

2019 New Student Survey

Start of Block: CoverLetter

QTCL 2019 New Student Survey Cover Letter

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. 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 them for your transition to UC Merced. Your educational goals and beliefs about your 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.

Accessibility

You will need to login using your UCM NetID and password. The survey can be taken using a desktop or laptop computer, iPad or other tablet device. Due to the format of the questions, taking the survey on a smartphone is not recommended. The survey will be available between October 28th, 2019 and November 26th, 2019. Please email or call Cinnamon Danube (cdanube@ucmerced.edu; 209-228-6982) for assistance with survey access problems.

Study Procedure

If you agree to participate, you should be able to complete the New Student Survey online in approximately 10 minutes. The design of the study requires that we also obtain background information about you from official campus records such as your major, previous schools attended, date of birth, gender, race and ethnicity, SAT/ACT scores, and high-school GPA.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate in the survey will not affect your grades or your relationship with UC Merced or benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may choose to withdraw at any time without penalty. You may also choose not to answer particular questions.

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 us evaluate and improve the undergraduate academic and campus life experience.

Protecting your privacy

Any personally identifiable information that is obtained in connection with this study will be

stored on a secured server and remain confidential. Please be assured that your responses will be used for research purposes only and will be strictly confidential. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. The information you provide will be combined with responses from other students and reported as summary statistics only. Any quotations from responses to open ended questions used in public reporting will be reviewed to ensure that your identity cannot be ascertained.

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 - <http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu/report>. Students who disclose that they experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence while students 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 contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at <http://counseling.ucmerced.edu/>; the Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education (CARE) office at <https://care.ucmerced.edu/>; or the Dean of Students Office at <https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students>.

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.

☐ Agree (1)

☐ Disagree (2)

End of Block: CoverLetter

Start of Block: Block 1

Q1 When you arrived at UC Merced, how welcoming did you find the campus environment?

- ☐ Very welcoming (1)
 - ☐ Somewhat welcoming (2)
 - ☐ Not welcoming (3)
-



Q15 Today, how connected to or disconnected from UC Merced do you feel?

- ☐ Very connected (1)
 - ☐ Connected (2)
 - ☐ Disconnected (3)
 - ☐ Very disconnected (4)
-



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

	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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that I am a member of the campus community. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel a sense of belonging to the campus community. (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q2 When you applied to colleges, was UC Merced your:

- ☐ First choice (1)
- ☐ Second choice (2)
- ☐ Third choice (3)
- ☐ Lower than third choice (4)



Q3 What is the highest degree you intend to eventually obtain?

- ☐ Bachelor's degree (1)
- ☐ Master's degree (2)
- ☐ Doctoral degree (3)
- ☐ Unsure (4)
- ☐ None (5)

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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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do well on problems and tasks assigned in my courses (Q13_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do well on my most difficult course (Q13_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Persevere even when I face academic challenges and obstacles (Q13_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve my current skills and abilities (Q13_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Find resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors) (Q13_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively use resources that will help me overcome academic challenges and obstacles (e.g., tutors, instructors, advisors) (Q13_7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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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)
 - ☐ 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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change your major at UC Merced (Q8_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change your choice of career while at UC Merced (Q8_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in research activities with a faculty member at UC Merced (Q8_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get a job at UC Merced (Q8_12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in an internship at UC Merced (Q8_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take courses at UC Merced next summer (Q8_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transfer to another college before graduating (Q8_7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leave UC Merced at the	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

end of this
semester
(Q8_8)

Leave UC
Merced at the
end of this
academic
year (Q8_9)

Form close
friendships
with other UC
Merced
students
(Q8_10)

Form close
friendships
with UC
Merced
students that
are **not** from
the same
racial or
ethnic group
as me
(Q8_11)

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

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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)
Instructor or teaching assistant (office hour, appointment, etc.) (Q40_1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workshops (study skills, time management, writing) (Q40_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic support services/tutoring (PALS, STEM Resource Center, Writing/Math/Chem Center) (Q40_28)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer Advisors/Mentors (student advisor/mentor in your School) (Q40_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic Advisors (professional advising staff in your School/Bobcat Advising Center) (Q40_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and Wellness Services (Q40_8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residence Life Staff/programs (Q40_9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Students First Center (Q40_10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library Services (Q40_11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Recreational programs (e.g., outdoor trips, intramural sports) (Q40_12)

☐☐☐☐☐

The Recreation Center (Q40_13)

☐☐☐☐☐

Q41 Please list any other resources that have been helpful in your transition to UC Merced.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 3

Display This Question:

If housing = Y

Q38 Which of the following describes your living situation?

- ☐ I live on campus in a residence hall (1)
- ☐ I live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment (i.e., Village Landing, Northwood Village, or Village Terrace) (2)
- ☐ I do not live in campus-sponsored housing (3)
-

Display This Question:

If housing = Y

And Which of the following describes your living situation? != I do not live in campus-sponsored housing

Q25 Please indicate your agreement with the following statements about your experience so far living in a residence hall on campus. If you live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment, please answer regarding that experience.

	No (1)	Yes (2)
My Resident Assistant (RA) knows my name (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know my Resident Assistant's (RA's) name (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know my Residence Life Coordinator's name (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Display This Question:

If housing = Y

And Which of the following describes your living situation? != I do not live in campus-sponsored housing



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? If you live off campus in a campus-sponsored apartment, please answer regarding that experience.

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)
I feel comfortable in my residence hall (Q39_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have made friends in my residence hall (Q39_16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel welcomed and respected by my Resident Assistant (RA) (Q39_17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Resident Assistant (RA) has organized activities that helped me get to know other students (Q39_18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Resident Assistant (RA) supports my academic success (e.g., shares resources/advice) (Q39_19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Resident Assistant (RA) has helped me transition to UC Merced (Q39_20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recorded my class deadlines (Q16_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Turned in course assignments on time (Q16_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Went to my classes (Q16_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Went to my classes prepared (e.g., having read assignments) (Q16_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Followed a regular study schedule (Q16_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Followed a regular sleep schedule (Q16_7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Followed a regular exercise schedule (Q16_8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Followed a regular eating schedule (Q16_9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ate healthy food (Q16_10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Read my course syllabi (Q16_11)

☐☐☐☐☐

Engaged with material during study sessions (i.e., I didn't just skim) (Q16_12)

☐☐☐☐☐

Reviewed material before and after class (Q16_13)

☐☐☐☐☐

Avoided distractions during study sessions (e.g., texting friends, checking Facebook) (Q16_14)

☐☐☐☐☐

Monitored course progress and made changes when needed (Q16_15)

☐☐☐☐☐

Allowed more study/work time for difficult classes and assignments (Q16_16)

☐☐☐☐☐

Asked questions when I didn't understand something (Q16_17)

☐☐☐☐☐

Set reasonable goals and expectations for myself (Q16_18)

☐☐☐☐☐

Participated in a study group (Q16_19)

☐☐☐☐☐

Participated in major/academic-related clubs, organizations, or activities (Q16_20)

☐☐☐☐☐

Got involved in organized activities outside the classroom (e.g., athletics, clubs, work) (Q16_21)

☐☐☐☐☐

Spent time with peers who support my academic success (Q16_22)

☐☐☐☐☐

Checked my UC Merced email (Q16_23)

☐☐☐☐☐

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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 (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty adjusting to college-level work (e.g., coursework, exams, papers) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty studying (e.g., knowing how to start, how to get help, organize material) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Under-developed study behaviors (e.g., wait until last minute, easily distracted, too much social time, too much web surfing) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficult study environment (e.g., noisy roommate, poor Internet access, inadequate computer/software) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Under-developed library research skills (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Competing job responsibilities (i.e., paid employment) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Competing family responsibilities (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other competing responsibilities (e.g., athletics, clubs, internship) (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal difficulties with family, intimate relationships, or friends (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Being away from family and friends: being "homesick" (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty making new friends at UC Merced (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being able to cope with expectations of parents and family (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being able to cope with the values and expectations of friends when they differ from your own (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance use (e.g., alcohol, other drugs) (26)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling out of place or like you just don't fit on campus (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second guessing whether UC Merced was the right choice for you (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weak spoken English skills (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weak writing skills (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weak math skills (20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding affordable housing while a student at UC Merced (21)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paying for expenses (22)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Transportation or parking issues (23)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrequent/inconsistent access to a computer (24)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrequent/inconsistent access to the Internet/web (25)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: 15units

Display This Question:

If census_total_credit_hours < 15

Q57 Our records indicate you are not enrolled in 15 units this term. Please let us know why 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)
- ☐ I had personal obligations (e.g., work, family) and so needed a smaller course load. (5)
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ I thought I had other credits that would transfer (e.g., AP/IB, community college, etc.). (9)
- ☐ Other (please specify) (10) _____

End of Block: 15units

Start of Block: Block 4

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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would recommend UC Merced to someone else who wants to attend college (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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
