

Student Ethnicity Collection and Reporting at UC

UC and all other educational institutions that participate in federal student aid programs are required to submit race and ethnicity data to IPEDS. However, the current IPEDS definitions do not match the historical UC definitions because of changes that were introduced in 2010, making the collection of Hispanic ethnicity a separate question and introducing the concept of Two or More Races. More information on those changes is available at https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Section/ana_Changes_to_25_2007_169.

Undergraduates

At the time of application, students are currently asked two sets of questions, one for U.S. Department of Education (IPEDS) Reporting and for UC Reporting.

U.S. Department of Education Collection

These categories were developed in 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that are used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. First, individuals are asked, “Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino? Includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin.”

Second, individuals are asked “Which of the following groups best describes your racial background? Check as many categories as may apply.”

- African American or Black
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
- White

U.S. Department of Education Reporting

IPEDS requires international students to be reported as nonresident aliens regardless of any race or ethnicity they may have indicated.¹ If the student selected Hispanic or Latino, the student is reported as Hispanic/Latino. Otherwise, the student is reported according to the race category selected, or, if more than one was selected, the student is reported as “Two or More Races”.

UC Collection

Individuals are asked to provide “Which of the following groups best describes your background. Check as many categories as may apply”.

In the following list, the *italicized headings* indicate the reporting category. The **bold headings** represent the categories listed on the Undergraduate Application. The bullets represent the choices available.

¹ Nonresident aliens/International students are defined as students who are not: US citizens, permanent residents, refugees, amnesty recipients, approved petitioners, or political/religious asylees.

<i>African American / Black</i>	<i>Hispanic / Latino(a)</i>	<i>American Indian / Alaskan Native</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>White</i>
African American / Black <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American • African* • Black Caribbean * • Other African American / Black* 	Hispanic / Latino <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican / Mexican American / Chicano • Cuban /Cuban American* • Latin American / Latino* • Puerto Rican* • Other Hispanic, Latin American or of Spanish Origin 	American Indian / Alaskan Native <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Indian / Alaskan Native 	Asian / Asian American <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Indian** • Bangladeshi* • Cambodian* • Chinese /Chinese American (except Taiwanese) • Filipino / Filipino American • Hmong* • Indonesian* • Japanese / Japanese American • Korean / Korean American • Laotian* • Malaysian* • Other Asian (not including Middle Eastern) • Pakistani** • Sri Lankan* • Taiwanese / Taiwanese American* • Thai* • Vietnamese / Vietnamese American Pacific Islander <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fijian* • Guamanian / Chamorro* • Hawaiian* • Samoan* • Tongan* • Other Pacific Islander* 	Southwest Asian and North African^ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afghan • Algerian • Armenian • Assyrian / Chaldean • Azerbaijani • Bahraini • Berber • Circassian • Djiboutian • Egyptian • Emirati • Georgian • Iranian • Iraqi • Israeli • Jordanian • Kurdish • Kuwaiti • Lebanese • Libyan • Mauritanian • Moroccan • Omani • Palestinian • Qatari • Saudi Arabian • Somali • Sudanese • Syrian • Tunisian • Turkish • Yemeni • Other North African • Other Southwest Asian
				White / Caucasian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European / European descent • Other White /Caucasian* • White / Middle Eastern+ • White/ North African+

* Added in 2010

^ Added in 2014

+ Added in 2010, removed in 2014 and replaced with more detailed categories

Collected as “East Indian/Pakistani” prior to 2010; some campuses continue to aggregate and report students into this category

UC Aggregated Reporting

Students who are International are reported as such regardless of race/ethnicity.² A student's primary race/ethnicity is determined by the left-most column in the table above of all the categories selected. For most UC current reporting (such as the Accountability Report and the UC Information Center), the italicized heading at the top of the column is considered the primary race/ethnicity.

Note that campuses are provided the initial race/ethnicity data from the UC application, but the race/ethnicity of students is reported for each registration file period (twice per quarter/semester, at the third week and the end of term). It is possible that a student may update their racial/ethnic identification in campus systems, and certain aggregation may also happen in campus systems.

Pre-2010 Collection and Reporting Precedence

Prior to 2010, the data system only allowed for the collection of a single race/ethnicity. The reporting precedence was as follows:

Undergraduates	Graduate Students
1. Black	1. Black
2. Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	2. Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano
3. Other Spanish American/Latino	3. Other Spanish American/Latino
4. American Indian/Alaskan Native	4. American Indian/Alaskan Native
5. Filipino	5. Pacific Islander
6. Vietnamese	6. Vietnamese
7. Chinese	7. Filipino
8. East Indian/Pakistani	8. Japanese
9. Japanese	9. Chinese
10. Korean	10. Korean
11. Pacific Islander	11. East Indian/Pakistani
12. Other Asian	12. Other Asian
13. White/Caucasian	13. White/Caucasian
14. Unknown	14. Unknown

Graduate Students/Health Science Residents

UC systemwide guidelines encourage the same collection scheme as for undergraduates, but graduate applications are decentralized. Campuses, and in many cases, individual graduate programs, operate their own application systems and have their own schemes for collecting data³. Not all systems have been fully equipped to offer or capture all the choices provided to undergraduates. UCOP collects data according to the same categories as for undergraduates, but campuses and departments may have already applied their own processing to the data.

² See footnote 1.

³ One graduate program allows students to select "Other".