



2015 Graduating Senior Survey Report
Prepared by Institutional Research and Decision Support
Last Updated: June 17, 2015

Response Rate: Of the 1108 students invited to complete the survey, 392 (35%) provided partial or complete responses. Because students could skip questions, response rates varied by question.

Survey items intended for the purposes of program review for the general education program and for specific major and minor programs are not included in this report.

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 with a few exceptions.

- Transfer students were somewhat over-represented in the sample.
- Females were 5% more likely to respond compared to males, which is typical in survey research.
- Seniors in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts were somewhat under-represented in the sample, whereas seniors in the Schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences were somewhat over-represented in the sample.
- Though the response rates for some of the major and minor programs were below the overall response rate of 35%, the percentage of respondents in these programs roughly mirrored the percentage of invitees.

Table 1. Student Demographics

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1108 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 392 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Entering Level					
Transfer Students	161	15%	73	19%	45%
Students Who Entered as Freshmen	947	86%	319	81%	34%
Gender					
Female	599	54%	230	59%	38%
Male	505	46%	161	41%	32%
Unknown	4	< 1%	1	< 1%	25%
Race/Ethnicity					
International	16	1%	7	2%	44%
Hispanic	435	39%	152	39%	35%
African American	77	7%	24	6%	31%
American Indian	1	< 1%	1	< 1%	100%
Asian	309	28%	97	25%	31%
Pacific Islander	7	1%	3	1%	43%
White	189	17%	79	20%	42%
Multi-racial	60	5%	22	6%	37%
Unknown	14	1%	7	2%	50%

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

Table 2. Student Demographics and Schools

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1108 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 392 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
First Generation Status					
First Generation	653	59%	220	56%	34%
Non-First Generation	455	41%	172	44%	38%
Pell Eligibility Status					
Pell Grant Eligible	667	60%	235	60%	35%
Non-Pell Grant Eligible	441	40%	157	40%	36%
First Language					
English Only as First Language	443	40%	167	43%	38%
English and Other Language or Other Language Only as First Language	648	58%	222	57%	34%
Unknown	17	2%	3	1%	18%
School					
Engineering	185	16%	79	20%	43%
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts	683	59%	218	54%	32%
Natural Sciences	289	25%	108	27%	37%

% 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

Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1108 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 392 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Major					
ANTH – Anthropology	20	2%	12	3%	60%
BENG – Bioengineering	27	2%	15	4%	56%
BIOS – Biological Sciences	225	19%	75	19%	33%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	24	2%	12	3%	50%
COGS – Cognitive Science	77	7%	31	8%	40%
CSE – Computer Science & Engineering	50	4%	21	5%	42%
ECON – Economics	46	4%	15	4%	33%
ENG – English	9	1%	6	1%	67%
ENVE – Environmental Engineering	22	2%	13	3%	59%
ESS – Earth Systems Science	10	1%	4	1%	40%
HIST – History	27	2%	8	2%	30%
LTCU – Literatures & Cultures	16	1%	5	1%	31%
MATH – Applied Mathematical Sciences	24	2%	13	3%	54%
ME – Mechanical Engineering	79	7%	28	7%	35%
MGMT – Management & Business Economics	123	11%	33	8%	27%
MSE – Materials Science & Engineering	7	1%	2	< 1%	29%
PHYS – Physics	6	1%	4	1%	67%
POLI – Political Science	64	6%	13	3%	20%
PSY – Psychology	216	19%	69	17%	32%
SOC – Sociology	82	7%	26	6%	32%
SPAN – Spanish	3	< 1%	0	0%	0%





% 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

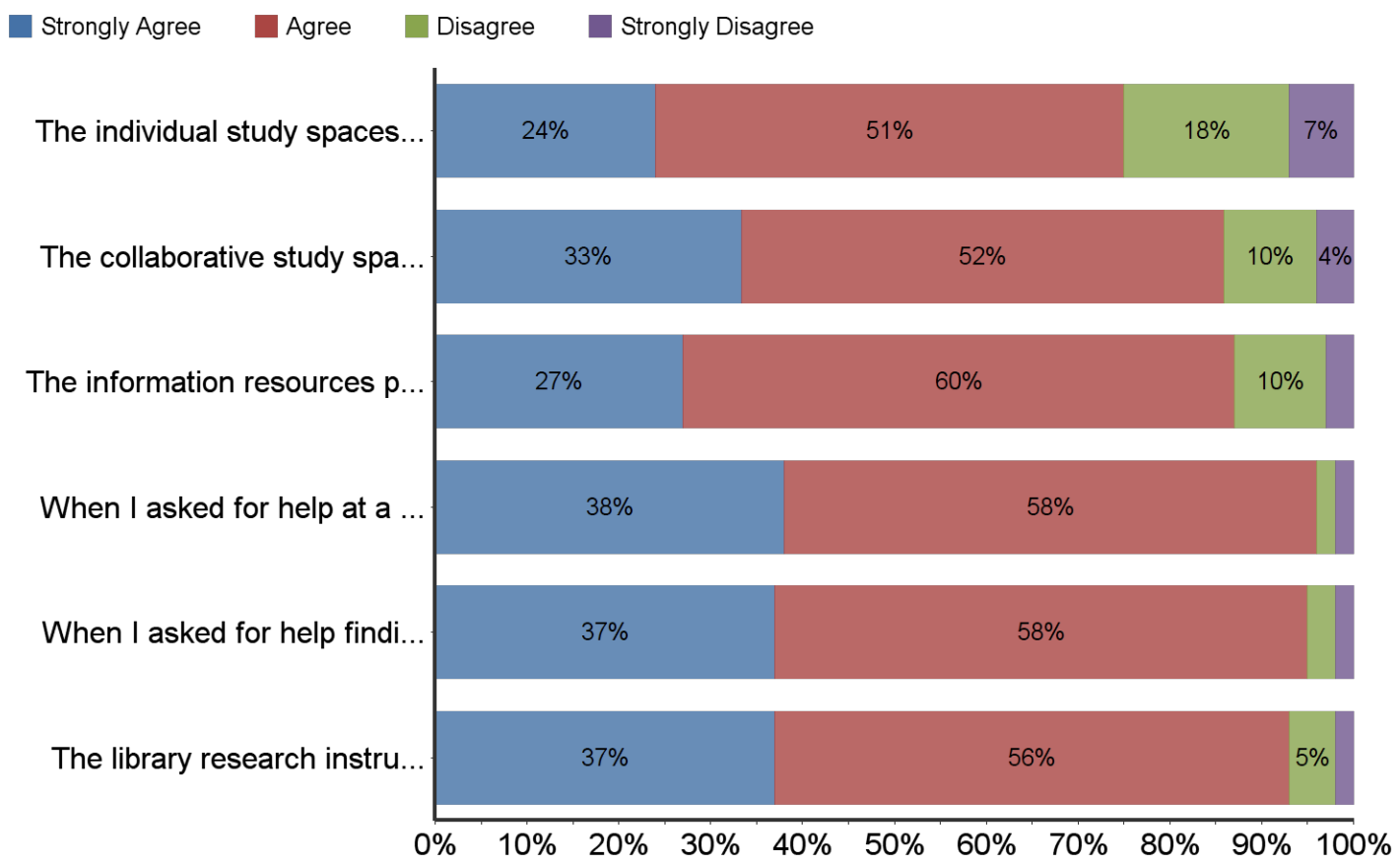
Student Characteristic	# Invited (of 1108 total)	% Invited	# Responded (of 392 total)	% Responded	Response Rate (# responded/# invited)
Minor					
AMER – American Studies	0	0%	0	0%	--
ANTH – Anthropology	9	2%	5	3%	56%
ARTS – Arts	24	5%	10	6%	42%
CCST – Chicano/Chicana Studies	3	1%	2	1%	67%
CHEM – Chemical Sciences	2	< 1%	2	1%	100%
COGS – Cognitive Sciences	30	7%	11	6%	37%
ECON – Economics	9	2%	4	2%	44%
ESSU – Environmental Science & Sustainability	2	< 1%	1	1%	50%
HIST – History	16	4%	9	5%	56%
LIT – Literatures & Cultures	1	< 1%	0	0%	0%
MGMT – Management	28	6%	8	5%	29%
MTHM – Applied Mathematics	6	1%	0	0%	0%
NSED – Natural Sciences Education	11	2%	6	4%	55%
PH – Public Health	37	8%	15	9%	41%
PHIL – Philosophy	9	2%	4	2%	44%
POLI – Political Science	20	5%	9	5%	45%
PSY – Psychology	98	22%	34	20%	35%
SOC – Sociology	47	11%	20	12%	43%
SPAN – Spanish	50	11%	17	10%	34%
SVSC – Services Science	2	0%	2	1%	100%
WRI – Writing	37	8%	11	6%	30%

% 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		90	23%
Connected		232	59%
Disconnected		56	14%
Very disconnected		12	3%
Total		390	100%

5 Please select your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements about UC Merced's Library. Note: To improve readability, some question text is truncated in the figure. Full question text can be found in the table that follows the figure.





#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
1	The individual study spaces in the library supported my academic progress.	88	189	65	26	368
2	The collaborative study spaces in the library supported my academic progress.	125	196	38	16	375
3	The information resources provided by the library supported my academic progress.	95	216	37	10	358
4	When I asked for help at a library service desk, I received satisfactory assistance from library staff.	133	202	8	7	350
5	When I asked for help finding information for my papers and projects, I received satisfactory assistance from library staff.	107	169	9	5	290
6	The library research instruction I received helped me find suitable information resources for my papers and projects.	120	182	15	7	324

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

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
None		37	10%
1 class		86	22%
2 classes		125	32%
3 classes		78	20%
4 or more classes		60	16%
Total		386	100%

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

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Yes		128	33%
No		256	67%
Total		384	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 = 123 responses for number of months; n = 118 responses for hours per month).

Approximate number of months involved in research

Months	Frequency
1-3	13
4-6	33
7-9	17
10-12	24
13-15	7
16-18	9
19-21	5
22-24	10
25-27	0
28-30	4
More than 30	1
Average (Standard Deviation)	M = 11.02 (SD = 7.36)

Approximate number hours/month involved in research



Hours	Frequency
1-5	14
6-10	13
11-15	12
16-20	16
21-25	14
26-30	8
31-35	5
36-40	13
41-45	0
46-50	6
More than 50	17
Average (Standard Deviation) <small>(excluding 3 outliers)</small>	M = 30.55 (SD = 27.63)

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 = 116 valid responses).

- Absorption of heavy metals onto environmental solids
- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Applied Math/Physics (2)
- Aquatic Microbial Biogeochemistry/Climate Change
- Archaeology
- Bioengineering
- Biofilm formation by microbes
- Biogeochemistry
- Biology
- Biophysics (3)
- Chemistry
- Child/infant development (2)
- Cognition/Mathematics
- Cognitive science (9)
- Cognitive science - development
- Computational cancer biology
- Computational biology (3)
- Computational chemistry (2)
- Computational neuroscience
- Computer vision
- Data collection, center information collection
- Developmental Psychology (3)
- Diabetes
- Early Cognition and Language
- Economic study of productivity
- Economics (3)
- Endophyte genetics
- Energy and sustainability
- Environmental systems
- Environmental health (2)
- Environmental modeling
- Facilitating conversations about racism/oppression
- Fashion - Harlem Renaissance
- Genetics and entomology
- Health psychology (2)
- Health science
- Hepatitis C
- History (2)
- Human computer interaction
- HVAC efficiency
- Immunology
- Interpersonal development
- Isotopes in vernal pools
- Judicial politics
- Linguistics
- Materials science & engineering
- Materials chemistry/Molecular cell biology
- Mechanical Engineering (2)
- Metaphors in speech
- mRNA decay rates in neutral stem cell tissues in drosophila
- Nanoscience
- Nervous system development of drosophila
- Neurobiology
- Neuroscience (2)
- Nonlinear dynamics
- Organic synthesis chemistry
- Palau jellyfish project
- Philosophy
- Political science (3)
- Psychology (4)
- Psychology and Sociology
- Public health (6)
- Recruitment
- Remote imaging
- Remote sensing
- Social psychology/Anthropology
- Soft matter physics
- Soil science (3)
- Solar thermal
- SONA
- Speeded categorization judgment
- Targeted marketing campaigns
- Tissue engineering
- Tribology
- UAV's and embedded systems
- Valley fever and air quality
- Writing education











Did you present results from your research outside the classroom at UC Merced or elsewhere? (e.g. at UC Merced Research Week, in publications, at conferences)

Note: Only respondents who said they conducted research with a faculty member could answer this question.

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Yes		47	38%
No		77	62%
Total		124	100%

11 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.

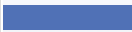





Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
Center of Excellence on Health Disparities		2	3%
UC LEADS - Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees		5	8%
CAMP - CA Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics		9	15%
UC COINS - Center of Integrated Nanomechanical Systems		6	10%
Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program in Computational Biology		9	15%
Other (please specify)		31	52%
McNair Scholars		1	2%
MARC - Minority Access to Research Careers		4	7%
USDA HSI Scholars		6	10%
PG&E Engineering Summer Scholars		3	5%
Yosemite Environmental Science REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates)		0	0%
Total		76	100%

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.

Other (please specify)
Mesa Lab
PNE
Jinah Choi Lab
CRTE
Eric Walle's Interpersonal Development Lab
UC Davis CAHFS Laboratory System
Blum Center
Mobile App Challenge
History Honors Thesis
Undergraduate Research course (WRI 195)
MESA lab
REU southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory.
CECL
Yosemite Leadership Program
NanoBio
Undergraduate Research Journal
Maddy Institute
Field School
HSRI
American Physiological Society Summer Fellowships
Sierra Nevada Research Institute
English Research
ASUCM Fellowship
Yosemite Leadership Program
Upper Division Undergraduate Research
NSF MAPs
Through CSE-120 integrated with a Capstone group as a software engineer
Through SHAA
AiMM REU

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		87	23%
Sports clubs		38	10%
Outdoor Experience Program (outdoor trips)		51	13%
Fitness classes		102	27%
Free recreation (general use of the Gallo Recreation Center)		269	71%
None		85	22%
Total		632	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. Numbers in parentheses indicate frequencies for responses given by more than one student (n = 11 valid responses).

Answer	Bar	Frequency	%
I was not aware of these programs.		14	17%
I was not interested in these programs.		38	46%
I did not have enough time.		46	55%
I did not have enough money.		20	24%
Other (please specify)		12	14%
Total		130	100%

Other

- Class times didn't fit schedule (2)
- Work out at home
- Not practical due to lengthy commute and other commitments
- Couldn't create a team
- Work out at local gym with specific programs not available at UCM
- Did not have desired sport
- Participated in intercollegiate athletics
- Live off campus
- Prefer to work out alone
- Lack of knowledge

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	%
Badminton		55	17%
Baseball		25	8%
Water Polo		26	8%
Martial Arts / Kickboxing		74	23%
Rock Climbing		133	42%
Rowing / Sailing		57	18%
Swimming		133	42%
Tennis		72	23%
Track and Field		64	20%
Walking Group		54	17%
Volleyball (in Grass or Sand)		59	18%
Other (please specify)		61	19%
Total		813	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 = 54 valid responses; some students gave multiple responses).

- Archery (4)
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Billiards
- Cheer
- Community garden
- Competitive dance (salsa)
- Cricket
- Cross country/running (4)
- Cycling
- Equestrian/horseback riding (2)
- Flag Football
- Football (6)
- Frisbee
- Fusbal
- Golf (2)
- Hot yoga
- Indoor soccer
- Lacrosse -women's/men's (4)
- Paintball
- Powe Lifting
- Rock climbing/rock wall (2)
- Rugby (2)
- Sand volleyball
- Soccer (4)
- Softball
- Swimming (4)
- Table tennis
- Wrestling (3)
- Zumba

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.		34	9%
I have accepted full-time employment at a new employer.		21	6%
I have accepted part-time employment at a new employer.		6	2%
I have accepted an internship.		16	4%
I am reviewing a job offer.		36	10%
I have started my own business.		2	1%
I have accepted public service employment (military, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.).		6	2%
I have been accepted into graduate or professional school.		42	11%
I have applied to graduate or professional school, but have not yet been accepted.		46	12%
I am continuing my education, but not in graduate school (e.g. second bachelor's, EMT, etc.).		38	10%
I will take time off before finding a job.		65	17%
I am an international student and will return to my home country.		1	0%
I am searching for full-time employment.		198	53%
I am searching for part-time employment.		96	25%
I have no plans for work.		5	1%
Other (please specify)		53	14%
Total		665	100%

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 = 52 valid responses; some students gave multiple responses).

- Applying/applied to teaching credential program
- Applying/applied to graduate school (13)
- Applying/applied to professional program, e.g., Law school (3)
- Applying/applied to internships (5)
- Applying/applied for jobs (2)
- Applying/applied to Peace Corps
- Completing degree at another institution
- Completing degree at UC Merced
- International human services program
- Military (2)
- Post-baccalaureate training program (2)
- Research
- Starting a business
- Study for graduate/professional school exams - e.g., MCAT
- Taking time off/getting experience/working prior to applying to graduate school or professional program (14)
- Taking more courses to prepare for graduate/professional program (2)
- Teaching English abroad
- Travel/study abroad (2)
- Unsure (2)

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 (n = 77 responses).

Employers

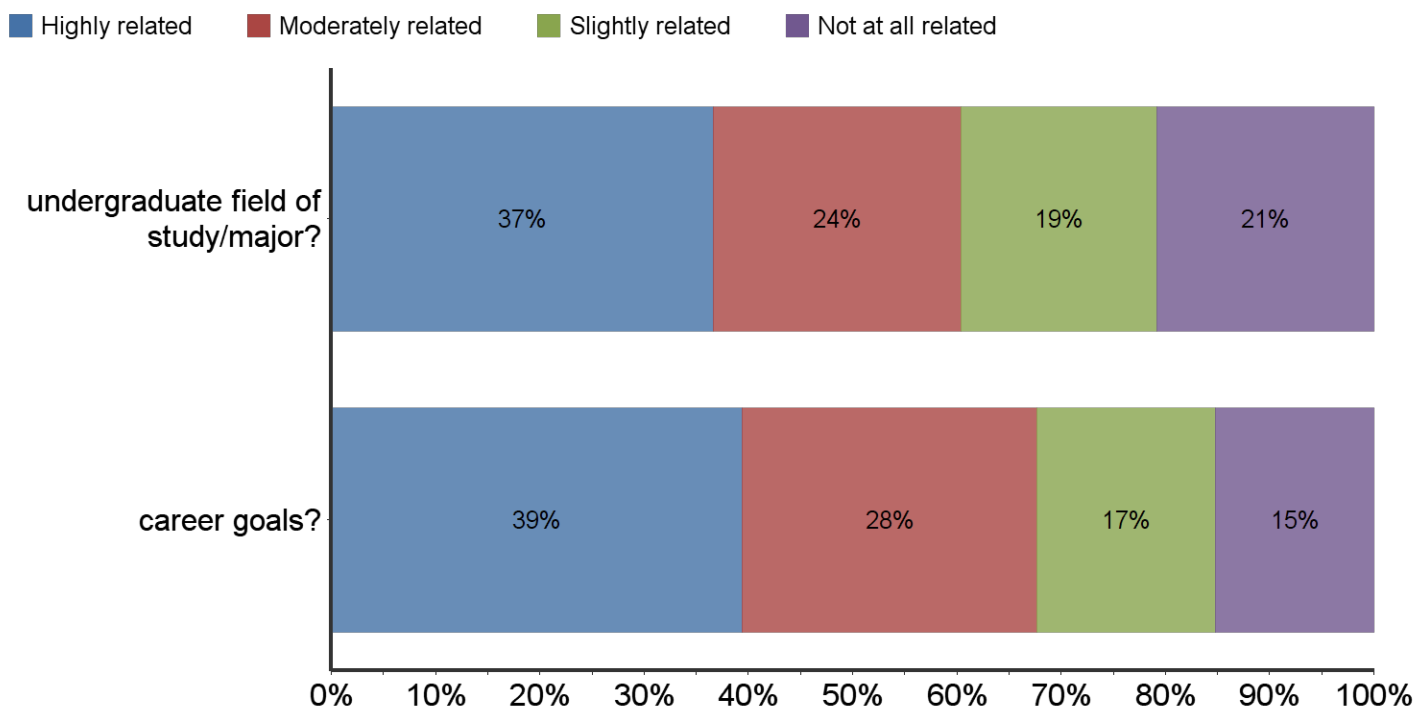
- Aeropostale
- Anka Behavioral Health Inc.
- Antelope Valley College
- Applied Behavioral Consultants
- Carson Porter Diving
- CED
- CEP America
- City of Redwood City
- City Year (4)
- Costco
- Decision Information Resources
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Efficiency Plus
- Enterprise
- Foster Farms
- Franchise Tax Board
- Gallo Winery
- HP
- HPL Contract
- Hydros Agitech
- HyTrust
- Kohl's
- Los Angeles Crenshaw Probation Office
- La Tapatia Tortilleria
- Merced College
- Merced Union High School District
- Middle East and North Africa Consultants Association
- NASA Ames Research Center
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- New 4u Ladies Consignment
- Northrop Grumman
- Northwestern Mutual
- Pacific Child and Family Associates
- Parker Construction and Remodeling
- Pivotal Systems
- San Francisco International Airport
- San Joaquin Historical Society
- Sandia National Laboratories
- Seaside Properties
- Sherwin Williams (2)
- Sony Entertainment North America
- State of CA
- Student listed name of an individual/person (4)
- Target (2)
- Teach For America
- UC Davis CAHFS Laboratory
- UC Merced (15)
- UC Santa Cruz
- Ultra Clean Technology
- Universidad Politecnica del Bicentenario, plantel Silao
- US Army
- Vibe Management
- Vollmar Consulting
- Yosemite National Park (2)

Employer Locations

- California (69)
- Other State (6)
- International (2)

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?	37	24	19	21	101
2	career goals?	39	28	17	15	99

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 (n = 40 responses). 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

- Arizona State University
- California Health Sciences University
- California State University Sacramento
- California State University Fullerton (2)
- Colorado School of Mines
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fresno State University
- Hult International Business School
- Marian University
- National University
- Oregon State University
- Penn State University
- San Diego State University (2)
- Stanford
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis (3)
- UC Irvine
- UC Merced (6)
- UC Santa Cruz
- University of Delaware
- University of Illinois
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- University of Minnesota
- University of Oregon (2)
- University of Southern California (3)
- University of the Pacific (2)
- UT Austin
- Washington University in Saint Louis
- Western University of Health Sciences

Field of Study

- Aerospace Engineering
- Applied Math
- Bioengineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering (2)
- Civil Engineering
- Communications (2)
- Computer Science
- Education (2)
- Environmental Systems (2)
- Epidemiology
- Higher Education
- Human Computer Interaction
- Interdisciplinary Humanities
- International Marketing
- Materials Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Natural Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Optics (2)
- Optometry
- Pharmacy (2)
- Political Science
- Public Health
- Public Relations
- Religious Studies
- Soil Science
- Speech and Hearing Science
- Speech Language Pathology
- Student Affairs
- Student Affairs and Higher Education

Pursued Degree

- Master's (21)
- JD (0)
- MD or other medical degree (1)
- PhD (12)
- PharmD (2)
- PsyD (0)
- Other/not specified (4)