

Committee on Educational Policy #E1

**University of California
Undergraduate Experience Survey
(UCUES) Update**

**Vice President Judy Sakaki
July 19, 2007**

Development of UCUES

- A collaborative research effort
- Collects data on the educational and personal impact of attending UC as well as non-academic dimensions of our students' lives

About UCUES

- A biennial online survey of all UC undergraduates
- 38% response rate systemwide in Spring 2006 (58,047 respondents)
- The UCUES response rate exceeds the reported response rate for large, public research universities when compared to other national and multi-institutional student surveys, for example:
 - National Survey of Student Engagement (33%)
 - Higher Education Research Institute follow-up surveys (25-30%)

UCUES Survey Content

- Evaluation of academic experience and student services
- Student behaviors
- Student attitudes, beliefs, and goals
- Additional demographic data

Uses of UCUES Data

Internal

Regents' Committees

Academic Program Review

Student Services Evaluation

Investigations of Campus Climate and Diversity

Academic Senate Committees

External

Campus Accreditation

National Accountability

Media and Community Relations

Academic

Symposia

Individual Research Papers

Highlights of UCUES Findings

Representing California's Unique Population

- 23% of students were born outside of the U.S.
- An additional 37% are second generation Americans (i.e., have at least one parent born outside the U.S.)

Do Our Students' Academic Skills Improve?

(Percent of Seniors Answering “Very Good” or “Excellent”)

	<u>As Freshmen</u>	<u>As Seniors</u>
Understanding of a Specific Field of Study	6%	75%
Analytical and Critical Thinking	23%	72%
Reading and Comprehending Academic Material	21%	67%
Writing Effectively	22%	59%
Computer Skills	24%	56%
Understanding International Perspectives	10%	52%

What Are the Pros and Cons of Attending a Research University?

- 82% reported that attending a university with world-class researchers is important to them
- 55% feel that the emphasis on research detracts from the quality of teaching
- 77% participated in research as part of their coursework
- 78% of upper-division students plan to earn a graduate or professional degree

What Motivates Our Students?

- 79% identified “intellectual curiosity” as a reason for choosing a major
- 86% cited “obtaining knowledge and skills for their chosen profession” as one of their goals for their UC experience
- 75% believe that an individual can change society

How Do Our Students Spend Their Time?

- 59% participated in campus clubs or organizations
- 44% participated in community service
- 56% are employed either on- or off-campus. Employed students work an average of 14.6 hours per week
- On average, students spend 13.1 hours per week on coursework outside the classroom, 11.1 hours on non-academic Internet use, and 5.7 hours watching television
- 55% reported using the Internet as their *primary* news information source

Do Our Students Have a Sense of Belonging at UC?

- 83% feel that they belong at their campus and, knowing what they know now, they would still enroll there
- 79% say that students are respected at UC regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, race/ethnicity, or economic or social class

How Satisfied Are Our Students?

- 71% are satisfied with the value of their education for the cost
- 82% are satisfied with their UC academic experience
- 75% are satisfied with their social experience at UC
- 87% of students are satisfied with the quality of faculty instruction they have received at UC
- 63% of upper-division students are satisfied with the availability of small classes

**More about UCUES and the results from the
2006 survey may be viewed now at:**

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/studentsurvey/

**A report,
*A New Generation:
Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status, Immigration and the Undergraduate
Experience in the University of California*
will be available in August**