UC MERCED

2010 Graduate Student Survey

Educational Status

When do you expect to receive your degree?

- Within the next year
- In the next 1-2 years
- In the next 2-3 years
- In the next 3-4 years
- In the next 4-5 years
- In the next 5-6 years

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

- Graduate student
- Volunteer or community service
- Cared for a family member
- Employed in a field related to that of current study
- Undergraduate student
- Employed in a field unrelated to that of current study
- Travel
- Other, please specify

Satisfaction with Program, Quality of Interactions and Course Work

4. How satisfied are you with each of the following?

	Very Satisfied	*Somewhat Satisfied*	*Somewhat Dissatisfied*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Not Applicable*
A. The intellectual caliber of the faculty in your program					
B. Program's ability to keep pace with recent development in your field					

C. Adequacy of facilities	○	○	○	○	○
D. Quality of graduate level teaching by faculty	○	○	○	○	○
E. Training in research methods	○	○	○	○	○
F. Amount of financial support	○	○	○	○	○
G. Teaching and TA preparation offered by your academic program	○	○	○	○	○

5. How satisfied are you with each of the following?

	Very Satisfied	*Somewhat Satisfied*	*Somewhat Dissatisfied*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Not Applicable*
A. Quality of academic advising and guidance	○	○	○	○	○
B. Professional relationship with your faculty advisor	○	○	○	○	○
C. Helpfulness of staff members in your school or program	○	○	○	○	○
D. Faculty effort in helping you find employment	○	○	○	○	○
E. The opportunity to interact across disciplines	○	○	○	○	○
F. Overall satisfaction with your program	○	○	○	○	○

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

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*
A. Students in your program are treated with respect by faculty	○	○	○	○
B. Faculty members are willing to work with students	○	○	○	○
C. Rapport between faculty and graduate students in your program is good	○	○	○	○
D. Your own				

relationships and interactions with faculty are good	○	○	○	○
E. There are tensions among faculty that affect students	○	○	○	○
F. Financial support for graduate students is distributed fairly	○	○	○	○
G. Students in your program are collegial	○	○	○	○
H. Your relationships and interaction with other students in your graduate program are good	○	○	○	○
I. The degree of competition among students is excessive	○	○	○	○
J. Staff in your program are knowledgeable about rules and regulations that affect graduate students	○	○	○	○
K. There is a sense of intellectual community in your program	○	○	○	○
L. Program structure encourages student collaboration or teamwork	○	○	○	○
M. Amount of coursework seems appropriate to the degree	○	○	○	○
N. You receive ongoing, constructive feedback on progress toward your degree from you advisor.	○	○	○	○
O. You are satisfied with the amount of time spent with your advisor	○	○	○	○
P. Your research interests are incorporated into your thesis work.	○	○	○	○
Q. Your advisor has your interests in mind.				

	○	○	○	○
R. There is a person or office you could trust to report perceived abuse or misconduct in your program by your advisor or committee member.	○	○	○	○
S. Your advisor keeps track of your research progress and will help determine when you have accomplished enough work for your degree.	○	○	○	○
T. Overall, the climate of your program is positive	○	○	○	○

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

	Excellent	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*
A. Availability of courses needed to complete your program	○	○	○	○
B. Quality of instruction in your courses	○	○	○	○
C. Encouragement to take courses outside your program	○	○	○	○
D. Overall quality of course work in your program	○	○	○	○

8. If you have any specific comments about any of the items in this section please use the box below:

Program Support

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

	Very Satisfied	*Somewhat Satisfied*	*Somewhat Dissatisfied*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Not Applicable*

A. Courses, workshops or orientations on teaching offered by your academic program	○	○	○	○	○
B. Advice on writing grant proposals	○	○	○	○	○
C. Advice on publishing your work	○	○	○	○	○
D. Assistance in developing professional contacts outside your program	○	○	○	○	○
E. Advice on career options within academia	○	○	○	○	○
F. Advice on career options outside academia	○	○	○	○	○
G. Advice about research positions	○	○	○	○	○
H. Advice on degree requirements	○	○	○	○	○
I. Advice on preparing for examinations	○	○	○	○	○
J. Advice on developing your thesis or dissertation proposal	○	○	○	○	○
K. Advice on the process required to select a thesis advisor	○	○	○	○	○
L. Feedback on your research	○	○	○	○	○
M. Advice on the standards for academic writing in your field	○	○	○	○	○
N. Advice on how to avoid plagiarism and other violations of the standards of academic integrity	○	○	○	○	○

University Resources and Student Life

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

	Frequently	*Occasionally*	*Never*
A. Library facilities	○	○	○
B. On-campus computer facilities	○	○	○
C. Web-based campus computer services (e.g., for registration)	○	○	○
D. Graduate Division	○	○	○
E. Student Health Center	○	○	○
F. Health Insurance (GSHIP)	○	○	○
G. Financial Aid Office	○	○	○
H. Career Services Center	○	○	○
I. Student Counseling Services	○	○	○
J. Child Care Referral Services	○	○	○
K. Disability Services	○	○	○
L. Learning Assistance Center	○	○	○
M. Billing and Payment Services	○	○	○
N. University Police	○	○	○
O. Housing	○	○	○
P. Office of the Registrar	○	○	○
Q. Availability of parking for students	○	○	○
R. Campus shuttle bus service (Cat Track)	○	○	○
S. Dining Services	○	○	○
T. Bookstore	○	○	○
U. Center for Research on Teaching Excellence (CRTE)	○	○	○

11. Please rate the quality of your experience (if applicable)

	Excellent	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*	*Not Applicable*
A. Library facilities	○	○	○	○	○
B. On-campus computer facilities	○	○	○	○	○
C. Web-based campus computer services (e.g., for registration)	○	○	○	○	○
D. Graduate Division	○	○	○	○	○
E. Student Health Center	○	○	○	○	○
F. Health Insurance (GSHIP)	○	○	○	○	○
G. Financial Aid Office	○	○	○	○	○
H. Career Services Center	○	○	○	○	○
I. Student Counseling Services	○	○	○	○	○
J. Child Care Referral Services	○	○	○	○	○
K. Disability Services	○	○	○	○	○
L. Learning Assistance Center	○	○	○	○	○
M. Billing and Payment Services	○	○	○	○	○
N. University Police	○	○	○	○	○
O. Housing	○	○	○	○	○
P. Office of the Registrar	○	○	○	○	○
Q. Parking for students	○	○	○	○	○
R. Campus shuttle bus service (CatTracks)	○	○	○	○	○
S. Dining Services	○	○	○	○	○
T. Bookstore	○	○	○	○	○
U. Center for Research on Teaching Excellence (CRTE)	○	○	○	○	○

12. If you have any additional comments about the quality of your graduate student experience, please use the box below:

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).

	Frequently	*Occasionally*	*Never*
A. Organized university-wide social activities	○	○	○
B. Organized social activities within your school	○	○	○
C. Organized social activities within your advisor/research group	○	○	○

How often do you attend social activities on campus?

	Frequently	*Occasionally*	*Never*
A. Organized university-wide social activities	○	○	○
B. Organized social activities within your school	○	○	○
C. Organized social activities within your advisor/research group	○	○	○

How valuable are organized social activities on campus?

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Not Applicable*
A. Organized social activities allow you to meet graduate students outside your graduate group	○	○	○	○	○
B. Organized social activities help build a UC Merced community of graduate students	○	○	○	○	○

What kinds of social activities would you like to participate in?

General Assessment

15. How would you rate the quality of:

	Excellent	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*
A. Your academic experience at UC Merced	○	○	○	○
B. Your student life experience at UC Merced	○	○	○	○
C. Your graduate program at UC Merced	○	○	○	○
D. Your overall experience at UC Merced	○	○	○	○

16. If you have any specific comments about any of the items in this section please use the box below:

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

	A major obstacle	*A minor obstacle*	*Not an obstacle*
A. Work/financial commitments	○	○	○
B. Family obligations	○	○	○
C. Availability of faculty	○	○	○
D. Program structure or requirements	○	○	○

E. Dissertation topic/research	○	○	○
F. Course scheduling	○	○	○
G. Immigration laws or regulations	○	○	○
H. Other	○	○	○

18. If you checked other as an obstacle, please specify:

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

- ○ Very Likely
- ○ Somewhat likely
- ○ Somewhat unlikely
- ○ Highly unlikely
- ○ Uncertain

20. Please answer the following questions about the University and your Program. If you were to do it again:

	Definitely would	*Probably would*	*Probably would not*	*Definitely would not*
A. Would you select this same university?	○	○	○	○
B. Would you select the same field of study?	○	○	○	○
C. Would you recommend this university to someone considering your graduate program?	○	○	○	○

21. Please answer the following questions about teaching and your TA preparation.

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Not Applicable*
A. As a teaching					

assistant, you were appropriately prepared and trained before entering the classroom by your academic program.	○	○	○	○	○
B. As a teaching assistant, you were appropriately supervised to help improve your teaching skills.	○	○	○	○	○
C. The teaching experience available through your program is adequate preparation for an academic/teaching career.	○	○	○	○	○
D. The amount of time expected of you as a TA was about right	○	○	○	○	○

22. If you could change one thing about your experience as a graduate student at UC Merced to make it more successful or fulfilling, what would it be?

23. What advice would you offer to first-time graduate students at UC Merced?

Post Graduate School Plans

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

- ○ Engineer, Manufacturing
- ○ Management information systems, Programmer
- ○ Non tenure-track faculty
- ○ Tenure-track faculty

- ◯ Researcher (non faculty)
- ◯ Teacher
- ◯ Analyst
- ◯ Postdoctoral fellow
- ◯ Psychologist, Counselor
- ◯ Social Worker
- ◯ Pursue another graduate degree (at UC Merced)
- ◯ Pursue another graduate degree (not at UC Merced)

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

- ◯ 4-year college or university
- ◯ Community or junior college
- ◯ Elementary, secondary or special focus school
- ◯ Industry or business
- ◯ Hospital or clinic
- ◯ Non-profit organization or foundation
- ◯ U.S. (federal) government or your home country if not the U.S.
- ◯ State or local government
- ◯ National Laboratory
- ◯ Self-employed
- ◯ Unknown

29. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following Fall 2009 workshops and events.

	Did not attend	*Very satisfied*	*Somewhat satisfied*	*Somewhat dissatisfied*	*Very dissatisfied*
A. Family social event at Millenium	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
B. Sports Club on 08.28.09	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
C. Library Resources workshop	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
D. Information Technology workshop	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
E. Writing Workshop series	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
F. International Tea					

Party on 11.19.09	○	○	○	○	○
G. Grant Writing workshop	○	○	○	○	○
H. Stress Management workshop	○	○	○	○	○
I. GSHIP and Vendor Fair	○	○	○	○	○
J. CV Writing workshop	○	○	○	○	○

30. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following Spring 2010 workshops and events.

	Did not attend	*Very satisfied*	*Somewhat satisfied*	*Somewhat dissatisfied*	*Very dissatisfied*
A. Welcome Back Wine Social at the Chancellor's House on 01.25.10	○	○	○	○	○
B. Grant Writing workshop	○	○	○	○	○
C. Tax workshop	○	○	○	○	○
D. Writer's Workshop series	○	○	○	○	○
E. Family Dinner at DiCiccio's Restaurant	○	○	○	○	○
F. Relax & Escape from Stress & Tension	○	○	○	○	○
G. Forum with Dean Traina	○	○	○	○	○
H. Family Dinner at Big Bubba's BBQ	○	○	○	○	○

31. If you did not attend any of the workshops or events listed above, please tell us why.

32. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following Graduate Student Association (GSA) activities.

	Not applicable	*Very satisfied*	*Somewhat satisfied*	*Somewhat dissatisfied*	*Very dissatisfied*
A. Behind Closed Doors on 08.25.09	○	○	○	○	○

B. Coffee Social on 08.26.09	○	○	○	○	○
C. Communication from GSA regarding campus issues	○	○	○	○	○
D. Communication from GSA regarding elections	○	○	○	○	○
E. Communication from GSA regarding campus committees	○	○	○	○	○

33. Please indicate your level of interest in serving as a graduate student representative on the following committees:

	Very interested	*Somewhat interested*	*Not interested*
A. University Budget Committee	○	○	○
B. Chancellor's Sustainability Committee	○	○	○
C. Capital Planning Committee	○	○	○
D. Space Planning & Mgmt Committee	○	○	○
E. Course & Miscellaneous Fee Committee	○	○	○
F. Student Fee Advisory Committee	○	○	○
G. Referendum Fee Committee	○	○	○
H. Research Week Committee	○	○	○
I. University Conduct Committee	○	○	○
J. Health Care Advisory Committee	○	○	○
K. Information Technology Advisory Committee	○	○	○
L. Web Portal Advisory Board	○	○	○
M. Student Affairs Advisory Committee	○	○	○
N. Bookstore Advisory Committee	○	○	○
O. Dining Services			

Advisory Board	○	○	○
P. Student Recreation Advisory Board	○	○	○
Q. Transportation & Parking Committee	○	○	○
R. Graduation Committee	○	○	○
S. Graduate & Research Council	○	○	○
T. CAPRA (Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation)	○	○	○
U. Graduate Student Orientation Council	○	○	○
V. WASC Steering Committee	○	○	○
W. Commission on Women	○	○	○

Odds and Ends

Please provide any additional comments or questions you have about the graduate program at UC Merced.