



University of California,
San Diego

■ Beyond the Baccalaureate: **Survey of UCSD Bachelor Degree Recipients**

November 2005

Office of Student
Research & Information,
Student Affairs
studentresearch.ucsd.edu

Beyond the Baccalaureate: Survey of UCSD Bachelor Degree Recipients November 2005

In the spring of 2005, Student Research and Information/Student Affairs surveyed all alumni (n = 11,573) via e-mail who had earned an undergraduate degree from UCSD during the years 2000 (n = 3,530), 2001 (n = 3,711), and 2003 (n = 4,247), one, three, and four years post graduation. Attempts were also made to contact alumni by telephone and postcards. Of these UCSD graduates, 1,686 responded electronically to our web survey. Taking into account e-mail addresses deemed undeliverable (n = 2,629), the overall response rate was 19%. The number of respondents for each graduating cohort is as follows: 2000, n = 355; 2001, n = 512; 2003, n = 734; and missing cohort year, n = 85.

This report examines differences in survey responses by graduating cohort. Issues addressed include: occupational outcomes, degree attainment and objectives, salary differentials, ratings of skill attainment, measures of satisfaction, ratings of extra-curricular activities and the relationship of these activities to the undergraduate experience at UCSD.

Current Postgraduate Degrees and Credentials

While the majority of UCSD graduates go on to work full-time, the survey results also provided strong evidence that UCSD graduates continue their education beyond the bachelor's degree. The majority of respondents from each cohort report that they are either employed full-time or are pursuing a postgraduate degree or credential: 96% of the 2000 cohort, 93% of the 2001 cohort, and 90% of the 2003 cohort.

Employment/Enrollment Status

Graduating Class of :	Percentage Agreeing		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Graduate School Full-time	34%	31%	21%
Graduate School Part-time	5%	6%	6%
Employed Full-Time	51%	56%	69%
Employed Part-Time	11%	7%	6%
Unemployed/Seeking Employment	3%	4%	2%
Self-Employed	3%	4%	4%
Unemployed/Not Seeking Employment	1%	1%	1%
Other Activities	5%	5%	5%

"Overall, my experience at UCSD was great! I learned a lot and the prestige that comes with being a UCSD graduate with a biology degree helped me find a job a lot faster than I expected."
(Female, Biology major, class of 2003)

Highest Degree Objective

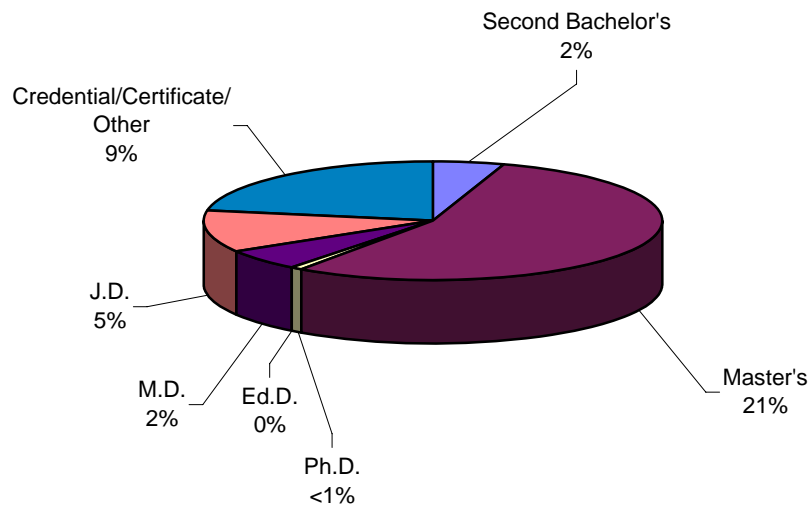
Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Bachelor's	12%	10%	14%
Master's	37%	36%	35%
Professional Doctorate	25%	21%	24%
Ph.D./Ed.D.	11%	16%	11%
Undecided	15%	18%	16%

Looking at each cohort, the data show that graduates increasingly attain master's degrees over professional and academic doctorate degrees. Of the 2000, graduates 21% report obtaining a master's, 5% a J.D., 2% a M.D. and 0.3% a Ph.D.

Current Postgraduate Degrees & Credentials

Graduating Class of :	Percentage Obtained			Percentage Pursuing		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Second Bachelor's	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Master's	7%	17%	21%	19%	15%	13%
Ph.D.	<1%	<1%	<1%	5%	10%	9%
Ed.D.	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%
M.D.	0%	1%	2%	6%	6%	4%
J.D.	<1%	3%	5%	7%	4%	2%
Credential/Certificate/Other	5%	12%	9%	8%	7%	5%

1999/2000 Postgraduate Degrees & Credentials Obtained



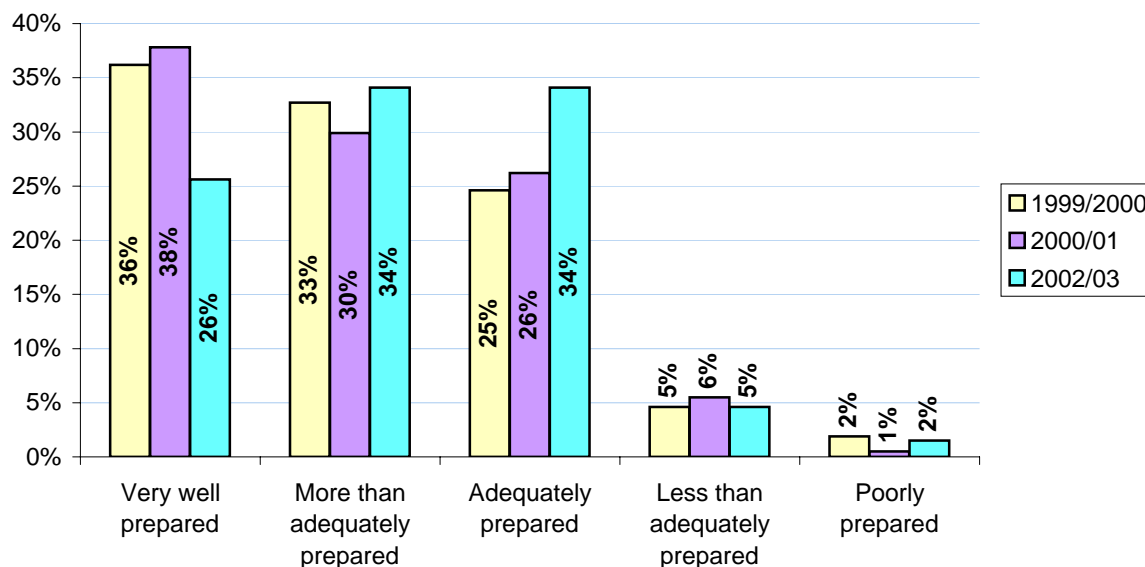
How Well UCSD Prepared Undergraduates for Graduate School

The data suggest that UCSD students were prepared to very well prepared for the rigors of graduate school. Interestingly, the later graduating cohorts, who may have completed their graduate/professional school education compared to the 2002-2003 graduates who may still be enrolled, yielded slightly higher ratings with regard to being prepared for graduate school. When asked to rate how prepared they were for graduate/professional school, 69% of the 2000 and 68% of the 2001 graduates indicated they were more than adequately to very well prepared, compared to 60% of the 2003 graduates.

How well did UCSD prepare you for graduate/professional school?

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Very well prepared	26%	38%	36%
More than adequately prepared	34%	30%	33%
Adequately prepared	34%	26%	25%
Less than adequately prepared	5%	6%	5%
Poorly prepared	2%	1%	2%

How well did UCSD prepare you for graduate/professional school?



"I think it's academically very fulfilling. The courses in my major were great and helped me very much in my graduate university."

(Male, Animal Physiology/Neuroscience major, class of 2003)

"The academic program rocked. The research was absolutely top notch. Loads of opportunities to do research and find a job in your field. Loved the anthropology program, bio program prepared me well for lab work and medical school."

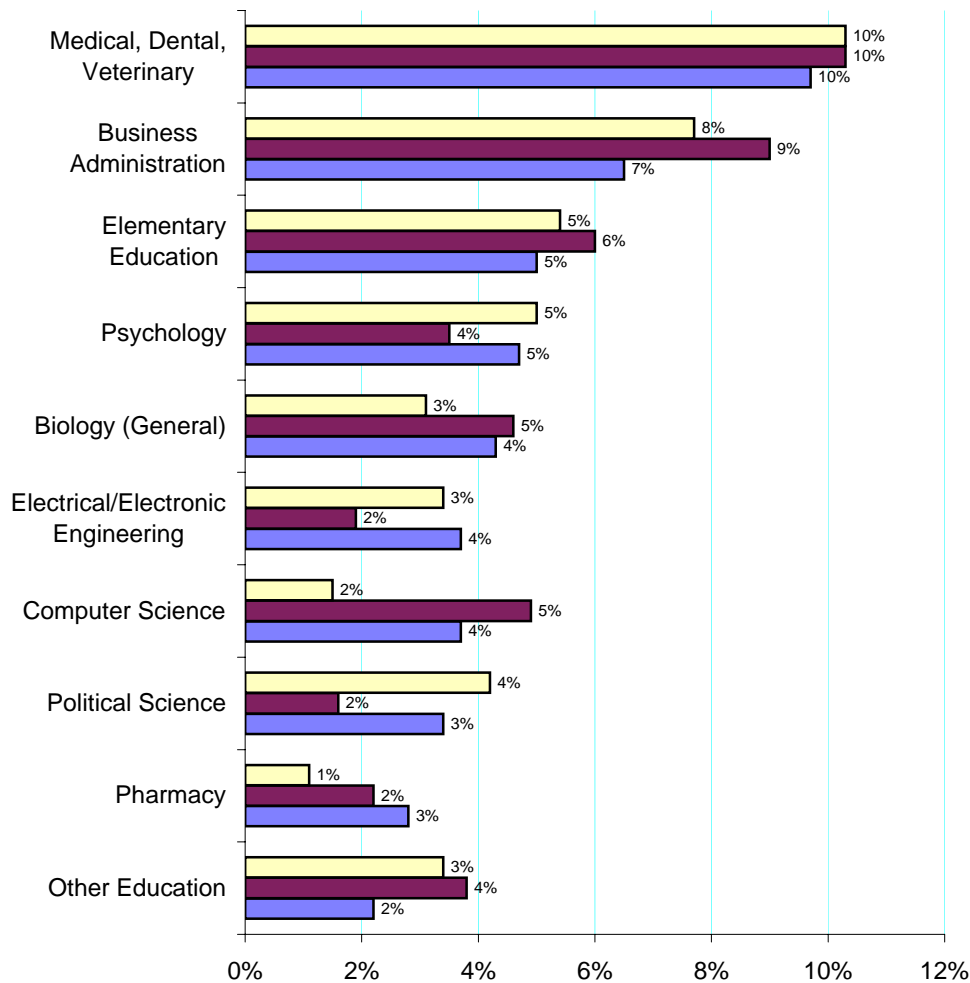
(Female, Biochemistry/Cell Biology major, class of 2003)

Primary Field of Graduate Study (Top 10)

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Medical, Dental, Veterinary	10%	10%	10%
Business Administration	7%	9%	8%
Elementary Education	5%	6%	5%
Psychology	5%	4%	5%
Biology (General)	4%	5%	3%
Computer Science	4%	5%	2%
Electrical/Electronic Engineering	4%	2%	3%
Political Science	3%	2%	4%
Pharmacy	3%	2%	1%
Other Education	2%	4%	3%

UCSD graduates attained advanced academic degrees in a wide variety of fields of study. In general, the top fields of study for those students either planning to obtain, are pursuing or have obtained an advanced degree include medical/dental/veterinary, business administration, elementary education, psychology or biology.

Primary Field of Graduate Study (Top 10)



■ 1999/2000
■ 2000/01
■ 2002/03

"UCSD paves the road to pursuing higher level education. As a Sociology major, there was no problem seeing that a graduate degree in Sociology was logical and attainable."

(Female, Sociology major, class of 2003)

Master's - Pursuing, Plan to or Have Obtained

	Percentage
	All Cohorts
Business Administration (General)	11%
Elementary Education	7%
Psychology	5%
Other Education	4%
Computer Science	4%
Electrical or Electronic Engineering	4%
Secondary Education	4%
Biology (General)	4%
Political Science (Government, International Relations)	4%
Medical, Dental, Veterinary	3%
Management	2%
Art, Fine and Applied	2%
Economics	2%
Mechanical Engineering	2%
Nursing	2%
Social Work	2%
Finance	2%
Other Social Science	2%
Communications (Radio, TV, etc.)	1%
Other Engineering	1%

Those who obtained, are pursuing, or plan to pursue a master's degree most often studied business administration, elementary education, psychology, other education, or computer science. Ph.D. recipients most frequently pursued, are pursuing, or plan to pursue a degree in psychology, biology, chemistry, political science, or other biological science.

Ph.D. - Pursuing, Plan to or Have Obtained

	Percentage
	All Cohorts
Psychology	12%
Biology (General)	8%
Chemistry	5%
Political Science (Government, International Relations)	5%
Other Biological Science	4%
Other Engineering	4%
Computer Science	3%
Electrical or Electronic Engineering	3%
Biochemistry or Biophysics	3%
Microbiology or Bacteriology	3%
Economics	3%
Medical, Dental, Veterinary	3%
Other Education	3%
Physics	3%
Elementary Education	2%
Other Social Science	2%
Sociology	2%
Earth Science	2%
English (Language and Literature)	2%
Mechanical Engineering	2%

"The difficulty of the program made my graduate experience seem very easy. I feel I came out of UCSD a confident, educated graduate."

(Female,
Anthropology major,
class of 2003)

Employment Activity: Readiness for Employment

When asked, "How well did UCSD prepare you for your current employment?" alumni from each cohort gave UCSD high marks for preparing them for their current or latest position. Over 90% of the 2000 cohort reported that they were "adequately" to "very well" prepared for employment. At the same time, graduates from each cohort reported high levels of job satisfaction.

How satisfied are you with your current employment?

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Very satisfied	30%	37%	37%
Satisfied	41%	45%	44%
Neutral	18%	12%	11%
Dissatisfied	7%	5%	5%
Very dissatisfied	4%	1%	3%

"UCSD's outstanding staff, rigorous coursework and stimulating curriculum prepares undergraduates to become highly effective, critical thinkers in the post-university setting."

(Male, Psychology major,
class of 2001)

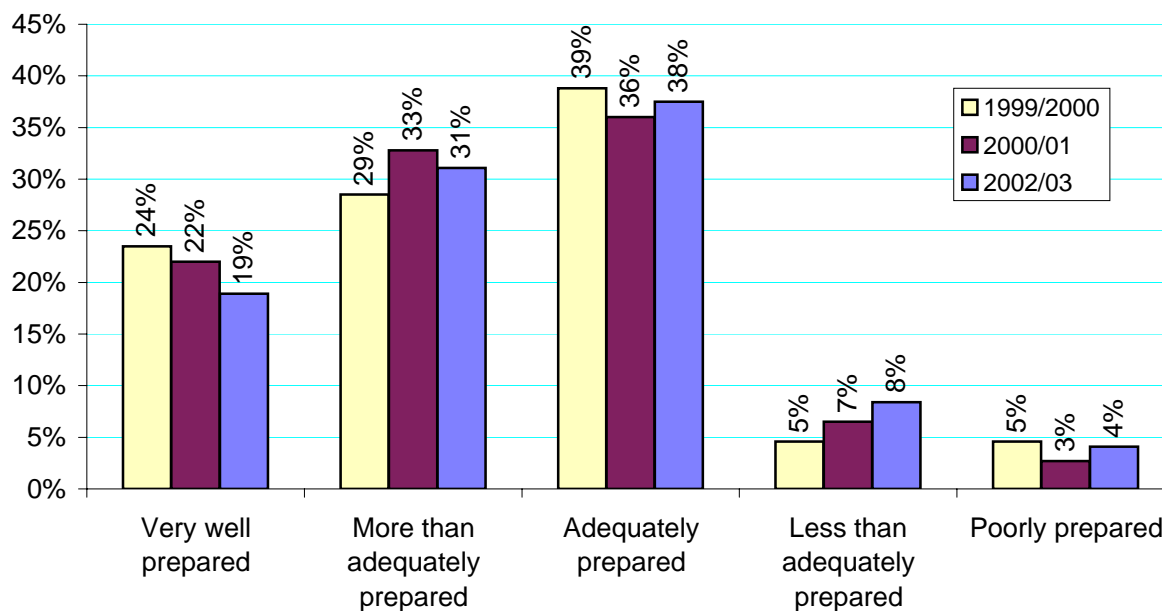
How well did UCSD prepare you for your current employment?

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Very well prepared	19%	22%	24%
More than adequately prepared	31%	33%	29%
Adequately prepared	38%	36%	39%
Less than adequately prepared	8%	7%	5%
Poorly prepared	4%	3%	5%

"UCSD provides a strong foundation to go out into the world and succeed in any area."

(Female,
Human Development major,
class of 2000)

How well did UCSD prepare you for your current employment?



Salaries

Of those respondents who reported that they were currently employed full-time, 99% supplied salary data. As the tables show, salaries vary by occupation, industry and cohort. As a means of comparison, the national average wage for all “covered” workers in the USA in 2002 was \$36,764. The average salary in California in 2002 was \$41,419 and in the city of San Diego, the average salary for 2002 was \$39,305.² The average salary reported by UCSD graduates is approximately 46% higher than the San Diego average. The average salary reported by UCSD graduates was \$53,303 for the 2000 graduating cohort, \$50,831 for the 2001 cohort and \$40,451 for the 2003 cohort.

² Economic News Release of the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, available at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/msa2002.pdf>, <http://www.bls.gov/cew/state2002.pdf>

Annual Income

Graduating Class of :	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Mean Annual Income	\$40,451	\$50,831	\$53,303
Median Annual Income	\$38,000	\$45,000	\$47,750

Current Occupation/Field of Employment (Top 10)

Graduating Class of :	2002/03		2000/01		1999/2000	
	%	Average Annual Salary	%	Average Annual Salary	%	Average Annual Salary
Teacher (Elementary/Secondary)	8%	\$29,654	12%	\$35,512	8%	\$42,357
Engineer	8%	\$52,307	5%	\$66,959	8%	\$69,529
Scientific Researcher	5%	\$31,885	3%	\$38,990	4%	\$38,625
Business Sales/Buyer	4%	\$43,871	1%	\$49,250	1%	\$76,667
Research Analyst	4%	\$35,833	2%	\$42,552	2%	\$46,800
Business (Clerical)	4%	\$30,759	2%	\$31,900	1%	\$35,000
Computer/Software Engineer	3%	\$64,271	7%	\$66,675	5%	\$87,221
Computer Programmer/Analyst	3%	\$42,909	3%	\$69,427	2%	\$62,800
Accountant/Actuary	2%	\$34,419	2%	\$44,047	3%	\$41,765
College Administrator/Staff	2%	\$24,370	3%	\$31,400	3%	\$36,000



Additional Occupations/Fields of Employment

Graduating Class of :	2002/03		2000/01		1999/2000	
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average
	%	Annual Salary	%	Annual Salary	%	Annual Salary
Artist/Designer	1%	\$44,375	2%	\$35,167	2%	\$29,440
Biochemist/Engineer	2%	\$43,571	1%	\$49,000	3%	\$48,000
College Professor/Instructor	1%	\$18,333	2%	\$18,694	2%	\$36,800
Dentist/Orthodontist	0%	\$30,000	0%	--	1%	\$39,250
Educational Administrator	2%	\$28,501	2%	\$39,071	2%	\$33,900
Lab Technician/Hygienist	1%	\$26,678	1%	\$37,500	1%	\$37,372
Law Enforcement/Criminologist	1%	\$33,000	1%	\$80,000	1%	\$53,500
Lawyer/Judge	2%	\$21,000	2%	\$56,000	5%	\$69,182
Marketing Rep/Advertising	2%	\$40,786	2%	\$47,000	1%	\$46,000
Nurse	0%	\$22,000	0%	--	1%	\$52,667
Pharmacist	1%	\$23,000	1%	--	1%	\$24,000
Physician	0%	--	1%	\$37,000	3%	\$38,360
Physicist	0%	\$20,000	0%	\$18,000	0%	--
Policymaker/Government	1%	\$36,634	1%	\$31,767	1%	\$54,000
Psychologist	0%	--	0%	\$13,000	1%	\$22,500
Social/Welfare Worker	2%	\$25,090	2%	\$34,740	2%	\$32,250
Software Developer/Engineer	1%	\$58,250	1%	\$83,000	3%	\$71,808
Stockbroker/Financial Analyst	1%	\$40,300	2%	\$59,750	1%	\$51,250
Therapist (Physical/Occupational/Speech)	1%	\$12,510	1%	\$39,000	1%	\$54,110
Web Developer	0%	--	1%	\$55,000	0%	\$34,000
Writer/Journalist	0%	\$14,400	2%	\$29,600	0%	\$33,920
Total	100%	\$37,781	100%	\$47,043	100%	\$50,297



The UCSD Experience: A Look Back

The most popular extra-curricular activities cited by alumni across each cohort include student clubs and organizations, interdisciplinary course-work, community service/volunteer work, working on/off campus and research with faculty. Similarly, the extra curricular activities deemed most important in their current activities include, employment on/off campus, interdisciplinary coursework, research with faculty, community service/volunteer work and student clubs and organizations.

Participated In:

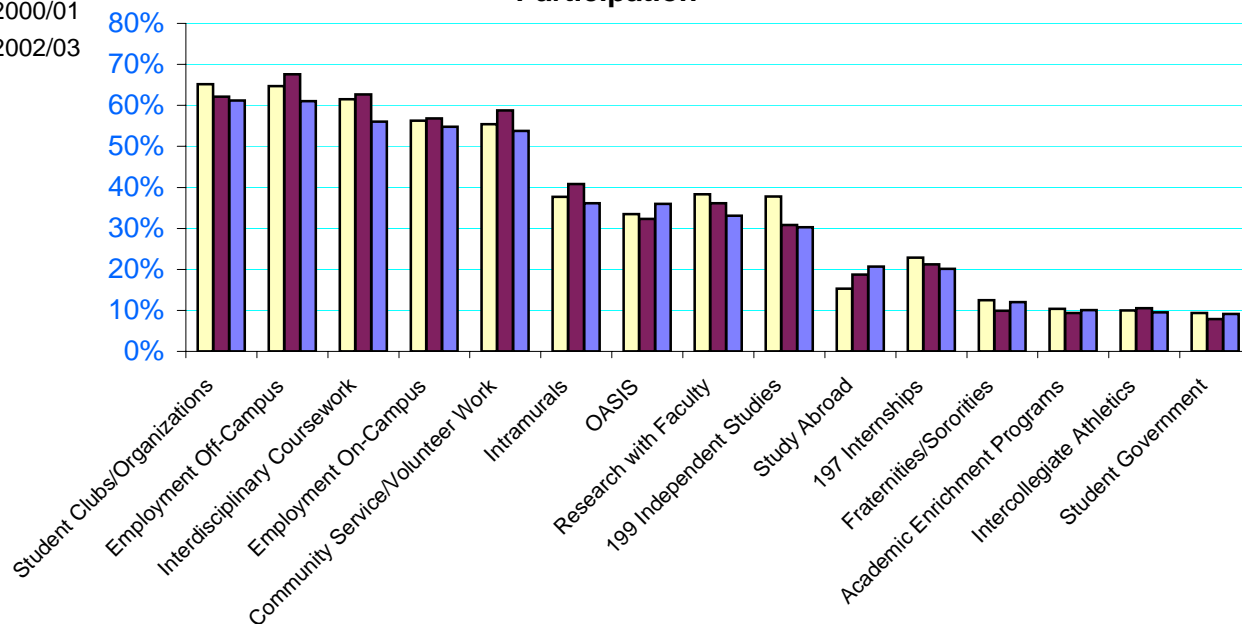
Graduating Class of :	Percentage Participating			Percentage Reporting "Important" or "Very Important"		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Student Clubs/Organizations	61%	62%	65%	50%	50%	48%
Employment Off-Campus	61%	68%	65%	62%	58%	59%
Interdisciplinary Coursework	56%	63%	62%	59%	59%	62%
Employment On-Campus	55%	57%	56%	56%	51%	58%
Community Service/Volunteer Work	54%	59%	55%	54%	55%	56%
Intramurals	36%	41%	38%	26%	28%	24%
OASIS	36%	32%	34%	42%	37%	43%
Research with Faculty	33%	36%	38%	55%	53%	59%
199 Independent Studies	30%	31%	38%	46%	40%	54%
Study Abroad	21%	19%	15%	39%	35%	30%
197 Internships	20%	21%	23%	39%	38%	41%
Fraternities/Sororities	12%	10%	13%	15%	12%	11%
Academic Enrichment Programs	10%	9%	10%	24%	20%	25%
Intercollegiate Athletics	10%	11%	10%	17%	18%	17%
Student Government	9%	8%	9%	13%	11%	14%

1999/2000

2000/01

2002/03

Participation



The UCSD Experience: Measures of Satisfaction

Alumni were asked to provide their level of satisfaction on a series of items including: undergraduate instruction, academic programs, academic advising, and the campus environment. Alumni consistently report high levels of satisfaction with regard to their education at UCSD. Over 85% of alumni report being satisfied with their overall academic experience at UCSD. Similarly, across each cohort, alumni report being satisfied with faculty instruction in their major, the variety of classes offered, the availability of courses needed to graduate and the course content in their major.

The UCSD Experience: School Satisfaction

	<i>Percentage Reporting "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied"</i>		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Graduating Class of :			
Undergraduate Instruction			
Faculty Instruction in Major	82%	86%	88%
Faculty Instruction Overall	76%	79%	84%
Faculty Instruction in General Education Courses	71%	73%	75%
TA/Graduate Student Instruction	65%	69%	72%
Faculty Attitude Toward Students	61%	66%	67%
Academic Programs			
Variety of Courses Offered	83%	85%	85%
Availability of Courses Needed to Graduate	80%	81%	80%
Course Content in Major	79%	81%	79%
Availability of Courses in General	78%	80%	80%
Flexibility of Degree Requirements	71%	76%	72%
Opportunities for Research/Independent Study	56%	61%	59%
Opportunities for Study Abroad	47%	51%	41%
Academic Advising			
Major Department Academic Advising (Department Staff)	58%	60%	60%
Academic Advising Overall	56%	60%	59%
Major Department Academic Advising (Faculty)	55%	56%	56%
College Academic Advising	54%	55%	53%
Campus Environment			
Overall Academic Experience	86%	89%	90%
Satisfaction with UCSD in General	84%	88%	87%
Overall Experience at College	77%	82%	82%
Relationships with Other Students	68%	75%	74%
Overall Social Experience	63%	70%	67%
Opportunities for Involvement in Campus Activities	58%	65%	68%
Opportunities for Involvement in Campus Activities at College	57%	59%	65%
Overall Cultural Experience	55%	66%	62%
Relationships with Faculty	54%	56%	61%
Atmosphere of Ethnic Understanding	54%	60%	58%
Relationship with Staff at College	52%	58%	62%
Opportunities for Community Service/Involvement	52%	63%	61%
Relationships with Administrative Staff	48%	50%	57%
Atmosphere of Political Understanding	44%	47%	52%
Atmosphere of Religious Understanding	42%	49%	50%

Campus Climate

Campus Life

Graduating Class of :	Percentage Reporting "Agree" or "Strongly Agree"		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Campus was safe and secure	95%	95%	96%
Felt welcome at UCSD	75%	81%	79%
Teaching faculty were helpful	72%	75%	78%
Students were friendly	69%	77%	78%
Administrative staff were helpful	63%	69%	67%

In regard to campus climate issues, almost all alumni agreed that the campus was safe and secure. The majority of graduates felt welcome at UCSD, thought the teaching faculty and administrative staff were helpful and that students were friendly.

General Attitude Toward UCSD

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Very Positive	39%	52%	45%
Positive	47%	39%	45%
Neutral	9%	7%	6%
Negative	4%	2%	3%
Very Negative	1%	0%	1%

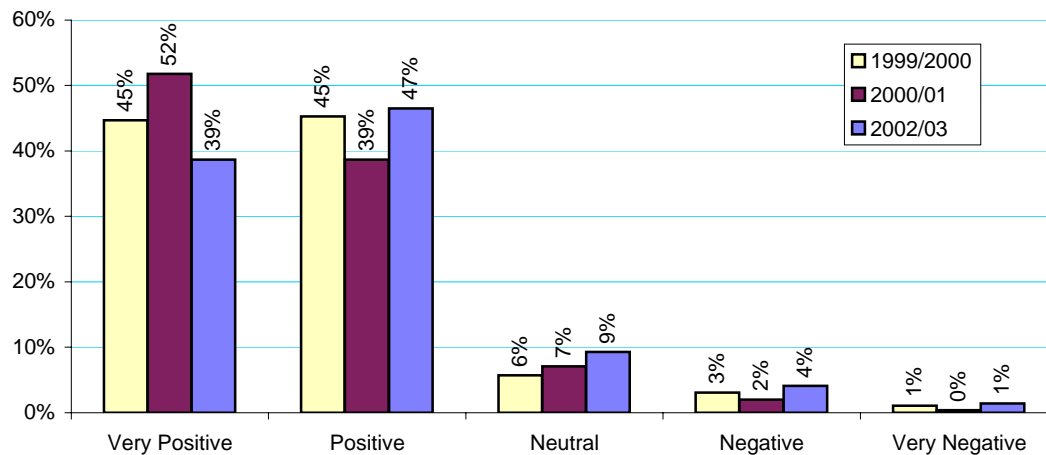
"My UCSD college experience will forever be one of the greatest times in my life. I made some of my very best, life-long friends there, got a wonderful education, and I got a terrifically well rounded college experience. I am very proud to be a UCSD Alumni!"

(Female, Psychology major, class of 2003)

General Attitude Toward Undergraduate College

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Very Positive	37%	48%	51%
Positive	41%	37%	35%
Neutral	16%	12%	11%
Negative	4%	3%	2%
Very Negative	1%	1%	1%

General Attitude Toward UCSD



Another measure of satisfaction with the institution is whether one would recommend the university to someone considering attending. The majority of UCSD graduates said they would recommend UCSD to students considering attending. In addition, most graduates indicated that they would also recommend their college at UCSD to students considering enrolling.

Would You Recommend UCSD to Someone Considering Attending?

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Definitely Yes	55%	67%	63%
Probably Yes	34%	26%	29%
Probably No	5%	4%	4%
Definitely No	2%	1%	1%
Uncertain	4%	2%	3%

"Overall love the experience and continually encourage people to apply to UCSD."

(Male, Biochemistry/Cell Biology major, class of 2001)

"My experiences at UCSD were wonderful and I've recommended the school time and time again to those deciding on where to go to college."

(Female, Human Development major, class of 2000)

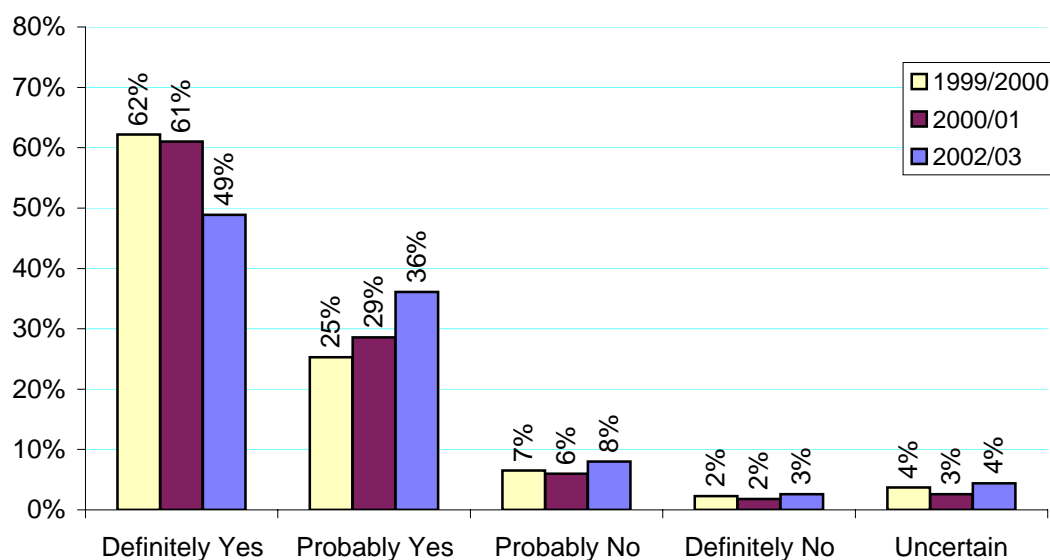
Would You Recommend Your Undergraduate College to Someone Considering Attending?

Graduating Class of :	Percentage		
	2002/03	2000/01	1999/2000
Definitely Yes	49%	61%	62%
Probably Yes	36%	29%	25%
Probably No	8%	6%	7%
Definitely No	3%	2%	2%
Uncertain	4%	3%	4%

"I loved my overall experience at UCSD - especially the research opportunities. I felt very prepared for grad school."

(Female, Psychology major, class of 2000)

Would You Recommend Your Undergraduate College to Someone Considering Attending?



"My husband and I are both UCSD alumni and very proud of the education we received. We loved our experience at UCSD and I encourage all the teenagers I know to look into UCSD as an option for college."

(Female, Physics major, class of 2000)

Another way to examine the ratings of the importance of UCSD experiences to one's current activities is to rank the mean ratings and compare the rankings. Instances of congruence between rankings of importance and preparation included problem solving skills, writing skills, and ability to learn on one's own/engage in self-critique. Each of these skills received high rankings for both importance and level of preparation. On the other end of the continuum, knowledge of Art, Music and Literature, knowledge of History, society, political affairs and economic affairs, and knowledge of other parts of the world/other people both received low rankings of importance and level of preparation. Instances of incongruence stemming from a disjuncture between a ranking of high importance and low level of preparation include interpersonal skills, oral communication skills, ability to function as a team member, leadership skills, and computer skills. Similarly, one skill ranked low on importance and high on level of preparation was research skills. Knowledge of science and technology, and understanding difference philosophies and cultures was also ranking low on importance and high on level of preparation.

	Mean Rating of Importance	Rank of Importance	Mean Rating of Preparation	Rank of Preparation	Difference in Rankings
■ Problem Solving Skills	1.0	1	1.8	2	-1
■ Ability to Get Along with Different Kinds of People	1.0	2	1.9	6	-4
■ Oral Communication Skills	1.1	3	2.3	16	-13
■ Interpersonal Skills	1.1	4	2.2	14	-10
■ Function as Team Member	1.1	5	2.0	10	-5
■ Ability to Learn on Own/Engage in Self Critique	1.1	6	1.8	3	3
■ Writing Skills	1.2	7	1.8	4	3
■ Quantitative Skills	1.2	8	1.7	1	7
■ Leadership Skills	1.2	9	2.3	15	-6
■ Computer Skills	1.2	10	2.1	13	-3
■ Research Skills	1.3	11	1.9	5	6
■ Knowledge of Science & Technology	1.4	12	1.9	7	5
■ Knowledge of Other Parts of the World/Other People	1.5	13	2.0	9	4
■ Understanding Different Philosophies & Cultures	1.6	14	1.9	8	6
■ Knowledge of History, Society, Political Affairs, & Economic Affairs	1.7	15	2.1	11	4
■ Knowledge of Art, Music, & Literature	1.9	16	2.1	12	4

Ratings of Importance and Preparation in Skill Areas

Alumni were asked to respond to a battery of items concerning skill areas on two dimensions: the level of importance to current activities and the level of preparation they received from UCSD. As the pattern of responses for each cohort was similar, responses were collapsed into one table. As shown, problem solving skills, oral communication skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to get along with different kinds of people were cited as the most important skills needed in their current activities. Problem solving skills, ability to learn on one's own/engage in self-critique, and knowledge of science and technology were cited as the areas in which UCSD provided the best preparation.

"UCSD prepared me for a career in science and research as well as exposed me to literature and theatre arts."

(Female, Anthropology major, class of 2000)



Importance of UCSD Experience to Current Activities

	<i>"Important" or "Very Important" to Current Activities</i>	<i>"Adequately" to "Very Well" Prepared by UCSD</i>
Problem Solving Skills	99%	95%
Oral Communication Skills	99%	75%
Interpersonal Skills	99%	80%
Ability to Get Along with Different Kinds of People	99%	90%
Ability to Learn on Own/Engage in Self-Critique	98%	92%
Function as a Team Member	98%	86%
Writing Skills	95%	93%
Computer Skills	94%	83%
Quantitative Reasoning Skills	94%	96%
Leadership Skills	93%	76%
Research Skills	88%	90%
Knowledge of Science and Technology	82%	91%
Knowledge of Other Parts of the World/Other People	78%	84%
Knowledge of Different Philosophies and Cultures	76%	87%
Knowledge of History/Society/Political Affairs/Economic Affairs	70%	83%
Knowledge of Art/Music/Literature	51%	82%

"Academically I felt extremely well prepared for graduate school - possibly better than anyone else in my graduate program."

(Female, Animal Physiology/Neuroscience major, class of 2000)

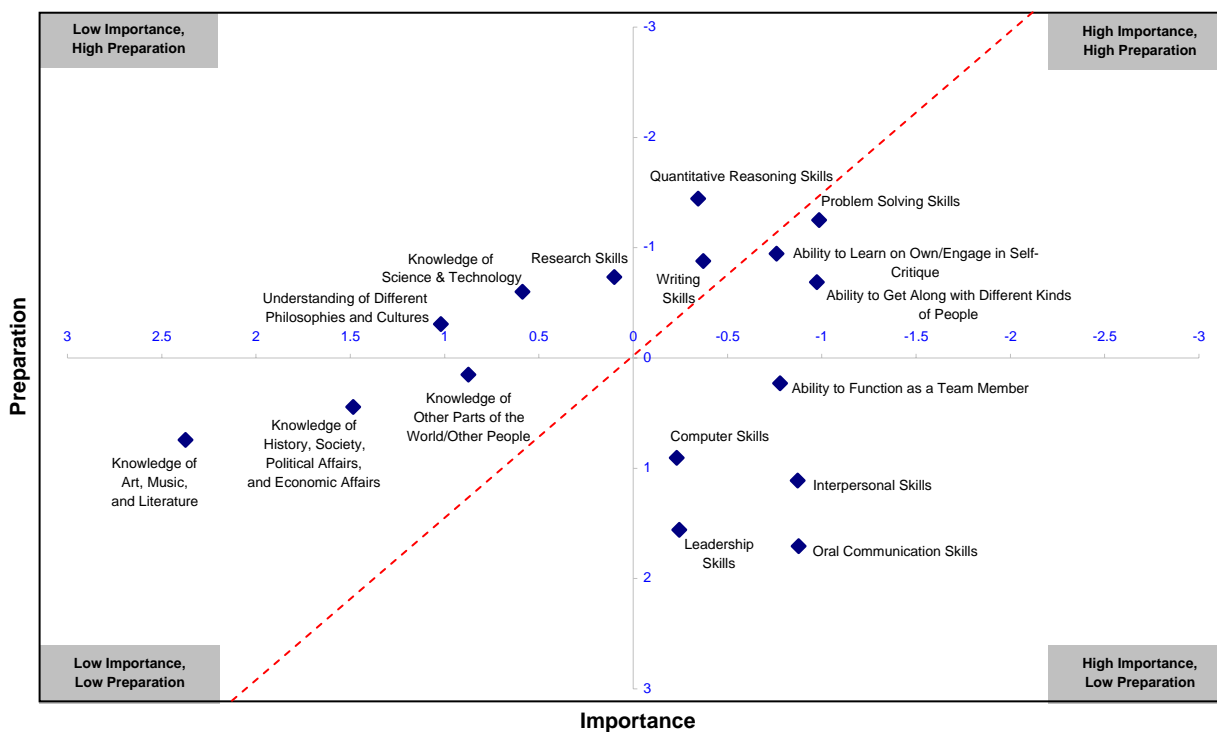
An examination of the congruence between rankings of importance and rankings of level of preparation produced insight into areas where the needs of alumni were met and where they may have been underserved. As shown in the graph below, skill areas falling closest to the diagonal dashed lines are those with the greatest congruence between ratings.



"You come out with an incredibly strong foundation for the next adventure you chose to engage in."

(Female,
Animal Physiology/Neuroscience major,
class of 2003)

Congruence of Importance and Preparation



Note: The response options for the importance questions run from: (1) very important to (3) not important. The response options for the preparation questions run from: (1) very well prepared to (5) poorly prepared.



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