

University of California, Los Angeles
RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET
UCLA Entering Student Survey (ESS)

Welcome to UCLA. We are so pleased to have you as part of the Bruin community. As you may already know, UCLA is dedicated to a student-centered program of assessment and will regularly ask you and your fellow students to provide feedback throughout your academic career here. Your responses to campus surveys are a critical resource for us in our decisions about student programs and campus policies. We encourage you to use these surveys as a way to get your voice heard and to help us improve the undergraduate experiences for your class and for future cohorts of UCLA students.

INTRODUCTION

The Student Affairs Information and Research Office at the University of California, Los Angeles is conducting this study to inform the campus about the backgrounds and needs of entering students. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are a student entering UCLA this Fall. Your participation in this research study is voluntary.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT A RESEARCH STUDY?

- Someone will explain this research study to you.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

WHY IS THIS RESEARCH BEING DONE?

One major goal of this research is to determine what happens to students when they attend college. Your participation will help us learn more about the experiences and expectations of our new students. The data gathered are used in studies designed to better understand student learning and development and to help improve the quality of college education, and determine what supports students might need.

HOW LONG WILL THE RESEARCH LAST AND WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we ask you to complete the survey at the provided link. Questions will ask about your academic background and experiences, as well as your anticipated goals and perspectives of UCLA. Most respondents complete this questionnaire in about 20 minutes, although individual progress will vary by how quickly you move through the questions. You may choose not to answer any specific questions that make you feel uncomfortable. If you volunteer to complete this survey, you may decide not to complete the survey for any reason at any time without consequence of any kind. Your completion of the questionnaire indicates your consent to participate in the study.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IF I PARTICIPATE?

There could be survey items that you are uncomfortable answering or to which you would simply prefer not to respond. Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary, and you will be under no obligation whatsoever to answer any questions that you are not inclined to answer. You may choose not to answer any specific questions you do not want to answer and still remain in the study.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS IF I PARTICIPATE?

You have the opportunity to reflect on your prior academic experiences and your expectations for college as you complete the survey, which can enhance self-understanding. Results of your participation also will be directly beneficial to UCLA, and may benefit future generations of college students as well.

HOW WILL INFORMATION ABOUT ME AND MY PARTICIPATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

The researchers will do their best to make sure that your private information is kept confidential. Information about you will be handled as confidentially as possible, but participating in research may involve a loss of privacy and the potential for a breach in confidentiality. Study data will be physically and electronically secured. As with any use of electronic means to store data, there is a risk of breach of data security.

Use of personal information that can identify you:

If you provide your UID, your responses will be matched with student records information including:

- Entry status
- Residency status
- Birthdate/age

- Gender identity & sexual orientation
- First generation
- Major and department
- Pell status
- Dependents
- Former foster youth
- Veteran status
- Race/ethnicity
- Term enrollment

How information about you will be stored:

Survey data will be stored on a secure UCLA server and will only be accessible to research study personnel at UCLA institutional research offices.

The research team and authorized UCLA personnel may have access to study data and records to monitor the study. Research records provided to authorized, non-UCLA personnel will not contain identifiable information about you. Publications and/or presentations that result from this study will not identify you by name. All data will be reported in the aggregate.

Employees of the University may have access to identifiable information as part of routine processing of your information, such as lab work or processing payment. However, University employees are bound by strict rules of confidentiality.

Please note that your responses will be used for research purposes only and will be strictly confidential. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. The information you provide will be combined with responses from other first year and transfer students and reported as summary statistics only.

USE OF DATA FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Your data, including de-identified data may be kept for use in future research. Your responses may be matched with other data maintained by the institution about you: for example, your demographics, enrollment records, graduation data, applicant data, and post-baccalaureate data.

WILL I BE PAID FOR MY PARTICIPATION?

As an appreciation for your time and as an incentive for participation, students who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win: Beats Studio Pro wireless over-ear headphones (1 available), Apple AirPods (3 available), JBL Clip 5 wireless speaker (3 available), and \$50 Amazon Gift Cards (12 available).

Survey incentive winners will be selected at the close of the survey. Participation in the study is not required in order to participate in the raffle. To enter the drawings without completing the survey, participants must send a self-addressed, stamped letter containing his/her full name, UID, email address, and name of survey he/she wishes to enter to: Student Affairs Information and Research Office (SAIRO), University of California, Los Angeles, 1207 Murphy Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095. This letter must be received by September 19th, 2025 to be entered in the final drawing. Winners will be randomly selected from all eligible entries received. Email notifications will be sent to all winners instructing them on how prize will be transferred and who to contact if prize credit is not received. Chances of winning are approximately 1 in 200.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?

The research team:

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the research, you can talk to the one of the researchers. Please contact:

Student Affairs Information and Research Office
1207 Murphy Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095
sairo2@saonet.ucla.edu

UCLA Office of the Human Research Protection Program (OHRPP):

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the UCLA OHRPP by phone: (310) 206-2040; by email: participants@research.ucla.edu or by mail: Box 951406, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

- You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time.
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you, and no loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.

- You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer and still remain in the study.

You may print a copy of this information to keep for your records.