

**University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)  
2012 Summary of Results for UC Merced**

Response Rate: 1815/4632 = 39.2% (including partial responses)

*Q1 During this academic year, how often have you done each of the following?*

	Percentage					
	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Somewhat often	Often	Very often
Contributed to a class discussion	1	9	20	22	28	19
Brought up ideas or concepts from different courses during class discussions	4	17	22	23	23	11
Asked an insightful question in class	5	18	24	21	21	11
Found a course so interesting that you did more work than was required	7	17	24	21	21	10
Chosen challenging courses, when possible, even though you might lower your GPA by doing so	4	10	17	20	28	21
Made a class presentation	7	12	19	21	25	16
Had a class in which the professor knew or learned your name	2	6	12	17	29	34

*Q2 How frequently have you engaged in these activities so far this academic year?*

	Percentage					
	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Somewhat often	Often	Very often
Communicated with a faculty member by email or in person	1	5	19	18	28	28
Talked with the instructor outside of class about issues and concepts derived from a course	7	18	19	19	22	15
Interacted with faculty during lecture class sessions	7	19	20	20	20	13
Worked with a faculty member on an activity other than coursework	43	19	11	10	9	8

Q3 How frequently during this academic year have you done each of the following?

	Percentage					
	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Somewhat often	Often	Very often
Turned in a course assignment late	48	36	10	4	2	0
Came to class without completing assigned reading	11	30	30	13	10	5
Came to class unprepared	18	41	26	8	5	2
Skipped class	18	48	20	7	5	1
Raised your standard for acceptable effort due to high standards of a faculty member	4	11	24	26	25	9
Extensively revised a paper at least once before submitting to be graded	4	10	19	20	29	19
Sought academic help from instructor or tutor when needed	6	15	23	20	23	14
Worked on class projects or studies as a group with other classmates outside of class	3	9	19	20	27	22
Helped a classmate better understand course material when studying together	3	8	20	21	28	20

Q3a Clarify working on class project or studied as a group with other classmates outside class:

	Percentage
Worked on a class project with other classmates outside of class	15
Studied as a group with other classmates outside of class	19
Both, worked on a class project and studied with classmates	65

Q4 On average, how much of your assigned course reading have you completed this academic year?

	Percentage
0-10%	1
11-20%	3
21-30%	3
31-40%	3
41-50%	6
51-60%	10
61-70%	13
71-80%	27
81-90%	23
91-100%	13

Q5 How many hours do you spend in a typical week (7 days) on the following activities?

	Percentage							
	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	30+
Attend classes, discussion sections, or labs	0	4	14	28	27	15	7	6
Study and other academic activities outside of class	1	14	27	22	14	9	6	6
Paid employment	64	5	7	9	9	2	1	2
Total hours working: on-campus	72	4	5	8	8	1	1	1
Total hours working: related to academic interest	79	7	5	4	3	1	1	1
Attending movies, concerts, sports, or other entertainment events	21	55	15	4	3	1	1	1
Performing community service or volunteer activities	46	35	10	4	2	1	1	1
Participating in physical exercise, recreational sports, or physically active hobbies	15	48	23	8	4	1	1	1
Participating in spiritual or religious activities	59	31	4	2	1	1	1	1
Participating in student clubs or organizations	34	36	15	6	4	1	1	2
Pursuing a recreational or creative interest	19	47	18	8	3	2	1	2
Socializing with friends	3	37	27	15	8	4	1	6
Partying	57	33	5	2	1	1	0	1
Spending time with family	44	30	11	5	3	1	1	3
Using computer or smart phone for non-academic purposes	1	26	25	16	10	6	4	11
Watching TV	32	41	14	5	3	1	1	1
Commuting to school and to work	27	47	15	4	2	1	1	2

Q6 During this academic year, what was the average number of hours per night you slept on weeknights?

	Percentage
0-2	0
3-4	7
5-6	46
7-8	39
9-10	6
11+	1

Q7 Please rate your level of proficiency in the following areas when you started at this campus and now.  
(VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, VG=Very Good, E=Excellent)

	When you started here (%)						Current ability level (%)					
	VP	P	F	G	VG	E	VP	P	F	G	VG	E
Analytical/Critical Thinking	1	7	38	34	15	5	0	1	8	36	42	13
Ability to be clear and effective in writing	2	11	36	31	14	5	0	1	10	37	40	12
Ability to read and comprehend academic material	2	9	34	33	16	5	0	1	8	35	43	13
Foreign language skills	8	15	32	25	12	7	6	14	23	26	20	11
Understanding of a specific field of study	3	11	38	35	10	3	0	1	9	34	41	14
Quantitative skills	4	12	37	30	13	4	1	5	19	33	31	10
Ability to speak clearly and effectively in English	1	2	16	26	26	29	0	1	5	20	37	37
Ability to understand international perspectives	3	12	36	29	13	5	1	3	15	31	35	15
Leadership skills	4	12	34	28	16	6	1	3	16	28	33	19
Computer skills	1	5	28	35	19	12	0	0	8	28	40	23
Internet skills	0	3	21	34	24	17	0	0	5	23	40	30
Library research skills	5	18	37	25	10	4	1	3	16	33	32	15
Other research skills	3	15	38	29	10	4	0	2	15	35	34	14
Ability to prepare and make a presentation	2	8	32	35	17	7	0	1	11	29	39	18
Interpersonal (social) skills	2	8	30	32	18	10	1	2	9	28	36	23
Ability to appreciate, tolerate and understand racial and ethnic diversity	1	2	16	28	26	26	0	0	4	17	37	42
Ability to appreciate the fine arts	1	5	20	30	23	20	0	2	10	26	30	32
Ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity	1	3	18	31	25	21	0	1	5	22	35	37
Understanding the importance of personal social responsibility	1	3	18	33	24	20	0	1	4	20	37	38
Self-awareness and understanding	1	4	20	34	22	18	0	1	4	20	38	37

Q8 Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Students are respected here regardless of their...

	Percentage					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
economic or social class	1	2	4	16	44	33
gender	1	1	3	14	45	37
race or ethnicity	1	2	4	15	44	35
religious beliefs	1	2	4	16	44	32
political beliefs	1	2	5	19	42	30
sexual orientation	1	2	4	18	42	33
their disabilities	0	2	3	16	43	36

Q9 Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Percentage					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel free to express my political beliefs on campus	1	2	5	18	46	28
I feel free to express my religious beliefs on campus	1	2	4	17	46	29
Students of my <b>race/ethnicity</b> are respected on this campus	0	1	3	12	47	35
Students of my <b>socio-economic status</b> are respected on this campus	0	1	4	14	49	31
Students of my <b>gender</b> are respected on this campus	0	0	2	10	49	38
Students of my <b>religious beliefs</b> are respected on this campus	1	1	4	14	48	32
Students of my <b>political beliefs</b> are respected on this campus	1	1	4	15	48	31
Students of my <b>sexual orientation</b> are respected on this campus	0	0	2	10	47	41
Students of my <b>immigration background</b> are respected on this campus	1	1	3	14	47	34
Students with a physical, psychological or learning <b>disability</b> like mine are respected on this campus	1	1	9	15	48	33

Q10 What do you plan to do when you graduate? (Choose one.)

	Percentage
Enroll in graduate or professional school	56
Work full-time	20
Work part-time	2
Be self-employed	0
Study or work abroad	2
Join armed forces	1
Work in an internship or volunteer position	5
Take a year off	2
Do something else	0
I have no idea at this point	8
Other	3

Q11 What career do you hope to eventually have after you've completed your education?

	Percentage
Artistic, creative professions	2
Business, finance-related professions	11
Education	7
Engineering, computer programming	14
Law	6
Medicine, health-related professions	27
Psychology, helping professions	12
Researcher, scientist	8
I have no idea whatsoever	7
Other	7

Q12 What is the highest academic degree or credential that you plan to eventually earn?

	Percentage
Bachelor's degree (BA, BS, etc)	11
Teaching credential	1
Business master's (MBA)	7
Other professional master's (MEd, MPP, MPH, MFA, MLIS, MSN)	5
Academic master's (MA, MS, etc)	12
Law degree (LLB or JD)	0
Medical doctorate other than MD (DO, DDS, DVM, etc)	5
Medical doctor (MD)	10
Doctorate (PhD, EdD, etc)	0
Multiple doctoral degrees (MD/PhD)	5
I don't know yet	12

Q13 Indicate the following research and creative activities that you are currently doing or have completed as a UC Merced student.

	Percentage	
	Yes, doing now or have done	No
A research project, creative activity, or paper as part of your coursework	75	25
At least one student research course	40	60
At least one independent study course	23	77
Assist faculty in research for <b>course credit</b>	19	81
Assist faculty in research for <b>pay</b> without course credit	8	92
Assist faculty in research as a <b>volunteer</b> without course credit	15	85
Work on creative projects under direction of faculty with <b>course credit</b>	19	81
Work on creative projects under direction of faculty for <b>pay</b> without course credit	6	94
Work on creative projects under direction of faculty as <b>volunteer</b> without course credit	12	88

Q14 Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of your university education.

	Percentage					
	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
UCM grade point average	6	12	19	31	24	6
Overall social experience	2	5	10	29	39	14
Overall academic experience	2	4	10	30	42	13
Value of your education for the price you're paying	7	8	17	30	25	11

Q15 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Percentage					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel that I belong on this campus	2	3	8	25	38	23
Knowing what I know now, I would still choose to enroll at this campus	4	5	8	23	32	28

Q16 Will you complete a bachelor degree this spring or summer?

	Percentage
Probably No	81
Probably Yes	19

Q17a [If “probably no” selected for Q16]

	Percentage					
	Not at all concerned	Unconcerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Somewhat concerned	Concerned	Very concerned
How concerned have you been about paying for your undergraduate education up to now?	6	5	11	23	24	31
How concerned are you about paying for your undergraduate education next year?	5	4	8	18	23	42

Q17b [If “probably yes” selected for Q16]

	Percentage					
	Not at all concerned	Unconcerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Somewhat concerned	Concerned	Very concerned
How concerned have you been about paying for your undergraduate education up to now?	12	5	9	25	22	24
How concerned are you about your accumulated debt?	16	8	4	16	20	34



Q18 Which of the following have you done in the past year to meet college expenses? [Select all that apply.]

	Percentage
Applied for financial aid for the first time	54
Asked financial aid office to reevaluate my application	21
Bought fewer books, bought cheaper used books, read books on reserve	82
Took a leave of absence or a quarter/semester off	1
Took more courses per term	32
Took action to graduate more quickly	29
Did not retake a class to improve grade	18
Accepted AP or similar credit instead of taking course	25
Decided against study abroad	37
Took a community college course because it was cheaper	15
Took a job for the first time in college	18
Worked before but increased the number of hours worked	14
Increased the debt I carry on credit card	17
Increased my annual student loan amount	37
Have cut expenses overall/been more frugal	66
None of the above, cost not a problem	3
Other	4

*Other:*

- Applied for scholarships
- Added another part-time position
- Took bus more often/drove car less
- Became an RA to help with housing costs
- Became homeless
- Borrowed money from family/asked family for financial help
- Found a place in a less desirable neighborhood for less rent
- Lived in a tent
- Sell blood/plasma
- Sold car
- Skipped meals to save money on food

Q19 How frequently have you engaged in the following behaviors in the past year?

	Percentage					
	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Somewhat Often	Often	Very often
Skipped meals to save money	21	22	24	12	12	8
Cut down on personal/recreational spending	3	5	18	18	28	27
Worried about my personal debt	9	9	15	13	23	31
Worried about my family's debt and financial circumstances	7	7	13	13	21	38

Q20 Have you heard about the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, which ensures that scholarships and grants will cover fees for students from families making less than \$80,000 a year, with financial need?

	Percentage
Yes	59
No	41

Q21 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement: Given the grants and scholarships, if any, that you receive, the total cost of attending UC Merced is manageable.

	Percentage
Strongly disagree	7
Disagree	10
Somewhat disagree	18
Somewhat agree	34
Agree	23
Strongly agree	9

Q22 When did you come to the United States to live?

	Percentage
I was born in the US	81
1999 or earlier	11
2000 or later	8

Q23 When did you learn to speak English?

	Percentage
English is my native language	53
Before I was 5 years old	28
When I was 6-10 years old	13
When I was 11-15 years old	4
After turning 16 years old	1

Q24 To the best of your knowledge, where were these relatives born?

	Percentage	
	In US	Outside US
My mother	33	67
My father	35	65
My mother's mother	27	73
My father's mother	28	72
My mother's father	27	73
My father's father	27	73

Q25 Which of the following best describes your social class when you were growing up?

	Percentage
Wealthy	1
Upper-middle or professional-middle	9
Middle-class	33
Working-class	36
Low-income or poor	21

Q26 Are you a financially independent student?

	Percentage
Yes	11
No	89

Q27a Which category includes the total combined income of your parent(s) before taxes in 2011?  
[includes only those respondents who selected “no” in Q26]

	Percentage
Less than \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to \$19,999	12
\$20,000 to \$34,999	16
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15
\$50,000 to \$64,999	12
\$65,000 to \$79,999	11
\$80,000 to \$99,999	9
\$100,000 to \$124,999	9
\$125,000 to \$149,999	3
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2
\$200,000 or more	3

Q27b Which category includes your household’s total annual combined income before taxes in 2011?  
[includes only those respondents who selected “yes” in Q26]

	Percentage
Less than \$10,000	45
\$10,000 to \$19,999	14
\$20,000 to \$34,999	16
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7
\$50,000 to \$64,999	7
\$65,000 to \$79,999	4
\$80,000 to \$99,999	2
\$100,000 to \$124,999	2
\$125,000 to \$149,999	0
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2
\$200,000 or more	1

*Q28 What is your religious/spiritual preference?*

	Percentage
Spiritual but not associated with a major religion	0
Not particularly spiritual	10
No preference	11
Agnostic	9
Atheist	8
Baptist	3
Buddhist	5
Christian Church (Disciples)	0
Eastern Orthodox	1
Episcopalian	0
Hindu	2
Jewish	1
Lutheran	0
Methodist	0
Mormon	0
Muslim	3
Presbyterian	2
Quaker	0
Roman Catholic	33
Seventh Day Adventist	0
Sikh	2
Taoist	0
Unitarian/Universalist	0
United Church of Christ/Congregational	0
Other Christian	8
Other Religion	2

*Q29 What is your sexual orientation?*

	Percentage
Bisexual	3
Gay/Lesbian	1
Heterosexual	86
Questioning	1
Self-identified Queer	0
Decline to State	7
Other	3

*Q30 With which gender do you identify?*

	Percentage
Woman	59
Man	38
Decline to state	2
Other	0

*Q31 Do you identify as transgender?*

	Percentage
Yes	0
No	100

*Q32 How would you characterize your political orientation?*

	Percentage
Very liberal	7
Liberal	23
Slightly liberal	15
Moderate or middle of the road	39
Slightly conservative	9
Conservative	6
Very conservative	1

*Q33 Please indicate the highest level of organized sports in which you participate.*

	Percentage
Professional sports	0
NCAA with athletic scholarship	0
NCAA without athletics scholarship	1
Competitive personal (e.g. 5K races)	3
Campus club sports team	7
Intramural sports	11
Personal recreation	28
Does not apply to me	50

Q34 Where are you living this term?

	Percentage
University residence hall	33
University owned apartment or house (on- or off-campus)	1
With family	7
Sorority or fraternity	0
Co-op student housing	0
Off-campus in an apartment	20
Off-campus in a house	37
Other	1

Q35 How far from campus do you live?

	Percentage
On campus or less than 1 mile	34
1 to 2 miles	7
1 to 2 miles	48
3 to 10 miles	7
11 to 20 miles	7
21 miles or more	5

Q36 What is your primary mode of transport to campus during the spring 2012 term?

	Percentage
Walk	27
Bicycle	2
Apartment or campus shuttle bus	1
University bus	29
City bus	2
Subway train or other train (e.g. Amtrak)	0
Carpool (2 or more)	10
Drive alone	27
Motorcycle, motorized scooter, or moped	0
Rollerblade, skateboard, skate, or scooter	0
Mobility scooter, powered wheelchair, or wheelchair	0
Other	1