

Hi!

**Welcome to the UCSC Graduate Student Survey!** The survey, which has been conducted every other year, provides valuable student feedback for evaluating the quality of graduate programs as part of formal and informal departmental reviews.

This survey focuses on different aspects of student experience including faculty mentoring, research opportunities, professional development workshops, and TA training.

All graduate students are invited to participate in this campus-wide effort to evaluate and improve academic and social experiences of our students.

**SPEAK YOUR MIND & WIN AN iPad!** After you complete the survey, you will have many opportunities to win a prize. **Each week** in May and June we will have **a drawing for two \$50 gift cards** to the Bay Tree Bookstore. In addition, we will have **two drawings for an iPad Mini** as the Grand Prizes.

#### **Protecting Your Privacy**

Please be assured that all of your responses will be maintained securely and confidentially. The survey results will be reported only as aggregate data and only at the group level of analysis (e.g., program, gender, or other characteristics), where identities of respondents cannot be ascertained (at least seven respondents in a given group). Any quotations from responses to open ended questions will be paraphrased to protect the respondent's identity.

**The 2013 Graduate Student Survey is sponsored by the UCSC Division of Graduate Studies and Institutional Research and Policy Studies.**

**Click NEXT to start or continue your survey**

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**Please select below**

- I'd like to participate in the survey -> Continues
  - I decline to participate in the survey -> Thank you page
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**1. Please select the graduate program in which you are enrolled**

1. Anthropology
2. Applied Economics and Finance
3. Astronomy and Astrophysics
4. Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics
5. Biomedical Sciences & Engineering
6. Chemistry
7. Collaborative Leadership
8. Computer Engineering
9. Computer Science
10. Digital Arts/New Media
11. Earth Sciences
12. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
13. Economics (incl. International Economics)
14. Education
15. Electrical Engineering
16. Environmental Studies
17. Feminist Studies
18. Film & Digital Media
19. History
20. History of Consciousness
21. Latin American and Latino Studies
22. Linguistics
23. Literature
24. Mathematics
25. Microbiology & Environmental Toxicology
26. Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology
27. Music
28. Music Composition
29. Network and Digital Technology
30. Network Engineering
31. Ocean Sciences
32. Philosophy
33. Physics
34. Politics
35. Psychology
36. Science Communication
37. Social Documentation
38. Sociology
39. Statistics & Applied Mathematics
40. Technology & Information Management
41. Theater Arts
42. Visual Studies

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

- Post-Bachelor's Certificate
- MA
- MS
- Other Master's (e.g., MFA)
- Ph.D.
- Other doctorate (e.g., EDD, DMA)

3. What is your current status in your graduate program? (Check all that apply)

- I am still taking courses
- I have completed coursework
- I have passed qualifying exams/paper
- I have had my dissertation/thesis proposal accepted
- I am in the final year of my program
- I have defended my dissertation/thesis
- I have graduated

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

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

## Quality of Program & Faculty Ratings

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

*Responses: Very poor, Poor, Fair, 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
- 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) Faculty assistance in helping you find professional employment
- j) Quality of faculty advice regarding an academic career
- k) Quality of faculty advice regarding other types of careers
- l) Frequency of your academic progress assessment (e.g., annual or more frequent review by your program)
- m) **Overall quality of your graduate program.**

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

*Responses: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Inclined to disagree, Inclined to agree, Agree, Strongly agree, Not applicable*

#### My advisor...

- a) provides useful advice on academic matters.
- b) discusses my research with me on a regular basis.
- c) is approachable.
- d) provides constructive criticism on my work.
- e) returns my work and provides feedback promptly.
- f) helps me identify potential sources of financial support.
- g) helps me negotiate the challenges of graduate school.
- h) helps direct my search for professional employment.

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

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

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

*Responses: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Inclined to disagree, Inclined to agree, Agree, Strongly agree*

- a) My program's requirements are well-defined.
- b) My program's overall requirements are appropriate.
- c) My program's core course requirements provide adequate preparation for subsequent courses.
- d) My program's curriculum provides a balanced scope of material needed for overall graduate-level competency in my area of specialization.
- e) Required courses are offered regularly and as scheduled.
- f) Elective courses are offered regularly and as scheduled.
- g) I am satisfied with the quality of curriculum.
- h) I am satisfied with program advising I receive.

**9. During your graduate studies at UCSC did your department offer a workshop/class in each of the following areas:**

*Responses: Yes, No, Don't know*

- a) writing and publishing scholarly articles
- b) conducting dissertation research
- c) grant writing
- d) academic job search and interviews
- e) non-academic job search and interviews

**10. During your graduate studies at UCSC, have you attended classes or workshops in each of these areas and who offered these opportunities?**

*Responses:*

- Yes, I've attended at my department*
- Yes, I've attended at other UCSC departments or units*
- Yes, I've attended such workshops outside UCSC*
- No, I have not, but would definitely attend if offered*

- a) writing and publishing scholarly articles
- b) conducting dissertation research
- c) grant writing
- d) academic job search and interviews
- e) non-academic job search and interviews

**11. How satisfied are you with ...**

*Responses:*

- Very dissatisfied*
- Dissatisfied*
- Satisfied*
- Very satisfied*

- a) transparency of decisions regarding funding of students in your program/department?
- b) equitability of the funding decisions?
- c) retention of graduate students in your program/department?

**12. Do you have suggestions for ways to improve transparency and/or equitability of funding decisions?**

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

*Responses: Very poor, Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, Not applicable/ Don't know*

- a) Availability of personal work space
  - b) Quality of personal work space
  - c) Availability of computers
  - d) Quality of computers
  - e) Access to the Internet
  - f) Availability of lab/research space
  - g) Quality of lab/research space
  - h) Availability of research equipment (other than computers)
  - i) Quality of research equipment (other than computers)
  - j) Quality of university library book and serial collections
  - k) Quality of electronic resources available through the library
  - l) Quality of the interlibrary loan program
- 

**14. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about your program/department:**

*Responses: Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree*

- a) I feel a sense of belonging to my department.
- 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.

**15. Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that your graduate program provides a supportive environment for students ...**

*Responses: Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree*

- a) who are financially self-supporting
- b) from a low income background
- c) who are immigrants
- d) who are people of color

- e) who are women
- f) of all political orientations
- g) of all sexual orientations
- h) of all gender identities
- i) of all religious/spiritual beliefs
- j) who are foreign (international) students
- k) of all ages
- l) with physical or other observable disabilities
- m) with learning, psychological or other disabilities that are not readily apparent

## Program and Career Preparation

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

*Responses: 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) taken a grant-writing class/workshop?
- h) co-authored in refereed journals with program faculty?
- i) published as a sole or first author in a refereed journal?
- j) (co)authored papers/posters for scholarly conferences/meetings?

### 17. Based on the training and experience you received at your department/program, please rate the quality of your preparation to do the following:

*Responses: Very poor, Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, Not applicable*

- a) conduct independent research/scholarship
- b) teach undergraduate or graduate students
- c) write proposals to obtain funding
- d) write scholarly articles for publication
- e) manage multiple projects and tasks at once
- f) make presentation to non-academic audiences



- g) make presentation to academic audiences
- h) find an academic job following graduation
- i) find a non-academic job following graduation
- j) work with people of varied educational levels
- k) work with people from diverse backgrounds
- l) adhere to research and/or professional ethics

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

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

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**20. How can your program/department be improved?**

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**21. For how many courses have you worked as a Teaching Assistant (including this quarter) during your graduate studies at UCSC?**

- 0 → skip next section about TA training
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5 or more

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**TA Training**

**22. Referring to your TA experience at UCSC, please indicate whether you are satisfied with the quality of**

*Responses: Very satisfied, Satisfied, 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 by the program faculty?
- c) support and guidance from faculty members for whom you worked as a TA?

**23. How would you evaluate your graduate program's efforts to**

*Responses: Too little, About right, Too much*

- 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 negotiate conflict in their classes?
- e) prepare TAs to deal with students who challenge their authority and/or expertise?
- f) prepare TAs to respond to insensitive or offensive remarks/questions in their classes?
- g) provide TAs with information about resources and campus services for undergraduates seeking academic and other assistance?
- h) inform TAs about what is expected of them (workload)?
- i) inform TAs about who to contact if they have a conflict with a faculty member?

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

*Responses: Strongly agree, Agree, 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 get to know faculty
- d) helped you establish a good working relationship with a faculty member(s)
- e) were not your first choice because of large workload

**25. Do you have suggestions for ways to improve TA training in your program?**

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**NEXT SECTION**

**26. Based on what you know, graduate students in your program are**

*Responses: Strongly agree, Agree, 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.

**27. Do you have suggestions for ways to improve communication between faculty and students in your program?**

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**NEXT SECTION**

- 1. At any time during the last 3 years of your graduate studies at UCSC, have you (and your partner/family) depended on each of the following forms of financial support as your...**

	Sole income	Primary income covering over 50% of living expenses	Partial income covering under 50% of living expenses	Never received
UCSC fellowship(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UC fellowship(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fellowship(s)/grant(s) from institutions/ funds not affiliated with UC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching Assistantship(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Assistantship(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graduate Student Assistantship(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

*Responses:*

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Did not receive any form of financial support

- 3. Does your program have an expected timeline for progress through graduation?**

*Responses: Yes, No*

- 4. If yes, do you feel you will graduate ...**

- on time?
- more quickly than expected?
- later than expected?
- I don't know

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

Responses: *Did not experience, A great deal, To some extent, Not at all*

- 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 child (children) born/adopted while in the program
  - g) I had other personal/family related event (e.g., illness)
  - h) I experienced financial difficulties and took on additional work for pay
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**6. At the time you entered graduate school at UCSC, which of the following careers did you intend to pursue upon receiving your degree?**

*Responses:*

- Tenure track faculty position
- Other teaching position
- Research in academic setting (university, national lab)
- Researcher in non-academic setting (industry)
- Other non-academic position
- Don't know

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

*Responses:*

- 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
- Researcher, academic setting (university, national lab, medical center)
- Researcher, non-academic setting (industry, government)
- Other non-academic position

**8. How confident are you in your ability to find a job that you want?**

*Responses:*

- Not at all confident
- Somewhat confident
- Confident
- Very confident
- Don't know

**To submit your survey and to be included in the prize drawing,**  
please click below