

Results from Pulse Survey #2

UC Berkeley Student Experiences in Fall 2020

21 October 2020



As we continually adjust to the changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Berkeley is administering Pulse Surveys every few weeks to better understand and address student needs. During the 7th and 8th week of classes, all undergraduate (N = 30,799) and graduate students (N = 11,548) were invited to take the second Pulse Survey. The response rate was 47% (n = 14,413) for undergraduates and 34% (n = 3,914) for graduate students.

Academic activities that help students feel connected

Percent of student who said these course-related activities helped them feel connected to the UC Berkeley community

	Undergraduates	Grad students	
Course discussion sections	84%	83%	Research lab activities or research group meetings
Online office hours with instructors	80%	88%	Online meetings with your advisor or other faculty
	78%	85%	Course lectures
	77%	89%	Small classes

Most popular extracurricular and co-curricular activities among undergraduates

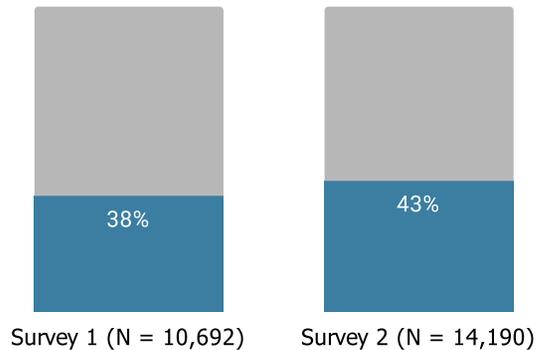
	Undergraduates			Grad students		
	Participated	Help feel connected*		Participated	Help feel connected*	
	50%	96%	Online meetings of student organizations	39%	93%	
	39%	96%	Online social gatherings organized by students	55%	96%	
	18%	90%	Online social gatherings by your department	36%	91%	
	41%	88%	Social media	24%	82%	
	20%	84%	Online lectures by guest speakers	50%	81%	

**Of those who participate in this activity, the percent who say this activity helps them feel connected to the UC Berkeley community*

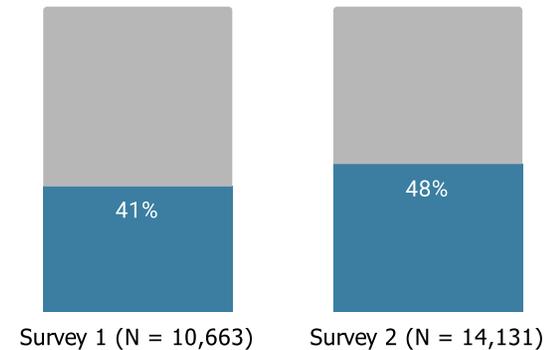
Student mental health

Pulse Survey #2 shows that there is cause for concern as students' mental health appears to have deteriorated from Pulse Survey #1, conducted four weeks before.

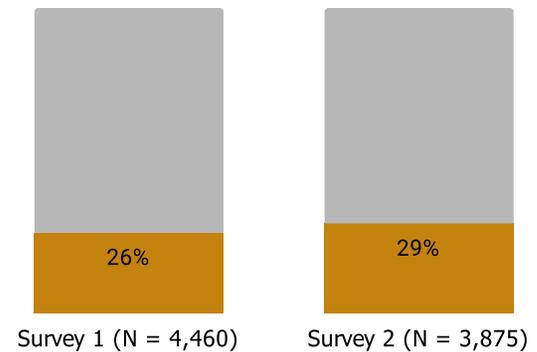
Undergraduates: Percent of responses associated with major depressive disorder



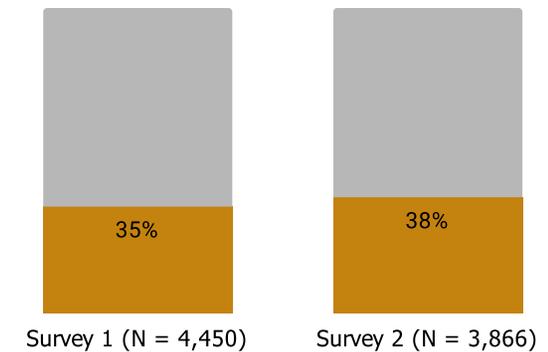
Undergraduates: Percent of responses associated with generalized anxiety disorder



Graduate students: Percent of responses associated with major depressive disorder



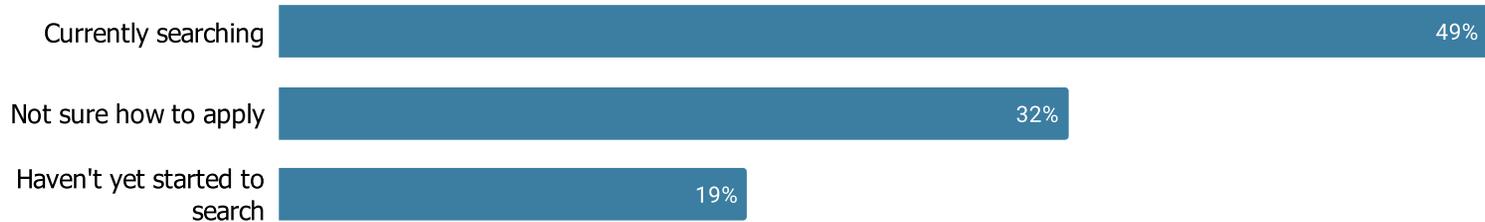
Graduate students: Percent of responses associated with generalized anxiety disorder



Work-Study for Undergraduates

Of undergraduates who may qualify for Work-Study (N = 10,548), 14% have a Work-Study position this term, 63% do not have a Work-Study position, and the remaining 22% don't know if they are eligible for Work-Study.

Undergraduates who qualify for and are interested in Work-Study (N = 2,196)



Students living near or on campus

Among students who took the survey (N = 18,173), 31% moved to be closer to campus this term and 32% permanently reside here, accounting for the 63% of students living in the Bay Area. A higher percentage of graduate students (73%) than undergraduates (60%) are living in the Bay Area.

63% of students are living in the Bay Area this term



Of these students who are in the Bay Area (N = 11,335), 30% plan to travel over Thanksgiving break and an additional 23% are unsure of whether they will travel.

52% of students living in the Bay Area may travel for Thanksgiving break



Of those not permanently living in the Bay Area and who may travel (N = 4,124), 66% plan to return and 22% are unsure of whether they will return.

88% of students who may travel might return to the Bay Area

Academic Calendar for Spring 2021

Two-thirds of undergraduates and over half of graduate students would prefer to keep spring recess and leave the Spring 2021 academic calendar unchanged.

