

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE 2025

Who's Coming To Campus?

The Entering Student Survey (ESS) survey provides baseline data about our new student population (both first year and transfer) as they enter UCLA and allows us to better understand the student experience. It was administered online during the summer of 2025, and the survey is conducted every two years.

For more information about the survey and the instrument, visit <https://sairo.ucla.edu/by-survey/ess>

Interactions with Others and Civil Engagement

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES

% reporting that in the past year, they "often or very often" ...

2.9%
Participated in protests
or demonstrations

77.8%
Participated in
student clubs/groups

61.0%
Held a campus leadership
role

61.7%
Participated in volunteer or
community service work

61.4%
Appreciated the world from
someone else's perspective

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS FOR COLLEGE

% reporting "very likely" that they will...



7.1%
Participate in protests
or demonstrations



71.7%
Participate in
student clubs/groups



30.9%
Hold a campus leadership
role



49.4%
Participate in volunteer or
community service work



34.7%
Participate in a travel study
program

SELF RATED SKILLS % rating level of proficiency as "very good or excellent" ...

80.4%
Ability to work with
people from other
cultures/backgrounds

74.5%
Ability to collaborate
with others

63.3%
Openness to having
your own views
challenged

57.1%
Ability to analyze or
discuss global issues

60.3%
Ability to constructively
resolve conflicts
with others

Who's Coming to Campus?

Skills and Abilities

SELF RATING OF COLLEGE SKILLS

% rating level of proficiency as "very good or excellent"...



- 56.2%** Setting clear and measurable goals
- 52.1%** Breaking down a large task into smaller tasks
- 44.8%** Confidence in approaching new areas of learning
- 52.7%** Comfort seeking academic help from instructors or staff
- 56.2%** Ability to explore multiple aspects of an issue
- 58.8%** Ability to integrate feedback on academic work
- 52.6%** Communicating effectively in writing
- 51.7%** Communicating effectively verbally
- 53.5%** Ability to read and comprehend academic material
- 46.0%** Library and online information research skills
- 49.3%** Judging the trustworthiness of information
- 53.1%** Drawing insights based on analysis of data and information
- 68.7%** Using facts, evidence, and examples to support viewpoint
- 45.2%** Creative expression
- 74.5%** Ability to collaborate with others

EXPECTATIONS FOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

% indicating it is "very likely" that they will...



- 55.9%** Seek academic advising or support
- 64.0%** Seek career advising or services
- 35.7%** Explore an area of study outside your current major
- 69.6%** Have an internship
- 71.7%** Participate in student clubs/groups
- 45.5%** Feel that you belong on campus
- 55.4%** Develop a strong social/peer network on campus

CAMPUS CLIMATE

% indicating "Strongly agree"...

- 61.4%** I can see myself achieving my academic goals while at UCLA
- 79.8%** There are people in my life who want me to succeed at UCLA
- 57.1%** UCLA will provide an environment where my identities are valued
- 55.9%** UCLA will provide an environment where everyone's identities are valued
- UCLA is genuinely committed to promoting respect for and understanding of group differences**
- 59.3%** respect for and understanding of group differences

HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED

- 13.5%** Bachelor's degree (BA, BS, etc.)
- 24.3%** Master's degree (MA, MS, MBA, etc.)
- 11.8%** Doctorate (PhD, EdD, etc.)
- 23.2%** Medical (MD, OD, DDS, DVM, etc.)
- 7.6%** Law (JD)
- 14.2%** Don't know yet
- 0.3%** Other



FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE 2025

Who's Coming to Campus?

Finances

CONCERN ABOUT ABILITY TO PAY FOR COLLEGE EDUCATION

19.4% Very Concerned
20.5% Concerned
33.1% Somewhat Concerned
25.1% Not Concerned

EXPECTATIONS FOR WORK

51.5% of students indicate it is “very likely” that they will get a job to pay for college expenses

ABILITY TO BUDGET

14.9% of students rated their current ability to budget or manage finances as “excellent”

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Level of concern with accumulating educational debt

22.5% Very Concerned
18.8% Concerned
27.0% Somewhat Concerned
29.5% Not Concerned

Health and Wellbeing

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES

45.0% of students rated their average stress level as “high or very high”



22.1% of students indicated feeling depressed, stressed or upset as an obstacle to their academic success, “frequently or all the time”



57.4% of students are “worried or very worried” about being overwhelmed with all the things they’re expected to do (socially and academically)



FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

SEEK MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

12.7% Very likely
32.4% Likely
42.8% Unlikely
11.3% Very unlikely

WORRIED ABOUT ACCESS TO PSYCH SERVICES

1.4% Very Worried
5.6% Worried
26.0% A Little Worried
65.9% Not Worried