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Graduate Division

Oversee all aspects of graduate education including the academic and research training of graduate students

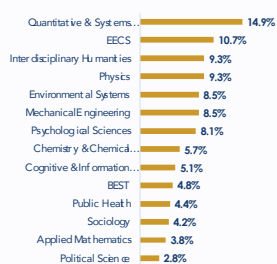
- Funding
- Admissions and Time to Degree
- Resources for success



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Continuous Growth

Distribution by Program:



740 graduate students enrolled in Fall 2020

of countries represented **38**



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Considering Graduate School

- Research
- Faculty
- Financial Support
- Size of the Program
- Location
- Resources/Services



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Application Overview

Think of your application as a table with legs made out of:

- GPA
- GRE
- Statement of Purpose/Personal History
- Letters of Recommendation
- Research Experience



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Strong Academic Performance

- 3.0 or above GPA
- Transcripts (send all)
- How are transcripts scrutinized?
 - Cumulative
 - Last 60/90 units – quarter vs. semester
 - Major
- Address any holes in your Personal Statement



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GRE

ets.org/GRE

- Some graduate programs require it
 - 3 sections: Quantitative, Verbal, Analytical Writing
 - Different programs may emphasize one section over another
 - Subject exams
 - GPA and GRE scores can be used to award fellowships
 - Some programs may be phasing out the GRE
 - Score valid for 5 years
 - Take advantage of campus resources!



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GRE

ets.org/GRE

Applied Mathematics	Not Required
Bioengineering	Optional
Chemistry & Chemical Biology	Optional
Cognitive and Information Sciences	Not Required
Economics	Required
Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences	Required for M.S. / Highly Encourage for Ph.D.
Environmental Systems	Optional
Interdisciplinary Humanities	Not Required
Materials & Biomaterials Science and Engineering	Highly Encouraged
Management of Complex Systems	Required (GMAT also accepted)
Masters of Management Program/MIST (M.M.)	Not Required
Mechanical Engineering	Required
Physics	Not Required
Political Sciences	Not Required (Fall 2021 only)
Psychological Sciences	Required
Public Health	Required
Quantitative and Systems Biology	Optional
Sociology	Optional

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Statement Essays

- In general, a personal statement is about 1-2 single spaced pages.
- Critical component of your application. Why?
- Read the prompts/directions carefully! Some SSHA programs require a writing sample.
- Should be adapted to the graduate program.
- Audience: Admissions committees consisting of professors in your field.
- May be used to see if you qualify for additional funding.



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Letters of Recommendation

- Usually 3 letters of recommendation are required.
- Letters should be from:
 - Faculty with whom you have done research.
 - Faculty with whom you took upper-division classes.
 - Internship supervisors or relevant work experience supervisors.
- Aim for at least 2/3 letters to be from faculty.
- How much lead time should you give?



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Research Experience

- Why is it important?
 - Get an inside look at what an academic or research career can offer.
 - Learn about cutting-edge discoveries being made in your field.
 - Acquire lab and research skills, hone critical thinking and writing skills.
 - Networking
 - Establish relationships with faculty who can write strong letters of recommendation.
 - UROC – uroc.ucmerced.edu



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Graduate School Myths

- I can't afford graduate school.
- If the program isn't top ranked, it's not worth it.
- I'm too old for graduate school.
- I need to have a Masters degree before I go into a Ph.D. program.
- I'm only a second year, I don't need to think about graduate school.



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Start Planning Now

- Test dates and preparation
- Potential recommenders
- Graduate programs and requirements
- School contacts and campus resources
- Research opportunities
- Write essays ahead of time and have them reviewed



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What makes UC Merced unique?

- Smaller programs = more time with faculty working on research and mentorship
- Growing campus, new infrastructure
- Make your mark
- Interdisciplinary research
- Research strengths in: climate change and ecology, solar and renewable energy, water quality, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, stem-cell, diabetes and cancer, air quality, big-data analysis, to name a few.



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School of Engineering

- Bioengineering - MS, PhD
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science - MS, PhD
- Environmental Systems - MS, PhD
- Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology - MM, no GRE requirement
- Management of Complex Systems - PhD
- Materials and Biomaterials Science Engineering - MS, PhD
- Mechanical Engineering - MS, PhD



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School of Natural Sciences

- Applied Mathematics- MS, PhD
- Chemistry and Chemical Biology- PhD
- Physics- MS, PhD
- Quantitative and Systems Biology- MS, PhD



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School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Art (SSHA)

- Cognitive and Information Sciences- PhD
- Economics – PhD
- Interdisciplinary Humanities- MA, PhD
- Political Science- PhD
- Psychological Sciences- PhD
- Public Health- PhD
- Sociology- PhD



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Learn More

Digital graduate program brochures:

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/academic-studies>



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Funding

- **97% of PhD students receive funding**
 - Fellowships
 - Teaching Assistantships
 - Graduate Student Researcher Appointments
 - Grant Opportunities
 - Apply for Pre-doc Fellowships (graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/financial-support/external-funding)



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Affordability

- Merced is the most affordable city to live in when comparing UC institutions

	Merced	Berkeley	Davis	Los Angeles	Orange County	Riverside	Santa Barbara	Santa Cruz	San Diego
Living Wage	\$10.26	\$15.92	\$12.54	\$13.41	\$14.45	\$12.10	\$13.85	\$13.36	\$13.69
Cost of Housing	\$6,204	\$16,560	\$10,368	\$11,972	\$13,932	\$9,576	\$12,780	\$11,868	\$12,480

- Source: livingwage.mit.edu



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Campus Resources

- Graduate Resource Center (GRC)
 - graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/GRC
 - Peer Mentors, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Wellness, Social Activities
 - Statistics/Writing Tutors – available in the GRC during the semester
 - Graduate Mentorship: All 1st year Ph.D. are paired if grad program participates
- Student Organizations
 - Grad student specific: graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/graduate_rcos
 - Open to all students: ucmerced.edu/clubs-and-organizations



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Applying to UC Merced

- Online application
- Official transcripts (3.0 minimum GPA)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Statement of Purpose
- 3 letters of recommendation
- The earlier you apply (your senior year), the better!
 - General Deadline: January 15
 - Priority Deadline: December 15
- Fee waivers available for graduate enrichment program participants such as: LSAMP, MARC McNair Scholars Program, etc.



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LET'S CONNECT

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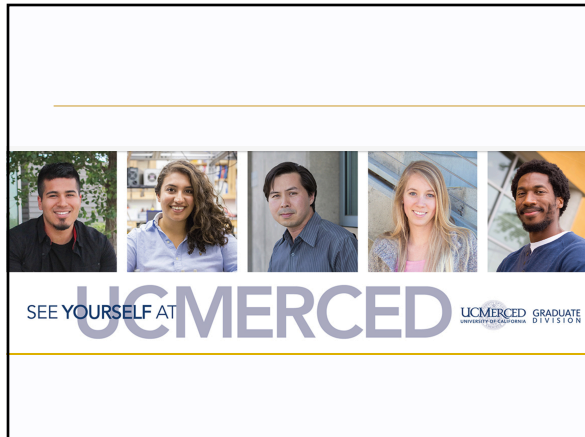
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