



2016 Graduating Senior Survey Public Report  
Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision Support  
Last Updated: June 16, 2016

**Response Rate:** Of the 1284 students invited to complete the survey, 522 (41%) provided partial or complete responses. Because students could skip questions, response rates varied by question.

**Administration:** This survey was available for seniors to complete between March 28, 2016 and May 8, 2016. As an incentive, respondents were entered into one or more drawings to receive 35 \$25 Amazon e-gift cards. Students could complete the survey by clicking their individualized link in personalized emails or by using an anonymous link that required SSO authentication. Survey publicity and outreach was coordinated across multiple groups on campus: IRDS, Student Affairs, assessment coordinators in the Schools, faculty, academic advising staff, and others.

**Respondent Characteristics:** Please refer to Tables 1-4 below for respondent characteristics, including information about the representativeness of the respondent sample relative to the invitee population. The respondent sample was roughly representative of the invitee population and student subgroup response rates were similar to the overall response rate of 41% with a few exceptions:

- Females were more likely to complete the survey than males, as is typical in survey research (Table 1).
- Response rates are sensitive to group size and are difficult to interpret for small groups. Though the response rates for students in particular racial/ethnic groups (Table 1) and for students in some of the major (Table 3) and minor (Table 4) programs were below the overall response rate of 41%, the percentage of respondents in these groups roughly mirrored the percentage of invitees.

**Report notes:** Unless otherwise noted, all students could answer each question on the survey. Students could choose to skip questions. Students were invited to take this survey if they had been awarded a degree or applied to receive a degree as of the 15th day of instruction in spring 2016. Thus, it is possible that some students who completed this survey did not graduate as they had intended.

Table 1. Student Demographics (Entire Sample)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1284 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 522 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	143	11%	59	11%	41%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen	1141	89%	463	89%	41%
Gender					
Female	726	57%	321	62%	44%
Male	554	43%	201	39%	36%
Unknown	4	< 1%	0	0%	0%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	29	2%	8	2%	28%
Hispanic	550	43%	210	40%	38%
African American	87	7%	28	5%	32%
American Indian	2	< 1%	1	< 1%	50%
Asian	322	25%	153	29%	48%
Pacific Islander	7	1%	2	< 1%	29%
White	222	17%	98	19%	44%
Multi-racial	54	4%	19	4%	35%
Unknown	11	1%	3	1%	27%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error

Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools (Entire Sample)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1284 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 522 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	807	63%	314	60%	39%
Non-First Generation	477	37%	208	40%	44%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	787	61%	319	61%	41%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	497	39%	203	39%	41%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	489	38%	208	40%	43%
Not English Only	792	62%	314	60%	40%
Unknown	3	< 1%	0	0%	0%
School					
Engineering	199	15%	81	15%	41%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts	784	58%	309	56%	39%
Natural Sciences	365	27%	166	30%	45%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error; school counts may sum to a number larger than the response rate because students with multiple majors in different schools are included in counts multiple times

Table 3. Student Majors (Entire Sample)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1284 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 522 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Major					
ANTH – Anthropology	22	2%	11	2%	50%
BENG – Bioengineering	22	2%	8	1%	36%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	298	22%	132	24%	44%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	29	2%	16	3%	55%
COGS – Cognitive Science	89	7%	32	6%	36%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	60	4%	22	4%	37%
ECON – Economics	62	5%	30	5%	48%
ENG – English	16	1%	7	1%	44%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	24	2%	15	3%	63%
ESS – Earth Systems Science	9	1%	5	1%	56%
HIST – History	22	2%	10	2%	45%
LTCU – Literatures & Cultures	9	1%	4	1%	44%
MATH – Applied Mathematical Sciences	20	1%	10	2%	50%
ME – Mechanical Engineering	85	6%	32	6%	38%
MGMT/MBE – Management	138	10%	44	8%	32%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	8	1%	4	1%	50%
PHYS – Physics	9	1%	3	1%	33%
POLI – Political Science	72	5%	24	4%	33%
PSY – Psychology	259	19%	111	20%	43%
SOC – Sociology	73	5%	27	5%	37%
SPAN – Spanish	8	1%	2	< 1%	25%

% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error; counts may sum to a number larger than the response rate because students with multiple majors are included in counts multiple times

Table 4. Student Minors (Entire Sample)

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1284 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 522 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Minor					
AMER – American Studies	0	0%	0	0%	--
ANTH – Anthropology	13	3%	5	3%	38%
ARTS – Arts	16	4%	6	3%	38%
CCST – Chicano/Chicana Studies	3	1%	0	0%	0%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	3	1%	1	1%	33%
COGS – Cognitive Sciences	42	9%	16	8%	38%
ECON – Economics	4	1%	1	1%	25%
ESSU – Environmental Science & Sustainability	8	2%	3	2%	38%
HIST – History	8	2%	2	1%	25%
LIT – Literatures & Cultures	5	1%	3	2%	60%
MGMT/MBE – Management	17	4%	8	4%	47%
MTHM – Applied Mathematics	5	1%	2	1%	40%
NSED/NSEC – Natural Sciences Education	13	3%	8	4%	62%
PH – Public Health	42	9%	17	9%	40%
PHIL – Philosophy	11	2%	4	2%	36%
POLI – Political Science	15	3%	10	5%	67%
PSY – Psychology	109	24%	48	25%	44%
SOC – Sociology	40	9%	21	11%	53%
SPAN – Spanish	48	11%	21	11%	44%
SVSC – Services Science	3	1%	0	0%	0%
WRI – Writing	43	10%	14	7%	33%

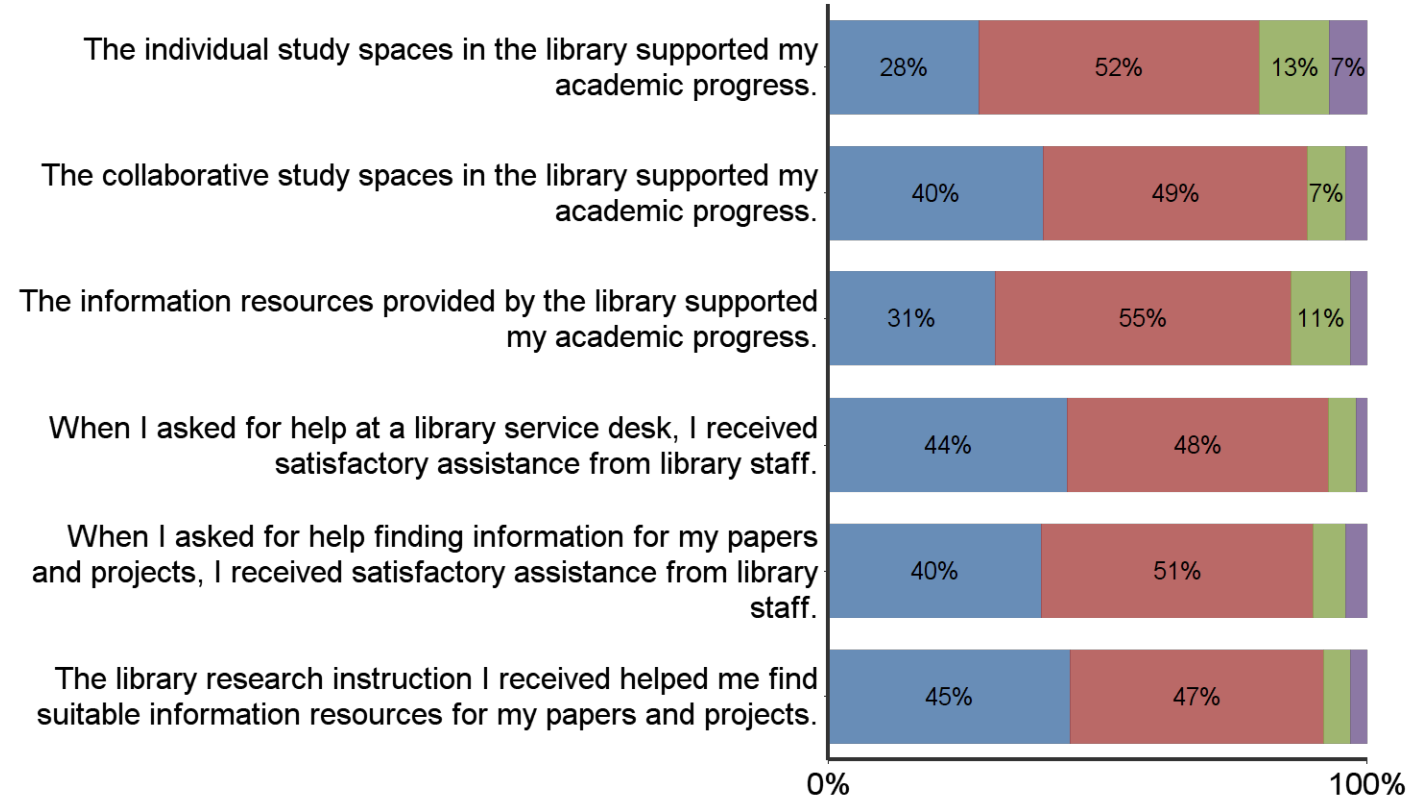
% values may not sum to 100 for a particular characteristic due to rounding error; counts may sum to a number larger than the response rate because students with multiple minors are included in counts multiple times

Today, how connected to or disconnected from UC Merced do you feel?

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Very connected	<div></div>	142	27%
Connected	<div></div>	288	55%
Disconnected	<div></div>	70	13%
Very disconnected	<div></div>	19	4%
Total		519	100%

Please select your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements about UC Merced's Library.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree



#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
1	The individual study spaces in the library supported my academic progress.	137	252	62	33	484
2	The collaborative study spaces in the library supported my academic progress.	196	244	37	18	495
3	The information resources provided by the library supported my academic progress.	146	254	50	15	465
4	When I asked for help at a library service desk, I received satisfactory assistance from library staff.	203	220	25	9	457
5	When I asked for help finding information for my papers and projects, I received satisfactory assistance from library staff.	151	192	22	15	380
6	The library research instruction I received helped me find suitable information resources for my papers and projects.	196	205	23	13	437

In how many classes did you receive library research instruction from library staff during your time at UC Merced?

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
None	<div></div>	37	7%
1 class	<div></div>	120	23%
2 classes	<div></div>	163	32%
3 classes	<div></div>	110	21%
4 or more classes	<div></div>	82	16%
Total		512	100%

Did you conduct research with a faculty member as an undergraduate at UC Merced?

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Yes	<div></div>	158	31%
No	<div></div>	353	69%
Total		511	100%



Please complete the following information about your undergraduate research efforts (if you participated in more than one research effort, please consider the one you spent the most time on when completing this question).  
Note: Only respondents who said they conducted research with a faculty member could answer this question.  
Responses that were 3 standard deviations from the mean or more were considered outliers and removed (n = 146 responses for number of months; n = 142 responses for hours per month).

Approximate number of months involved in research

Months	Frequency	Percent
1-3	21	14%
4-6	31	21%
7-9	21	14%
10-12	27	18%
13-15	10	7%
16-18	14	10%
19-21	6	4%
22-24	9	6%
25-27	4	3%
28-30	3	2%
Average (Standard Deviation)	M = 10.80 (SD = 7.21)	(excludes 2 outliers)

Approximate number hours/month involved in research

Hours	Frequency	Percent
1-5	12	8%
6-10	22	15%
11-15	14	10%
16-20	22	15%
21-25	13	9%
26-30	6	4%
31-35	3	2%
36-40	20	14%
41-45	2	1%
46-50	11	8%
More than 50	17	12%
Average (Standard Deviation)	M = 31.61 (SD = 30.76)	(excludes 4 outliers)



**Please complete the following information about your undergraduate research efforts (if you participated in more than one research effort, please consider the one you spent the most time on when completing this question). Note: Only respondents who said they conducted research with a faculty member could answer this question. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one student (n = 147 valid responses).**

- 3D Printing
Alcohol and drug behavior
Archaeology
Attitude and Success in Math
Biochemistry
Bioengineering
Biology
Cancer (2)
Chemistry
Child Development (2)
Cognitive Development and Language
Cognitive Science (10)
Community Outreach
Community Research
Computational Biology (3)
Computational Quantum Chemistry
Computer Science and Engineering
Developmental and Health Psychology
Developmental Psychology (3)
Diabetes and Hypertension
Drone & Image Processing
Ecology (5)
Economics (6)
Electrochemistry
elevational gradients of flowering plants (monkeyflower)
Emotions
Engineering
Environmental Economics
Environmental Public Health
Environmental Sciences
GIS
Hardware
Health Communications and Interventions
Health Psychology (5)
Health Sciences
Healthcare
Heart Rate Variability/Long Range Distance
Heat Transfer (2)
History (2)
IBM Bluemix
Image Processing (2)
Immunology (4)
linguistics and political gesture analysis
Literacy
Literature
Machine Learning
- Material Science and Engineering (4)
Materials Characterization
Materials Chemistry
Mathematics
Mechanical and Computational Biology
Mechanical Engineering
Mechatronics
Metaphorical descriptions of storms in news reports
Microbiology (5)
Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry (2)
Nanoparticulates and pyrogenic charafterization
Neurobiology (3)
Organic Chemistry/synthesis (4)
Organometallic Chemistry
Parallel computing
Physics (2)
Plant Biology
Political Science (3)
Psychology (10)
Psychoneuroendocrinology
Public Health (4)
Quantitative Psychology
Social psychology
Social Sciences
Sociology (3)
Soil Science (2)
Solar energy, plasma gasification
Spatial Analysis
Stem Cell
Thermal and Electrochemical energy
Tissue engineering
Tobacco
UAVs
Undergraduate Education
Undocumented students in the UC system
Web Development

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes	<div></div>	52	35%
2	No	<div></div>	98	65%
	Total		150	100%

In which of the following formal undergraduate research / graduate preparation programs did you participate at UC Merced? (Please select all that apply.)  
Note: Open-ended Other responses are summarized on the next page.

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Center of Excellence on Health Disparities	<div></div>	3	1%
UC LEADS - Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees	<div></div>	6	1%
CAMP - CA Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics	<div></div>	4	1%
UC COINS - Center of Integrated Nanomechanical Systems	<div></div>	2	0%
Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program in Computational Biology	<div></div>	3	1%
Other (please specify)	<div></div>	48	10%
None - I did not participate in formal research / preparation programs at UC Merced	<div></div>	430	87%
McNair Scholars		0	0%
MARC - Minority Access to Research Careers	<div></div>	3	1%
USDA HSI Scholars		1	0%
PG&E Engineering Summer Scholars		1	0%
Yosemite Environmental Science REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates)		1	0%
Total		502	100%

<sup>12</sup> In which of the following formal undergraduate research / graduate preparation programs did you participate at UC Merced? (Please select all that apply.)

**Note: Only open-ended Other responses are summarized on this page. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one student (n = 47 responses; 1 student listed multiple answers).**

ACE Program Health psychology Research internship  
ACM  
BLUM Scholars  
California Ecology & Conservation - UC NRS system-wide program  
CalTeach  
Center for Early Cognition and Language (2)  
Chemistry  
Curriculum required IRB practice formal undergraduate research  
DARTS - Degree Attainment for Returning & Transfer Scholars  
Economics  
english 190 senior thesis  
Faculty research projects  
Health Sciences Research Institute (3)  
I was a research assistant for Psychology 195  
IBM Watson Bluemix  
Independent study (6)  
MACES  
MAPS (math and physical sciences) (2)  
Merrit Writing Program  
MESA - Mechatronics, Embedded Systems and Automation (5)  
Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training / research at UAB / Pre-Health Scholars  
PNE LAB  
Psi Chi  
Research Week Poster Competition  
Student Success Internship  
summer session  
UC Merced Economics Department  
Upper Division Undergraduate Research (PSY 195)  
URM (2)  
UROC (2)  
Merced Historical Society  
Valley Fever Day  
Western psychological association

In which Recreation and Athletics programs did you participate at any time during your undergraduate studies at UC Merced? (Please select all that apply.)

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Intramural sports	<div></div>	112	22%
Sports clubs	<div></div>	42	8%
Outdoor Experience Program (outdoor trips)	<div></div>	49	10%
Fitness classes	<div></div>	100	20%
Free recreation (general use of the Gallo Recreation Center)	<div></div>	347	69%
None	<div></div>	122	24%
Total		772	100%

14 **Why did you choose not to participate in any Recreation and Athletics programs? (please select all that apply)**  
**Note: Only respondents who said they didn't participate could answer this question. Open-ended Other responses are summarized on this page below the table.**

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
I was not aware of these programs.	<div></div>	17	14%
I was not interested in these programs.	<div></div>	53	43%
I did not have enough time.	<div></div>	70	57%
I did not have enough money.	<div></div>	32	26%
Other (please specify)	<div></div>	10	8%
The programs were not offered at times that fit my schedule.	<div></div>	28	23%
The facilities/programs were too crowded.	<div></div>	12	10%
The location of the programs was not convenient.	<div></div>	7	6%
Parking issues.	<div></div>	12	10%
Total		241	100%

Other (please specify)
I worked in the Bay Area on weekends throughout the duration of my time at UC Merced and so was not on campus unless I was attending classes.
I do not have a car and bus schedule is very limited
I am commuting student and instead used similar services at home.
was always too busy
No Pool
competitive
The yoga classes began to cost money & cleanliness
I played on the competitive sports team and that was not an option.
We didn't have a pool on campus

15 What recreation and/or athletic programs would you have participated in had they been offered?  
 Note: Only respondents who said they didn't participate could answer this question. Open-ended Other responses are summarized on the next page.

#	Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
1	Badminton	<div></div>	68	16%
2	Baseball	<div></div>	33	8%
3	Water Polo	<div></div>	39	9%
4	Martial Arts / Kickboxing	<div></div>	105	24%
5	Rock Climbing	<div></div>	171	40%
6	Rowing / Sailing	<div></div>	73	17%
7	Swimming	<div></div>	172	40%
8	Tennis	<div></div>	91	21%
9	Track and Field	<div></div>	68	16%
10	Walking Group	<div></div>	51	12%
11	Volleyball (in Grass or Sand)	<div></div>	88	20%
14	Other (please specify)	<div></div>	67	16%
	Total		1026	100%



**What recreation and/or athletic programs would you have participated in had they been offered?**  
**Note: Only open-ended Other responses are summarized on this page. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one student (n = 66 responses; 5 students listed multiple answers).**

- Acro Yoga
- Basketball (5)
- Boxing
- Cheer/stunt (4)
- club basketball
- Cricket
- Curling (2)
- Dance (2)
- Diving (2)
- Dodgeball (2)
- Fencing
- Fitness classes
- Flag Football (2)
- Football (7)
- Golf (2)
- Gym
- Gymnastics
- Hiking (2)
- hopscotch
- Indoor Soccer (2)
- kid things
- Lacrosse (4)
- None (3)
- Olympic Weightlifting
- Outdoor soccer
- Roller Derby
- Rugby (2)
- Slacklining
- Snowboarding
- Soccer (5)
- Softball (3)
- Swimming (2)
- Ultimate Frisbee (2)
- Ultra distance running
- Weight lifting
- Wrestling (2)

**What are your current post-graduation plans? (Please select all that apply.)**  
**Note: Open-ended Other responses are summarized on the next page.**

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
I am continuing employment in my current job.	<div></div>	51	10%
I have accepted full-time employment at a new employer.	<div></div>	46	9%
I have accepted part-time employment at a new employer.	<div></div>	18	4%
I have accepted an internship.	<div></div>	23	5%
I am reviewing a job offer.	<div></div>	49	10%
I have started my own business.	<div></div>	5	1%
I have accepted public service employment (military, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.).	<div></div>	7	1%
I have been accepted into graduate or professional school.	<div></div>	40	8%
I have applied to graduate or professional school, but have not yet been accepted.	<div></div>	51	10%
I am continuing my education, but not in graduate school (e.g. second bachelor's, EMT, etc.).	<div></div>	75	15%
I will take time off before finding a job.	<div></div>	83	17%
I am an international student and will return to my home country.		0	0%
I am searching for full-time employment.	<div></div>	248	50%
I am searching for part-time employment.	<div></div>	109	22%
I have no plans for work.	<div></div>	11	2%
Other (please specify)	<div></div>	72	14%
Total		888	100%

18 **What are your current post-graduation plans? (Please select all that apply.)**  
**Note: Only open-ended Other responses are summarized on this page. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one student (n = 72 responses but many students listed multiple answers).**

- Applying to graduate school/professional program (36)
- Complete additional coursework (4)
- Completing teaching credential
- Conduct research
- EPIK Program
- Family obligations (2)
- Full or part time employment (12)
- Graduate school/professional program (2)
- Grassroots campaign involvement
- Informal education
- Internship or fellowship (5)
- Look for employment (4)
- Military/Officer Candidate School
- Move back home
- Peace Corps
- Personal projects
- Post baccalaureate program
- Preparing to apply for graduate school/professional program (2)
- Searching for graduate school/professional program
- Study for exams (e.g., GRE, MCAT) (5)
- Taking time off
- Taking time off - will apply to graduate school/professional program (5)
- Unsure
- Volunteer work/community service (2)

19 **What are the details of your employment?**

**Note: Only respondents who said they obtained employment or an internship could answer this question. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one respondent.**

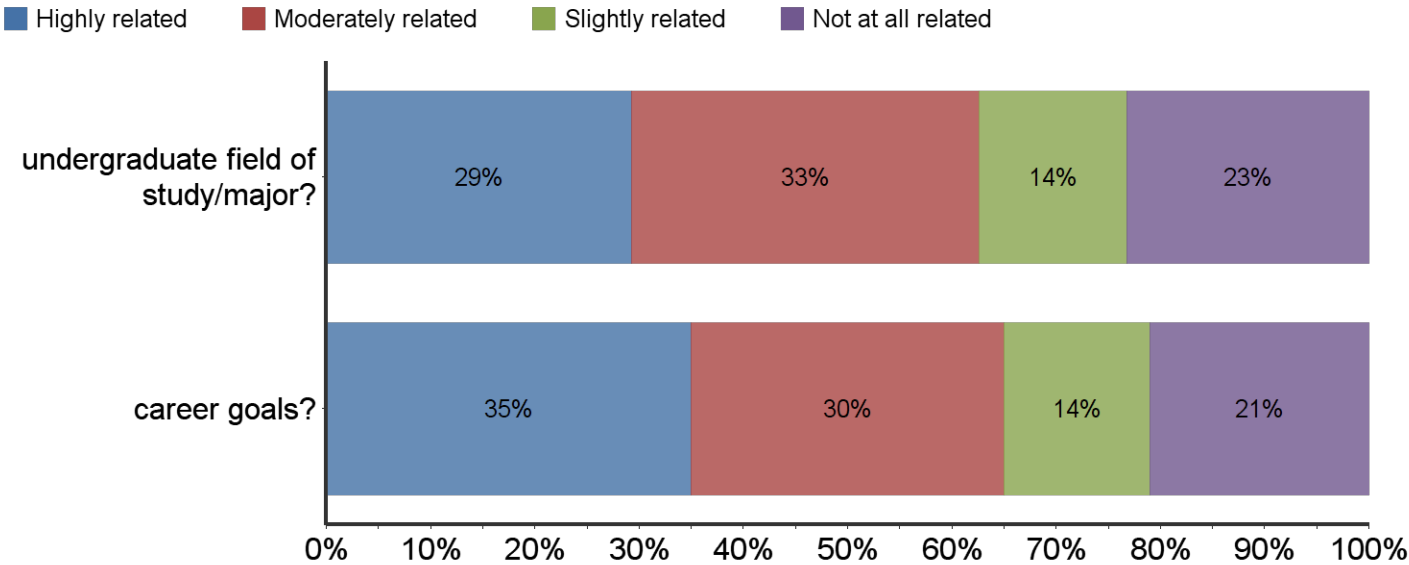
**Employers (n = 128 responses)**

A.R. Dental Care	Garret Dickman	National Park Service (4)
ACES	Golden Gate Raptor Observatory	Naval Air Systems Command
ACRT	Green Dot Public Schools National	O'Reilly Auto Parts
AFKgg	Hannah Brown	Office of Naval Research
AirKinetic inc.	Harris corporation	Olam
Amazon	Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant (2)	Papa Murphys
AmeriCorps	Harvard summer Internship	PCCW Solutions
Ameson Year in China	Harvey Mudd College	Pet food express
Army Corps of Engineers	Health Career Connections	PG&E
Athletic Horizons	Hilltop Ranch Inc	Pizza Hut
Autism Treatment Solutions	Hopsital	Public Health Department of Merced
Becton Dickinson	In Home Supportive Services	Richard Harden (2)
Big 5 Sporting Goods	Internal Medicine Office	Roger Bales
Biomarin	James Cabral	Ruben Almanza
CASA of Merced County	jimmy kimmel	San Diego Zoo Global
Centinela Valley Union High School District	Jp Morgan Chase	Shaffer Elementary School
Cep America	Kendall Centers and Therapeutic Pathways	Sharp Healthcare
Certified Laboratories Inc	Lassen National Park	Sherwin Williams
Citi Bank	learning arts teaching autistic children	Sierra HOPE
City of Los Angeles, Dept Recreation & Parks	Lennox School District	Silicon Valley Leadership Group
CSUDH Founation	Lifelong medical care	Sports1Marketing
CVS Pharmacy	Livingston Community Health	Starbucks
Davey Resource Group	Los Banos School District (2)	StartUp SmartUp
David Rogers for Congress	Merced Community College District	State Street
Department of Defense	Merced County Assessor's Office	Steve & Kates
Dibuduo & DeFendis Insurance Agency	Merced County Cal-SOAP	Subway
Donna Jaramillo-Fellin	Merced County of Education	Target
Dr.Mavi	Merced Honda	Teach For America
Dulce Maria	Merced Urology Medical Group	The Resort at Pelican Hill
E.J. Gallo Winery (3)	Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.	Thrive Market
Enterprise	Michael's	UC Merced (14)
FICO	Mike Altmore	UCSF
Fresno unified school district	Milano Technical Group	Urban Teachers
	Mint State Rarities	Urth Caffe
		USDA Forest Service
		Vanguard (2)
		Walgreens
		Wonderful Sales

**State of Employment; Country if not US (n = 123 responses)**

- Arizona (2)
- California (111)
- China (2)
- Florida
- Massachusets
- Nevada
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Other (varies, unavailable) (3)

How closely related is this job to your:  
Note: Only respondents who said they obtained employment or an internship could answer this question.



#	Question	Highly related	Moderately related	Slightly related	Not at all related	Total Responses
1	undergraduate field of study/major?	47	53	23	37	160
2	career goals?	55	48	22	33	158

21 **What are the details of your graduate or professional school plans?**  
**Note:** Only respondents who said they had been accepted to graduate or professional school could answer this question. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one respondent. For students deciding between multiple schools, all schools noted in the response are included in the list such that the number of schools may sum to a number higher than the number of responses.

**Name of School** (n = 37 responses; some respondents listed multiple answers)

Alliant International University	UC Merced (7)
California Northstate University, College of Medicine	UC Riverside (2)
CHSU	UC San Diego (2)
Fresno Pacific University	UC San Francisco
Fresno State	UC Santa Cruz
Humboldt State University	University of Arizona
Johns Hopkins	University of California Hastings College of Law
McGeorge School of Law	University of San Francisco (2)
Pacific University of Oregon	University of South Florida
San Jose State University (2)	University of the Pacific (2)
UC Davis (4)	Western University of Health Sciences
UC Irvine	Not Listed

**Field of Study** (n = 37 responses)

Accounting	Interdisciplinary Humanities
Biology	Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Chemical Engineering	Medicine
Chemistry (2)	Osteopathic Medicine
Chemistry: Organic	Pharmacy (2)
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Physics (2)
Cognitive Information Sciences	Public Health
Computer Science (2)	Public Policy
Counseling	Quantitative and Systems Biology
Education (2)	School of Pharmacy
EECS	School Psychology (2)
Forensics	Sports Management
Health Law	Teaching Credential
Human Factors/Ergonomics	Theater Arts
Immigration Law	Water Resource engineering
Immunology	

**Pursued degree** (n = 37 responses)

DO
Master's (16)
JD (2)
MD or other medical degree
PhD (9)
PharmD (3)
Other/not specified (5)