

Opinions on Free Speech among Fall 2017 Entering Students

FACT SHEET



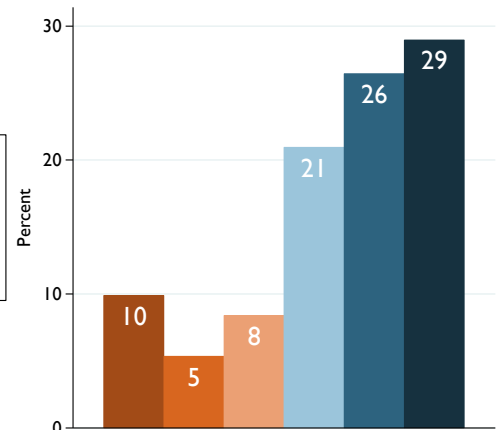
Every new student in the Fall term, including Global Edge and Fall Program for Freshmen participants, is invited to take the Survey of New Students to assess first impressions of Berkeley, interests, and previous academic experiences. In Fall 2017, a timely question about Free Speech (text below in italics) was added to the annual survey. If respondents chose “Somewhat agree,” “Agree,” or “Strongly Agree,” they were counted as agreeing to the prompt about Free Speech. There were statistically significant differences in response by gender and entry status.

“The university has the responsibility to provide equal access to safe and secure venues for guest speakers of all viewpoints - even if the ideas are found offensive by some or conflict with the values held by the UC Berkeley community.”

Percent of respondents who agree

Overall **76%**

Gender	78%	Men
	74%	Women
	80%	Engineering
Entry College	78%	Haas
	77%	Chemistry
	76%	Letters & Science
	74%	Natural Resources
	72%	Environmental Design
Entry Status	77%	Freshman entrant
	74%	Transfer student



All respondents (N = 5,085)
Does not equal 100% due to rounding

In Fall 2017, 9,093 students were invited to complete the survey; 52% (n = 4,801) completed the survey and an additional 13% (1,183) answered at least one question, for a total participation rate of 66%. Women students had a higher participation rate (69%, n = 3,261) than men (62%, n = 2,584). Participation rate varied by entry College, from 47% (n = 46) for Haas School of Business, to 71% (n = 142) for College of Environmental Design. Freshman entrants (66%, n = 4,244) and transfer students (65%, n = 1,114) had similar response rates.

Additional information about [Free Speech at UC Berkeley](#) is available online, including the [report](#) of the Free Speech Commission. Full results from the Survey of New Students are available for [freshman entrants](#) and [transfer students](#).