2023 New Student Survey

Start of Block: CoverLetter

QTCL 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 and better support your academic success. 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 Your educational goals and beliefs about your them for your transition to UC Merced. 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. Participation Your participation is voluntary. Your decision to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of California or benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may withdraw from the survey at any time or skip questions that you do not wish to Accessibility If you are using screen reading software (e.g., JAWS), please use table answer. navigation. You are also encouraged to email or call UC Merced Accessibility Services access@ucmerced.edu or 209-228-6996 - for confidential assistance. You will need to login using your UCM NetID and password. We recommend that you use a computer/laptop or tablet device to take the survey. The guestions may not display properly on a phone. The survey will be available between October 22, 2023 and November 21, 2023. We recommend that you try to complete the survey in one sitting - depending on your browser settings, your responses may not be saved should you to exit and try finish the survey later. Study Procedure If you agree to participate, you should be able to complete the New Student Survey online in approximately 10 minutes. 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 the campus evaluate and improve the undergraduate academic and campus life experience and better support student success. Protecting your Privacy Your personal information, limited to your name and email address, is used strictly for sending survey invitation and reminder messages. Such information is only accessible by survey administration staff. Your student ID will be used to match survey responses against other data such as, but not limited to, your demographics, enrollment records, graduation data, applicant data, and post-baccalaureate data. This data is used for analysis and reporting.

Please be assured that your responses will be kept confidential and the results of the study will be reported only as aggregate (group level) data. Any identifiable information that is obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential. When this information is stored on third party secure platforms and secure file transfer suppliers, confidentiality will be maintained and your privacy protected according to the University of California privacy and security policies. This information will only be disclosed when required by law. All data used in public reporting, including quotations from open-ended responses, will be reviewed to ensure that your identity

cannot be ascertained. Information will be retained in compliance with UC's Record Retention Schedule https://recordsretention.ucop.edu/.

With appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, the data may also be used in anonymized form for academic research.

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 (https://ophd.ucmerced.edu/). Students who disclose that they experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence 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 go to the following website which lists select student services on campus: UC Merced Success Anywhere (https://success.ucmerced.edu/#BeWell).

If you believe you are experiencing mental health symptoms and would like to discuss potential resources available, you may contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at https://counseling.ucmerced.edu/about/appointments or the Dean of Students Office at https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students to schedule a consultation. If you are in crisis and require an urgent consultation, you may contact CAPS at (209) 228-4266 (if it's after hours you may call the number and press 1 after the prompt to be connected to a ProtoCall clinician). Please visit https://counseling.ucmerced.edu/ for additional mental health information and resources.

Asking Questions and Reporting Concerns If you have any questions about this study or how responses will be used, please contact Andrea Hall-Cuccia at ahallcuccia@ucmerced.edu or 209-228-2341.

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.

\bigcirc	Agree	(1))
0	Disagr	ee	(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)
○ 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)
Objected (3)
O Very disconnected (4)

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

	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	0	0	0
I feel a sense of belonging to the campus community. (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I feel respected and valued by the campus community.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Q2 When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:
O First choice (1)
O Second choice (2)
O Third choice (3)
O Lower than third choice (4)
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Q3 What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?
O Bachelor's degree (1)
○ Master's degree (2)
O Doctoral degree (3)
O Unsure (4)
O None (5)
Skip To: Q13 If What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain? != Doctoral degree
Q73 You said you intend to eventually obtain a doctoral degree. Do you intend to obtain a medical degree or some other type of doctoral degree?
O Medical degree (1)
Other doctoral degree (2)
O Not sure (3)
Page Break -

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

	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	0	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
Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors) (Q13_7)	0			0

Page Break				

Q6 What do you think your final course grades will be this semester?	
○ Mostly A's (1)	
○ Mostly B's (2)	
○ Mostly C's (3)	
O Lower than C's (4)	

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	\circ	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				

Leave UC Merced at the end of this semester (Q8_8)	0	0	0	0	0
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
Page Break					

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

	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

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)
New Student Orientation (Q40_29)	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0
Academic learning support services (STEM Tutoring Hub, Writing Center, PLUS Center) (Q40_28)	0	0	0	0	0
Peer Advisors/Mentors in Bobcat Advising Center/your School (Q40_4)	0	0	0	0	0
Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in Bobcat Advising Center/your School) (Q40_5)	0	0		0	0
Health and Wellness Services (Q40_8)	0	0	0	0	0

Students First Center (Admissions, Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar) (Q40_10)	0	0	0	0	0
Library Services (Q40_11)	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports) (Q40_12)	0	0			0
Q41 Please list any o	ther resources	that have been	helpful in your	transition to UC	Merced.
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					_
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Q70 Think back to the months and weeks prior to starting at UC Merced. How challenging for you were each of the following? Please select "Not applicable" for situations that did not apply to you.

	Not at all challenging (1)	Somewhat challenging (2)	Very challenging (3)	Not applicable (4)
Attending new student orientation (1)	0	0	0	0
Registering for courses (2)	0	0	\circ	0
Completing financial aid requirements (3)	0	0	0	0
Completing on- campus housing requirements (4)	0	0	0	\circ
Submitting required admissions documents (e.g., transcripts) (5)	0	0	0	0
Submitting required Statement of Legal Residence documents (6)	0	0	0	0
Submitting the health insurance waiver (7)	0	0	0	0
Understanding how much it costs to attend UC Merced (8)	0	0	0	0
Other challenges (please specify) (9)	0	0	0	\circ

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 3

Display This Question: If housing = Y		
X→		
Q38 Our records indicate that yo	ou live on campus in a residence	hall. Is this correct?
Yes, I live on campus in a	a residence hall (1)	
O No, I do not live on camp	us (2)	
Display This Question:		
If Our records indicate that you campus in a residence hall	live on campus in a residence hall.	Is this correct? = Yes, I live on
Q25 Please indicate your agreer living in a residence hall on cam	•	ts about your experience so fa
	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
I know my Residence Education Coordinator's name (3)	0	

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



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	\circ	0	\circ
I feel welcomed and respected by my Resident Assistant (RA) (Q39_17)	0		0	
My Resident Assistant (RA) has organized activities that helped me get to know other students (Q39_18)	0	0	0	0
My Resident Assistant (RA) supports my academic success (e.g., shares resources/advice) (Q39_19)		0	0	0
My Resident Assistant (RA) has helped me transition to UC Merced (Q39_20)	0		0	
Residence Education staff/programs have helped me transition to UC Merced. (Q39_23)			0	0

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

	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	0	0	0	0
Turned in course assignments on time (Q16_3)	0	0	0	0	0
Went to my classes (Q16_4)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
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	\circ	\circ	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	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ

Read my course syllabi (Q16_11)	0	\circ	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ
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	0	0	0
Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking social media) (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	0	0	0
Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself (Q16_18)	0	0	0	0	\circ
Participated in a study group (Q16 19)	0	0	\circ	\circ	\circ

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	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ

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

	Not at all (1)	Rarely (2)	Occasionally (3)	Frequently (4)	All the time (5)
Infrequent/poor quality feedback from instructors (Q17_1)	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of engaging teaching activities in my classes (Q17_29)	0	\circ	0	0	0
Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers) (Q17_2)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material) (Q17_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) (Q17_4)	0	0	0	0	0
Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software) (Q17_5)	0	0	0	0	0
Under-developed library research skills (Q17_6)	0	\circ	0	0	\circ
Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment) (Q17_7)	0	0	0	0	0
Competing family responsibilities (Q17_8)	0	0	\circ	\circ	0

Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship) (Q17_9)	0	0	\circ	0	0
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, and/or friends (Q17_10)	0	0	0	0	0
Missing connections with family and/or friends (Q17_27)	0	\circ	0	0	\circ
Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced (Q17_12)	0	\circ	0	\circ	0
Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family (Q17_13)	0	0	0	0	0
Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own (Q17_14)	0	0	0	0	0
Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset (Q17_15)	0	\circ	0	\circ	0
Substance use (e.g., alcohol, other drugs) (Q17_26)	0	\circ	0	\circ	0
Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit in at UC Merced (Q17_16)	0	0	0	0	0
Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you (Q17_17)	0	0	0	0	\circ
Weak spoken English skills (Q17_18)	0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Weak writing skills (Q17_19)		0	\circ	0	\bigcirc

0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc
0	0	\circ	0	0
0	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
0	\circ	0	0	\circ
0	\circ	0	\circ	\bigcirc
0	\circ	0	0	0

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: 15units

Display This Question:

If census_total_credit_hours < 15

let us know w	hy 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	k: Block 4

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

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

	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

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