

Results from Pulse Survey #1

UC Berkeley Student Experiences in Fall 2020

30 Sept 2020

Berkeley

As we adjust to the changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Berkeley is administering Pulse Surveys every few weeks to better understand and address the needs of Cal students. From the third to the fifth week of classes, we conducted the first Pulse Survey, which asked all enrolled undergraduate (N = 31,387) and graduate students (N = 11,813) about resources, well-being, and remote instruction. The response rate was 34% (n = 10,760) among undergraduates and 38% (n = 4,484) among graduate students.

Resources our students use to keep abreast of COVID-19 updates and changes

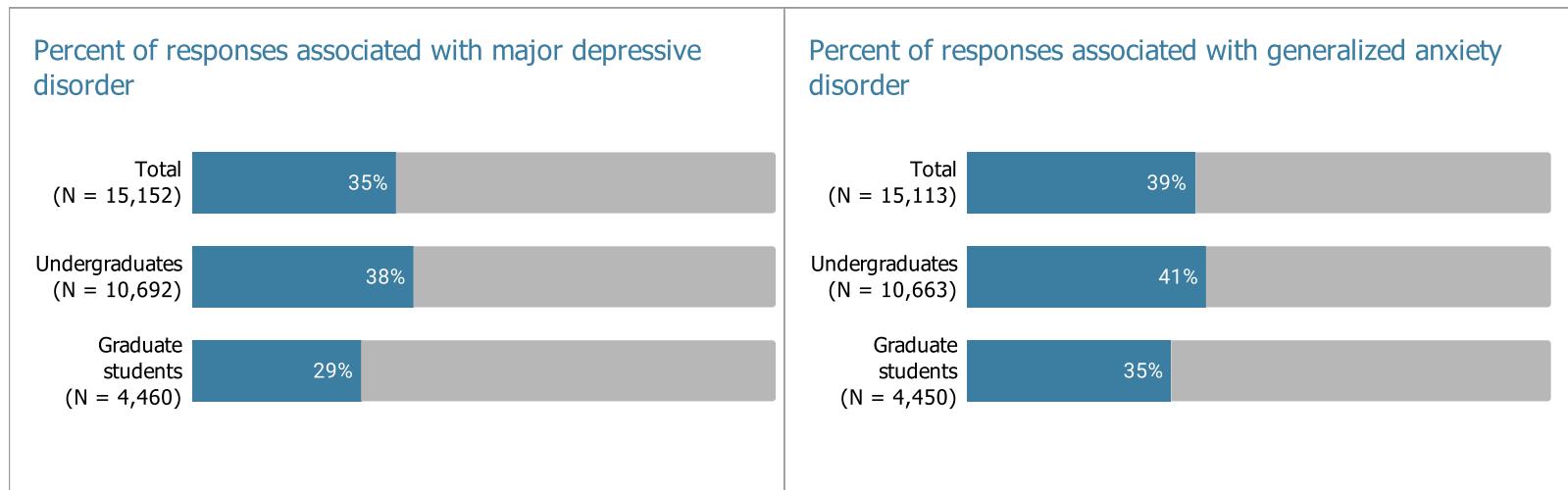


Students reported needing the following resources to improve remote instruction

Undergraduate	Graduate students	Undergraduate	Graduate students
52%	42%	Private, quiet space	Recordings of classes
42%	37%	Noise-cancelling headphones	Drawing tablet
40%	33%	Wi-Fi hotspot	Easier way to contact instructor
28%	28%	Up-to-date laptop	Easier way to contact advisor or department staff

Students now have a better idea of the resources needed to engage in remote instruction. According to the Enrollment Survey, taken by 31,139 UC Berkeley students in July and August 2020, 35% of undergraduates and 30% of graduate students had an inadequate internet connection. According to the same survey, 42% of undergraduates and 35% of graduate students lacked private space.

Student mental health



These sobering results are consistent with findings about students from other research institutions. A study¹ during the pandemic of students at other research universities using the same survey items found the prevalence of major depressive disorder to be 35% among undergraduates and 32% among graduate students. The same survey reported the prevalence of generalized anxiety disorder to be 39% among undergraduates and graduate students.

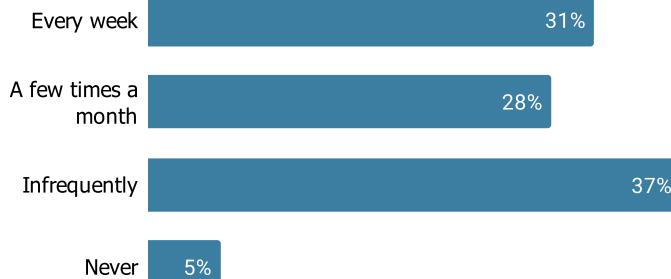
University Health Services Resources Cal students use or would use

- | | |
|--|---|
| 63% 1-on-1 appointment with UHS counselor | 51% Informal, brief consultation with UHS counselor |
| 48% UHS online articles, assessments, videos | 45% Non-UC Berkeley community resources |
| 40% Drop-in UHS counseling by phone | 37% UHS hotline emergency mental health resources |

15% of respondents did not have a need for mental health services

Many undergraduates report that their instructors are having technical difficulties

Frequency of technical issues during class



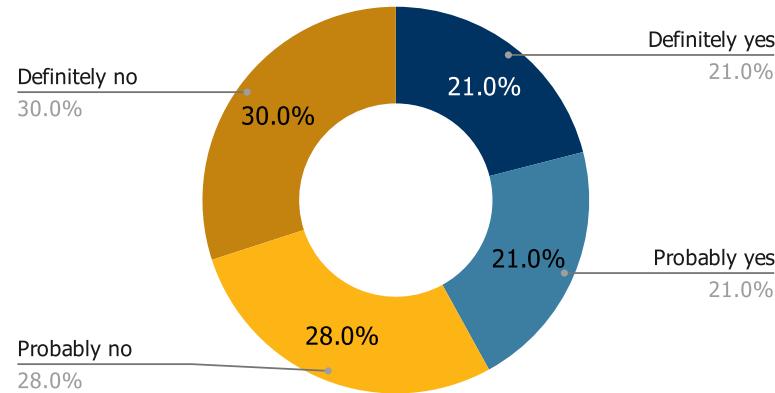
Instructors and staff have made themselves available both during and outside business hours (Pacific Time)

Undergraduates agree that instructors, advisors, and department staff are available when need them...

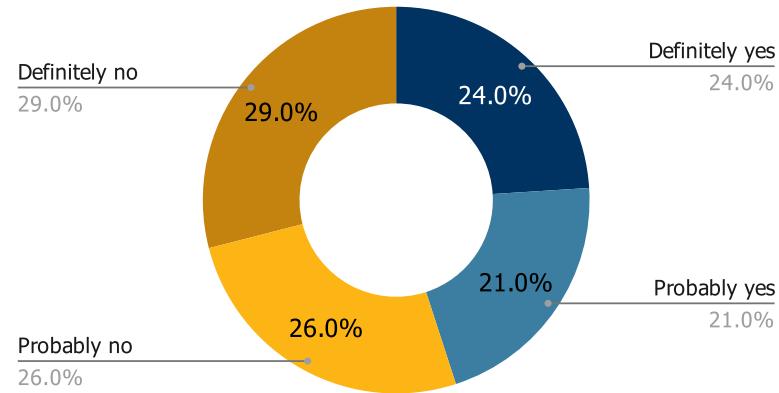


Students are split about participating in in-person classes if they were offered at some point in Fall 2020

Undergraduates (N = 10,716)



Graduate Students (N = 4,023)



¹Chirikov, I., Soria, K. M., Horgos, B., & Jones-White, D. (2020). Undergraduate and Graduate Students' Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic. UC Berkeley: Center for Studies in Higher Education. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/80k5d5hw>