A DEMOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MUSLIM STUDENTS

As the population of young Muslim Americans increases, U.S. educational institutions need to be prepared to address the needs of this racially-heterogeneous community. This infographic begins to describe the demographic characteristics of the Muslim students at the University of California. Findings are based on a representative sample of over 44,000 undergraduate students, including over 1,000 Muslim students, who responded to the 2016 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES). Results suggest UC Muslim students are a diverse group of students that exhibit different demographic and student characteristics. For example, though Muslim students are religious minorities on UC campuses, they are a racially heterogeneous group with minority immigrant backgrounds. Most Muslim students are women, enroll in STEM, and come from middle class backgrounds. Muslim students are represented among international students, first generation college students, transfer students, and students who participate in student organizations. In fact, Muslim students are more active than most groups and tend to be politically more liberal compared to their religious and nonreligious peers.

More Muslim Students Participate in Student Organizations

In general, more than half of UC students participate in student organizations. Among Muslim students, a significantly higher percentage of Muslim students enroll in STEM (58%) compared to other religious students (45%) and other non-religious students (48%). Fewer Muslim students declared social science majors (36%), arts and humanities (56%), and undeclared (56%).

Most Muslim Students Are Not Transfer Students

About 90% of UC students who transfer to UC during college are first time in college to meet expenses while attending the University of California, compared to 58% of UC students in general. More Muslim students also took a job than religious (36%) and non-religious peers (42%).

Majority of Muslim Students Are Liberal or Moderate

Like most UC students (58%), Muslim students politically identify as liberal or very liberal (58%). Only a small percentage consider themselves politically conservative (9%) and other religious students tend to be more conservative (9%) and less liberal (9%) than Muslim students. Non-religious Muslim students are more liberal than both groups (96%).

About the same amount of UC students (96%) and Muslim students live off campus (95%).

A Higher Percentage of Muslims Are in STEM

Among religious and non-religious students, a significantly higher percentage of Muslim students enrolled in STEM (58%) compared to other religious students (45%) and other non-religious students (48%). Fewer Muslim students declared social science majors (36%), arts and humanities (56%), and undeclared (56%).

Muslim Students Have Different Social Class Backgrounds

Muslim students vary on social class from middle class (57%), working class (52%), upper class/wealthy (51%) and low-income (56%). A significantly higher percentage of Muslim students come from immigrant backgrounds (58%) as compared to all other UC students (40%).

About Half of Muslim Students Identify as Middle Eastern North African

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