



# Office of Student Research & Campus Surveys

## Research Brief on Alumni Survey Results

The Office of Student Research & Campus Surveys (OSR-CS), in collaboration with the Chancellor’s Office and Cal Alumni Association (CAA), invited all UC Berkeley undergraduate degree holders for whom the university has e-mail addresses to complete the Cal Alumni Survey, a total of 117,000 alumni. Thus far more than 13,000 individuals have responded. About 35% of the respondents are under the age of 33, 35% are between 33 and 55, and 29% are over the age of 55. Seventy percent of respondents entered as new freshmen and 30% as transfers. While these respondents are not a representative sample of the more than 400,000 UC Berkeley alumni, they do provide critical up-to-date feedback from UC Berkeley’s most engaged and involved alumni. The CAA will be presenting survey results that focus on its programs and services, and it will examine how the survey results vary by donor and membership status and age group. This briefing note highlights the overall survey results, including those about the campus experience. If needed, OSRCS can provide a more detailed analysis.

### UC Berkeley and You

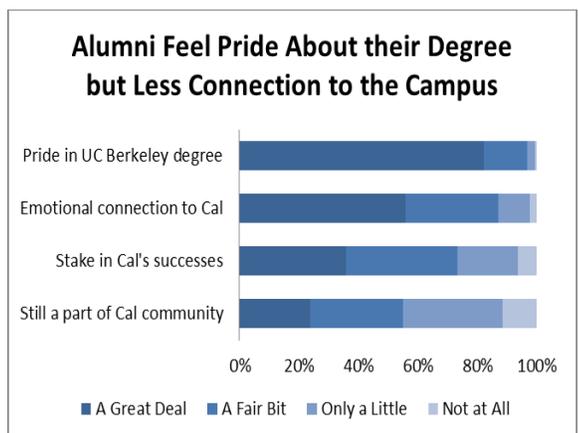
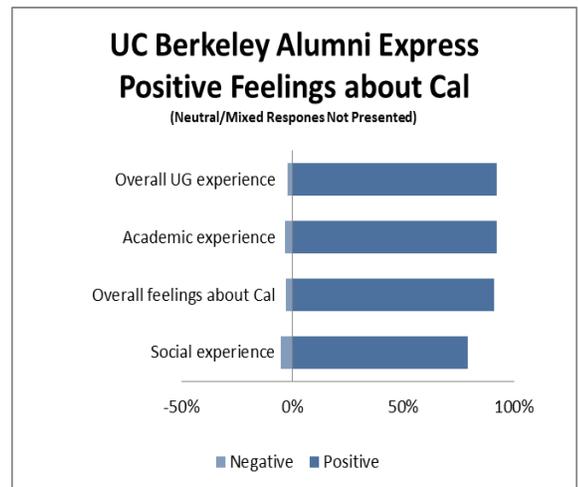
Alumni surveyed were asked to provide their impressions about various aspects of their undergraduate experience at UC Berkeley as well as their current feelings about Cal. Over 90% of the alumni respondents report satisfaction with their academic experience and their overall undergraduate experience and that they have positive overall feelings about Cal. Nearly 90% indicate that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their undergraduate social experience.

When asked on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is “not at all likely” and 10 is “extremely likely,” how likely they would be to recommend UC Berkeley to a prospective undergraduate student, friend or family member, 85% of respondents provided a rating of 8 or higher and fewer than 4% gave a rating of 4 or lower; the overall average was 8.8.

Over 80% of respondents indicate they have a great deal of pride in their UC Berkeley degree, but fewer alumni feel as great an emotional connection to Cal, stake in UC Berkeley’s success, and that they are still a part of the Cal community. Asked about their primary identification with Cal, 59% indicated the University as a whole. Department or major (15%), student organization or team (11%), school or college (7%), and graduating class (2%) followed. Only 2% said that they did not identify with UC Berkeley.

### Alumni Views of the University of California Budget Situation

Alumni were asked their perception of the adequacy of the current University of California budget to maintain UC’s academic standing as the top public university. Thirty percent (30%) agreed with the statement that inadequate funding has already seriously harmed UC’s academic standing and another 61% agreed that it threatens that standing. Fewer than 8% and 2% believe that the UC budget is adequate or more than adequate, respectively. Younger alumni are somewhat more likely than older alumni to view the budget situation as dire.

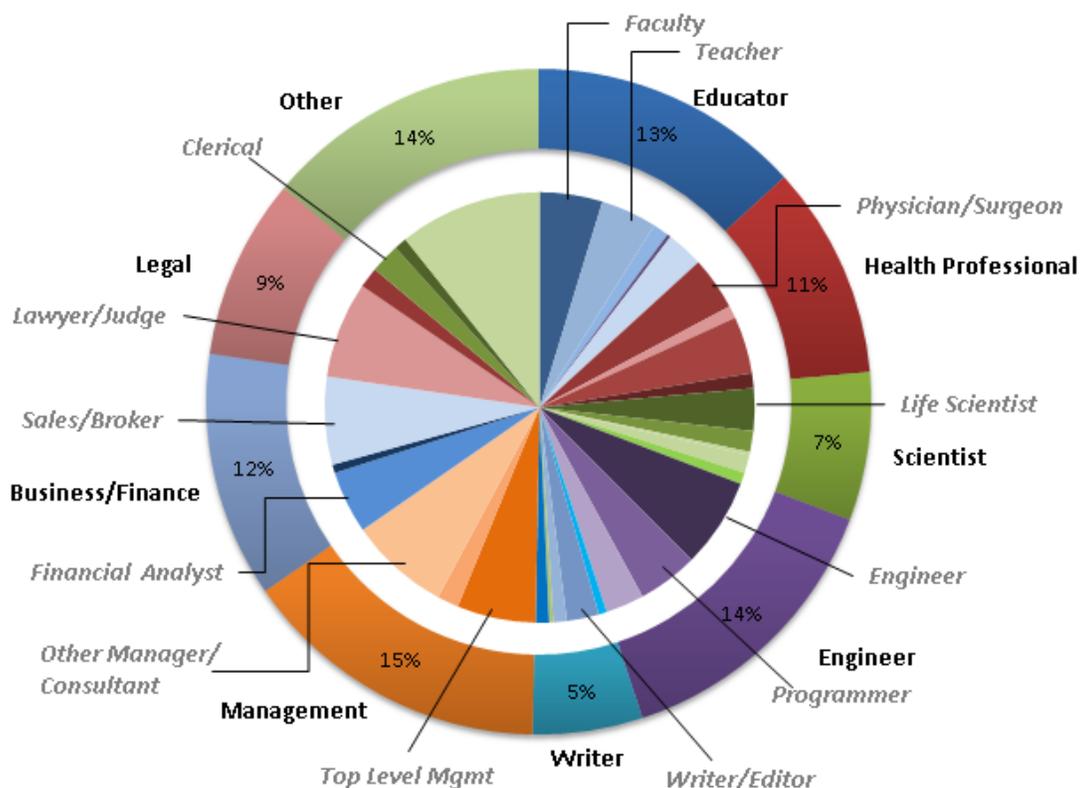


## Careers and Graduate & Professional Degrees

About 46% percent of respondents indicated they have earned a graduate or professional degree or certificate and 10% are currently enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. About 15% of all respondents reported having two or more post-baccalaureate degrees. For those who went on to a graduate or professional school program, 37% did so immediately after graduation, 38% did so between one and three years after graduation, and 25% did so four or more years after graduation. Seventy-three percent of respondents are currently employed, 12% are retired, 5% are seeking employment, and the remainder are volunteering, in school, or raising a family. More than three-quarters of respondents indicated that they have engaged in volunteer or community service work after graduation (39% currently engaged and 38% engaged in the past but not currently).

The range of occupations of UC Berkeley undergraduate alumni reflects in part the breadth of programs the campus has to offer: 24% of respondents indicated their career is in the same field of their undergraduate major, 36% in a related field, and 39% in a field unrelated to their undergraduate major. Management (15%), engineer/computer scientist (14%) and educator (13%) were some of the top selections for their primary areas of employment. Within all groupings, the top 10 fields of employment were lawyer/judge, engineer, salesperson/broker, top-level executive, university faculty, financial analyst, programmer, K-12 teacher, physician/surgeon, and life scientist.

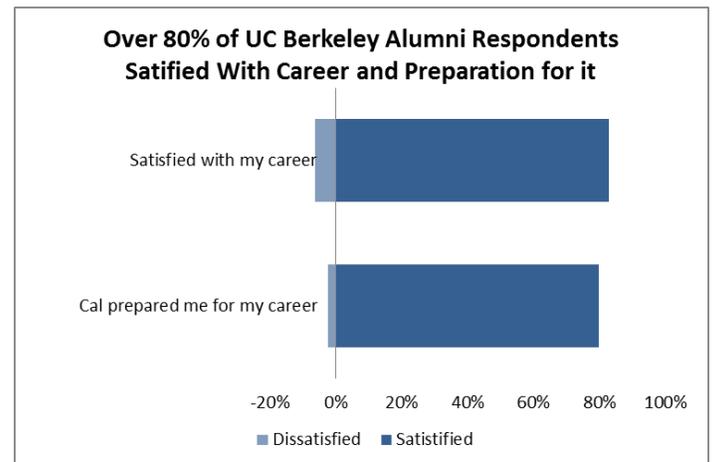
**Principal Occupation of UC Berkeley Alumni Survey Respondents**



As for employment sector, 43% were in a private for-profit corporation or company, 22% worked for a government or public agency, 16% worked in a private non-profit organization, and 15% were self-employed or owned their own business.

Overall, 83% of respondents were very or generally satisfied with the course of their career, and 80% believed that UC Berkeley had prepared them very or generally well for their career.

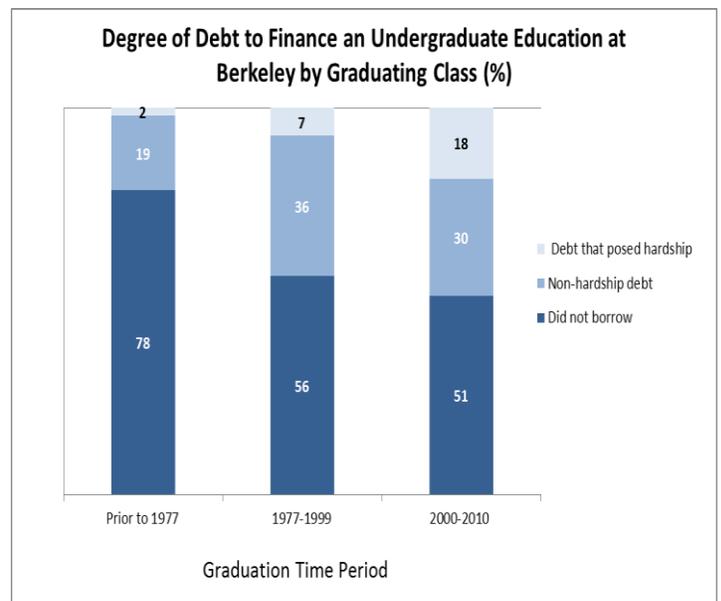
The median personal annual income reported by alumni is \$52,000 for recent alumni (i.e., those who graduated between 2000 and 2010); \$104,000 for alumni graduating between 1977 and 1999; and \$115,000 for those who graduated prior to 1977. (Respondents who indicated that they currently are retired or are students were excluded from these median income calculations.)



### Borrowing to Finance an Undergraduate Education at UC Berkeley

Most alumni did not have to borrow funds to finance their undergraduate education. However, the proportion of alumni reporting that they needed to borrow for this purpose is higher for those who have graduated relatively recently. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of alumni graduating prior to 1977 reported that they did not borrow to finance their education, compared to 56% of those graduating between 1977 and 1999, and 51% of the most recent alumni.

Most alumni who borrowed funds for their undergraduate education report that this did not constitute a hardship for them. However, the more recent 2000-2010 alumni are much more likely to be borrowers for whom the indebtedness was experienced as a hardship (18%) than alumni in the earlier time periods (7% and 2%, respectively).



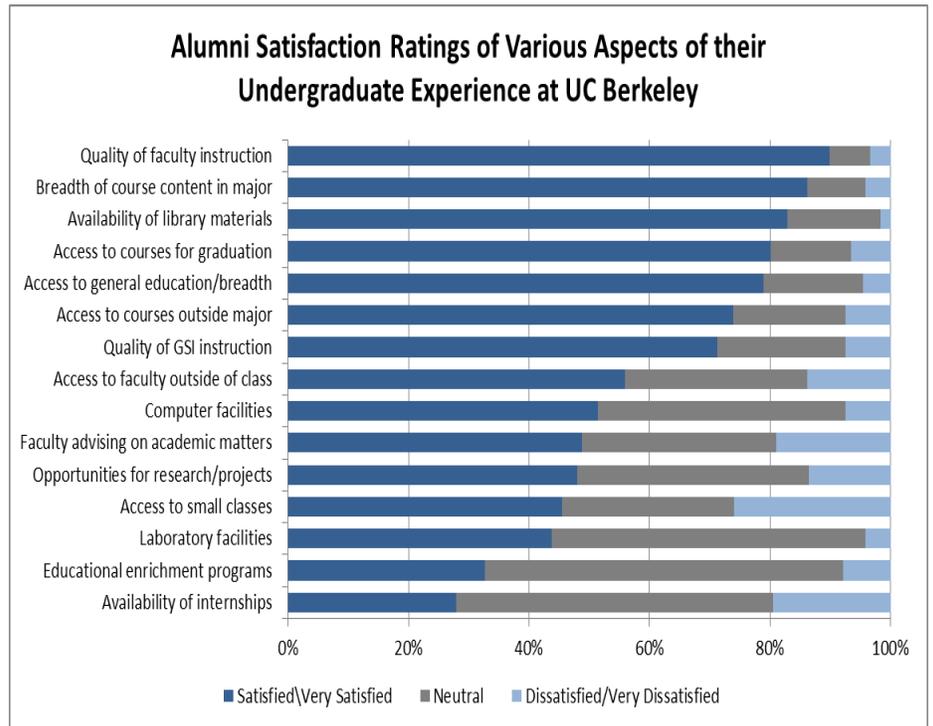
### Student Experience and Skill Development

Looking back on their student experience, alumni respondents indicated that if they were freshmen today, they would have taken more advantage of programs and opportunities outside of their major coursework; 49% indicated they would have studied abroad, 42% would have taken greater advantage of internships in the major, 35% would have taken a broader range of courses, and 31% would have taken greater advantage of leadership opportunities. Thirty-one percent (31%) would have selected a different major and 8% would have selected a different institution.

Alumni respondents expressed a very high degree of satisfaction with the quality of faculty instruction, availability of library materials, and access to various types of courses.

Less clear-cut was alumni satisfaction with access to small classes (45% satisfied; 26% dissatisfied) and availability of internships (28% satisfied; 20% dissatisfied).

Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunities for research or creative projects, and 33% indicated that they collaborated with a faculty member, researcher or GSI on scholarly activity (e.g., research) outside of their regular course work while enrolled at Berkeley.



Finally, when asked about skill development and how well their UC Berkeley undergraduate education prepared them, using a scale that ranged from 1 (*Not at all*) to 5 (*Very well*), alumni gave themselves high ratings (percentage reporting a '4' or '5') on the following:

- Thinking analytically and logically (88%)
- Acquiring new skills and knowledge on your own (86%)
- The ability to get along with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives (82%)
- Judging the value of information based on soundness of sources, methods and reasoning (81%)
- Using of knowledge, ideas and perspectives gained from your major field (80%)
- The ability to evaluate and choose between alternative courses of action (75%)
- The ability to work as a member of a team or group (74%)
- Self-awareness and understanding (73%)
- Awareness of contemporary issues in society and appreciation of complexity of cause and consequence (71%)
- The ability to write effectively (70%)

## Summary

Overall, UC Berkeley alumni respondents illustrate their ability to not only benefit from the education they receive but continue to be active participants and learners in the world they work and live in. UC Berkeley's commitment to access and excellence has transferred to its alumni who highlight their ability to get along with people of diverse background and perspectives, as well as their ability to work as a member of a team or group as areas where the campus has made a difference for them.