

Survey of UC Doctoral Alumni

University of California Ph.D recipients report career success and strong satisfaction with their graduate school education, according to a comprehensive survey of alumni from across UC's 10 campuses.

Conducted by UC Office of the President in partnership with campus graduate divisions and alumni associations, the survey includes responses from roughly 7,200 out of 26,000 alumni surveyed. It encompasses those who have earned a Ph.D. from UC anytime within the last 40 years.

ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

Across employment sector and discipline of study, alumni report stable careers in fields for which their degrees prepared them.

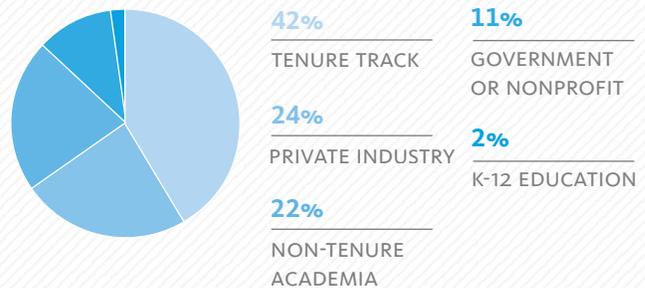
The unemployment rate among Ph.D. alumni is extremely low.

- 99 percent of Ph.D. alumni respondents were employed at the time of the survey.
- Alumni who had recently completed their studies reported similarly high levels of employment to those with many years in the job market.

Many doctoral alumni have found careers in the private sector.

- More than half of engineering and computer science graduates have gone into the private sector.
- Significant numbers of physical sciences and life sciences graduates (32 percent and 22 percent respectively) work in private industry.

WHERE DO UC DOCTORAL ALUMNI SPEND THEIR CAREERS?



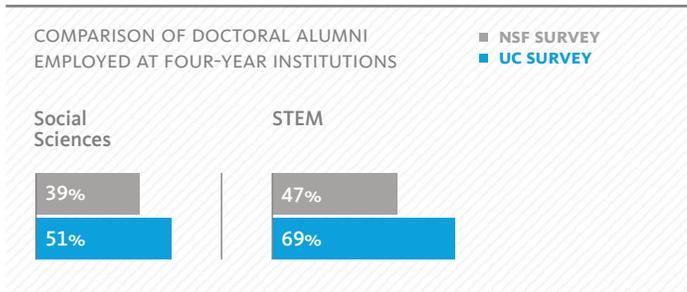
DOES NOT TOTAL 100 DUE TO ROUNDING.

- Alumni working in private industry are concentrated in highly-skilled fields: More than half are in the professional, scientific or career services sector, which includes legal, financial, architectural and engineering services. Another 11 percent are in manufacturing, 9 percent are in health care and 9 percent are in fields related to media and digital communications.

A high proportion of UC doctoral alumni work in academia.

- 64 percent of graduate alumni have spent their careers in academia, in a field closely related to their UC degree; 42 percent hold tenure track positions.
- 62 percent of arts and humanities graduates and 54 percent of social sciences graduates obtained tenure track positions.

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- UC doctoral degree-holders in STEM and the social sciences were more likely to work at four-year institutions than were Ph.D respondents to a national survey conducted by the National Science Foundation.

DEGREE SATISFACTION

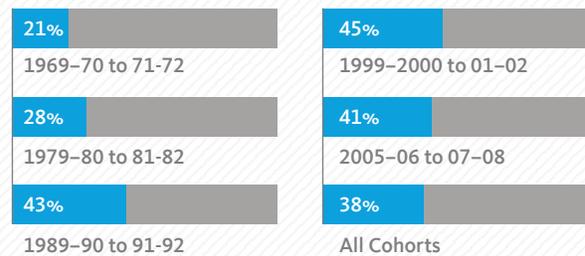
Alumni report their doctoral education as worthwhile and relevant.

- 93 percent of respondents said they would pursue a doctoral degree again.
- 88 percent of doctoral alumni surveyed said they felt “well-prepared” or “prepared” for their career after completing a doctorate from UC.
- 84 percent reported staying within the same academic field.

Skills gained in graduate school contribute to career success.

- Alumni identified academic writing skills, the practice of research methods, and presentation of work at conferences as the top three most valuable elements of their doctoral education, a finding that held true whether or not they worked in academia.

ALUMNI REPORTING STUDENT DEBT, BY SELECT GRADUATION COHORTS



- Nearly three quarters of alumni cited the reputation of their campus and program as top factors in landing a career job after graduation.

STUDENT DEBT

Even among the most recent cohorts, the majority of doctoral alumni report graduating without student debt.

- Arts and humanities and social sciences alumni were the most likely to graduate with debt (52 percent and 47 percent respectively). Engineering and computer science alumni were the least likely to do so (23 percent).
- Debt is more prevalent among recent alumni compared with graduates in the early 1970s, but has declined since a peak in the early 2000s.
- Among those alumni who did graduate with education-related loans, 40 percent reported paying off all debt within five years.