UCLA | Student Affairs Information & Research Office

Comparison of COVID Related Concerns for Graduate Student Populations

In order to understand how students were faring during the rapid changes to instruction and daily life associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Affairs Information and Research Office (SAIRO) worked with campus stakeholders to develop questions to be included the 2020 Student Affairs Graduate and Professional Student Survey (GPSS). This report includes a summary of key findings from comparative analyses of mean scores on COVID related experience items for various groups conducted using t-tests and ANOVA. Note that mean comparisons show differences in **relative** levels of concern/agreement, etc.; to see how concern with various aspects of the experience rate overall, see the specific means included in the appendix. A total of 2862 students responded to the survey (a response rate of 24%). For general information about the GPSS survey visit: https://www.sairo.ucla.edu/By-Survey/GRAD-Survey

Key Findings:

First Gen[1] (compared to not):
- More likely to express academic concerns and challenges as a result of COVID-19.
- Less likely to express concern about missing commencement.
- Less likely to express concern about paying bills, but more likely to express concern about meeting basic needs.

Students Reporting Disabilities[2] (compared to not):
- More likely to express academic concerns and challenges as a result of COVID-19.
- More likely to be concerned about timely graduation, and securing employment.
- More likely to express concern about paying bills, accessing healthcare, and meeting basic needs.
- More likely to report feeling concern about isolation.
- Less likely to agree that UCLA is committed to student health and wellbeing during the pandemic.

STEM (compared to Non-STEM):
- Less likely to express academic concerns and challenges.
- More likely to express concern about ability to conduct research.
- Less likely to express concern about jobs and finances.
- More likely to agree that UCLA is committed to student health and wellbeing during the pandemic.

Masters Students (compared to PhD level):
- More likely to express concerns about attending commencement and securing jobs.
- Less likely to report concern about ability to conduct research.
- More likely to express concern about doing well in courses, as well as accessing courses and faculty.
- More likely to express concern about paying bills.

PhD Students Pre Candidacy (compared to PhD Candidates):
- Less likely to express concerns about attending commencement and securing jobs.
- Less likely to report concern about ability to conduct research.
- More likely to express concern about doing well in courses, as well as accessing courses and faculty.

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[1] Based on self-reported parental educational level from GPSS survey question.
[2] Based on self-reported disabilities from the GPSS survey questions.

Summary of Significant Differences

Gold shading indicates a higher mean for the group listed first; **Blue shading** higher mean for group listed second.

T-Test Comparisons (**p<.01; *p<.05)

How concerned are you about the possible effects of COVID-19 on your learning in the following ways? _Higher mean = greater concern_	First Gen/Not First Gen (N=709/1708)	Disability/No Disability (N=797/1480)	STEM/ Non STEM (N=1565/1297)	Master or Professional Masters/Ph.D. Pre Candidacy (N=1262/1088)	Master or Professional Masters/Ph.D. Advanced to Candidacy (N=1262/391)	Ph.D. Pre Candidacy/Ph.D. Advanced to Candidacy (N=1088/391)
Having reliable access to the Internet	**	**				
Learning effectively in the remote instruction environment		**	**		**	**
Having access to an appropriate study space	**	**				
Accessing the learning support services I need (e.g., writing center, accessibility services)	**	**	**		*	
Accessing library resources and services	*	**	**			
Accessing technology resources needed to conduct my academic work (e.g., software, computers)	**	**				
Doing well on tests and assignments in online courses	*			**	**	**
Missing classes	**		**	*	**	**
Ability to conduct research		**	**	**	**	**
Getting the courses I need for my program	**	*		**	**	**
Interacting with course faculty			**		**	**
Interacting with my advisor						

How concerned are you about the possible effects of COVID-19 on you in the following ways? _Higher mean = greater concern_	First Gen/Not First Gen	Disability/No Disability	STEM/ Non STEM	Master or Professional Masters/Ph.D. Pre Candidacy	Master or Professional Masters/Ph.D. Advanced to Candidacy	Ph.D. Pre Candidacy/Ph.D. Advanced to Candidacy
Not graduating on time		**	**	**	**	**
Not attending my commencement	**	*	**	**	**	**
Losing my job/internship			**	**	**	
Not getting a job after graduation		**	**	**		**
Paying bills	**	**	**	**	**	

Being isolated from friends **

Accessing healthcare **

Meeting basic needs (e.g., food, housing, etc.) ** **

Level of agreement
Higher mean = higher level of agreement

UCLA is committed to student health and wellbeing
during the COVID-19 pandemic. ** ** **

I know how to protect myself from COVID-19 ** **

Appendix I. Group Means

Concerns due to COVID-19 *Scale: (1) Not concerned to (4) Very concerned*	First Generation	Not First Generation	Disability	No Disability	Stem	Non Stem	Masters/Professional Masters	Ph.D. Pre Candidacy	Ph.D Advanced to Candidacy
Having reliable access to the Internet	2.53	2.40	2.18	1.95	2.02	2.04	2.04	2.03	1.93
Learning effectively in the remote instruction environment	2.39	2.24	3.08	2.93	2.84	3.11	3.17	3.05	2.22
Having access to an appropriate study space	2.59	2.45	2.95	2.50	2.58	2.72	2.65	2.68	2.64
Accessing the learning support services I need (e.g., writing center, accessibility services)	1.97	1.77	2.19	1.97	1.95	2.16	2.15	2.01	1.86
Accessing library resources and services	2.66	2.63	2.66	2.32	2.11	2.72	2.43	2.45	2.43
Accessing technology resources needed to conduct my academic work (e.g., software, computers)	1.94	1.77	2.42	2.21	2.24	2.32	2.27	2.28	2.32
Doing well on tests and assignments in online courses	2.55	2.59	2.56	2.45	2.46	2.54	2.83	2.61	1.17
Missing classes	2.27	2.23	1.86	1.82	1.76	1.92	2.06	1.90	0.99
Ability to conduct research	1.17	1.07	2.86	2.53	2.76	2.54	2.21	2.91	3.26
Getting the courses I need for my program	2.07	2.02	1.74	1.85	1.79	1.90	2.07	1.87	1.02
Interacting with course faculty	2.18	1.94	2.57	2.58	2.47	2.71	2.77	2.67	1.87
Interacting with my advisor	2.25	2.13	2.27	2.22	2.25	2.26	2.28	2.22	2.25
Not graduating on time	3.02	2.68	2.16	1.97	2.27	1.85	1.73	2.10	2.78
Not attending my commencement	3.14	3.15	1.91	2.06	1.87	2.16	2.56	1.45	1.89
Losing my job/internship	2.85	2.66	2.16	2.18	1.90	2.45	2.70	1.72	1.87
Not getting a job after graduation	2.62	2.19	2.89	2.71	2.43	3.07	3.12	2.30	3.04

	First Generation	Not First Generation	Disability	No Disability	Stem	Non Stem	Masters/Professional Masters	Ph.D. Pre Candidacy	Ph.D Advanced to Candidacy
Paying bills	0.72	0.74	3.03	2.65	2.62	2.95	2.97	2.63	2.70
Being isolated from friends	2.98	3.00	3.28	3.09	3.08	3.19	3.19	3.15	2.99
Accessing healthcare	3.31	3.31	2.94	2.61	2.70	2.73	2.72	2.70	2.75
Meeting basic needs (e.g., food, housing)	1.37	1.34	2.59	2.18	2.27	2.37	2.35	2.31	2.26
Please select your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements. Scale: (1) Strongly disagree to (4) Strongly agree"	**First Generation**	**Not First Generation**	**Disability**	**No Disability**	**Stem**	**Non Stem**	**Masters/Professional Masters**	**Ph.D. Pre Candidacy**	**Ph.D Advanced to Candidacy**
UCLA is committed to student health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.	2.97	2.98	2.82	3.09	3.06	2.95	3.07	2.95	2.94
I know how to protect myself from COVID-19	3.30	3.30	3.26	3.34	3.34	3.28	3.34	3.28	3.31