

## 2015 Graduate Student Survey

The purpose of this survey is to provide graduate students with a unique formal opportunity to share their experiences and suggestions with campus decision makers.

Since 2007 this survey has been used to evaluate the quality of graduate programs for formal and informal departmental reviews and to improve academic programs and on-campus services.

Complete the survey and be entered to win one of many prizes!

### Protecting Your Privacy

Please be assured that all of your responses will be maintained securely and confidentially.

Click here for more information about privacy and confidentiality:

"<http://gradsurvey.ucsc.edu/privacy.asp>"

If you have any questions about this survey or experience technical difficulties, please email [surveys@ucsc.edu](mailto:surveys@ucsc.edu).

**NOTE:** By clicking **NEXT** at the bottom of each screen you save your responses.

If you are unable to finish the survey in one sitting, you can log in later at [gradsurvey.ucsc.edu](http://gradsurvey.ucsc.edu).

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## Program Information

### 1. Please select the graduate program in which you are enrolled:

Response options:

- Anthropology
- Applied Economics and Finance
- Astronomy & Astrophysics
- Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics
- Chemistry
- Collaborative Leadership
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Digital Arts/New Media
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Economics
- Education
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Feminist Studies
- Film & Digital Media
- Games & Playable Media
- History

History of Consciousness  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
Linguistics  
Literature  
Mathematics  
Microbiology & Environmental Toxicology  
Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology  
Music  
Music Composition  
Ocean Sciences  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Politics  
Psychology  
Science Communication  
Social Documentation  
Sociology  
Applied Math or Statistics  
Technology & Information Management  
Theater Arts  
Visual Studies

**2. What is the highest degree you will attain at the completion of your program?**

Response options:

Post-Bachelor's Certificate  
MA  
MS  
MFA  
PhD, EDD, or DMA

**3. Have you completed the following aspects of your graduate program?**

Response options:            Yes    No / Not applicable

- a. I have completed all required coursework for my program
- b. I have completed my lab rotations
- c. I have passed my qualifying exams/paper
- d. I have had my dissertation/thesis proposal accepted by a committee
- e. I am in the final year of my program
- f. I have defended (completed) my dissertation/thesis
- g. I have graduated

Next question is shown if: (Degree = PhD, EDD, or DMA)

**4. Do you intend to complete a designated emphasis (parenthetical notation) while at UCSC?**

Response options:

**Yes No Don't Know**

Next question is shown if: (4 = Yes OR 4 = Don't Know)

**5. In which program(s) do you intend to complete a designated emphasis? (Please check all that apply)**

Response options:

**Anthropology  
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Education  
Environmental Studies  
Feminist Studies  
Film and Digital Media  
History of Consciousness  
Latin American/Latino Studies (LALS)  
Literature  
Philosophy  
Politics  
Robotics and Control  
Social Documentation  
Sociology  
Statistics  
Visual Studies  
Other**

Next question is shown if: (4 = YES)

**6. Have you completed the required coursework for your designated emphasis program(s)?**

Response options: **Yes No**

**7. Overall, how satisfied are you being a student at UCSC?**

Response options:

**Very satisfied  
Satisfied  
Somewhat Satisfied  
Somewhat Dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied**

## Quality of Program & Faculty

### 8. Please rate the following aspects of your department/program and the faculty.

Response options:

Very poor   Poor   Fair   Good   Very Good   Excellent   Not applicable/Don't know

- a. Quality of teaching by faculty in your program
- b. Quality of teaching in your area of specialization
- c. Diversity of faculty's research interests
- d. Opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty on research
- e. Opportunities to form mentorship relationships with faculty members
- f. Opportunities to work with faculty whose research interests match your own
- g. Amount of faculty involvement in program/department activities and events
- h. Faculty assistance in helping you find and secure funding
- i. Quality of faculty advice regarding an academic career
- j. Quality of faculty advice regarding other types of careers
- k. Quality of professional development training and opportunities to prepare you for your target career
- l. Faculty assistance in helping you find professional employment
- m. **Overall quality of your graduate program**

### 9. Do you currently have a primary faculty advisor?

Response options:

Yes

No, but I have an assigned temporary faculty advisor

No, I don't have a faculty advisor

I don't know

Next question is shown if: (9 = Yes OR 9 = No, but I have an assigned temporary faculty advisor)

### 10. Please indicate how accurately the following statements describe your primary advisor. My primary advisor. . .

Response options:

Strongly disagree   Disagree   Inclined to disagree   Inclined to agree   Agree   Strongly agree   Not applicable

- a. is approachable.
- b. shows concern about my progress in the program.
- c. helps me navigate the requirements of the program (i.e., QE, dissertation proposal).
- d. provides guidance on how to select and develop a thesis/dissertation topic.
- e. discusses my research with me on a regular basis.
- f. provides constructive criticism on my work.
- g. returns my work and provides feedback promptly.
- h. helps me identify potential sources of financial support.
- i. helps me develop my professional network
- j. helps direct my search for professional employment.

Next question is shown if: (9 = Yes OR 9 = No, but I have an assigned temporary faculty advisor)

**11. How satisfied are you with your overall professional relationship with your primary advisor?**

Response options:

Very dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Somewhat dissatisfied   Somewhat satisfied   Satisfied   Very satisfied

## Program Curriculum

**12. Please indicate how accurately the following statements describe the curriculum of your department/program.**

Response options:

Strongly disagree   Disagree   Inclined to disagree   Inclined to agree   Agree   Strongly agree   Not applicable

- My program's requirements are well-defined.
- My program's overall requirements are appropriate.
- My program's *core* course requirements provide adequate preparation for later courses.
- My program's curriculum provides the knowledge & training for graduate-level competency in my area of specialization.
- Required courses are offered regularly and as scheduled.
- Elective courses are offered regularly and as scheduled.
- Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of curriculum.**

Next Question is shown for PBSci Programs including the following: Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics; Chemistry; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Microbiology & Environmental Toxicology; Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology; Ocean Sciences; Earth Sciences.

**13. Have you participated in lab rotations?**

Response options:

Yes

No

Not applicable to my program

Next question is shown if participated in Lab Rotations.

**14. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your program's lab rotations?**

Response options:

Very dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Somewhat dissatisfied   Somewhat satisfied   Satisfied   Very satisfied

- Opportunities to work in research labs of your choice.
- Quality of the research training you received.
- Opportunities to find faculty members to work with on your dissertation.
- Overall quality of the lab rotation experience.

## Program and Career Preparation

Next question is shown only for students in the **PhD, EDD, or DMA degree programs.**

### 15. During your graduate studies at UCSC, have you . . .

Response options:

**Yes**

**No**

**Not applicable**

- a. received adequate research training before beginning your own research?
- b. received adequate faculty guidance in formulating a research topic?
- c. conducted research in collaboration with one or more faculty members?
- d. conducted your own research?
- e. assisted faculty in writing a grant proposal?
- f. submitted a grant proposal for your research to funding agencies outside UCSC?
- g. co-authored in refereed journals/conference proceedings with program faculty?
- h. published as a sole or first author in a refereed journal/conference proceeding?
- i. (co)authored papers/posters for scholarly conferences/meetings?
- j. taught a course at UCSC as the instructor-of-record?
- k. supervised/mentored undergraduate students working on research or creative projects?

Next question is shown only for students in the **Master's programs.**

### 16. During your graduate studies at UCSC, have you..

Response options:

**Yes**

**No**

**Not applicable**

- a. received adequate research training before beginning your own research project?
- b. received adequate faculty guidance in formulating a research topic?
- c. conducted research for your own project?
- d. conducted research in collaboration with one or more faculty members?
- e. submitted a grant proposal for a research project to funding agencies outside UCSC?

## Graduate Training

The following questions will assist your program's faculty in evaluating the quality of training they provide.

Next question is shown for all other PhD programs, excluding Ocean Sciences, Film & Digital Media, Astronomy & Astrophysics, Feminist Studies, History, History of Consciousness, Literature, Philosophy, Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Applied Math or Statistics, and Technology & Information Management.

**26. Based on the training and experience you received in your program, please rate your level of proficiency in the following areas:**

Response options:

**Very poor   Poor   Fair   Good   Very Good   Excellent**

- a. Mastery of the theory and research fundamental to the field of study
- b. Mastery of the methods fundamental to the field of study
- c. Mastery of the theory and research in your area(s) of specialization
- d. Mastery of the research methods in your area(s) of specialization
- e. Applying knowledge and understanding of the field of study to solve real-world problems

**27. Rate your proficiency in the following areas:**

Response options:

**Very poor   Poor   Fair   Good   Very Good   Excellent**

- a. Conducting independent research/scholarship
- b. Conducting interdisciplinary scholarship
- c. Adhering to standards of research and/or professional ethics
- d. Writing proposals to obtain funding
- e. Writing scholarly articles for publication

**28. Rate your proficiency in the following areas:**

Response options:

**Very poor   Poor   Fair   Good   Very Good   Excellent**

- a. Making a presentation to an expert audience
- b. Making a presentation to a non-expert audience
- c. Working collaboratively with people from varied academic disciplines
- d. Working collaboratively with people of varied educational levels
- e. Working collaboratively with people from culturally diverse backgrounds

**29. Rate your proficiency in the following areas:**

Response options:

**Very poor   Poor   Fair   Good   Very Good   Excellent**

- a. Mentoring undergraduate research and/or creative projects
- b. Lecturing undergraduate students
- c. Leading discussions with undergraduate students
- d. Evaluating undergraduate assignments
- e. Developing your own undergraduate class

**Progress in the Program**

**34. How satisfied are you with the . . .**

Response options:

**Very dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Somewhat dissatisfied   Somewhat satisfied   Satisfied   Very satisfied**

- a. frequency of your academic progress assessment (e.g., annual or more frequent review by your program)?
- b. quality of your academic progress assessment?
- c. support provided by your Graduate Program Coordinator?

**35. To what extent has any of the following slowed down your progress towards completing your degree?**

Response options:

**I did not experience this   A great deal   To some extent   Did not slow me down**

- a. I had to re-take a qualifying exam/resubmit a qualifying paper
- b. I had to re-take one of the required classes
- c. I had a difficult time finding a primary advisor
- d. I had a difficult time choosing a dissertation topic
- e. I had to change my primary advisor during my dissertation research
- f. I had a difficult time recruiting study participants for my dissertation research
- g. I had a child (children) born/adopted while in the program
- h. I had other personal/family related event (e.g., illness)
- i. I experienced financial difficulties and took on additional work for pay

**36. Do you feel you will graduate ...**

Response options:

**on time?**

**more quickly than you expected?**

**later than you expected?**

**I don't know**

### Suggestions for Improvement

UCSC programs are continuously trying to improve the quality of graduate training, including faculty, curriculum, research training, and career preparation.

**37. Can you highlight one or two things that your graduate program does especially well? (Optional)**

Please also say a few words about *why* these work well.

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**38. What are one or two things that your graduate program might change or add that would improve its quality? (Optional)**

Please say a few words about *how/why* these improvements might help.

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### Department Climate

**39. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your department/program?**

Response options:

Strongly agree    Agree    Inclined to agree    Inclined to disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree

- a. I feel a sense of belonging to my department/program.
- b. The program/department's atmosphere is intellectually engaging and collegial.
- c. The overall morale among faculty is positive.
- d. The overall morale among graduate students is positive.

**40. Do you agree or disagree that your graduate program provides a supportive environment for students . . .**

Response options:

Strongly agree    Agree    Inclined to agree    Inclined to disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree

- a. who are financially self-supporting
- b. from a low income background
- c. who are immigrants
- d. who are foreign (international) students
- e. who are people of color
- f. who are women
- g. of all sexual orientations
- h. of all gender identities

**41. Do you agree or disagree that your graduate program provides a supportive environment for students . . .**

Response options:

**Strongly agree    Agree    Inclined to agree    Inclined to disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree**

- a. with physical or other observable disabilities
- b. with learning, psychological or other disabilities that are not readily apparent
- c. of all religious/spiritual beliefs
- d. of all political orientations
- e. of all ages
- f. who have children

**42. If you have noticed that your program does not provide a supportive environment for some students, please briefly describe the situation and how you think it might be addressed (Optional).**

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**Communication**

**43. Based on what you know about your program, do you agree or disagree that students are . . .**

Response options:

**Strongly agree    Agree    Inclined to agree    Inclined to disagree    Disagree    Strongly disagree**

- a. Consulted about program issues/changes that concern them?
- b. Adequately represented at faculty meetings?
- c. Informed about resources and formal processes related to conflict resolution between faculty and students?

**44. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your program's funding decisions?**

Response options:

**Very dissatisfied    Dissatisfied    Somewhat dissatisfied    Somewhat satisfied    Satisfied    Very satisfied**

- a. transparency of funding decisions
- b. equitability of funding decisions

**45. How satisfied are you with the amount of financial support that you have received during your graduate studies at UCSC?**

Response options:

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Did not receive financial aid

**46. How frequently have you engaged in the following behaviors in the past year?**

Response options:

Never      Rarely      Occasionally      Somewhat often      Often      Very often

- a. Skipped meals to save money
- b. Cut down on personal / recreational spending
- c. Worried about my debt and/or financial circumstances

**47. Please share your suggestions for how to improve communication and/or transparency between faculty and students in your program. (Optional)**

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### Library Resources

**48. During your graduate coursework, have you used each of the following library resources at UCSC?**

Response options:

Never used      Used & was satisfied      Used & was somewhat satisfied      Used & was dissatisfied

- a. Books: Physical collections
- b. Print journals: Physical collections
- c. ebooks: Electronic collections
- d. ejournals: Electronic collections
- e. Special collections and archives (e.g., oral histories, digital collections)
- f. Online/electronic resources (e.g., online catalogs, research guides)
- g. Resources for data or source material organization
- h. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Archive
- i. Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
- j. Off-Campus Access (OCA)

**49. For your research projects (such as a qualifying paper, thesis, or dissertation), have you used each of the following library resources at UCSC?**

Response options:

Never used    Used & was satisfied    Used & was somewhat satisfied    Used & was dissatisfied

- a. Books: Physical collections
- b. Print journals: Physical collections
- c. ebooks: Electronic collections
- d. ejournals: Electronic collections
- e. Special collections and archives (e.g., oral histories, digital collections)
- f. Online/electronic resources (e.g., online catalogs, research guides)
- g. Resources for data or source material organization
- h. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Archive
- i. Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
- j. Off-Campus Access (OCA)

**50. What services does the library currently NOT offer to graduate students that would be useful to you? (Optional)**

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### Teaching Assistant Training and Experience

**51. For how many courses have you worked as a Teaching Assistant (including this quarter) during your graduate studies at UCSC? Enter: 0-18**

The remaining questions in this section were shown if: (51 > "0")

**52. Referring to your TA experience at UCSC, please indicate how satisfied you are with the quality of:**

Response options:

Very Satisfied    Somewhat Satisfied    Somewhat Dissatisfied    Dissatisfied    Very Dissatisfied    Did not receive any

- a. formal instruction in teaching you received prior to your first TA assignment?
- b. formal supervision and evaluation of your work as a TA?
- c. informal support and guidance from faculty members for whom you worked as a TA?

**53. Thinking about both the formal and informal training and guidance you received, how satisfied are you with your program's efforts to:**

Response options:

Very satisfied      Satisfied      Somewhat satisfied      Somewhat dissatisfied      Dissatisfied      Very Dissatisfied      Did not receive any

- a. prepare TAs to assist faculty in teaching students discipline-specific knowledge and skills?
- b. prepare TAs for dealing with academic dishonesty/cheating in their classes?
- c. provide TAs with resources/"best practices" for teaching students of diverse backgrounds and abilities?
- d. prepare TAs to deal with students who challenge their authority and/or expertise?
- e. prepare TAs to respond to insensitive or offensive remarks/questions in their classes?
- f. provide TAs with information about resources and campus services for undergraduates seeking academic and other assistance?
- g. inform TAs about who to contact if they have a conflict with a faculty member?
- h. prepare TAs to design lesson plans and section activities?
- i. provide opportunities for graduate students to teach their own courses?

**54. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that the classes you worked for as a TA . . .**

Response options:

Strongly agree      Agree      Inclined to agree      Inclined to disagree      Disagree      Strongly disagree

- a. provided you with valuable teaching experience
- b. took up a lot of your time slowing down your progress towards degree
- c. helped you establish a good working relationship with a faculty member(s)

**55. Do you have any suggestions for how to improve TA training in your program? (Optional)**

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**56. In your work as a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Student Instructor at UCSC, have you ever referred your students to the library or to library resources?**

Response options:      Yes      No

Next question is shown if: (56 = Yes)

**57. In your work as a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Student Instructor at UCSC, how frequently have you referred your students to the following library resources in order to help them with their research assignments?**

Response options:

Never      Rarely (about once a quarter)      Sometimes (2-4 times a quarter)      Often (5 or more times a quarter)

- a. Online journals or databases (i.e., PsycINFO)
- b. Specific library tools online (e.g., research guides, data management resources)
- c. The library collections at the Science and Engineering Library
- d. The library collections at McHenry Library
- e. Reference librarians
- f. The Interlibrary Loan service
- g. Other library resources (please specify below)

Next question is shown if: (56 = Yes)

**58. What other library resources have you recommended to your students? (Optional)**

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### Campus Resources

**59. Please rate the following resources provided by your program/department and the university.**

Response options:

Very poor      Poor      Fair      Good      Very Good      Excellent      Not applicable

- a. Availability of personal work space
- b. Quality of personal work space
- c. Availability of space for research/creative projects
- d. Quality of space for research/creative projects
- e. Availability of computers
- f. Quality of computers
- g. Access to the Internet
- h. Availability of research equipment (other than computers)
- i. Quality of research equipment (other than computers)

## Professional Development at UCSC

**60. During your graduate studies at UCSC, have you attended presentations, classes, or workshops in these areas?**

Response options:            Yes    No

- a. writing research proposals/plans
- b. grant-writing
- c. writing and publishing scholarly articles
- d. conducting dissertation research
- e. creating poster or oral presentations
- f. communicating with people outside your field
- g. teaching at the university level
- h. work/life balance
- i. diversity and/or inclusion
- j. academic job search and interviews
- k. non-academic job search and interviews

## Career Expectations

Next question is shown to PhD students who have completed all required coursework for their program.

**61. Which of the following best describes your current expectation for professional employment immediately after you receive your graduate degree?**

Response options:

- Tenure track faculty position at university/college
- Non-tenure track faculty position at university/college (including visiting, adjunct)
- Teaching position at elementary, secondary, or special focus school
- Other teaching position
- Postdoctoral researcher, fellow, or associate position
- Researcher position in an academic setting (university, national lab, medical center)
- Researcher position in a non-academic setting (industry, government)
- Other non-academic position
- I don't know

Next question is hidden if: (61 = I don't know)

**62. How confident are you in your ability to find the job you desire after graduation?**

Response options:

- Not at all confident
- Somewhat confident
- Confident
- Very confident
- I don't know

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END OF THE SURVEY