



**RIVERSIDE**

Student Affairs  
Assessment & Research

# LGBTQ+ Undergraduate Experiences at UC Riverside

## *2022 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) Results Summary*

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## LGBTQ+ Undergraduate Experiences at UC Riverside: 2022 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey Results

LGBTQ+ students continue to be a growing population at UC Riverside, yet are still a marginalized group that face many challenges related to campus climate. In Spring 2023, **12%** of all students enrolled were LGBQ+ and **2%** were transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or another identity other than cisgender.

The UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) is a comprehensive survey that provides a glimpse of the student experience for LGBTQ+ students. In 2022, **24%** of undergraduate survey respondents were LGBQ+, **2%** were nonbinary, and **1%** were transgender. Results from the 2022 UCUES revealed concerning disparities in the student experiences for LGBTQ+ and heterosexual/straight undergraduate students that suggest LGBTQ+ students face significant barriers that would make thriving at UC Riverside challenging without additional support and resources to address these struggles.

### 2023 Campus Enrollment: Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

#### *Sexual Orientation*

- ❖ The most recent campus enrollment statistics reveal that as of Spring 2023, **12%** of students enrolled at UC Riverside were LGBQ+ (N=2,863) and **2,473** of those students were undergraduates (**12%**).

<i>Sexual Orientation of Spring 2023 Enrolled Students</i>	Undergraduate Students		UCR Total Enrollment	
	%	N	%	N
Asexual	0%	48	0%	50
Bisexual	7%	1,468	7%	1,674
Demisexual	0%	7	0%	8
Gay or Lesbian	2%	487	2%	602
Heterosexual or Straight	83%	17,496	80%	19,684
I prefer not to say	1%	130	1%	138
Pansexual	0%	86	0%	97
Queer	0%	68	0%	80
Questioning	0%	34	0%	35
Not listed above (please specify)	1%	275	1%	317
Unknown	4%	921	7%	1,769
Total	100%	21,020	100%	24,454

*Data Source: UC Riverside Institutional Research  
[Note: LGBQ+ includes asexual, bisexual, demisexual, gay or lesbian, pansexual, queer, and questioning students, as well as students who selected not listed above (open-ended), and excludes heterosexual/straight students or those who selected prefer not to say.]*

### Gender Identity

- In Spring 2023, **2%** of undergraduates enrolled at UC Riverside were transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer/gender non-conforming, or another identity other than cisgender (N=333).

<i>Gender Identity of Spring 2023 Enrolled Students</i>	Undergraduate Students		UCR Total Enrollment	
	%	N	%	N
Female/Woman	50%	10,430	48%	11,783
Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming	1%	171	1%	198
I prefer not to say	0%	31	0%	49
Male/Man	46%	9,717	46%	11,344
Nonbinary	0%	91	0%	122
Trans Female/Trans Woman	0%	18	0%	27
Trans Male/Trans Man	0%	30	0%	34
Not listed above (please specify)	0%	23	0%	28
Unknown	2%	509	4%	869
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>21,020</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>24,454</i>

*Data Source: UC Riverside Institutional Research*

## Undergraduate Student Experience Survey (UCUES): Key Findings

A total of **6,011** UCR students responded to the 2022 UCUES, resulting in a **28%** response rate. Of these students, **24%** were LGBTQ+ (N=1,150) and **76%** were heterosexual or straight (N=3,627). In addition, **2%** of survey respondents were nonbinary and **1%** were transgender.

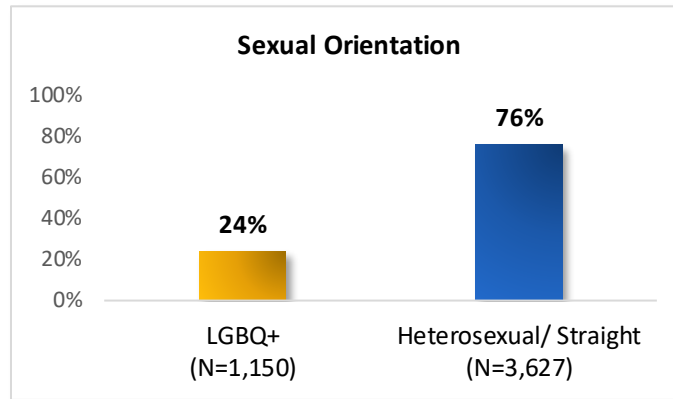
Due to small sample sizes based on gender identity, results primarily highlight experiences based on sexual orientation for undergraduate students at UCR. The complete data tables for all results shared in this report and the full analysis of the entire 2022 UCUES results based on sexual orientation will be made available at [ucues.ucr.edu](http://ucues.ucr.edu).

### Student Demographics

#### Sexual Orientation

- ❖ Overall, **24%** of UCR undergraduates who responded to the 2022 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) were LGBTQ+ (N=1,150) and **76%** were heterosexual or straight (N=3,627).
  - The number of LGBTQ+ students increased considerably from the previous administration of UCUES in 2020 where **16%** were LGBTQ+ and **84%** were heterosexual/straight.
  - LGBTQ+ survey respondents originally indicated they were one or more of the following identities before being grouped together as LGBTQ+: asexual (**2%**),

bisexual (12%), gay or lesbian (3%), heterosexual or straight (72%)\*, pansexual (3%), queer (3%), questioning (3%), prefer to self-describe (1%) [See Appendix].

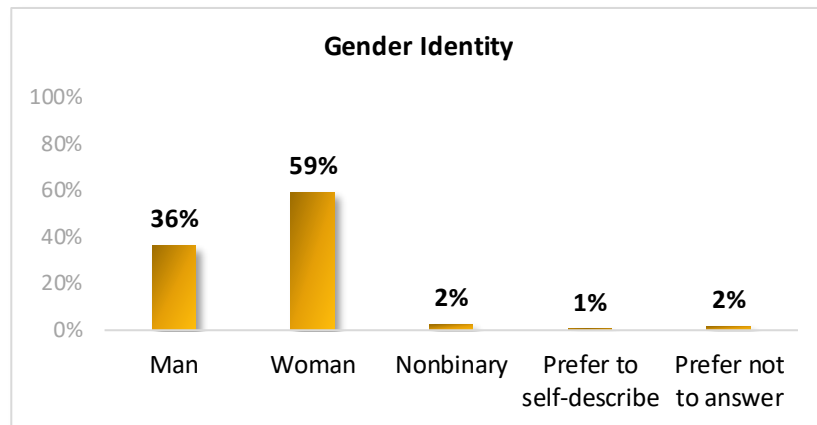


[\*Note: Sexual orientation was asked in a check-all-that-apply format so students were considered LGBQ+ if they selected any of the above listed identities, regardless of whether they also selected heterosexual or straight. The heterosexual or straight category includes students who only selected heterosexual or straight.]

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		<b>UCR Overall</b>	
<b>What is your current sexual orientation? Select all that apply.</b>		<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
Asexual		2%	107
Bisexual		12%	629
Gay or lesbian		3%	174
Heterosexual or straight		72%	3,712
Pansexual		3%	131
Queer		3%	129
Questioning		3%	161
Prefer to self-describe: [See Appendix]		1%	34
Prefer not to answer		7%	345
<b>Total Responses</b>		--	5,122
<b>Sexual Orientation: LGBQ+ Re-Categorization</b>			
LGBQ+		24%	1,150
Heterosexual/ Straight		76%	3,627
<b>Total</b>		100%	4,777
<b>UCR Grand Total</b>		--	6,011

### Gender Identity

- ❖ **59%** of survey respondents were women and **36%** were men.
- ❖ **2%** of student respondents were nonbinary, **2%** preferred to self-describe, and **3%** preferred not to answer.
- ❖ **1%** of survey respondents were transgender.



<i>Transgender</i>		UCR Overall	
Do you consider yourself to be transgender?	%	N	
Yes	1%	65	
No	97%	5,022	
Prefer not to answer	2%	81	
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>5,168</i>	

### Ethnicity

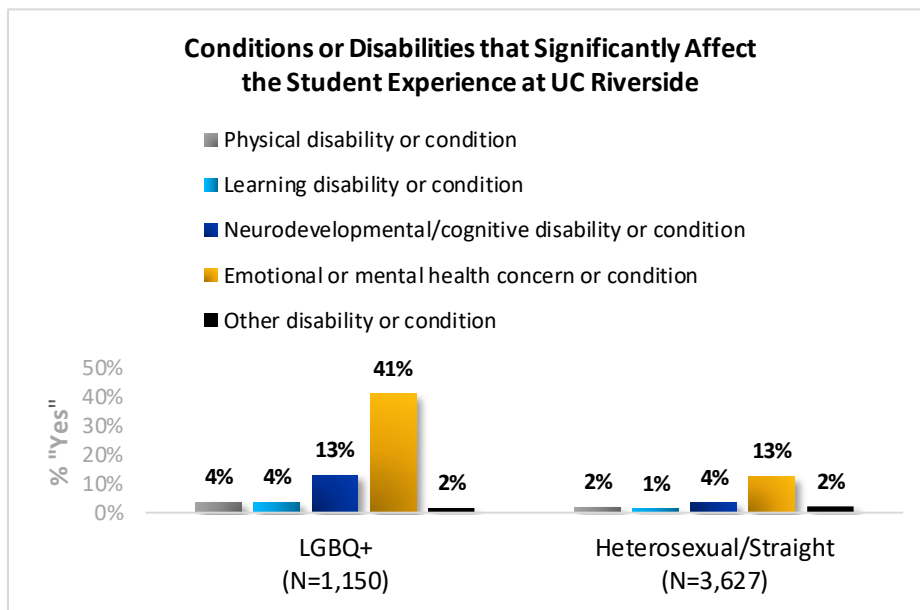
- ❖ According to the 2022 UCUES, **85%** of LGBTQ+ respondents identified as BIPOC or non-residents (Black/African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic or Latinx, multiple ethnicities, or non-resident) and **14%** identified as white. For heterosexual/straight respondents, **87%** identified as BIPOC and **11%** identified as white.

<i>Ethnicity</i>	LGBTQ+		Heterosexual/ Straight		UCR Overall	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	0	0%	3	0%	6
Asian	28%	326	37%	1,353	35%	2,126
Black or African American	4%	42	3%	96	3%	190
Hispanic or Latinx	45%	519	41%	1,484	41%	2,494
Two or More Races	6%	74	4%	140	4%	264
Non-Resident	2%	18	3%	92	2%	145
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	2	0%	4	0%	6
Domestic Unknown	1%	11	1%	38	1%	76
White	14%	158	11%	417	12%	704
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>3,627</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>6,011</i>

[Note: UCR uses IPEDS ethnicity categorization standards for reporting race and ethnicity.]

### Students with Disabilities

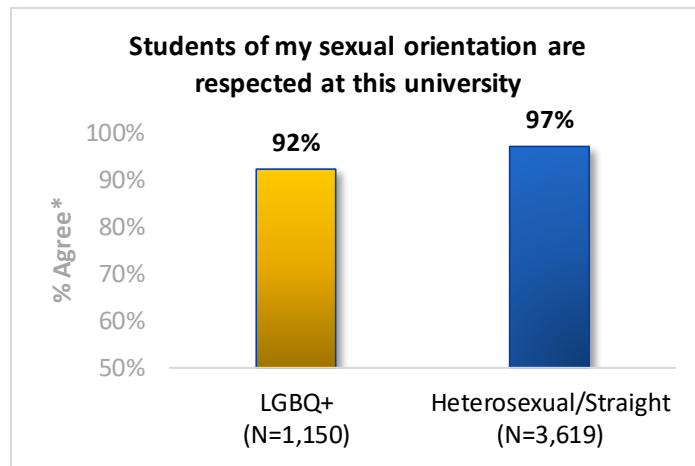
- ❖ LGBTQ+ students reported higher rates of disabilities and conditions than heterosexual/straight students for all disability categories.
  - Most notably, **41%** of LGBTQ+ students reported having an emotional or mental health concern or condition, compared to **13%** of heterosexual/straight students.
    - Although high, these percentages have decreased **20%** for LGBTQ+ students compared to the previous administration of UCUES in 2020 (**61%** LGBTQ+; **29%** heterosexual/straight).
  - In addition, **13%** of LGBTQ+ students and **4%** of heterosexual/straight students reported having a neurodevelopmental/cognitive disability or condition – a **9%** difference.
  - **52%** of LGBTQ+ students reported *not* having any disabilities or condition, compared to **82%** of heterosexual/straight students – a **30%** difference.



## Campus Climate

### Sexual Orientation

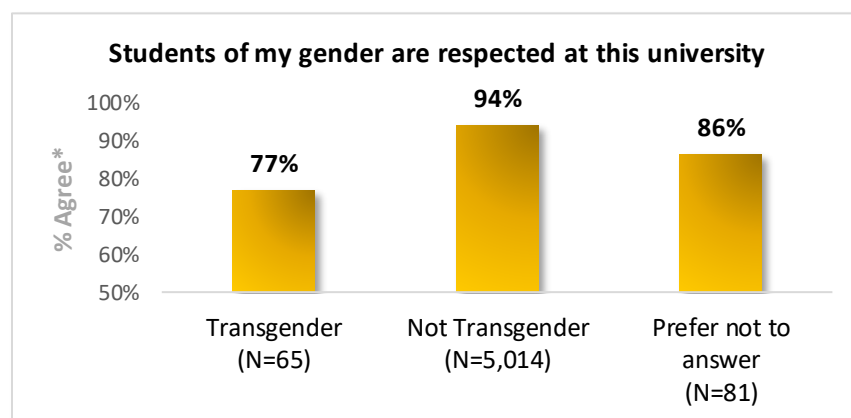
- ❖ LGBTQ+ students (**92%**) were less likely to agree\* that students of their sexual orientation were respected on campus, compared to **97%** of heterosexual/straight students.



\* % Agree includes the sum of "Strongly Agree," "Agree," and "Somewhat Agree" responses.

### Gender

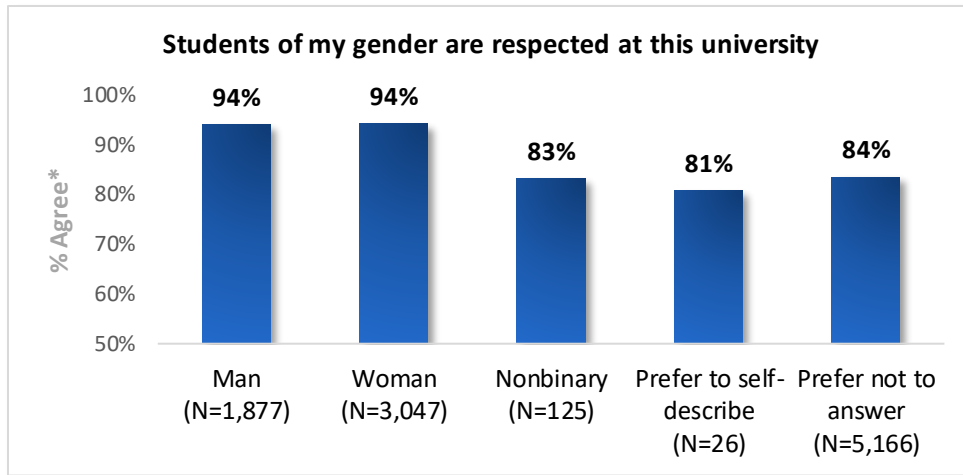
- ❖ Overall, LGBQ+ students were less likely to agree that students of their gender were respected on campus, with **92%** agreement\* compared to **95%** of heterosexual/straight students.
- ❖ For students who do not identify as a cisgender man or woman, these percentages were lower regardless of sexual orientation. Although the number of non-cisgender respondents was low, the trends are telling:
  - **77%** of transgender student respondents agreed\* that students of their gender were respected on campus compared to **94%** of student respondents who were not transgender.



\* % Agree includes the sum of "Strongly Agree," "Agree," and "Somewhat Agree" responses.

- **83%** of nonbinary student respondents agreed\* that students of their gender were respected on campus compared to **94%** of men and **94%** women who responded to the survey.





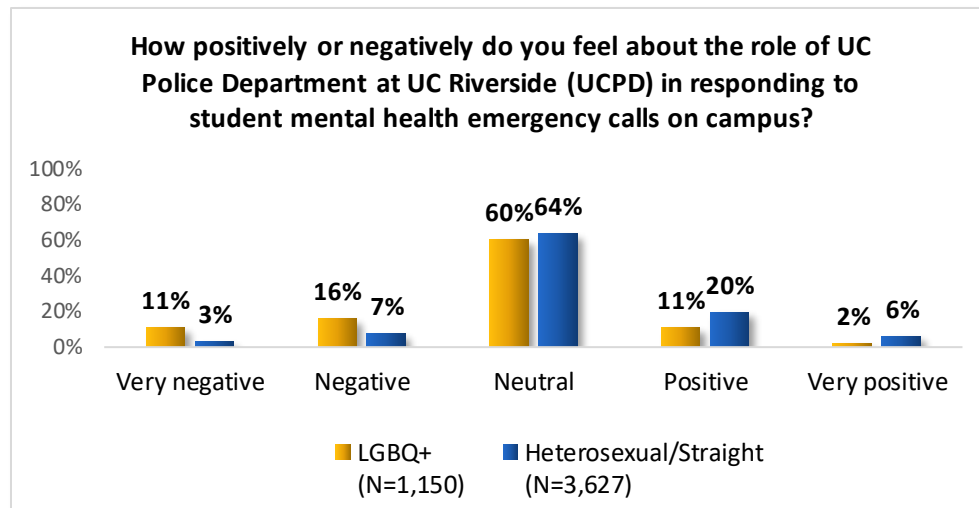
\* % Agree includes the sum of “Strongly Agree,” “Agree,” and “Somewhat Agree” responses.

### Disability

- ❖ **84%** of LGBTQ+ student respondents with disabilities agreed (strongly agreed/agreed/somewhat agreed) that students with a disability or condition like theirs were respected on campus compared to **92%** of heterosexual/straight students with disabilities.

### Campus Safety

- ❖ **75%** of LGBTQ+ student respondents agreed overall they feel safe from crime and violence on campus, compared to **80%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.
  - **UC Police Department:** **20%** of LGBTQ+ student respondents were reported they *did not* feeling comfortable with UC Police Department, compared to **9%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents. In addition, **27%** of LGBTQ+ and **11%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported feeling “very negative” or “negative” regarding the role of UC Police Department at UCR in responding to student mental health emergency calls on campus.



### **Financial Security**

- ❖ **58%** of LGBQ+ student respondents often (very often/often/somewhat often) worried about their debt and financial circumstances in the past year, compared to **47%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.

### **Food Security**

- ❖ **57%** of LGBQ+ student respondents reported it was often or sometimes true that they couldn't afford to eat balanced meals, compared to **46%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.
- ❖ **55%** of LGBQ+ student respondents reported it was often or sometimes true that they bought food that didn't last and didn't have money to get more, compared to **46%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.
- ❖ **45%** of LGBQ+ student respondents cut the size of their meals or skipped meals in the past 12 months, compared to **35%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.
- ❖ **41%** of LGBQ+ student respondents were hungry but did not eat in the past 12 months, compared to **32%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.

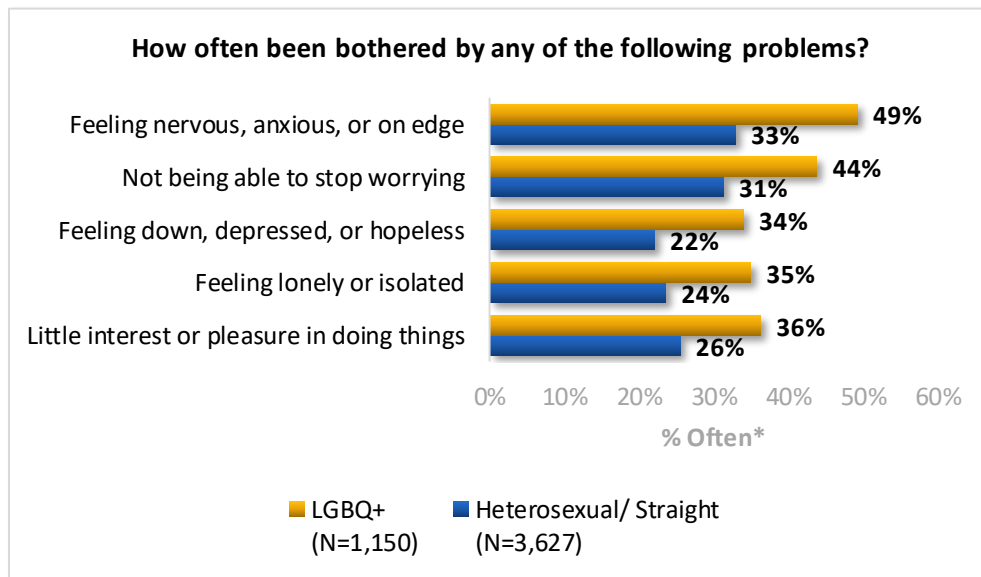
### **Housing Security**

- ❖ **44%** of LGBQ+ respondents reported living on campus or less than one mile from campus compared to **37%** of heterosexual/straight respondents.
- ❖ Although housing security is a frequent problem within LGBTQ+ communities, there were no large differences between LGBQ+ and heterosexual/straight students' 2022 UCUES responses regarding housing security.
- ❖ However, there were differences in how LGBQ+ students experienced any worries associated with housing. Specifically:

- Students reported experiencing the following because they were worried about paying for housing every month:
  - Anxiety: **23%** LGBTQ+; **16%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Depression: **19%** LGBTQ+; **10%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Skipped Meals: **15%** LGBTQ+; **11%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Ate less nutritious and/or balanced meals: **20%** LGBTQ+; **14%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Had difficulty focusing on their studies: **24%** LGBTQ+; **16%** heterosexual/straight respondents

**Mental Health**

- ❖ LGBTQ+ students reported more mental health concerns compared to heterosexual/straight students including often (nearly every day or more than half the days):
  - Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge (**49%** LGBTQ+; **33%** heterosexual/straight respondents)
  - Not being able to stop worrying (**44%** LGBTQ+; **31%** heterosexual/straight respondents)
  - Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless (**44%** LGBTQ+; **31%** heterosexual/straight respondents)

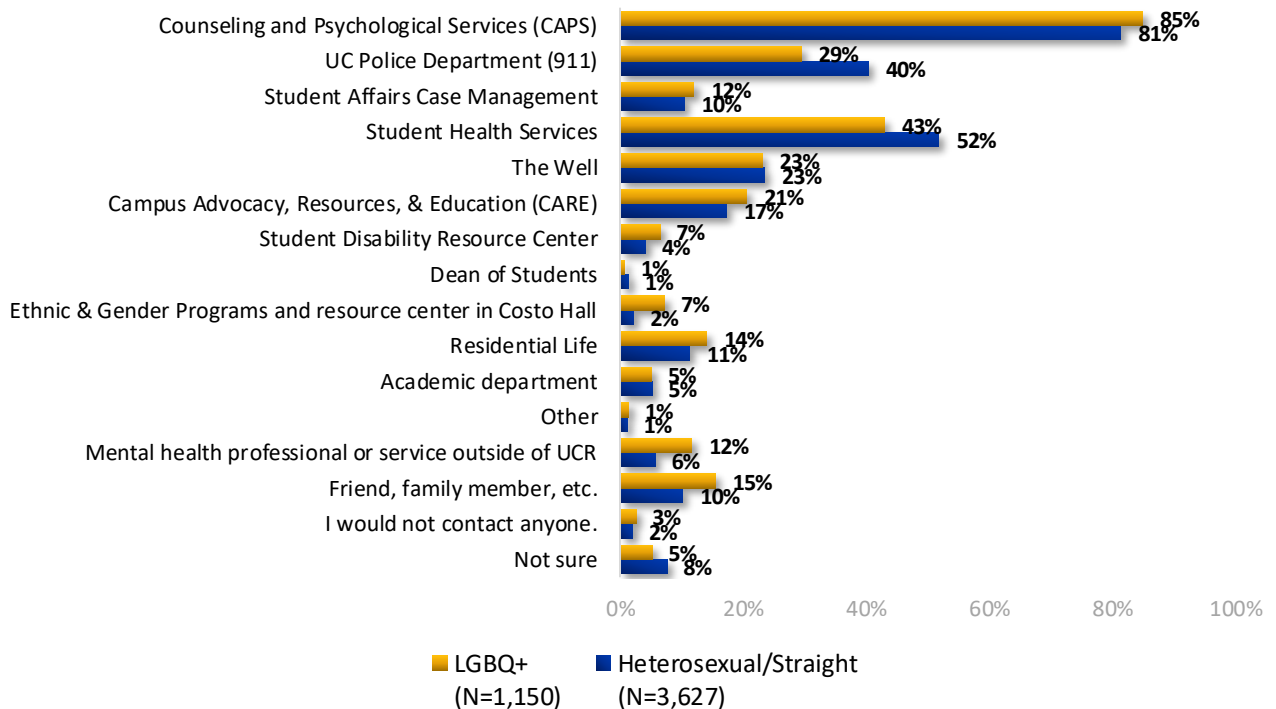


\* % Often includes the sum of the responses "nearly every day" and "more than half the days".

- ❖ Students indicated if they or someone they knew was experiencing a mental health crisis on campus, they would contact:
  - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (**85%** LGBTQ+; **81%** heterosexual/straight respondents)

- UC Police Department (911) (**29%** LGBTQ+; **40%** heterosexual/straight respondents)
- Student Health Services (**43%** LGBTQ+; **52%** heterosexual/straight respondents)
- Ethnic & Gender Programs and resource center in Costo Hall (**7%** LGBTQ+; **2%** heterosexual/straight respondents)
- **15%** of LGBTQ+ and **10%** of heterosexual/straight respondents indicated they would contact a friend or family member.
- **12%** of LGBTQ+ and **6%** of heterosexual/straight respondents indicated they would contact a mental health professional or service outside of UCR.

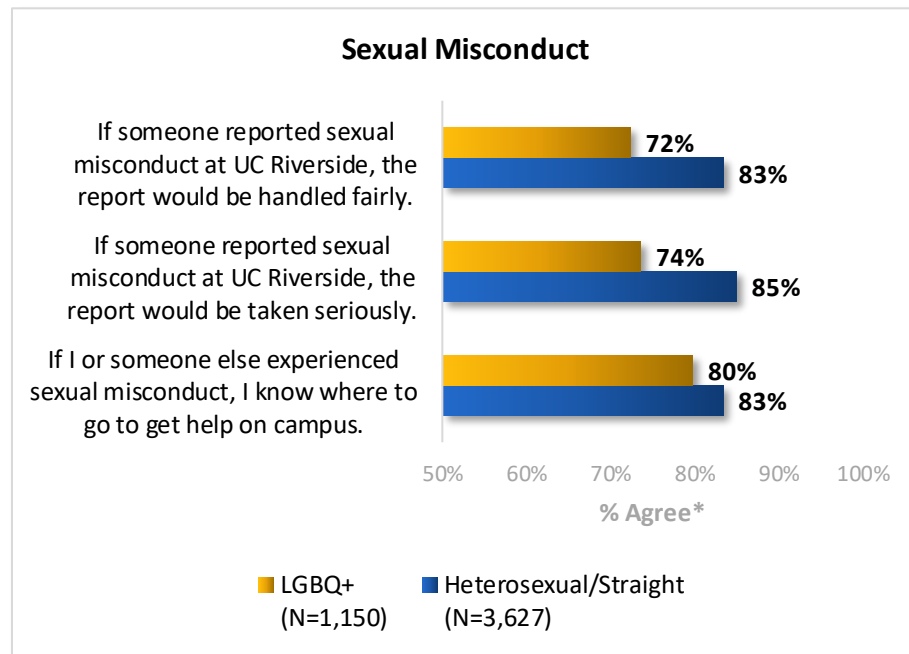
**If you or someone you know was experiencing a mental health crisis on campus, which UCR department would you contact?**



**Sexual Misconduct**

- ❖ LGBTQ+ students were less likely than heterosexual/straight students to agree\* with the following statements related to how sexual misconduct is handled on campus:
  - *“If someone reported sexual misconduct at UC Riverside, the report would be handled fairly”* (**72%** LGBTQ+; **83%** heterosexual/straight respondents).
  - *“If someone reported sexual misconduct at UC Riverside, the report would be taken seriously”* (**74%** LGBTQ+; **85%** heterosexual/straight respondents).

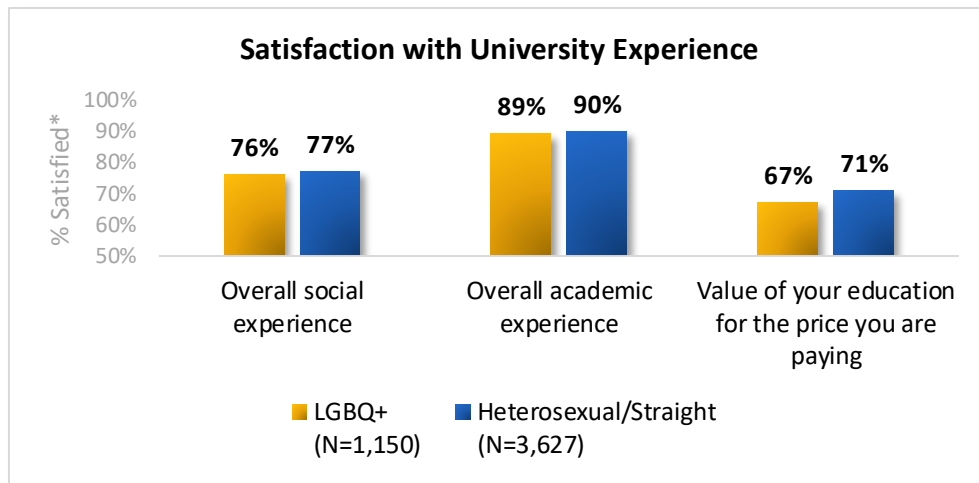
- *“If I or someone else experienced sexual misconduct, I know where to go to get help on campus” (80% LGBTQ+; 83% heterosexual/straight respondents).*



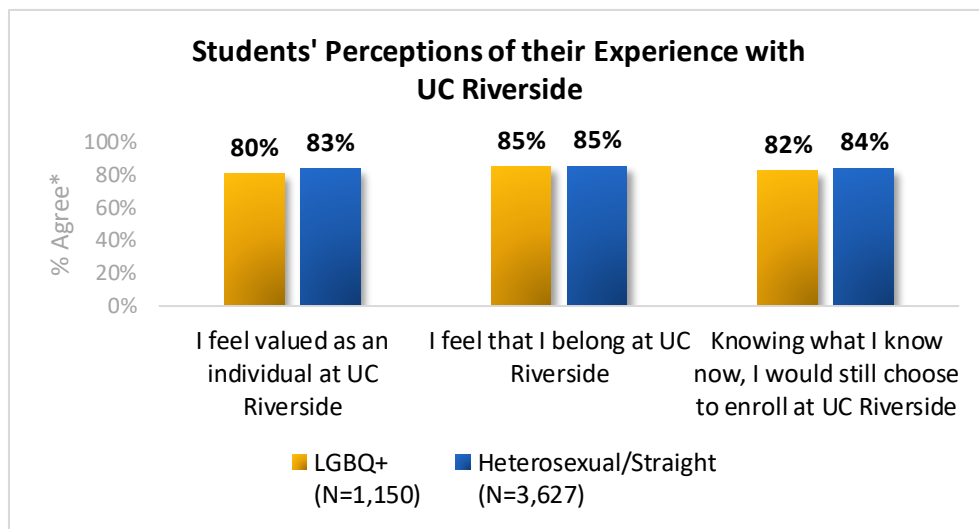
\* % Agree includes the sum of “Strongly Agree,” “Agree,” and “Somewhat Agree” responses.

### Satisfaction

- ❖ Overall, LGBTQ+ students rated their satisfaction with their university experience and education slightly less than heterosexual/straight student respondents. For example:
  - **67%** of LGBTQ+ and **71%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents were satisfied\* with the value of their education for the price they are paying.
  - **82%** of LGBTQ+ and **84%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents agreed\* with the statement *“Knowing what I know now, I would still choose to enroll at UC Riverside.”*



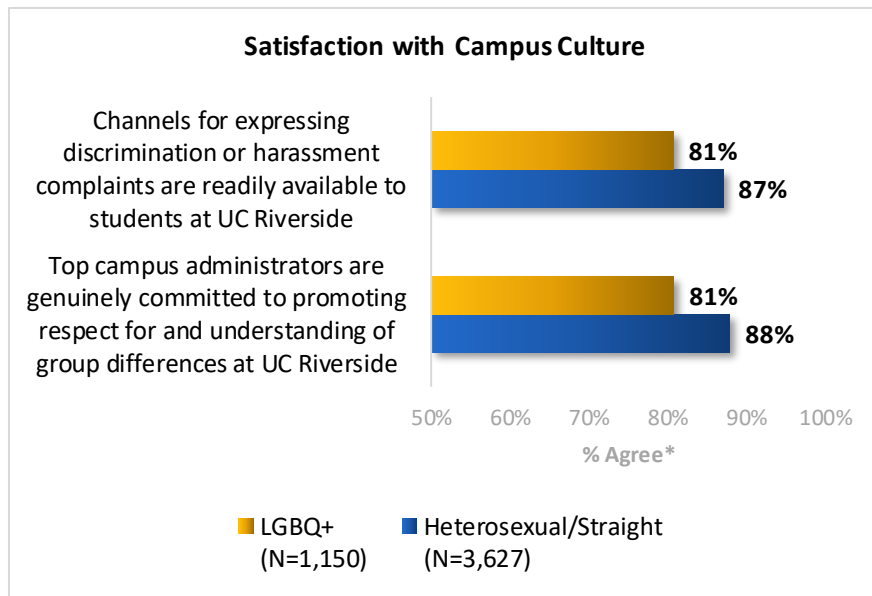
\* % Satisfied includes the sum of "Very Satisfied," "Satisfied," and "Somewhat Satisfied" responses.



\* % Agree includes the sum of "Strongly Agree," "Agree," and "Somewhat Agree" responses.

### Satisfaction with Campus Culture

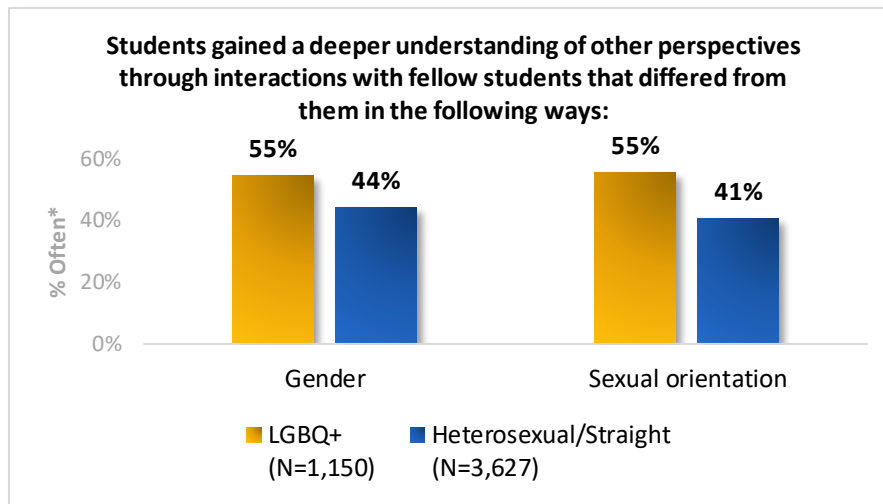
- ❖ LGBQ+ student respondents were less likely to agree\* with the following statements regarding satisfaction with campus culture compared to heterosexual/straight student respondents:
  - "Channels for expressing discrimination or harassment complaints are readily available to students at UC Riverside": **81%** LGBQ+; **87%** heterosexual/straight respondents.
  - "Top campus administrators are genuinely committed to promoting respect for and understanding of group differences at UC Riverside": **81%** LGBQ+; **88%** heterosexual/straight respondents.



\* % Agree includes the sum of "Strongly Agree," "Agree," and "Somewhat Agree" responses.

## Student Life and Development

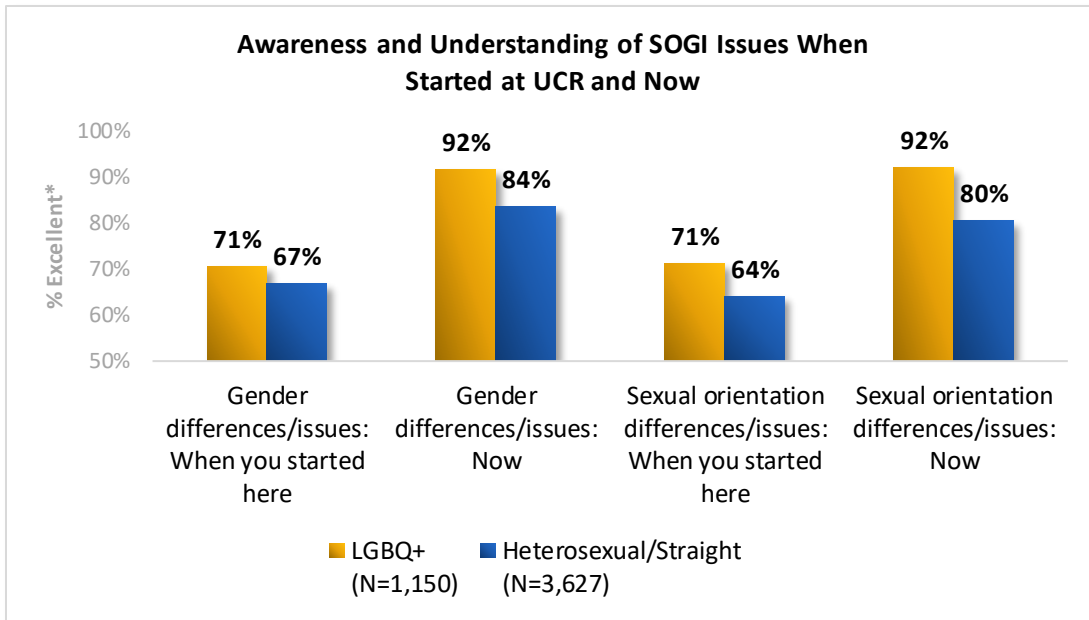
- ❖ Overall, LGBQ+ students indicated having greater differences related to student life and development compared to heterosexual/straight student respondents, such as:
  - **Gender:** 55% of LGBQ+ and 44% of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported often\* gaining a deeper understanding of other perspectives related to gender through interactions with fellow students that differed from them.
  - **Sexual Orientation:** 55% of LGBQ+ and 41% of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported often\* gaining a deeper understanding of other perspectives related to sexual orientation through interactions with fellow students that differed from them.



\* % Often includes the sum of the responses "Very often," "Often," and "Somewhat often."

- ❖ On average, LGBTQ+ students also reported experiencing more growth related to their awareness and understanding of gender and sexual orientation since first enrolling at UCR than heterosexual/straight student respondents.
  - **Gender**
    - **When Started at UCR:** **71%** of LGBTQ+ and **67%** of heterosexual/straight respondents rated their awareness and understanding of gender differences and issues as "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good" when they started at UCR.
    - **Now:** **92%** of LGBTQ+ and **84%** of heterosexual/straight respondents rated their current awareness and understanding of gender differences and issues as "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good."
  - **Sexual Orientation**
    - **When Started at UCR:** **71%** of LGBTQ+ and **64%** of heterosexual/straight respondents rated their awareness and understanding of sexual orientation differences and issues as "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good" when they started at UCR.
    - **Now:** **92%** of LGBTQ+ and **80%** of heterosexual/straight respondents rated their current awareness and understanding of sexual orientation differences and issues as "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good."
    - On average, LGBTQ+ students showed similar levels of agreement as heterosexual/straight student respondents related to feelings of campus pride and views on campus perspectives on diversity. However, **97%** LGBTQ+ students agreed\* with the statement, "Diversity is important to me," compared to **91%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents.





\* % Excellent includes the sum of "Excellent," "Very Good," and "Good" responses.

<b>Student Life and Development - % Agree*</b>			
<b>What is your level of agreement with the following statements?</b>	<b>LGBTQ+ (N=1,150)</b>	<b>Heterosexual/ Straight (N=3,627)</b>	<b>%Diff<sup>^</sup></b>
I am proud to be a student at this campus	91%	91%	0%
This campus values students' opinions	82%	85%	3%
This campus values diversity	94%	94%	0%
Diversity is important to me	97%	91%	-6%

\* % Agree includes the sum of "Strongly Agree," "Agree," and "Somewhat Agree" responses.

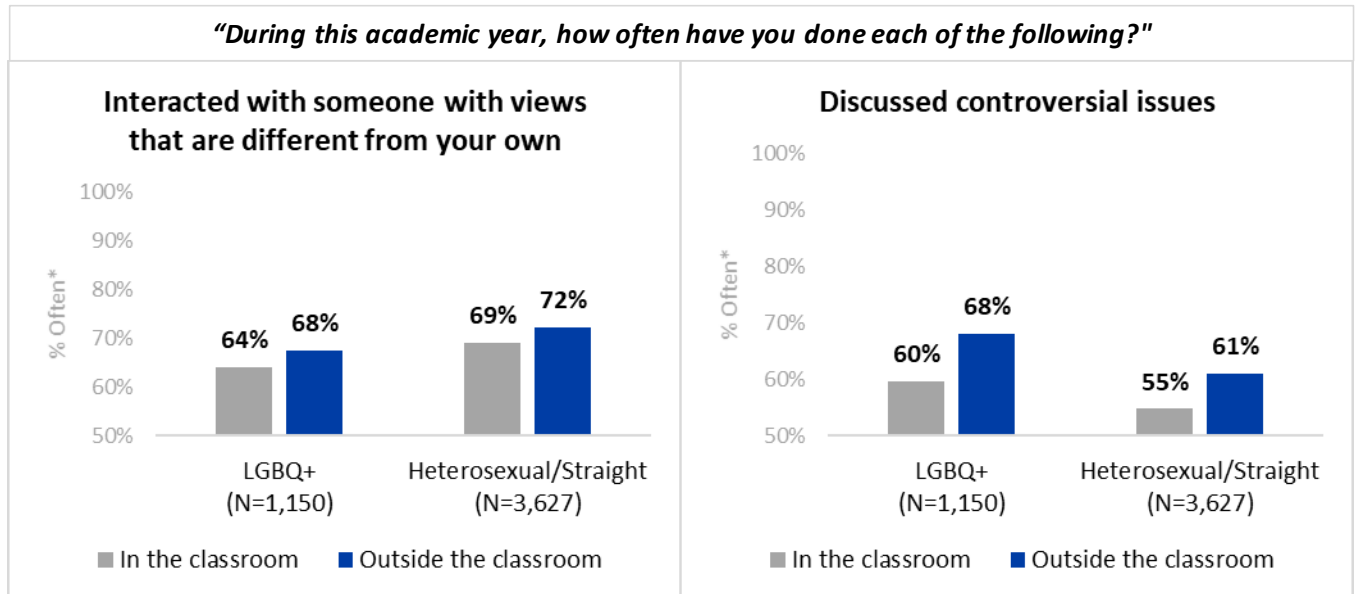
<sup>^</sup> % Diff calculates the percent difference as [Heterosexual/Straight Respondents] - [LGBTQ+ Respondents]; it is not a measure of statistical significance. Any cells with a value greater than 5% and less than -5% are highlighted for emphasis.

### ❖ Educational Experiences

❖ LGBTQ+ student respondents reported doing each of the following during the academic year more often\* compared to heterosexual/straight students:

- Understood the world from someone else's perspective
  - In the classroom: **76%** LGBTQ+; **71%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Outside the classroom: **80%** LGBTQ+; **75%** heterosexual/straight respondents
- Interacted with someone with views that are different from your own
  - In the classroom **64%** LGBTQ+; **69%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Outside the classroom: **68%** LGBTQ+; **72%** heterosexual/straight respondents

- Discussed controversial issues
  - In the classroom: **60%** LGBTQ+; **55%** heterosexual/straight respondents
  - Outside the classroom: **68%** LGBTQ+; **61%** heterosexual/straight respondents



\* % Often includes the sum of the responses "Very often," "Often," and "Somewhat often."

### **Educational Experiences: Obstacles to Academic Success**

- ❖ LGBTQ+ student respondents reported experiencing several obstacles to academic success more often\* (all the time or frequently) than heterosexual/straight students, including:
  - Poor study behaviors: **39%** LGBTQ+; **30%** heterosexual/straight respondents.
  - Feeling depressed, stressed, or upset: **53%** LGBTQ+; **29%** heterosexual/straight respondents (a **24%** difference).
  - Inability to concentrate on work: **41%** LGBTQ+; **25%** heterosexual/straight respondents (a **16%** difference).
  - Reluctance to ask for academic help when needed: **30%** LGBTQ+; **17%** heterosexual/straight respondents (a **13%** difference).

### **Cost of Attendance**

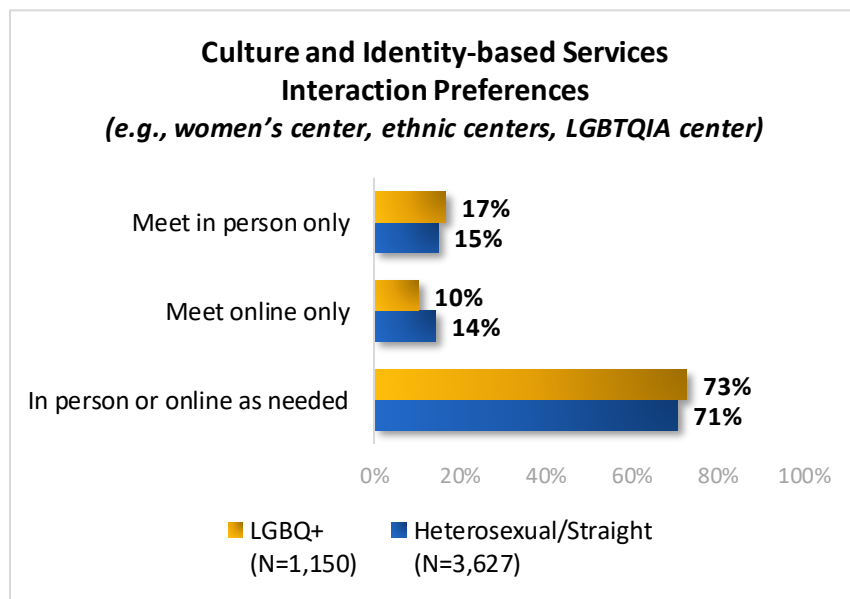
- ❖ Overall, LGBTQ+ students indicated having more concerns related to financing their education compared to heterosexual/straight student respondents.
  - **50%** of LGBTQ+ and **44%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported being very concerned or concerned with their accumulated educational debt.

- **58%** of LGBTQ+ and **47%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported being worried about their debt and financial circumstances often\* during the academic year.
- **58%** of LGBTQ+ and **52%** of heterosexual/straight student respondents reported often\* cutting down on personal and recreational spending to help pay for college expenses.

\* % Often includes the sum of the responses "Very often," "Often," and "Somewhat often."

### Access to Resources and Services

- ❖ Overall, LGBTQ+ students and heterosexual/straight student respondents reported similar preferences in the method of interacting with courses and services.
  - **Culture and Identity-based Services:** Both groups preferred in person or online as needed for interacting with culture and identity-based services (LGBTQ+: **73%**; heterosexual/straight: **71%**). LGBTQ+ students (**10%**) had a slightly lesser preference to meet online only compared to heterosexual/straight student respondents (**14%**).



- ❖ LGBTQ+ students reported accessing the following Health, Well-being and Safety services in the past at higher rates than heterosexual/straight student respondents, signifying the greater health needs of LGBTQ+ students:
  - **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): 25%** LGBTQ+; **13%** heterosexual/straight student respondents.
  - **Student Disability Resource Center: 10%** LGBTQ+; **5%** heterosexual/straight student respondents.

- **Student Health Services: 33% LGBTQ+; 27% heterosexual/straight student respondents.**
- **The Well: 33% LGBTQ+; 24% heterosexual/straight student respondents.**

## Summary

The LGBTQ+ undergraduate student population at UC Riverside has increased steadily over the years. In Spring 2023, **12%** of the undergraduate population were LGBTQ+ and **2%** were transgender, nonbinary, or gender non-conforming. During the most recent administration of the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) in 2022, **24%** of survey respondents were LGBTQ+ while **76%** were heterosexual or straight. The UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) provides the opportunity to gain valuable data beyond enrollment statistics to understand the student experience for LGBTQ+ students.

Although the LGBTQ+ student population on campus has grown significantly, the results from the present analysis reveal LGBTQ+ students continue to face many significant challenges and barriers to student success. LGBTQ+ students who responded to UCUES reported experiencing many issues at higher rates than heterosexual/straight student respondents, including:

- Feeling less respected on campus due to their sexual orientation.
- Having more mental health concerns such as feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge.
- Having higher rates of disabilities and conditions, particularly emotional or mental health concerns or conditions.
- Feeling less safe from crime and violence on campus.
- Feeling more negatively toward UCPD responding to mental health emergency calls on campus and less comfortable with UCPD in general.
- Having more difficulties with basic needs such as food security, housing security, and financial security.
- Having more obstacles to academic success such as poor study behaviors, feeling depressed, stressed, or upset, and having difficulty concentrating on work.
- Less likely to report believing sexual misconduct on campus would be handled seriously and fairly.
- Less likely to report believing that top campus administrators are genuinely committed to promoting respect for and understanding of group differences at UCR or that channels for reporting discrimination and harassment are readily available to students at UCR.

## Data Limitations

The UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) provides valuable information to UC campuses to improve the undergraduate experience for students, however there are still some limitations of the current analysis regarding LGBTQ+ student data.

**Disclosure:** While the LGBTQ+ student population at UC Riverside is growing each year, the number of LGBTQ+ students on campus could actually be much higher depending on students' willingness to disclose their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data could be impacted by social stigma attached to identifying as LGBTQ+, as well as students' personal identity development timelines, which could result in underreporting as LGBTQ+. The timing of when students come out as LGBTQ+ does not necessarily correlate with when, or if, they update their academic records and indicate their sexual orientation on campus surveys.

**Data Security & Privacy:** UCUES and Banner are not anonymous data sources, thus limiting data collection opportunities; data from these sources are confidential, but not anonymous. Students may be unwilling to disclose their sexual orientation and gender identity on campus surveys for fear of their responses being connected to their academic records or shared publicly. The recent data breach experienced by University of California Office of the President included student data from UCUES, which may cause students to have a lack of confidence in the safety, security, and privacy of their responses to campus surveys.

**Social Stigma & SOGI Data:** Considering the social stigma attached to identifying as LGBTQ+, it is likely that many students are not out about their identities in Banner and campus surveys, meaning this social stigma also restricts individuals' willingness to report their sexual orientation, which results in a lack of data for LGBTQ+ students of color, transgender and nonbinary students, students with disabilities, and other demographic groups as well.

**Gender Identity:** It is important to note that the number of students who identify as transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming is not large enough to develop reliable analyses to examine student experiences based on gender identity. This gap limits the current understanding of LGBTQ+ undergraduate student experiences and likely results in these students being underserved and marginalized based on gender identity.

**Intersectionality:** Another major gap in the current analyses is the lack of intersectionality; for example, BIPOC LGBTQ+ students may face greater disparities than white LGBTQ+ students. However, the small population of LGBTQ+ students limits the ability to further break down the results by additional demographic groups. Without identifying any major differences based on the combination of demographic groups such as sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, and disability, knowledge of intersectional differences is limited.

**Student Comparisons:** The current analyses compare LGBTQ+ students to heterosexual/straight students. While this is an important comparison, it could be interpreted that being heterosexual/straight is the default sexual orientation. Heterosexual/straight students were selected as the comparison group because the majority of students identify this way, which suggests the student experience on campus may differ for LGBTQ+ students, who are in the minority. While heterosexual/straight students are the comparison group for these analyses, many of these students are struggling as well. For example, differences based on ethnicity or socioeconomic status would highlight further barriers within each group. Thus, many of these

analyses illustrate large differences based on overall averages, but not the distinct range in experiences for individual students.

### ***Conclusion***

The results from the 2022 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) demonstrate that LGBTQ+ students face significant barriers, potentially making the ability to thrive at UC Riverside challenging without support and resources to overcome these struggles. Based on these results, LGBTQ+ students on campus may face many difficulties, suggesting a greater need for LGBTQ+ resources to fully support the variety of issues LGBTQ+ students experience while enrolled at UC Riverside. Considering that the LGBTQ+ student population at UC Riverside is likely much larger than current data indicate, the level of resources and support needed for this community would need to increase to compensate for this expected difference.

<b>Appendix</b>		
<b><i>Sexual Orientation Open-ended Text Responses</i></b>	<b>UCR Overall</b>	
<b>What is your current sexual orientation? Response: Prefer to self-describe:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
A lover of Love.	3%	1
Androsexual	3%	1
Aro/Ace	3%	1
Aromantic	3%	1
Asexual Panromantic	3%	1
bicurious	3%	1
Biromantic Asexual	3%	1
demisexual	3%	1
Demisexual	15%	5
Demisexual; only attracted to people you have an emotional connection with	3%	1
Doubts about being demisexual	3%	1
fluid	3%	1
Omnisexual	3%	1
Sexual orientation is a social construct	3%	1
straight	9%	3
Straight	9%	3
Straight or possibly bisexual	3%	1
Unlabeled	6%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33</b>
<b><i>Gender Identity Open-ended Text Responses</i></b>	<b>UCR Overall</b>	
<b>What is your gender identity? Response: Prefer to self-describe:</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
A He/They	4%	1
Agender	4%	1
Demi-girl	4%	1
Demiboy	8%	2
demigirl	4%	1
Dragon	4%	1
Dude	4%	1
Gender Fluid	4%	1
Gender-fluid	8%	2
genderfluid	4%	1
Genderfluid	12%	3
genderqueer	4%	1
genderqueer/non-conforming	4%	1
he/they	4%	1

I'm a guy, but I don't like to be described as a man.	4%	1
she/they	4%	1
Trans masc	4%	1
trans-masc nonbinary	4%	1
Unlabelled	4%	1
Weaponized toaster	4%	1
Whatever	4%	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>25</i>