Understanding the UC Merced Student Experience

UC Merced is committed to providing students with the academic, personal, and career resources needed to be successful. This visual provides data related to the Fall 2020 UC Merced student experience.

Anxious Stressed Weird Isolated Alone

Students, what is one word to describe how you are feeling this semester (Fall 2020)?

- Stressed
- Isolated
- Alone
- Anxious

CPS Data on Mental Health

Presenting students issues:
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Stress
- Sleep disturbances

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"It's just been exhausting and overwhelming. I feel trapped and stuck in a continuous loop that I'm unable to change because the circumstances of our world prevent me from doing so. As a result, I feel tired and sick of it all. I'm just juggling with the stress..." - Anonymous Student

"I think we all need the opportunity to be heard and stop feeling like we are at fault amidst all of these stress we're feeling right now in the midst of the pandemic. I think the lack of transparency between students and faculty is something that stands in the way of how we can grow during this time if we were just able to get rid of that divide. It could make a huge difference. We need an opportunity to speak up in an environment that we actually feel safe in and our fears will be addressed." - Anonymous Student

Current UCM Student Concerns

- Course expectations requiring remote learning
- Inadequate or confusing communication
- Isolation and lack of proper in-person interaction
- Financial and time management
- Lack of time to manage courses and extracurricular activities
- Anxiety and stress

Recommendation #1 Greater Faculty Engagement and Individualized Student Success Planning

- The Dean of Students Office will provide training to staff and faculty on supporting students during COVID-19.
- Staff and faculty will be trained to be more engaging and approachable.

Recommendation #2 Increased Radical Healing Spares and Diversified Student Involvement Opportunities

- The Office of Social Justice Initiatives and Identity Programs will host virtual healing spaces for all undergraduate and graduate students, focusing on building community and providing a safe space to discuss and process experiences.
- The Office of Student Life will provide opportunities for student engagement and provide students with the opportunity to connect with others.

Recommendation #3 Advance Student Agency, Elevate Student Voice and Strengthen Community Partnerships around Safety

- The UC Merced Police Department (UCMPD) will develop a “We are UCMPD” campaign to promote safety and inclusivity.
- UCSMPD will partner with the Student Safety and Security Office to create a community-based program.
- UCMPD will also partner with the Student Safety and Security Office to create a community-based program.

Recommendation #4 Enhance Resources and Conversations around Student Rights

- The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) will develop student resources and provide training to staff and faculty on student rights.
- Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for support and advocacy.

"I just think that both the UC system and professors need to understand how the current polarization that our country is facing is having a tremendous impact on students. In order to feel safe, I feel like you need to feel heard, like your voice matters. However, when you are so disconnected you feel like you have no voice. As a first-year student, I feel like many of us are extremely disconnected." - Anonymous Student

Student Success Resource Website: ucsuccess.merced.edu
Wellness Resources: https://wellness.merced.edu/
Student Rights: https://ucmerced.edu/rrs

Resources Provided by the Dean of Students Office, Office of Social Justice Initiatives and Identity Programs, and Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.