



Ten Facts about UCM PhDs from the National Survey of Earned Doctorates

Institutional Research and Decision Support, UC Merced
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Completion of the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) questionnaire is one of the last steps before graduation throughout American higher education. It is administered by a University of Chicago group, NORC, for NSF, NIH, NEH, the Departments of Education and Agriculture, and NASA. The response rate has been above 90% for decades and it is therefore a remarkably good source of information about new doctoral recipients nationwide. UC Merced's response rate is 59% but has improved over time, and efforts have been made to encourage participation going forward. **The following results are from all UC Merced graduates through Spring commencement in 2013.**

Affording Graduate School

1. About three quarters of UCM doctoral recipients received full tuition remission (73%). Examining **primary** sources of financial support and comparing UCM and national figures, UCM graduates were: as likely to rely on fellowships, scholarships and grants (26% UCM, 27% US); much more likely to have a teaching assistantship (33% UCM, 21% US); similarly likely to have other assistantships (29% UCM, 32% US); and much less likely to have relied principally on loans, savings, and family earnings or family savings (8% UCM, 15% US). A similar pattern was apparent when looking at **all sources of support**: UCM students were more likely to have scholarships, grants, and assistantships; and less likely to rely on loans, savings, or family earnings.
2. UCM students were less likely to have graduate school debt (57% UCM, 62% US) and, on average, had at least \$3,000 less debt for their combined undergraduate and graduate education.

Time to Degree

3. Three quarters took one year or less timeout between their undergraduate and graduate program (75%). Fewer than one-in-ten (9%) took more than two years off between their undergraduate and graduate program. Once in graduate school, most finished coursework in two years or less (65%), and seventy percent took three years or less to prepare a dissertation. Overall, the median total time to complete a doctorate was 7 years.

Plans after Graduate School

4. Of those responding, half planned to take a post-doctoral position.
5. The most frequent post-graduation employer identified was a four-year college or university (31%), followed by a university-affiliated research institute (24%), industry or business (17%), the federal government (10%), a nonprofit (10%), or a medical school (7%).
6. Over one half (53%) planned to stay in California, with the remainder planning to move to another state.

Background

7. Almost three-in-ten attended a junior college (29%).
8. Of those with a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. institution, over half attended a research university (39% Carnegie Research University Very High activity and 12% Research University High activity) and over one third (36%) received a bachelor's degree from a masters granting college or university. The remaining 12% graduated

from doctoral granting institutions that are not research universities or from institutions where the baccalaureate is the highest degree offered.¹

9. Of every ten students graduating from a bachelors granting institution, about seven attended a public institution (69%) and the other three attended a private institution (31%).

10. Over one-third earned a baccalaureate in California (36%), about four-in-ten (39%) were international students, and a quarter (25%) were from other states.

¹ Sum is less than 100% due to the reporting of rounded figures.

10 Facts from SED Appendix: UC Merced Doctoral Recipients' Responses on the Survey of Earned Doctorates

A4. Did you receive full or partial tuition remission (waiver) for your doctoral studies?

No, I did not receive any tuition remission	13%
Yes, I received for less than 1/3 of tuition	0%
Yes, I received between 1/3 and 2/3 of tuition	10%
Yes, I received more than 2/3 of tuition, but less than full	5%
Yes, I received full tuition remission	73%

A5. Which of the following were sources of financial support during graduate school?

	Primary Source of Support		Secondary Source of	Was a Source of Support	
	National 2013	UCM Primary	UCM Secondary	National 2013	UCM a Source (n=39)
Fellowship, scholarship Grant	27%	18%	8%	59%	79%
Teaching assistantship	21%	33%	42%	64%	92%
Research assistantship		26%	25%	61%	82%
Other assistantship	32%	3%	0%	6%	5%
Traineeship		0%	0%	4%	0%
Internship, clinical residency		0%	0%	6%	10%
Loans (from any source)		3%	6%	27%	23%
Personal savings	15%	0%	3%	38%	36%
Personal earnings during graduate school (other than sources listed above)		0%	3%	26%	21%
Spouse's, partner's, or family's earnings or savings		5%	3%	30%	23%
Employer reimbursement/assistance	3%	3%	3%	9%	5%
Foreign (non-U.S.) support		3%	0%	5%	5%
Other - Specify	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%

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A7. When you receive your doctoral degree, how much money will you owe that is directly related to your undergraduate and graduate

	National 2013	UCM Undergraduate Debt	National 2013	UCM Graduate Debt	National 2013	UCM Total Debt
None	69%	67%	62%	57%	52%	52%
\$10,000 - or less	8%	11%	9%	12%	9%	13%
\$10,001 - \$20,000	8%	7%	6%	14%	8%	9%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	6%	9%	4%	4%	6%	9%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	3%	2%	3%	0%	4%	2%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
\$50,001 - \$60,000	1%	0%	2%	2%	3%	0%
\$60,001 - \$70,000	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%
\$70,001 - \$80,000	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	0%
\$80,001 - \$90,000	1%	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%
\$90,001 or more	1%	0%	5%	2%	8%	9%
Computed Mean	\$7,715	\$6,413	\$15,350	\$11,531	\$20,015	\$16,522

Intention to take postdoc position

Yes	50%	20
No	50%	20
		<u>40</u>

Postgraduation status

Returning to, or continuing in, predoctoral employment	10%	5
Signed contract or made definite commitment	57%	28
Negotiating with a specific organization, or more than one	12%	6
Seeking appointment but have no specific prospects	14%	7
Do not plan to work or study	4%	2
Other	2%	1
		<u>49</u>

Postgraduation plans

On a postdoctoral fellowship	28%	9
On a postdoc research associateship (FY 1969 to present)	25%	8
Employment (other than postdoc or further training)	44%	14
Military service	3%	1
		<u>32</u>

Postdoctoral study support

U.S. Government	4
College or university	7
	<u>11</u>

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Postgraduation employer type

U.S. 4-year college or univ other than med school	28%	8
U.S. medical school	7%	2
U.S. university-affiliated research institute (beg. on the 2004 form)	24%	7
Foreign (non-U.S.) educational institution	3%	1
U.S. federal government	10%	3
Not for profit organization	10%	3
Industry or business (for profit)	17%	5
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Place of Baccalaureate institution

California	36%	36%
Arizona	2%	
Hawaii	2%	
Indiana	3%	
Maine	2%	
Maryland	2%	
New Jersey	2%	
New York	2%	
North Carolina	2%	
Tennessee	3%	
Texas	3%	
Utah	2%	
Vermont	2%	
France	2%	25%
Germany	7%	
Russia	2%	
China, Peoples Republic	14%	
India	3%	
Lebanon	2%	
Nepal	2%	
China, Taiwan	3%	
Turkey	2%	
Mexico	2%	
Columbia	2%	
		39%

10 Facts from SED Appendix: UC Merced Doctoral Recipients' Responses on the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Time (Years) -- Note that UC Merced is a young institution and graduates therefore would have completed their degree more quickly on average than might be true in future years where there are a few students taking much longer to graduate.

	Total time to Doctorate	Total Time Elapsed from Graduate Entry to Doctorate	Years of Doctoral Coursework	Years Preparing Dissertation	Time Out Between Bach. and Graduate Program
1 or 0			10%	10%	75%
2			55%	25%	10%
3			10%	35%	3%
4	7%	13%	13%	20%	3%
5	14%	18%	13%	10%	3%
6	12%	15%			
7	16%	15%			
8	17%	18%			
9	7%	5%			
10	9%	10%			
11	9%				
12	5%	5%			
13	2%				
14	2%	3%			
15					
16	2%				
17					3%
18					
19					
20					
Over 20	3%	3%			
Postgraduation location					
California	53%	27			
Alabama		1			
Arizona		1			
Florida		1			
Illinois		3			
Maryland		1			
Massachusetts		3			
Montana		1			
New Mexico		1			
North Carolina		1			
Pennsylvania		1			
Tennessee		1			
Texas		1			
Virginia		3			
Washington		1			
U.S. but state unknown		3			
Austria		1			
		<u>51</u>			
Junior college indicator					
Did NOT attend junior college	71%	34			
Junior college attended	29%	14			
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Baccalaureate institution Carnegie Class		US Only	
Research Universities (very high research activity)	23%	39%	13
Research Universities (high research activity)	7%	12%	4
Doctoral/Research Universities	2%	3%	1
Masters Colleges and Universities (larger programs)	18%	30%	10
Masters Colleges and Universities (medium programs)	2%	3%	1
Masters Colleges and Universities (smaller programs)	2%	3%	1
Baccalaureate Colleges--Arts & Sciences	4%	6%	2
Baccalaureate Colleges--Diverse Fields	2%	3%	1
Not applicable, not in Carnegie universe (non-U.S. institution)	41%		23
			56
Baccalaureate institution Public/Private Indicator		U.S. Only	
Public, not-for-profit	42%	69%	25
Private, not-for-profit	19%	31%	11
Not applicable, not in Carnegie universe (non-U.S. institution)	39%		<u>23</u>
			59
Master's institution Carnegie Class			
Research Universities (very high research activity)	23%	5	
Research Universities (high research activity)	9%	2	
Masters Colleges and Universities (larger programs)	27%	6	
Masters Colleges and Universities (medium programs)	5%	1	
Not applicable, not in Carnegie universe (non-U.S. institution)	36%	<u>8</u>	
		22	