



2012 Graduate Student Survey Results Summary

Response rate (including partial responses): 126/222 = 56.8%

Q1 What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in this program?

	Percent
Graduate student	51.6
Volunteer or community service	1.6
Cared for a family member	0
Employed in a field related to that of current study	22.2
Undergraduate student	11.9
Employed in a field unrelated to that of current study	9.5
Travel	0.8
Other	2.4

Other:

- Graduate student elsewhere but needed to move to Merced
- High school teacher
- Unemployed and seeking work in a related field

Satisfaction with Program, Quality of Interactions and Course Work

Q2 How satisfied are you with each of the following?

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	
The intellectual caliber of the faculty in your program	63.9	24.4	9.2	2.5	0
Program's ability to keep pace with recent development in your field	46.6	36.2	12.9	4.3	0.9
Adequacy of facilities (classrooms, labs, etc.)	29.7	42.4	23.7	4.2	0.8
Quality of graduate level teaching by faculty	33.3	39.3	16.2	11.1	1.7
Training in research methods	37.1	34.5	21.6	6.9	2.5
Amount of financial support	45.8	37.3	11.9	5.1	0.8
Teaching and TA preparation	40.7	42.6	14.8	1.9	9.2

offered by your academic program					
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Q3 How satisfied are you with each of the following?

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	
Quality of academic advising and guidance	45.3	34.2	12.8	7.7	1.7
Professional relationship with your faculty advisor	59.7	25.2	6.7	8.4	0
Helpfulness of staff members in your school or program	45.4	28.6	18.5	7.6	0
Faculty effort in helping you find employment	33.8	30.9	22.1	13.2	42.9
The opportunity to interact across disciplines	34.8	42.0	14.3	8.9	5.9
Overall satisfaction with your program	41.2	32.8	21.0	5.0	0

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Percent			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Students in your program are treated with respect by faculty	50.8	38.1	9.3	1.7
Faculty members are willing to work with students	56.8	34.7	7.6	0.8
Rapport between faculty and graduate students in your program is good	49.2	38.1	11.9	0.8
Your own relationships and interactions with faculty are good	56.8	33.9	7.6	1.7
There are tensions among faculty that affect students	19.5	28.8	34.7	16.9
Financial support for graduate students is distributed fairly	28.2	45.3	19.7	6.8
Students in your program are collegial	33.9	60.2	5.1	0.8
Your relationships and interaction with other students in your graduate program are good	45.3	47.9	6.0	0.9
The degree of competition among students is excessive	6.8	10.3	59.0	23.9
Staff in your program are	25.4	45.8	20.3	8.5

knowledgeable about rules and regulations that affect graduate students				
There is a sense of intellectual community in your program	22.9	44.1	27.1	5.9
Program structure encourages student collaboration or teamwork	18.8	37.6	34.2	9.4
Amount of coursework seems appropriate to the degree	23.5	52.2	14.8	9.6
You receive ongoing, constructive feedback on progress toward your degree from your advisor	45.8	33.9	14.4	5.9
You are satisfied with the amount of time spent with your advisor	45.8	34.7	13.6	5.9
Your research interests are incorporated into your thesis work	54.2	33.1	10.2	2.5
Your advisor has your interests in mind	52.1	32.5	12.0	3.4
There is a person or office you could trust to report perceived abuse or misconduct in your program by your advisor or committee member	40.2	41.9	14.5	3.4
Your advisor keeps track of your research progress and will help determine when you have accomplished enough work for your degree	48.7	34.2	12.8	4.3
Overall, the climate of your program is positive	41.9	42.7	10.3	5.1

Q5 How would you rate your graduate group on each of the following?

	Percent			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Availability of courses needed to complete your program	12.0	35.9	29.1	23.1
Quality of instruction in your courses	29.9	42.7	20.5	6.8
Encouragement to take courses outside your program	12.9	34.5	26.7	25.9
Overall quality of course work in your program	21.4	36.8	30.8	11.1

Program Support

Q6 Please indicate (where applicable) your level of satisfaction in the following areas.

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	
Courses, workshops or orientations on teaching offered by your academic program	28.2	52.4	13.6	5.8	8.8
Advice on writing grant proposals	16.2	52.4	23.8	7.6	5.4
Advice on publishing your work	21.9	45.7	22.9	9.5	6.3
Assistance in developing professional contacts outside your program	21.2	38.5	26.0	14.4	7.1
Advice on career options within academia	25.8	37.1	24.7	12.4	13.4
Advice or career options outside academia	14.1	33.7	29.3	22.8	17.1
Advice about research positions	17.7	38.5	26.0	17.7	14.3
Advice on degree requirements	33.3	42.3	17.1	7.2	0.9
Advice on preparing for examinations	27.0	44.0	17.0	12.0	10.7
Advice on developing your thesis or dissertation proposal	35.8	37.7	15.1	11.3	6.2
Advice on the process required to select a thesis advisor	33.7	34.8	13.5	18.0	21.2
Feedback on your research	39.4	41.3	12.8	6.4	1.8
Advice on the standards for academic writing in your field	34.5	35.5	19.1	10.9	1.8
Advice on how to avoid plagiarism and other violations of the standards of academic integrity	39.2	42.2	10.8	7.8	8.9

University Resources and Student Life

Q7 Please indicate how frequently you used the following services during your most recent year's experience in graduate school at UC Merced

	Percent		
	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Library facilities	46.8	46.8	6.3
On-campus computer facilities	17.1	31.5	51.4
Web-based campus computer services (e.g., for registration)	56.8	38.7	4.5
Graduate Division	24.5	67.3	8.2
Student Health Center	17.1	55.9	27.0

Health Insurance (GSHIP)	34.2	43.2	22.5
Financial Aid Office	11.8	48.2	40.0
Career Services Center	6.3	20.7	73.0
Student Counseling Services	11.7	18.9	69.4
Child Care Referral Services	5.4	8.1	86.5
Disability Services	2.7	4.5	92.8
Learning Assistance Center	4.5	6.3	89.2
Billing and Payment Services	15.3	65.8	18.9
University Police	3.6	15.3	81.1
Housing	4.5	4.5	90.9
Office of the Registrar	18.0	66.7	15.3
Parking for students	46.8	36.0	17.1
Campus shuttle bus service (Cat Tracks)	36.0	29.7	34.2
Dining Services	26.1	54.1	19.8
Bookstore	22.5	64.9	12.6
Center for Research on Teaching Excellence (CRTE)	18.0	44.1	37.8

Q8 Please rate the quality of your experience [not answered by those who chose “never” for each item in Q7]

	Percent of non-NA				N
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
Library facilities	37.5	43.3	15.4	3.8	104
On-campus computer facilities	25.5	52.9	19.6	2.0	51
Web-based campus computer services (e.g., for registration)	27.3	50.5	19.2	3.0	99
Graduate Division	22.7	43.3	30.9	3.1	97
Student Health Center	29.1	41.8	24.1	5.1	79
Health Insurance (GSHIP)	35.7	33.3	27.4	3.6	84
Financial Aid Office	27.0	46.0	22.2	4.8	63
Career Services Center	29.6	37.0	22.2	11.1	27
Student Counseling Services	57.6	24.2	15.2	3.0	33
Child Care Referral Services	35.7	28.6	21.4	14.3	14
Disability Services	57.1	28.6	14.3	0	7
Learning Assistance Center	45.5	27.3	27.3	0	11
Billing and Payment Services	23.0	49.4	21.8	5.7	87
University Police	30.0	45.0	25.0	0	20
Housing	55.6	33.3	11.1	0	9
Office of the Registrar	25.6	43.3	27.8	3.3	90
Parking for students	17.4	34.8	32.6	15.2	92
Campus shuttle bus service (Cat Tracks)	22.5	42.3	22.5	12.7	71
Dining Services	15.9	34.1	30.7	19.3	88
Bookstore	22.1	41.1	28.4	8.4	95
Center for Research on Teaching Excellence (CRTE)	47.8	40.3	10.4	1.5	67

Q9a Did you attend any library-sponsored workshops during the 2011-12 academic year?

	Percent
Yes	26.3
No	73.7

Q9b Have you since used any of the information from the library-sponsored workshop(s) in your own scholarly work (research and/or teaching)? [only for those who answered "Yes" to Q9a]

	Percent
Yes	86.7
No	13.3

Q10 How often do the following social activities occur on campus? (Frequently is defined as more than once a month and occasionally is defined as once a month or less.)

	Percent		
	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Organized university-wide social activities	29.9	57.9	12.1
Organized social activities within your school	21.3	57.4	21.3
Organized social activities within your advisor/research group	16.8	56.1	27.1

Q11 How often do you attend social activities on campus?

	Percent		
	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Organized university-wide social activities	10.2	63.9	25.9
Organized social activities within your school	13.9	56.5	29.6
Organized social activities within your advisor/research group	27.1	46.7	26.2

Q12 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about organized social activities on campus?

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Organized social activities allow you to meet graduate students outside your graduate group	31.7	57.7	9.6	1.0	3.7
Organized social activities help build a UC Merced community of graduate students	34.6	51.0	13.5	1.0	3.7

General Assessment

Q13 How would you rate the quality of:

	Percent			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Your academic experience at UC Merced	29.7	45.9	12.6	11.7
Your student life experience at UC Merced	18.2	48.2	27.3	6.4
Your graduate program at UC Merced	35.1	34.2	16.2	14.4
Your overall experience at UC Merced	23.4	50.5	18.9	7.2

Q14 Please rate the extent to which these factors are or have been an obstacle to your academic progress:

	Percent		
	A major obstacle	A minor obstacle	Not an obstacle
Work/financial commitments	27.1	42.1	30.8
Family obligations	16.8	44.9	38.3
Availability of faculty	15.0	31.8	53.3
Program structure or requirements	17.8	34.6	47.7
Dissertation topic/research	21.5	31.8	46.7
Course scheduling	10.3	48.6	41.1
Immigration laws or regulations	4.7	9.3	86.0
Other	12.1	8.8	79.1

Q15 How likely are you to stay in your program until you receive your ultimate degree objective?

	Percent
Very likely	75.5
Somewhat likely	16.4
Somewhat unlikely	0.9
Highly unlikely	1.8
Uncertain	5.5

Q16 Please answer the following questions about the university and your program. If you were to do it again:

	Percent			
	Definitely would	Probably would	Probably would not	Definitely would not
would you select this same university?	30.3	36.7	22.9	10.1
would you select the same field of study?	60.2	29.6	7.4	2.8
would you recommend this university to someone	33.3	33.3	26.9	6.5

considering your graduate program?				
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Q17 Please answer the following questions about teaching and your TA preparation.

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
As a teaching assistant, you were appropriately prepared and trained before entering the classroom by your academic program	25.5	39.8	26.5	8.2	10.1
As a teaching assistant, you were appropriately supervised to help improve your teaching skills	30.9	38.1	25.8	5.2	11.0
The teaching experience available through your program is adequate preparation for an academic/teaching career	27.6	54.1	13.3	5.1	10.1
The amount of time expected of you as a TA was about right	28.0	47.0	17.0	8.0	8.3

Q18 Please answer the following questions about Graduate Division staff.

	Percent of non-NA				Not Applicable
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Staff members are courteous and helpful	44.8	51.4	2.9	1.0	1.9
Staff understand my inquiries and are responsive	40.0	47.6	9.5	2.9	1.9
Staff are knowledgeable about rules and regulations that affect graduate students	37.1	40.0	19.0	3.8	1.9
Overall, staff provide exemplary quality of service	40.4	39.4	18.3	1.9	2.8

Post Graduate School Plans

Q19 Which of the following best describes your expectation for professional plans immediately after completing your education at UC Merced?

	Percent
Analyst	3.7
Engineering (manufacturing)	8.3
Faculty (Tenure-Track)	26.9

Faculty (Non-Tenure Track)	5.6
Information Systems (computer programmer)	1.9
Postdoctoral fellow	29.6
Psychologist, counselor	0
Researcher (non-faculty)	17.6
Social worker	0
Teacher (K-12)	0.9
Pursue another graduate degree (at UC Merced)	0.9
Pursue another graduate degree (not at UC Merced)	4.6

Q20 How would you categorize the type of employer you expect to work for after you complete your final graduate degree?

	Percent
4-year college or university	50.5
Community or junior college	6.4
Elementary, secondary or special focus school	0
Industry or business	14.7
Hospital or clinic	2.8
Non-profit organization or foundation	1.8
U.S. (federal) government or your home country if not the U.S.	8.3
State or local government	2.8
National laboratory	2.8
Self-employment	0
Unknown	10.1