

**The Mid-Career
UC Berkeley Undergraduate Experience Survey:
Spring 1997**

This survey was designed to obtain information on a wide variety of undergraduate issues. Conceptual issues, e.g., the goals of an undergraduate education, student service issues, e.g., whether the service was used and the extent of user satisfaction, and campus issues of current importance, e.g., the extent to which undergraduates are willing to help fund unlimited AC Transit access, are examples of the survey content. The results section, which immediately follows, focuses primarily on the general undergraduate response. The document concludes with a description of the survey methodology.

Results

The results presented here focus primarily on how undergraduates in general might respond although there is some mention of different responses by student group. Student groups were defined by class level, parental income level (for freshmen only), gender, and the four main ethnic groups (African American, Hispanic, Asian, and White). The results presented are based upon a survey of 750 undergraduates. Results are organized by topic and numbers within topics refer to specific questionnaire questions. They are included in order to facilitate links between the summary results reported here and extended tables available on the Internet. In most instances, different groups of students answered the questions in a similar manner. Differences among student groups are reported for some questions in order to provide a sense of the dispersion of replies among undergraduates.

Goals of an Undergraduate Education

1. Some of the goals of an undergraduate education are listed below. Tell us how **IMPORTANT** it is to you to achieve each goal and how much **PROGRESS** you have made at UC BERKELEY in attaining each goal.

Importance: Pct Great or Very Great		Progress: Pct Great or Very Great
90	Becoming competent in a particular field of study	54
90	Acquiring knowledge and skills needed for employment after graduation	33
89	Developing problem-solving skills	50
83	Developing writing skills	43
82	Developing more effective interpersonal skills	40
80	Acquiring knowledge and skills for graduate school	38
79	Gaining practical experience through internships	22
79	Developing speaking skills	28
76	Developing research skills	36
76	Developing quantitative reasoning skills	47
75	Developing computer skills	34
69	Developing an understanding of science and technology	43
65	Developing an understanding of history, society, political and economic affairs	40
63	Developing an appreciation of art, music, and literature	36

Women rate the importance of developing writing skills higher than do men. Men, on the other hand, rate the developing of problem solving skills and developing an understanding of science and technology higher than do women.

Class level is positively related to progress all of the above items except for developing an appreciation of art, music, and literature. Men more so than women signify they are making progress in developing quantitative reasoning skills; developing research skills; developing an understanding of history, society, political and economic affairs; developing an understanding of science and technology; and acquiring knowledge and skills for graduate school.

2. How well do you think you are doing in each of these areas? Do you have enough information or know where to get help when needed? Please rate both aspects for each item.

Doing Great or Okay		Have Enough Information: Great or OK
96	Deciding which courses to take	91
93	My living situation	84
90	Deciding what to major in	87
86	Maintaining good health	89
86	Balancing my parent's or family's expectations with my own needs	75
85	My academic performance or GPA	83
85	Personal relationships (friends, boy/girl friends)	77
83	Ability to handle stress	77
82	Managing my finances	77
80	Balancing my academics with my social and personal life	74
79	Time management	74

Class level is positively related to doing well in terms of deciding which courses to take, deciding what to major in, academic performance, and living situation. A higher percentage of students whose parents are in the higher income level bands than students in lower income bands feel great or okay about their ability to handle stress. Women rate themselves as doing better on personal relationships than men.

African American and Hispanics more so than Asians and Whites are not so sure they are doing well with regard to course decisions and managing finances.

Participation in Student Groups

3. To what extent have you participated in on-campus student groups during the past year?

The replies for the students were that 19 % said a great deal, 45 % said somewhat, and 36 % said not at all.

Open Campus Offices During the Noon Hour

4. Are there offices on campus that are currently not open from 12-1 PM that you need to use?

More students indicated that there are no offices that are not open at noon that currently need to be open (17%) than any other category. However, 11% said all of Sproul, 8% said Financial Aid, and 7% said the Registrar. About 7% indicated various academic departments.

A higher percentage of freshmen than other class members indicated no need to have campus offices open at noon.

General Campus Ratings

5. How satisfied are you with each of the following? Please circle one number for each item.

	Satisfied or Very Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Variety of courses offered	68	1
Availability of faculty outside of class	54	2
Faculty attitude toward students	52	3
Atmosphere of ethnic, political and religious understanding on-campus	51	5
Availability of courses required to graduate	41	6
Flexibility of degree requirements	35	5
Opportunities for independent study and research	28	5
Class size	26	4
Berkeley overall	73	2
Overall academic experience	69	3
Overall quality of student life	60	3

Class level is positively associated with satisfaction with the flexibility of degree requirements. African Americans more so than the other ethnic groups are not as satisfied with the ethnic, political and religious climate on campus.

6. For each service, facility, or program listed below, please indicate your level of satisfaction by circling the appropriate alternative.

	Satisfied or Very Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Library facilities	78	1
Faculty instruction in major field	73	2
Library services	71	3
Course content in major	68	1
Faculty instruction outside of major field	60	1
Graduate student instruction in major field	60	3
Computer facilities	59	5
Computer services	53	6
Laboratory facilities	51	4
Classroom facilities	43	3
Quality of academic advising by faculty	38	7
Quality of academic advising by staff	37	9
Practical work experiences in your field of study	33	10

Undergraduate Student Services

7. Please check each service that you have used and if you have used a service indicate your level of satisfaction.

Percent of Students Using Service		Percent Satisfied or Very Satisfied
88	Moffitt Library	92
75	Recreational Sports Facility	92
64	Tang Center (University Health Service)	80
60	Financial Aid Office	73
59	New student orientation programs	84
54	Night Shuttle Service	94
47	Career and Graduate School Services	83
43	Student Learning Center	90
13	KALX radio station	85
12	Night Escort Service	87

Class level is associated with use of the Career and graduate School Services. A higher percentage of African Americans than other ethnic groups are very satisfied with New Student Orientation Programs. A higher percentage of freshmen from the lower income bands than freshmen from the higher income bands use the Financial Aid office and the Student Learning Center. A higher proportion of women than men used the Night Shuttle Service and the Night Escort Service.

Study Time and Environment

8. When do you routinely study and is your residence quiet enough for study during the day and at night?

The residences of students are quiet enough for study during the day (82%) and late at night (85%) but not quite as quiet during the evening (68%).

A higher percentage of juniors and seniors than freshmen and sophomores indicate that their residences are quiet enough for study late at night (after midnight).

9a. During this semester, how many hours per week on the average do you spend on the following activities?

	10 or Fewer	11-20	21 or More
Attending courses or scheduled laboratories:	18	66	16
Studying alone:	43	37	20

9b. During this semester, how many hours per week on the average do you spend studying in a group?

Thirty-five percent say they do not study in a group at all, 54% say they spent from 1 to 5 hours per week in group study, and 11% say they study in a group 6 or more hours per week.

Employment

10. During this semester, how many hours per week on the average do you spend on the following activities?

	Zero	1-10	11-20	21 or More
Hours per week employed for pay on campus	71	13	15	2
Hours per week employed for pay off campus	75	10	9	6
Hours per week in <u>unpaid</u> internships and volunteer work	63	32	5	1

The number of employment hours, whether on-campus or off, is positively associated with class level as is the hours per week in unpaid internships and volunteer work. A higher percentage of persons in the lowest income band work on campus than those in the other income bands.

11. To what extent is your paid employment this semester related to your academic interests or skills?

42 % say not related, 16% say slightly related, 22% say somewhat related, and 20% say highly related.

A higher percentage of juniors and seniors than sophomores and freshmen have paid employment related to their academic interests. A higher percentage of Hispanics than any other ethnic group have paid employment which is not related to their academic interests.

12. How important is it for you to obtain employment this summer to continue your studies at Berkeley?

37 % say very important, 26% say somewhat important, and 36% say not particularly important.

Higher percentages of Hispanics (68%) and African Americans (50%) than other ethnic groups state that summer employment is very important for them to continue their studies. A higher percentage of freshmen in the lowest income band than students in the upper income bands found summer employment necessary.

Financial Aid

13. If you are receiving financial aid, how difficult has it been for you to earn the amount you are expected to contribute to financing your education?

38% report that it is not that difficult, 32% say it is difficult, 21% say very difficult, and 9% say impossible.

Computer Issues

14. During this academic year, about how many hours per week have you used a computer FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES for the following:

	Zero	Up to 2	3-9	10 or More
Word Processing	7	30	48	15
E-mail	12	55	25	8
Internet access	16	50	23	12

A higher proportion of men than women access the Internet.

15. Do you own or plan to buy a computer? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

65 % own a desktop computer and 19% own a portable. 8% intend to buy a desktop computer while at Cal whereas 7% intend to buy a portable. Only 11% do not own a computer and do not intend to buy one while at Cal.

A lower percentage of African Americans (50%) and Hispanics (46%) own desktop computers than Asians (70%). A higher percentage of students from the upper income band own desktop computers (67%) than students in the lowest income band. A higher percentage of men than women own a desktop computer (70% vs 58%).

16. For each of the following ways of accessing the Internet, please check both those you use now for course-related purposes and those you would like to use or use more often. Rate your satisfaction with each checked item.

Item	Use Now	Would like to use or use more often	Satisfied
On-line connection from my residence hall room (or home)*	53	22	63
Computer laboratory in the residence halls *	59	11	89
Computer laboratory on campus	48	18	71
Campus on-line connection using my portable computer	8	14	37
Off-campus modem: Home - IP	40	19	33
Off-campus modem: Netcom	5	10	52
Off-campus modem: Outside Internet Service Provider (AOL, MSN, CompuServe, Prodigy, other)	14	10	71

* These items are for only those persons who lived in the residence halls for the spring 1997 semester.

A lower percentage of African Americans than other ethnic groups use computer labs on campus (27%).

A higher percentage of women than men are satisfied with the computer laboratories on campus than men. A higher percentage of men than women use the Home - IP kit.

17. In how many of your courses this semester are your professors, or GSI's, using e-mail or the Internet to provide course support (such as office hours, advising, or course materials)?]

Eighty-nine percent report using either e-mail or the Internet for course support. The number of courses and the percent of students indication use for that number of courses is: one course (24%), two courses (32%), three courses (17%), four courses (10%), and five or more courses (6%).

Freshmen and sophomores have more courses using the Internet than do juniors and seniors.

Campus B-Safe

18. The Campus has recently installed "Campus B-Safe Signs." Have you seen such signs and do you find them helpful?

60 % have not seen the signs. Of the remaining students, about as many find them helpful (21%) as those who do not find them helpful (19%).

Impediments to Academic Progress

19. Is there anything that is significantly impeding your academic progress? Please check all items that apply. If additional items apply to you, please list them under the "Other" category.

- 46 Stress
- 31 Finances
- 26 Academic difficulties
- 24 Work
- 21 Personal relationships
- 20 Inadequate advising
- 19 Nothing. My academic progress is good.
- 16 Difficulty in deciding upon a major
- 15 Family problems
- 14 Difficulty in getting required courses
- 14 Excessive social life
- 13 Taking too many classes
- 12 Health
- 11 Excessive co-curricular activities (athletics, band, ASUC, etc.)

A higher percentage of freshmen and sophomores than juniors and seniors indicate difficulties in deciding a major. A higher percentage of African Americans and Hispanics indicate problems with finances, work, family problems.

A higher percentage of students from families with lower parental incomes than students from families with higher parental incomes indicated they were having financial, work, and family problems.

Additional Student Fees

20. To what extent would you be willing to pay modest additional student fees to provide for each of the following?

Item	Very Willing or Willing
Restoring the collections budget of campus libraries to previous levels	65
Unlimited free AC Transit access for all students	61
Faster and better access by modem to campus services	60
The ability for all students to have their own Web sites	24

A lower percentage of African Americans than other ethnic groups are willing or very willing to pay for faster and better modem access (31%). Men more than women indicate a preference for paying for faster and better access by modem and for students to have their own Web sites.

Methodology

The survey was distributed in Spring 1997 to a representative sample of 1958 undergraduates. The number of replies received was 750 which produces an overall response rate of 38%. The response rate of women was higher than the response rate for men (40% versus 35%). In order to adjust the percentage replies to the questions, weighting by gender was used. The difference between the weighted and unweighted percentage replies tended to be relatively small, i.e., on the order of a few percent or less for most items since men and women tended to answer questions in a similar manner.

The approach taken was to cite what seemed to be the most substantive differences within demographic groupings. That is not to say that there are other differences that may be of interest to various audiences. It is just not practical to present in this document all of the hundreds of pages of findings produced. Persons interested in examining detailed results are invited to contact the Office of Student Research in order to make arrangements for viewing the detailed findings.

NOTE: It is possible to view detailed findings by group (ethnicity, class level, freshman parental income level, and gender) by pointing a web browser at the site 128.32.242.97 during regularly scheduled office hours.