

# UCSC Graduation Survey 2003

## Research Experiences

During the 2003 spring quarter undergraduates who filed an on-time petition to graduate were invited to participate in an on-line graduation survey. Of the 2,006 filers, 690 answered at least part of the survey for an overall response rate of 34%. Among other topics, students were surveyed about the extent of their research experiences as a student at UC Santa Cruz. Descriptive statistics for each of the research items are presented below.

Thirty-one percent of respondents reported conducting their own self-designed research project, either as part of a class, for independent study, or as a capstone experience, and nearly 20% had worked as a research assistant on a faculty member's research. By far, the majority of those who had participated in the research process at either of these levels found it to be an extremely important part of their overall educational experience at UC Santa Cruz.

1) How many times did you work as a research assistant on a faculty member's research project while you were a student at UCSC?

<b>N</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4+</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
642	81%	10%	6%	1%	2%	1.33	.80

2) How would you rate the quality of your experience working on a faculty research project?

<b>N</b>	<b>Poor (1)</b>	<b>Fair (2)</b>	<b>Good (3)</b>	<b>Very Good (4)</b>	<b>Excellent (5)</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
120	2%	8%	19%	24%	47%	4.06	1.07

3) Who did you work most closely with on the faculty research project(s) that you were involved with?

<b>N</b>	120
Other undergraduate students	18%
A graduate student	35%
The faculty member(s) whose project it was	48%

4) How important would you say working on faculty research was to your career planning?

N	120
Not At All Important (1)	9%
Not Very Important (2)	15%
Somewhat Important (3)	33%
Extremely Important (4)	43%
Mean	3.09
Standard Deviation	0.97

5) How important would you say working on faculty research was to your overall educational experience at UCSC?

N	119
Not At All Important (1)	4%
Not Very Important (2)	8%
Somewhat Important (3)	31%
Extremely Important (4)	56%
Mean	3.39
Standard Deviation	0.82

6) How satisfied were you with the availability of research opportunities at UCSC?

N	592
Very Dissatisfied (1)	18%
Somewhat Dissatisfied (2)	37%
Somewhat Satisfied (3)	35%
Very Satisfied (4)	10%
Mean	2.37
Standard Deviation	0.89

7) While enrolled at UCSC did you conduct your own self-designed research project?

N	Yes	No
640	31%	69%

8) Did you conduct your own self-designed research project...?

N	195
as your capstone experience	16%
as part of your coursework	54%
for independent study credit	18%
Other	12%

9) How important would you say conducting your own research was on your career planning?

N	195
Not At All Important (1)	6%
Not Very Important (2)	17%
Somewhat Important (3)	42%
Very Important (4)	35%
Mean	3.07
Standard Deviation	0.87

10) How important would you say conducting your own research was to your overall educational experience?

N	195
Not At All Important (1)	1%
Not Very Important (2)	5%
Somewhat Important (3)	33%
Very Important (4)	61%
Mean	3.54
Standard Deviation	0.64