# **2020 New Student Survey**

#### Start of Block: CoverLetter

## QTCL 2020 New Student Survey Cover Letter

#### What is the New Student Survey?

Each fall, all new UC Merced students are invited to take the New Student Survey to provide feedback that will help us improve the undergraduate academic and campus life experience for new students. The questions on the survey will cover topics such as: The campus resources you've used and activities you've participated in, as well as how helpful you've found them for your transition to UC Merced. Your educational goals and beliefs about your academic success. The activities you engage in to help you be a successful student. The things you believe are obstacles to your school work or academic success.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has made this semester unusual and challenging. This survey will include questions about your overall campus experience as well as how COVID-19 has affected you. Thank you for your continued hard work, patience, and flexibility during this extraordinary time.

#### Accessibility

You will need to login using your UCM NetID and password. The survey can be taken using a desktop or laptop computer, iPad or other tablet device. Due to the format of the questions, taking the survey on a smartphone is not recommended. The survey will be available between October 28th, 2019 and November 26th, 2019. Please email or call Cinnamon Danube (cdanube@ucmerced.edu; 209-228-6982) for assistance with survey access problems.

#### **Study Procedure**

If you agree to participate, the survey typically takes about 10 minutes to complete. However, given that we are asking you to reflect on current COVID-19 related circumstances as well as your overall experience this semester, it may take a bit longer than usual. We hope you will consider taking the time to complete the entire survey due to the critical importance of this information for the campus. The design of the study requires that we also obtain background information about you from official campus records such as your major, previous schools attended, date of birth, gender, race and ethnicity, SAT/ACT scores, and high-school GPA.

#### **Voluntary Participation**

Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate in the survey will not affect your grades or your relationship with UC Merced or benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may choose to withdraw at any time without penalty. You may also choose not to answer particular questions.

#### Benefits

While there may not be any direct benefit to you from participating, the New Student Survey gives students an opportunity to comment on their experience as a new student at UC Merced, which can help us evaluate and improve the undergraduate academic and campus life experience.

## Protecting your privacy

Any personally identifiable information that is obtained in connection with this study will be stored on a secured server and remain confidential. Please be assured that your responses will be used for research purposes only and will be strictly confidential. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. The information you provide will be combined with responses from other students and reported as summary statistics only. Any quotations from responses to open ended questions used in public reporting will be reviewed to ensure that your identity cannot be ascertained.

Please keep in mind that University policy requires all reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence against students to be forwarded to the Title IX office - http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu/report. Students who disclose that they experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence while students may be contacted by the Title IX office with information about reporting options and support services available to them.

Please note that the responses to the survey may not be reviewed immediately. If any of your responses concern matters in need of immediate action or disclose dangerous situations, you should immediately report those matters to the appropriate authorities. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at <a href="http://counseling.ucmerced.edu/">http://counseling.ucmerced.edu/</a>; the Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) office at <a href="https://care.ucmerced.edu/">https://care.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/">https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/</a>; or the Dean of Students Office at <a href="https://cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerced.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/cate.ucmerceu.edu/ca

#### QTConsent Statement of Consent

By selecting "Agree," I am providing my consent to this survey research effort, as described above. I understand and will participate.

O Agree (1)

O Disagree (2)

End of Block: CoverLetter

**Start of Block: Block 1** 

Q1 When you started at UC Merced, how welcoming did you find the campus environment?

O Very welcoming (1)
O Somewhat welcoming (2)
O Not welcoming (3)
X→
Q15 Today, how connected to or disconnected from UC Merced do you feel?
O Very connected (1)
O Connected (2)
O Disconnected (3)
O Very disconnected (4)

	Strongly Agree (7)	Agree (6)	Somewhat Agree (5)	Neither Agree nor Disagree (4)	Somewhat Disagree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	
I see myself as part of the campus community. (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I feel that I am a member of the campus community. (2)	0	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	
I feel a sense of belonging to the campus community. (3)	0	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	
<ul> <li>First</li> <li>Seco</li> <li>Third</li> </ul>								

Q56 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement about your experience with UC Merced.

X→

Q3 What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?

Bachelor's degree (1)
Master's degree (2)
Doctoral degree (3)
Unsure (4)
None (5)

	Very Unsure (1)	Somewhat Unsure (2)	Somewhat Sure (3)	Very Sure (4)
Succeed academically at UC Merced (Q13_1)	0	0	0	0
Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses (Q13_2)	0	0	0	0
Do well on my most difficult course (Q13_3)	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles (Q13_4)	0	0	0	0
Improve my current skills and abilities (Q13_5)	0	0	0	0
Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors) (Q13_6)	0	0	0	0
Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors) (Q13_7)	0	0	0	0

Q13 How sure are you that you can do each of the following:

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Q6 What do you think your final course grades will be this semester?

O Mostly A's (1)

O Mostly B's (2)

O Mostly C's (3)

 $\bigcirc$  Lower than C's (4)

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 $X \rightarrow$ 

Q8 How likely are you to:

	Very Unlikely (1)	Somewhat Unlikely (2)	Unsure (3)	Somewhat Likely (4)	Very Likely (5)
Be satisfied with your first semester GPA at UC Merced (Q8_1)	0	0	0	0	0
Change your major at UC Merced (Q8_2)	0	0	0	0	0
Change your choice of career while at UC Merced (Q8_3)	0	0	0	0	0
Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced (Q8_4)	0	0	0	0	0
Get a job at UC Merced (Q8_12)	0	0	0	0	0
Participate in an internship at UC Merced (Q8_5)	0	0	0	0	0
Take courses at UC Merced next summer (Q8_6)	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to another college before graduating (Q8_7)	0	0	0	0	0
Leave UC Merced at the	0	0	0	0	0

end of this semester (Q8_8)					
Leave UC Merced at the end of this academic year (Q8_9)	0	0	0	0	0
Form close friendships with other UC Merced students (Q8_10)	0	0	0	0	0
Form close friendships with UC Merced students that are <u>not</u> from the same racial or ethnic group as me (Q8_11)	0	0	0	0	0

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	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (13)
Overall, I feel comfortable with the climate for diversity and inclusiveness at UC Merced. (3)	0	0	0	0
I know what I can do with my major or degree. (1)	0	0	0	0
I have a clear idea of what career path I will pursue after graduation. (2)	0	0	0	0
People have a certain amount of intelligence and they can't really do much to change it. (5)	0	0	0	0

Q58 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

X→

Q40 For each UC Merced campus resource below, please let us know how helpful that resource has been in your transition to UC Merced. Select "did not use" if you didn't use a resource.

	Did not use (0)	Not at all helpful (1)	A little helpful (2)	Somewhat helpful (3)	Very helpful (4)
Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.) (Q40_1)	0	0	0	0	0
Workshops (study skills, time management, writing) (Q40_2)	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0
Academic support services/tutoring (PALS, STEM Resource Center, Writing/Math/Chem Center) (Q40_28)	0	0	0	0	0
Peer Advisors/Mentors (student advisor/mentor in your School) (Q40_4)	0	0	0	0	0
Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in your School/Bobcat Advising Center) (Q40_5)	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Wellness Services (Q40_8)	0	0	0	0	0
Residence Life Staff/programs (Q40_9)	0	0	0	0	0
Students First Center (Q40_10)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Library Services (Q40_11)	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0

Student Den (Q40_17)	0	0	0	0	0

Q41 Please list any other resources that have been helpful in your transition to UC Merced.

End of Block: Block 1	
Start of Block: Block 3	

Display This Question:

If housing = Y

X→

Q38 Our records indicate that you live on campus in a residence hall. Is this correct?

• Yes, I live on campus in a residence hall (1)

No, I do not live on campus (2)

Display This Question:

If Our records indicate that you live on campus in a residence hall. Is this correct? = Yes, I live on campus in a residence hall

	No (1)	Yes (2)
My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name (1)	0	0
I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name (2)	0	0
I know my Residence Life Coordinator's name (3)	0	0
Assistant's (RA's) name (2) I know my Residence Life	0	0

Q25 Please indicate your agreement with the following statements about your experience so far living in a residence hall on campus.

If Our records indicate that you live on campus in a residence hall. Is this correct? = Yes, I live on campus in a residence hall

Display This Question:

X→

Q39 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experience so far living in a residence hall?

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)
I feel comfortable in my residence hall (Q39_2)	0	0	0	0
I have made friends in my residence hall (Q39_16)	0	0	0	0
I feel welcomed and respected by my Resident Assistant (RA) (Q39_17)	0	0	0	0
My Resident Assistant (RA) has helped me transition to UC Merced (Q39_20)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0

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	Not at all (1)	Rarely (2)	Occasionally (3)	Frequently (4)	All the time (5)
Made a weekly schedule, including weekends, to help manage my time (Q16_1)	0	0	0	0	0
Recorded my class deadlines (Q16_2)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Turned in course assignments on time (Q16_3)	0	0	0	0	0
Went to my classes (Q16_4)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments) (Q16_5)	0	0	0	0	0
Followed a regular study schedule (Q16_6)	0	0	0	0	0
Followed a regular sleep schedule (Q16_7)	0	0	0	0	0
Followed a regular exercise schedule (Q16_8)	0	0	0	0	0
Followed a regular eating schedule (Q16_9)	0	0	0	0	0
Ate healthy food (Q16_10)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0

## Q16 How often have you done each of the following this semester?

Read my course syllabi (Q16_11)	0	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$
Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim) (Q16_12)	0	0	0	0	0
Reviewed material before and after class (Q16_13)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook) (Q16_14)	0	0	0	0	0
Monitored course progress and made changes when needed (Q16_15)	0	0	0	0	0
Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments (Q16_16)	0	0	0	0	0
Asked questions when I didn't understand something (Q16_17)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$
Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself (Q16_18)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Participated in a study group (Q16_19)	0	0	0	0	0

Participated in major/academic- related clubs, organizations, or activities (Q16_20)	0	0	0	0	0
Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work) (Q16_21)	0	0	0	0	0
Spent time with peers who support my academic success (Q16_22)	0	0	0	0	0
Checked my UC Merced email (Q16_23)	0	0	0	0	0

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	Not at all (1)	Rarely (2)	Occasionally (3)	Frequently (4)	All the time (5)
Infrequent/poor quality feedback from instructors (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers) (2)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material) (3)	0	0	0	0	0
Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing) (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software) (5)	0	0	0	0	0
Under-developed library research skills (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment) (7)	0	0	0	0	0
Competing family responsibilities (8)	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship) (9)	0	0	0	0	0
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends (10)	0	0	0	0	0

Q17 During your first semester at UC Merced, how often have each of the following been obstacles to your school work or academic success?

Missing connections with family and/or friends (27)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced (12)	0	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$
Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family (13)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own (14)	0	0	0	0	0
Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset (15)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Substance use (e.g., alcohol, other drugs) (26)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$
Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit in at UC Merced (16)	0	0	0	0	0
Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you (17)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Weak spoken English skills (18)	0	0	0	0	0
Weak writing skills (19)	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Weak math skills (20)	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0
Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced (21)	0	0	0	0	0
Paying for expenses (22)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$

Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer (24)	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0
Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web (25)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
End of Block: Block 3					
Start of Block: Fall2020	)				
Q59 Student Dens					

## Q60

How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams?

Never (1)
Only a few times or inconsistently (2)
Weekly (3)
Daily (4)

## Display This Question:

If How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams? = Never

Or How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams? = Only a few times or inconsistently

Q61 You said you never or inconsistently logged into your Student Den. Please use the space below to tell us why.

# Display This Question: If How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams? = Only a few times or inconsistently Or How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams? = Weekly Or How many times have you logged into your Student Den on Microsoft Teams? = Daily

Q62 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experience with your Student Den?

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)
My Den increased my awareness of campus resources (1)	0	0	0	0
I enjoy engaging with my Den (2)	0	0	0	0
My Den helped me form relationships (3)	0	0	0	0
My Den has supported my academic success (4)	0	0	0	0
I am comfortable communicating with my Den Guide and Den Assistant (5)	0	0	0	0

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## Q63 COVID-19 Impacts

Q64 How concerned are you about the possible effects of COVID-19 on you in the following ways?

	Not concerned (1)	Somewhat concerned (2)	Concerned (3)	Very concerned (4)	Not applicable (5)
Losing my job (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Paying bills (2)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0
Being isolated from friends (3)	0	0	0	0	0
Accessing healthcare (4)	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
Meeting basic needs (e.g., food, housing, etc.) (5)	0	0	0	0	0
Depression or other mental health issues (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify) (7)	0	0	0	0	0
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Q65 Remote Learning Experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Q67 How many of your courses have <u>lectures</u> that are taught by the instructor <u>live</u> (i.e., they are NOT pre-recorded)?

O 1 course (1)	
O 2 courses (2)	
O 3 courses (3)	
O 4 or more courses	(4)

Q66 How concerned are you about each of the following aspects of the remote learning experience?

	Not Concerned (1)	Somewhat Concerned (2)	Concerned (3)	Very Concerned (4)	Not Applicable (5)
Learning effectively in the remote instruction environment (1)	0	0	0	0	0
The fairness of the tests I took (2)	0	0	0	0	0
Academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating) on tests and homework assignments (3)	0	0	0	0	0

End of Block: Fall2020

Start of Block: 15units

#### *If census\_total\_credit\_hours < 15*

Q57 The Normal Progress Policy requires that students complete 30 units per year (an average of 15 units per semester). Our records indicate you are not enrolled in 15 units this term. Please let us know why by selecting from the reasons below (select all that apply).

	There were no open seats in the section(s) I needed. (1)
	The course(s) I wanted wasn't offered this term. (2)
	The course(s) I wanted this term was cancelled. (3)
	I didn't know which other course to take. (4)
load. (5)	I had personal obligations (e.g., work, family) and so needed a smaller course
	Someone suggested that I take 12 units. (6)
	I only needed 12 units for Financial Aid. (7)
	I intentionally wanted a smaller course load. (8)
etc.). (9)	I thought I had other credits that would transfer (e.g., AP/IB, community college,
	I plan to take to take more than 15 units next semester. (11)
	I started with more than 15 units but had/decided to drop a class(es). (12)
	Other (please specify) (10)

## End of Block: 15units

Start of Block: Block 4

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Unsure (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
If I had to do it all over again I would still choose UC Merced (1)	0	0	0	0	0
I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college (2)	0	0	0	0	0

Q23 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Q33 Thanks so much for taking the UC Merced New Student Survey and providing your input!

Please click Submit to finish the survey and submit your responses. When you click Submit, you'll be directed to a webpage with resources many new students find helpful. So be sure to check them out!

#### End of Block: Block 4

Start of Block: NoConsent

Q54 You have indicated that you do not wish to participate in the New Student Survey. Please click "End" below to end your survey session and be opted out of receiving additional communications about this survey. If you decide later that you'd like to participate, please contact Cinnamon Danube (cdanube@ucmerced.edu).

End of Block: NoConsent