)
- Government (Foreign)
- Non-profit (US)
- Non-profit (Foreign)
- University (US)
- University (Foreign)
- Undecided

In which employment sector are your *current career/employment goals*?

- Industry (US)
- Industry (Foreign)
- Government (US)
- Government (Foreign)
- Non-profit (US)
- Non-profit (Foreign)
- University (US)
- University (Foreign)
- Undecided

I am confident that I will be able to find a job following graduation.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree



## Quality

	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Very high	Don't know
Primary Care/Urgent Care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health Coverage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pharmacy Coverage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dependent Care Coverage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Financing Graduate School**

How satisfied are you with the amount of financial support (e.g., UCSC fellowships, researchships, and teaching assistantships) that you have received while enrolled at UCSC?

- Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Not applicable

Additional comments regarding financing your graduate studies.

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**Housing**

Where do you currently live?

**On-campus**

- The Village
- University Town Center
- University Inn and Conference Center
- Graduate Student Housing
- Family Student Housing
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Off-campus**

- 5 miles or less from campus
- 6-15 miles from campus
- 16-30 miles from campus
- More than 30 miles from campus

How satisfied are you with your current housing situation?

- Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied

Do you have any concerns about housing?

- Yes
- No

What are your biggest concerns about housing?

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**Graduate Student Organizations & Events**

How satisfied are you with the availability of campus social events geared toward graduate students?

- Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied

What types of social events, clubs, and/or organizations for graduate students would you like to have at UCSC?

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Are you an international student?

- Yes
- No

What are some specific issues or challenges you face as an international graduate student?

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**Comments**

How can your program/department at UC Santa Cruz be improved?

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What do you think is the major strength of your program/department?

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What do you think is the major weakness of your program/department?

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Additional comments?

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**Thank you for completing this survey!  
Please click the Submit Survey button below.**