

## 1-Year Alumni Survey 2012 Results

94 respondents out of 443 invites (21.2% response rate)

### Survey Questions and Results

#### **Your Time at UC Merced**

*Q1 What is your favorite memory of your time at UC Merced? [Only those quotations from respondents who agreed to be quoted are included.]*

- "My favorite memory at UC Merced was the first time I saw the hills in the distance from campus...and realized we were in a lovely, pristine place filled with possibilities."
- "Joining delta epsilon mu"
- "I tripped once when I was walking up the hill. I mean I totally ate it. I remember looking around to see if anyone else saw me and of course there was one guy who was definitely laughing with me and not at me I hope. To top it off, I was already running late for class that day."
- "My favorite memory at UC Merced was coming here in 2007 and seeing how much the University grew during the course of my 4 years here."
- "My favorite memories take place in the second floor of the library, where my friends and I spent numerous hours late into the night studying and doing homework together. The second floor allowed us the freedom to eat, talk, and laugh as we studied, I haven't been in any other library that lets you do this, it really benefitted our studying style."
- "Working for the peer mentoring program. I loved being able to help the freshmen through their first year of college"
- "Almost all of my courses are good memories; they taught me so much about the world I live in. I also remember Professor Nella Van Dyke's words about making me a good consumer of information--I still practice those principles today as I gather information for my job or about politics, etc. Another good memory is working for Housing and Residence Life and keeping in touch with my mentor there."
- "The first time I was a TA for a summer math course. It was a wonderful experience helping the students to learn what I learned years ago."
- "Volunteering at the Class of 2009 commencement ceremony where First Lady Michelle Obama was the speaker. Her speech was an encouragement to continue forward in my studies and ultimately my career."
- "My favorite memory of UC Merced was when we finally got the first MPLS Moot Competition off the ground. Our Super Bowl of Smart was complete with competent advocates and actually judges and lawyers from the community presiding. This event opened the door for the legal curriculum at UC Merced and provided another avenue for valuable community relations with the City of Merced"
- "Orientation. I met a lot of great people and everybody was really welcoming which made my transition to a new school easier."
- "Since UC Merced was still fairly new when I started my college career, I was able to create the Taekwondo Club. I dedicated 3 years into the club and in return I made lifelong friendships, took part in many exciting adventures, and had so many great experiences that I have to count them as a whole when it comes to my favorite memory."
- "Senior design project--electric tractor"

- "My favorite memory of my time at UC Merced has got to be the time, and camaraderie that I found in my Laboratory experience... the personal decorum, the interpersonal relationships, and the intellectual stimulation that I remember being a part of have been the most formative of my experiences on the campus. Period."
- "Performing on campus with friends representing UC Merced!"
- "First time rock climbing as part of a Yosemite Leadership Program field trip."
- "What I loved about UC Merced was the freedom. We had the opportunity and freedom to do anything we wanted and people actually listened and made those ideas happen! I loved our close sense of community! I really don't have a favorite memory, there were too many things I liked!"
- "The first year we all moved in. Being able to meet new people, and start our road to independence."
- "Founding The Sigma Chi Fraternity"
- "Being able to create new clubs and make lifelong friends."
- "There are many great memories I have of my time at UC Merced. Whether it was attending classes with Teenie Matlock as my professor or simply grabbing lunch with a friend at the Lantern, I enjoyed being at UCM."
- "My favorite memory of my time at UC Merced was being part of the first class and the benefits that came with it i.e. waking up 5 minutes before class being able to make class on time since they were in the California room."
- "My favorite memory would definitely have to be joining my sorority. It really did impact my life and bring me even closer to activities happening on campus. The more involved I became at UCM the more fulfilling the experience was!"
- "Experimenting with things in the company of friends."
- "Knowing most of the student body"
- "My feelings about my time spent at UC Merced can be best depicted when describing the moment I realized I can make a difference in the world around me. Conducting research projects, both my own and assisting others was both beneficial to me, the university and humans across the globe. My professors encouraged me, my friends supported me and my family was always there for me. This was partly due to the fact that UC Merced is such a small university and is a very tightly knit community. I hope it stays that way."
- "My favorite memories are being in my sociology courses with awesome professors and students. We had some really fun times!"
- "Professor Yancey throwing candy to people who answered questions during classes."
- "My favorite memory is the founding of my Greek chapter at UC Merced. I really felt like a pioneer and knew that I was supported by the amazing staff in attempting to make positive change as an undergraduate."
- "My entire collegiate career at UC Merced is a favorite memory. From the dreaded all-nighters to the unexpected wakeup call of the fire alarms in the residence halls (in the middle of the night), my time at UC Merced has been one of the greatest memories of my young life."
- "Having the opportunity to start an organization that has had a tremendous impact on my life, even after graduation."
- "My first day of classes my first year."
- "Free food and hanging out with friends in our favorite spot in the library."
- "Being able to work in a lab and do research under a professor."
- "My favorite memory from UC Merced has to be watching Michelle Obama's 2009 commencement speech with my family. As a lifelong Mercedian, I have never been so proud of this small town. It was my first semester after transferring from Merced College and I was

already able to make an impact. The Democrats at UC Merced had quickly accepted me. They asked for my help in the campaign, signing cards and spreading the word; my voice was even featured in the invitational video! By watching my nephew as he listened to the First Lady's words, I could see how the university was going to be a positive influence in the lives of future generations in the Central Valley."

- "Although I had a great number of memories concerning UCM, my favorite memory was when I joined a group of students who helped Dr. DeLugan complete questionnaires in Dos Palos and other unincorporated communities."
- "Developing a friendship with my TA."
- "My favorite memory from UC Merced is probably one of my first: I was on a tour with my parents and worrying about whether or not I could fit in at a big University. Looking out the windows at the top of the stairs leading to the library changed my outlook. There were cows! I decided that I had found a place where the rural part of me could fit in, and five years later I still appreciate the cows. (I now also appreciate which direction the wind blows.)"
- "Hanging out with all my engineering buddies, and finishing my degree."
- "Michelle Obama's Commencement Speech"
- "My favorite memory of my time at UC Merced was as an orientation leader welcoming our new students to our bobcat family."
- "How everything on campus was so new and shiny."
- "Aside from graduation??? HAHA! I am not a traditional student as I am now 34 years old, 31 at the time I arrived at UC Merced and have a family. My most memorable moment at UC Merced was my first day of classes on the second floor of the library looking out at Yosemite Parkway. I had spent 2.5 years looking over at UC Merced from Yosemite Parkway everyday day on my way home from the JC. It was an incredible moment, very exciting and felt like I had reached yet another goal."
- "My most memorable memory would have to be attending the annual dance competition between the various dance clubs/organizations in the school. The excitement and competition grew every year I attended."
- "Tutoring writing students to inspire a new generation of writers."
- "Rushing a Fraternity and becoming a founding father. There are very few opportunities around the nation for a group of people to be the founders of a national chapter."
- "Being part of UC Merced's HEROES as group leader for two years. The group I worked with was great and I felt like we really made a difference in the health of students on campus by being positive role models."
- "My favorite memory at UC Merced was the day of my graduation."
- "The best memory besides Commencement 2011 was a lecture given at my Core Class during my freshman year. The lecture was given by a priest that came all the way from Rome, he explained everything related to science and church. Both institutions work hand to hand to improve the human kind and to better understanding all around us. Amazing lecture!"
- "Researching and being published with Cognitive Science professors Teenie Matlock and Michael Spivey."
- "My favorite memory at UC Merced is coming to UC Merced the first time in 100 degree weather and thinking it was going to be miserable here. The reality was the complete opposite!"
- "Playing club baseball"
- "Two coworkers, a TA, and I went out to In n' Out after a late night at the chemistry labs. After living on dorm food for most of the year it was a welcome break in routine."
- "My favorite memory of UC Merced was spending time with my friends at the quad & library hall."

- "Spending all-nighters with my roommates who are now by best friends."
- "Having the opportunity of working on campus. The work positions for students at the university is a great way to become more connected with the campus and gain work experience."
- "My favorite memory was organizing the 2nd Luau with Ohana Club (2009). We practiced 3 days a week with our three staff hula stars (Leslie Santos, Le'Trice Curl, and Cindy Roberts) for a whole year. As a group of 25 young Bobcats, we hosted a 5hour program that began with an (Martial Arts Club) Asian Fest style vendors, followed by the (Pilipino American Alliance Club) Pilipino Culture Night style repertoire, ending the night with a (Office of Student Life) Leadership Conference style feel good message for our participants, performers, and families to say aloha and goodnight."

• **Participation in Research** •

*Q2 Did you conduct research with a faculty member outside of class while studying at UC Merced?*

	Percentage
Yes	45
No	55

*Q3 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). [If "Yes" selected for Q2]*

Number of months involved in research:

Months	Frequency
3	6
4	2
5	2
6	3
7	1
8	4
9	1
12	3
15	1
16	2
17	1
18	1
20	1
21	1
24	1
36	2
48	1

Hours per month involved in research:

Hours per Month	Frequency
3	2
4	1
6	1
10	3
12	1
15	2
20	5
25	1
28	1
40	7
50	3
60	1
80	1
100	1
120	1
150	1
unsure	1

Field of research:

Biochemistry
Chemistry
Child Development Lab
Climatic Data
Cognitive Development
Cognitive Linguistics
Cognitive Science (5)
Computational Biology
Economics (2)
Entrepreneurship and Green Technologies
Environment
General Engineering and Physics
Hate Crimes and Media Representations of Homosexuals
Immunology
International Relations
Luminescent Solar Concentrators
Management
Mathematics

Neural Stem Cell
Physics
Psychology (2)
Public Health (2)
Reasoning and Cognition
Stem Cell Biology
Surveying Individuals in South Merced and Planada
Theoretical biophysics
Virology

*Q4 Did you formally share results from your research outside the classroom at UC Merced or elsewhere? (e.g. at UC Merced Research Week, in publications, at conferences) [If "Yes" selected for Q2]*

	Percentage
Yes	29
No	71

*Q5 In which of the following formal undergraduate research / graduate preparation programs did you participate at UC Merced? (Please select all that apply.)*

	Percentage
Center of Excellence on Health Disparities	3
UC LEADS – Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees	3
CAMP – CA Alliance for Minority Participation in SEM McNair Scholars	1
UC AGEF – Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate	3
Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program in Comp Bio	2
Other	4
None	68

*Other:*

Center of Excellence on Health Disparities at UCM
Precursor to the URM in Computational Biology
United States State Department

• Career Services •

*Q6 Did you ever have an on-campus job while studying at UC Merced?*

	Percentage
Yes, I had 1 on-campus job	29
Yes, I had 2 or more on-campus jobs	27
No, I did not work on campus	44

*Q7 For which UC Merced unit(s) did you work? (Please select all that apply.) [If either "Yes" option selected for Q6]*

Campus Unit	Frequency
Administration	1
Admissions	5
Business & Financial Services	0
Campus Bookstore	1
Career Services	2
Chancellor's Office	0
Communications	2
Contracts & Grants	0
Development & Alumni Relations	1
Dining/Catering	7
Disability Services	0
ECEC	0
EH&S	0
Facilities	2
Fiat Lux program	0
Financial Aid	1
Government Relations	1
Graduate Division	0
Health Promotion	2
Housing & Residence Life	6
International Programs	0
IT	2
Library	5
Office of Student Life	2
Payroll	0
Physical Planning	0
Police Department	2
Recreation & Athletics	5
Registrar	1

School of Engineering	5
School of Natural Sciences	3
School of SSHA	1
SNRI	0
Sponsored Projects	0
Bright Success Center	8
Student Affairs	0
Students First Center	2
TAPS	0
Other	7

*Q8 Please describe how your on-campus employment experience(s) prepared you for your post-graduate life both personally and professionally. When possible, if you worked for multiple units, clarify which campus job you are referring to in your different descriptions. [If either "Yes" option selected for Q6]*

General Comments:

- Time management
- Organization
- Work experience
- Balance work and academic life
- Network with faculty, staff, students, and visitors
- Communicate effectively and multitask – important skills for current career
- Supervisor/manager level tasks of on-campus jobs led to receipt of multiple job offers post-graduation
- Leadership skills
- Appreciation of the amount of work it takes to build networks
- Experience in customer service
- Teamwork, particularly with individuals with whom it was initially difficult to get along
- Provided reference for future employment
- Day-to-day work skills
- Develop and keep a schedule
- Passion for being a Blue & Gold alum

IT:

- Led to job at UCM

Writing Center:

- Work objectively toward goal with peers

Library:

- Research effectively
- Help diverse group of students and faculty with their various needs
- Manage time and energy in multiple areas

Facilities:

- Networking led to position at Lawrence Berkeley Labs

Peer Mentor:

- Counseling skills
- Tutoring/mentoring skills used as volunteer with youth
- Developed skills to teach undergraduate students in current job

Research Assistant in SSHA:

- Use content coding skills learned at student job directly in post-grad job

Orientation Leader:

- Tutoring/mentoring skills used as volunteer with youth
- Led to M Ed in student affairs (opened eyes to career in student affairs)

Resident Assistant in HRL:

- Helped train for pharmacy school because relationship to resident is similar to relationship to patient (confidentiality, communication, and trust)
- Better engage conflicts
- Be open to differences

University Relations:

- Better understand the internal workings of an organization
- Being a tour guide improved public speaking comfort and skills
- Experience as Bobcat Caller developed comfort in speaking with strangers which helps in current social work career
- Bobcat Caller position led to further positions at the university

Career Services:

- Confidence in presentation skills
- Helping students access career success information helped in post-graduation success

Admissions:

- Appreciation of capability to learn things on own
- Exposed to new areas of interests avoided in the past

Office of Student Life:

- Confirmed passion for working with college students, led to pursue masters in Ed Administration in SA

UCM Police:

- Set high standards for work ethic and professional environment

Health Promotions:

- Experience researching health issues on campus made for a competitive application for nursing master's program

Lab Assistant in NS:

- Hands on lab experience led to post-graduation job as course assistant

Students First Center:

- Compliments in customer satisfaction survey led to future positions on campus, which whet appetite for climbing career ladder

*Q9 During your time at UC Merced, which of the following interactions did you have with the Career Services Office, if any? (Please select all that apply.)*

	Percentage
Visited the Career Services Office.	59
Accessed Career Services-related websites.	43
Participated in Career Services activities and/or programs.	41
I did not interact with the Career Services Office.	14

*Q10 At the time you graduated from UC Merced, approximately what was the total amount borrowed to finance your undergraduate education which you are personally responsible for repaying?*

	Percentage
None	38
Less than \$20,000	34
\$20,000 to \$40,000	20
\$40,001 to \$60,000	5
\$60,001 to \$80,000	0
More than \$80,000	3
Unsure	0

**Your Post-graduate Career and Educational Pursuits**

*Q11 What are your current career and educational pursuits?*

	Percentage
I am working full-time	31
I am working part-time	14
I am completing an internship	7
I am reviewing a job offer	1
I started my own business	1
I am employed in public service employment*	3
I am attending graduate or professional school	32
I have applied to, but am not yet attending, grad or prof school	10
I am continuing my education, but not in graduate school**	7
I am taking time off before finding a job	3
I am an international student and returned to my home country	0
I am searching for full-time employment	15
I am searching for part-time employment	11
I have no plans for work	2
Other (please specify)	7

\* e.g. military, Peace Corps, Teach for America

\*\* e.g. second bachelor's, EMT

*Other:*

- Graduate assistantship stipend covers tuition and living costs
- Two part-time jobs in related fields
- Preparing to apply to graduate school (2)

• **Employment** •

*Q12 Employment Details*

*List of employers:*

AccessData
Acuran Precision
Amador County Recreation Agency
Binder and Binder
Center for Civil Society
Corsair Memory
Country Villa
Dr. Lynn K. Jones
Educational Talent Search
E&J Gallo
Fresno Unified School District (Americorps)
HandsOn Central California (Americorps)
IBM
Kern County Superintendent of Schools (Americorps)
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
McFarland Unified School District
McNamara Sports
MedPOINT Management
Merced Union High School District
Mountain Crisis Services
National Genetics Institute
National University
Oregon State University
Phoenix Energy
RBG Advertising
RTS Packaging LLC
San Diego Community College District
Stanford University
Stanislaus County Library
Starbucks Coffee
Sunrise Dental
Target
TCB Industrial
UC Merced (4)
University of Southern California
Unleashed by Petco

USAA
Valley Crisis Center
Walgreens
Wyzant

*Location of employers:*

	Frequency
California	38
Other state	2
International	1

*Q13 How closely related is this job to your: [If any work option selected for Q11]*

	Percentage
undergraduate field of study/major?	
Highly related	13
Moderately related	48
Slightly related	22
Not at all related	17
career goals?	
Highly related	28
Moderately related	30
Slightly related	22
Not at all related	20

*Q14 Was a bachelor's degree required to obtain this job? [If any work option selected for Q11]*

	Percentage
Yes	54
No	46

*Q15 What is your annual salary? [If any work option selected for Q11]*

	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	35
\$25,001 to \$30,000	9
\$30,001 to \$35,000	17
\$35,001 to \$40,000	7
\$40,001 to \$45,000	2
\$45,001 to \$50,000	7
\$50,001 to \$55,000	2
\$55,001 to \$60,000	2
\$60,001 to \$65,000	2
\$65,001 to \$70,000	0
\$70,001 to \$80,000	2
\$80,001 to \$90,000	2
\$90,001 to \$100,000	0
More than \$100,000	0
Prefer not to answer	13

*Q16 How did you learn about this job? (Please select all that apply.) [If any work option selected for Q11]*

	Frequency
Career Fair	0
Career Services staff member	0
Employer website	7
Faculty or staff member at UCM	3
Internship or volunteer employer	3
Job announcements – CATLink, CatPAWS	1
Listserv/email	0
Networking with family/friend	17
Networking with classmate/UCM alum	3
On-campus interview	0
Online job board	9
Professional association	2
Social networking site	0
Other (please specify)	11

*Other:*

- Craigslist
- Emailed professors at USC (graduate assistantship)
- Job posting on store wall
- Local newspaper

*Q17 How soon after graduation were you offered your first position? [If any work option selected for Q11]*

	Percentage
0 to 3 months after graduation	41
4 to 6 months after graduation	25
7 to 9 months after graduation	9
10 to 12 months after graduation	16
More than 12 months after graduation	9

*Q18 How soon after graduation did you start your own business? [If "I started by own business" selected for Q11]*

	Percentage
0 to 3 months after graduation	0
4 to 6 months after graduation	0
7 to 9 months after graduation	0
10 to 12 months after graduation	100
More than 12 months after graduation	0

• **Graduate or Professional Studies** •

*Q19 Graduate or professional school details: [If “I am attending graduate or professional school” selected for Q11]*

*List of graduate schools, accepted:*

Abraham Lincoln University
CSU East Bay
CSU Long Beach
CSU Sacramento
CSU Stanislaus (3)
Florida State University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science
National University of Singapore
Oregon State University
Purdue University
Saint George University School of Medicine
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University (2)
Southwestern Law School
St. Patrick’s Seminary
Syracuse College of Law
The Pennsylvania State University
The University of Charleston
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Riverside
University of Colorado
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Michigan
University of Southern California (2)
University of the Pacific

*Fields of study:*

Aerospace Law
Applied Behavior Analysis
Business
Clinical Laboratory Science
Cognitive Psychology
Information Science
Law (2)

Marriage and Family Therapy
Medicine
Molecular Biophysics
Nuclear Engineering
Pathobiology
Pharmacy (3)
Philosophy
Physics
Politics and Public Administration
Pre-Health
Public Health
Rehabilitation Counseling
Second Language Studies
Social Work (3)
Spanish Literature
Student Affairs
TESOL

*Degrees Pursuing:*

<i>Masters (17)</i>
<i>JD (3)</i>
<i>MD or other medical degree (4)</i>
<i>PhD (4)</i>
<i>Other (Post-Bac, Certification) (2)</i>

*Q20 Which, if any, degrees do you plan to pursue in the future? (Please select all that apply.)*

	Percentage
Second Bachelor's	4
Professional or Medical	21
Master's	39
Doctoral	25
I do not plan to pursue any further degrees	11

**Your Relationship with UC Merced as an Alum**

*Q21 Today, how connected or disconnected do you feel to UC Merced?*

	Percentage
Very connected	17
Connected	45
Disconnected	28
Very disconnected	11

*Q22 Which of the following social media networking websites are you actively using? (Please select all that apply.)*

	Percentage
Facebook	66
Twitter	18
LinkedIn	26
Four Square	3
mySpace	0
Friendster	0
Google+	13
Other (please specify)	6
None – I do not actively use social media	8

*Other:*

- Instagram (2)
- Tumblr (4)

*Q23 Have you “liked” the UC Merced Alumni Association Facebook page? [If “Facebook” selected in Q22]*

	Percentage
Yes	47
No	53

*Q24 Are you following the UC Merced Alumni Association Twitter feed? [If “Twitter” selected in Q22]*

	Percentage
Yes	29
No	71

*Q25 Have you joined the UC Merced Alumni Association group on LinkedIn? [If “LinkedIn” selected in Q22]*

	Percentage
Yes	60
No	40

*Q26 In the past year, in which of the following UC Merced-sponsored activities did you participate?  
(Please select all that apply.)*

	Percentage
Read campus publications.	25
Read campus email updates.	50
Visited UC Merced's website.	43
Visited the UC Merced campus.	47
Attended an event on campus.	35
Attended an event off campus.	2
Volunteered with the alumni office.	2
Made a gift to UC Merced.	13
I did not participate in any of these activities.	9

*Q27 How likely are you to someday serve as an alumni volunteer to UC Merced?*

	Percentage
Very likely	25
Likely	39
Unlikely	28
Very unlikely	8

*Q28 How likely are you to someday make a donation to UC Merced?*

	Percentage
Very likely	36
Likely	43
Unlikely	13
Very unlikely	8

*Q29 How do you feel about the amount of communications you receive from UC Merced?*

	Percentage
I am receiving sufficient communications.	72
I would like more frequent communications via email.	9
I would like more frequent communications via postal mail.	8
I am receiving too many communications from UC Merced.	11

*Q30 Are you registered to vote?*

	Percentage
Yes	80
No	20

**Reflection on your UC Merced education**

*Q31 Based on what you know now, how did your undergraduate education at UC Merced prepare you for situations that require:*

	Percentage of non-NA						%
	Excellent	Very well	Well	Fairly	Poorly	Very poorly	NA
An ability to be clear and effective when writing	35	45	18	3	0	0	1
An ability to speak clearly and effectively in English	36	42	16	5	0	0	3
An ability to prepare and make a presentation	36	44	15	4	1	0	0
Analytical and critical thinking skills	49	30	14	5	1	0	0
Quantitative (mathematical or statistical) skills	24	28	27	15	4	1	1
Library research skills	32	35	18	14	0	1	1
Other research skills	33	35	24	8	0	0	0
An understanding of your specific field of study	39	32	23	7	0	0	0
An ability to understand international perspectives (e.g. economic, political, social, cultural)	30	30	21	15	4	0	3
An ability to acquire new skills and/or knowledge on your own	45	32	17	5	0	0	0
An ability to appreciate the fine arts (e.g. painting, music, drama, dance)	20	19	32	19	6	4	8
An ability to work with people from other cultures	49	30	11	7	1	1	3
Interpersonal (social) skills	43	29	17	5	5	0	0
An ability to work as a member of a team or group	49	26	16	4	5	0	0
Self-awareness and understanding	47	32	16	5	0	0	0