

Graduate COVID-19 Needs/Concerns Survey Results 5/18/2020

The **Survey of COVID-19 Related Needs & Concerns** was administered to all Graduate Students enrolled at Spring 2020 Census. The survey was structured in two parts: part one focused on basic needs concerns while part two concentrated on concerns over academic progress and productivity.

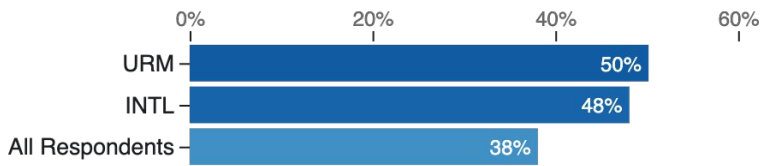
Of the 11,477 students invited, 2,455 (21.4%) completed the survey. As a whole, Whites (26%), Underrepresented Minorities (URM) (23%) and those of unknown ethnicity (23%) responded at a higher rate while Asian/Pacific Islander (16%) and International (18%) students were somewhat less likely to respond. Graphics in this report were chosen to highlight differences in responses among groups.

Housing & Basic Needs

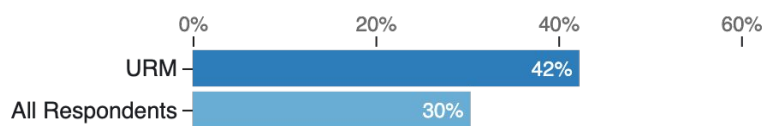
Half of URM respondents and nearly half (**48%**) of International students indicated that they were concerned or very concerned about their ability to pay for **housing** after May during the COVID-19 crisis — at least **10%** more than all respondents taken together.

42% of URM students indicated that they were concerned or very concerned about meeting other **basic needs** such as food or medicine after May — **12%** more than all students who answered this question.

How concerned are you about your ability to pay for housing after next month during the COVID-19 crisis?



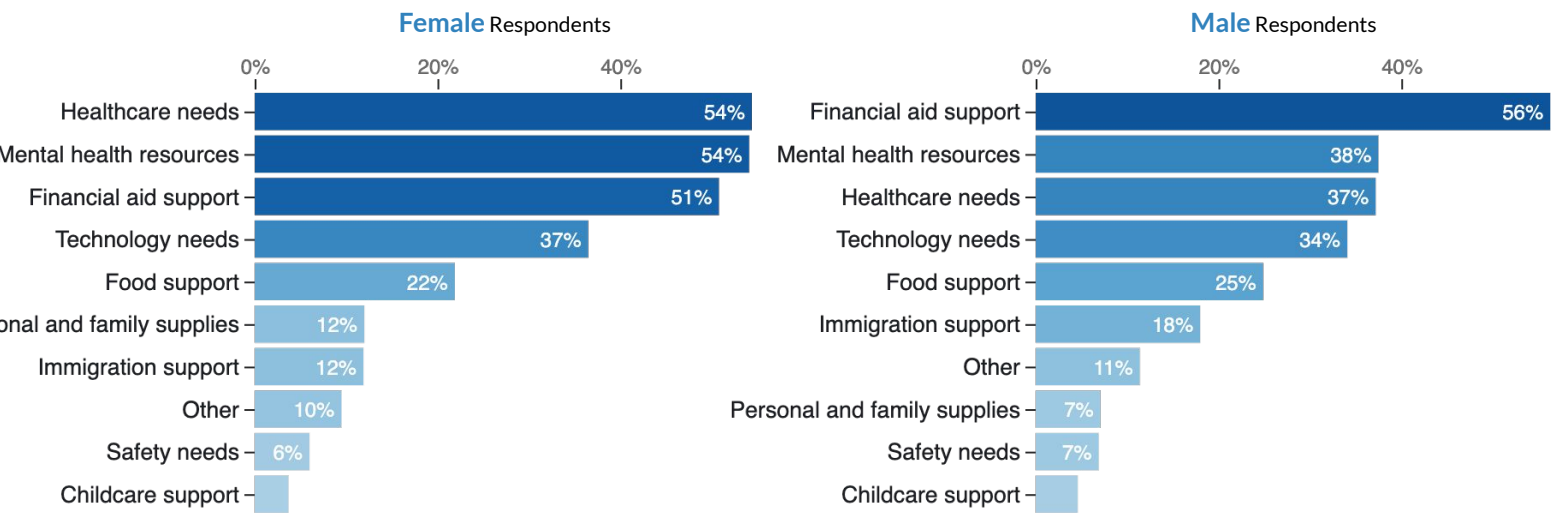
How concerned are you about your meeting your other basic needs (e.g., food, medicine, etc.) AFTER the next 30 days during the COVID-19 crisis?



“It’s been really difficult. Both of my parents are unemployed, I’ve had two deaths in the family, one of my uncles is recovering from COVID19, and yesterday I found out that my internship offer has been withdrawn due to the virus. I can no longer count on that income.” - a student comment

Regarding expected campus support needs, **female** students were more likely (**54%**) to choose **Healthcare needs** while **male** respondents favored **Financial Aid support** (**56%**). Both female and male respondents also identified a strong need for **Mental health resources**, with **16%** more females choosing this option than males.

What types of campus support/resources do you envision you would need in the coming 8 weeks?



“I am very concerned how this will impact my stipend, my field placement (internship) next academic year, my graduation date, and my employment. I’m worried I won’t learn the necessary skills to prepare me for being the social worker I hope to be after graduation.” - a student comment

Academic Progress & Productivity

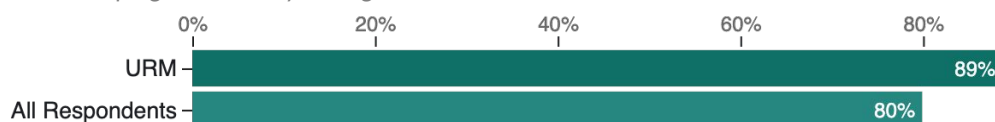
URM students were **12%** more likely than other respondents to say that the challenges associated with the transition to distance learning has negatively impacted their **mental health** and/or overall sense of well-being:

How much would you say that the challenges associated with your transition from "normal operations" to distance learning have negatively impacted your mental health and/or overall sense of well-being?

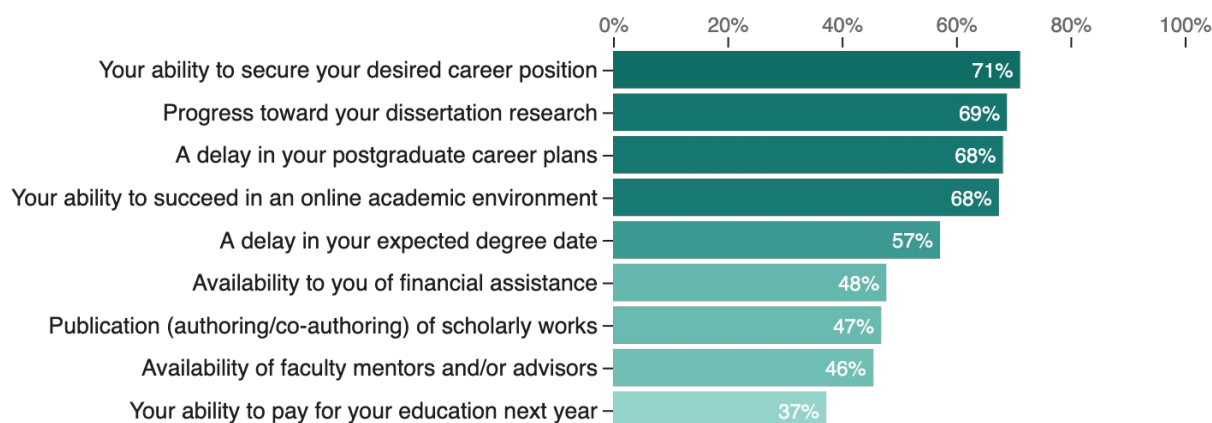


URM students were also **19%** more likely to respond that the challenges associated with the transition to distance learning have negatively impacted their ability to be **productive** as it relates to progress toward their degree:

How much would you say that the challenges associated with your transition from "normal operations" to distance learning have negatively impacted your ability to be productive as it relates to progress toward your degree?



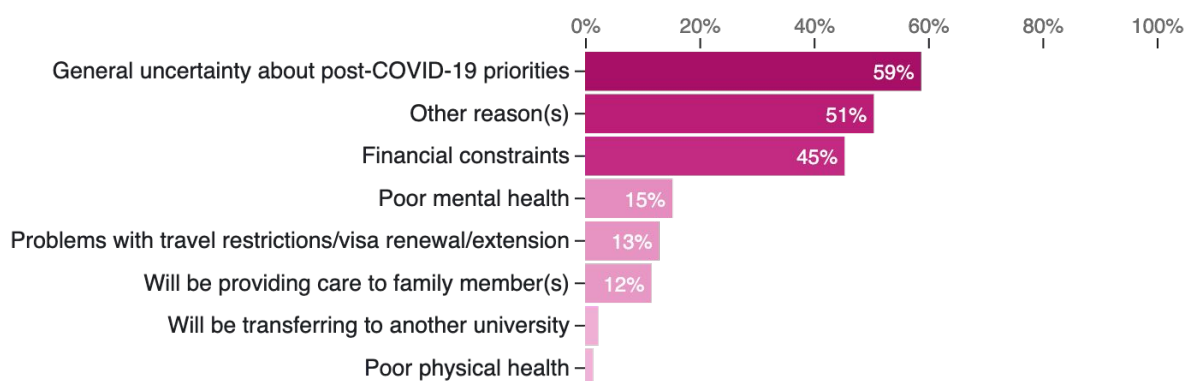
When asked directly about the COVID-19 pandemic's academic impact, more students expressed strong concern (indicating that they felt concerned or very concerned) about the impact on their **academic progress** than on their financial stability:



Plans for the Fall 2020 Term

When asked about plans for re-enrolling at UC Berkeley for the Fall 2020 semester, **76.6%** of respondents affirmed that they planned on returning to campus under normal operations or under remote instruction.

However, **11.4%** of respondents indicated that they do not plan to (or are not sure if they will) re-enroll in the Fall term. When asked **why** they don't plan to (or aren't sure if they will) return to campus this fall, the 227 students (**11.4%**) identified the following reasons:



Students who chose the "Other reason(s)" option were asked to elaborate, and many of their text responses question the value proposition of distance education, while other responses were related to pending graduation over the summer.

Additional Resources: The [Survey Appendix](#) includes the survey Codebook and a tool for creating your own crosstabulations.