



The 2006 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey: Student-Police Interactions

Prepared at the Request of

*Jan Gong, Interim Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs
Leon Washington, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs*

By

Kathy J. Davis

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Executive Summary

UC Davis students who responded to the 2006 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) were asked several questions related to recent interactions with the police, specifically the frequency of those interactions, student satisfaction with the explanation for those interactions, and student impression of police behavior during those interactions. Students were asked to distinguish between ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS interactions. Some differences in student experience and perception were noted, especially by gender and race/ethnicity.

Frequency of Student-Police Interactions:

- Most students reported no police interactions during the past academic year, either ON or OFF CAMPUS, although interactions were reported more frequently OFF CAMPUS than ON CAMPUS. Of those students who did report interaction, most reported only one.
- Males were more likely than females to report any police-initiated interaction, both ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS.
- Black/African American students reported much higher than average rates of police-initiated interaction OFF CAMPUS, with almost half of all respondents reporting at least one interaction.

Student Satisfaction with Explanation for Police-Initiated Interaction:

- More than half of students who reported any police-initiated interaction indicated a satisfactory explanation.
- Males were less likely than females to report that a *legitimate* explanation was given, both ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS.
- Black/African-American students and East Indian/Pakistani students were less likely than other students to report that a *legitimate* explanation was given, both ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS.

Student Impression of Police Behavior during Interaction:

- Most students reported a favorable impression of police behavior during the interaction.
- About one-quarter of respondents reported that police were *rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening* ON CAMPUS.
- About one-third of respondents reported that police were *rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening* OFF CAMPUS.
- Males were more likely than females to report a negative perception of police behavior (*rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening*), both ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS.
- Black/African American were significantly more likely than other students to report *rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening* police behavior OFF CAMPUS.

Overview

In the spring of 2006, the University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) was administered electronically with an internet-based questionnaire to all 153,000 undergraduates at the nine general campuses of the University, including 22,000 undergraduate students at UC Davis. The UC Davis response rate was about 33%.

The 2006 UCUES provided a timely opportunity to collect information related to student experiences with and perceptions of both UC Davis campus police and City of Davis police. The questionnaire was customized to include a section of police-related items for UC Davis students only. Of the 7270 UC Davis undergraduates who responded to UCUES, 6349 answered the questions related to police interactions, for a section response rate of about 29%. These items were presented at the end of the survey, which was quite lengthy, so the decline in response rate is not surprising. Survey items related to police interactions are shown in Appendix A. Respondent characteristics for this block of questions are shown in Appendix B.

Preliminary research indicated that students do not readily distinguish campus police from city police. However, in general, interactions on campus are much more likely to be with campus police and interactions off campus are much more likely to be with city police; hence, location of the police interaction was used as a proxy for police department. UC Davis students were asked about:

- Number of student-initiated interactions, ON and OFF CAMPUS
- Number of police-initiated interactions, ON and OFF CAMPUS
- Whether a legitimate explanation was given for police-initiated interactions, ON and OFF CAMPUS
- Perception of police behavior during interactions, ON and OFF CAMPUS
- Whether the student responded to interactions with a complaint or commendation

This report focuses on responses to those items. Overall responses are presented and also examined for differences by sex, race/ethnicity, and student class level.

Frequency of Student-Police Interactions ON and OFF CAMPUS

In response to the survey, most students reported no police interactions either ON or OFF CAMPUS during the past academic year. Figure 1 shows the percentage of students who reported one or more. Males were more likely than females to report one or more police-initiated interactions both ON CAMPUS (11% vs 5%) and OFF CAMPUS (26% vs 15%).

Freshmen reported lower rates of police interaction OFF CAMPUS than students of higher class level (data not shown). This is not surprising, as most UC Davis freshman live on campus and do not have a car.

Among those who did report one or more interactions, most reported only one as shown in Figure 2. Interactions were more frequent OFF CAMPUS than ON CAMPUS (14% vs 9% for student-initiated and 19% vs 7% for police-initiated).

Figure 1: Percentage of Students Reporting One or More Police Interactions in the Past Academic Year

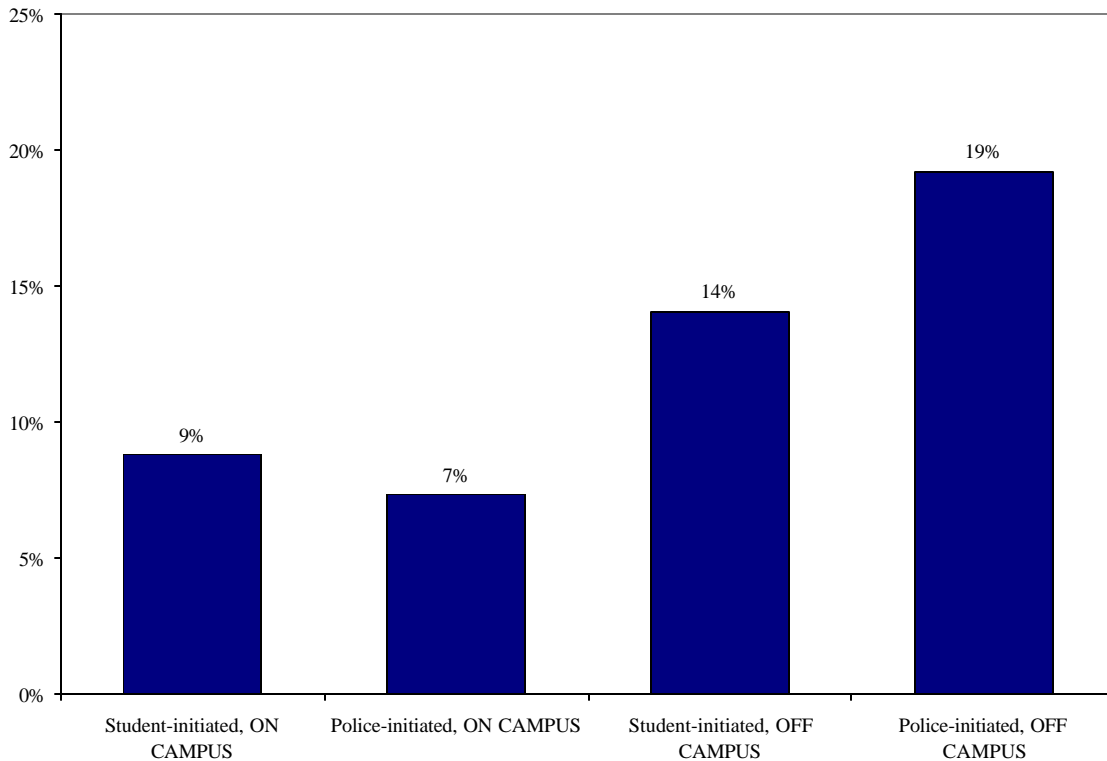
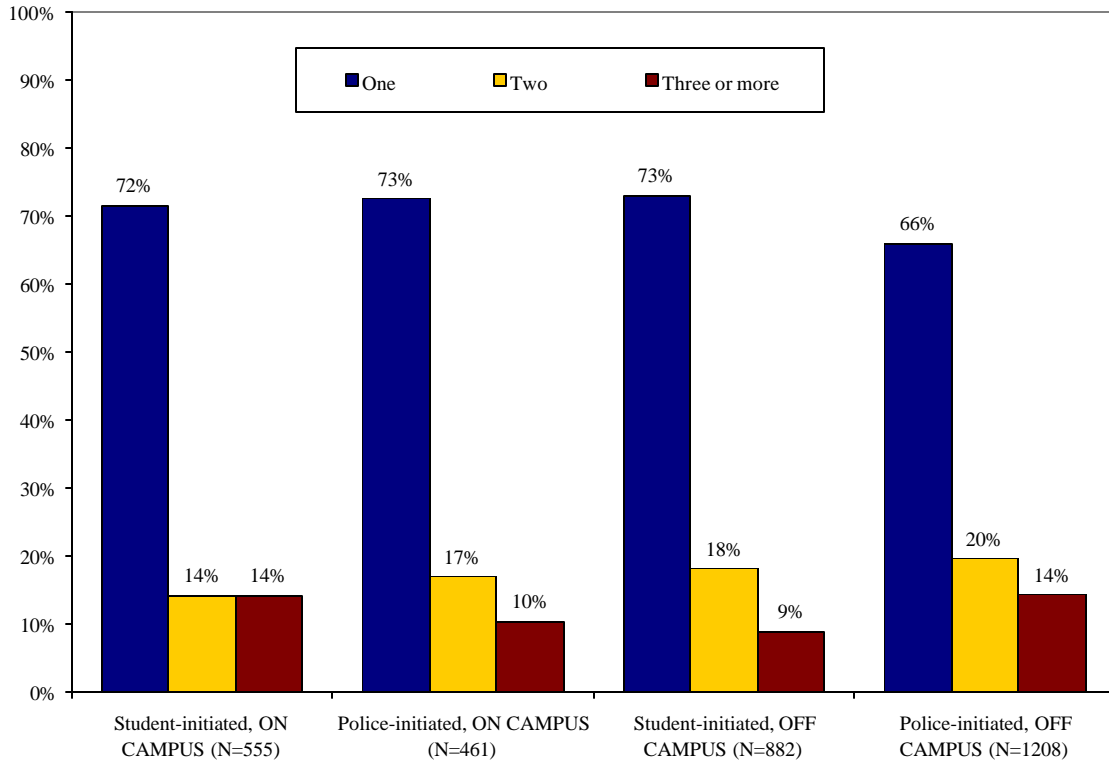


Figure 2: Frequency of Police Interactions Among Students Reporting One or More Police Interactions in the Past Academic Year



No significant difference by ethnicity was noted for either student-initiated or police-initiated interactions ON CAMPUS. Differences by ethnicity were noted for both student-initiated and police-initiated interactions OFF CAMPUS. American Indian/Alaskan Native students were most likely to report student-initiated interactions OFF CAMPUS while Chinese/Chinese American students and Other Asian students were least likely. Black/African American students reported much higher than average rates for police-initiated interactions OFF CAMPUS, as seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Frequency of OFF CAMPUS Police Interaction, by Student Race/Ethnicity

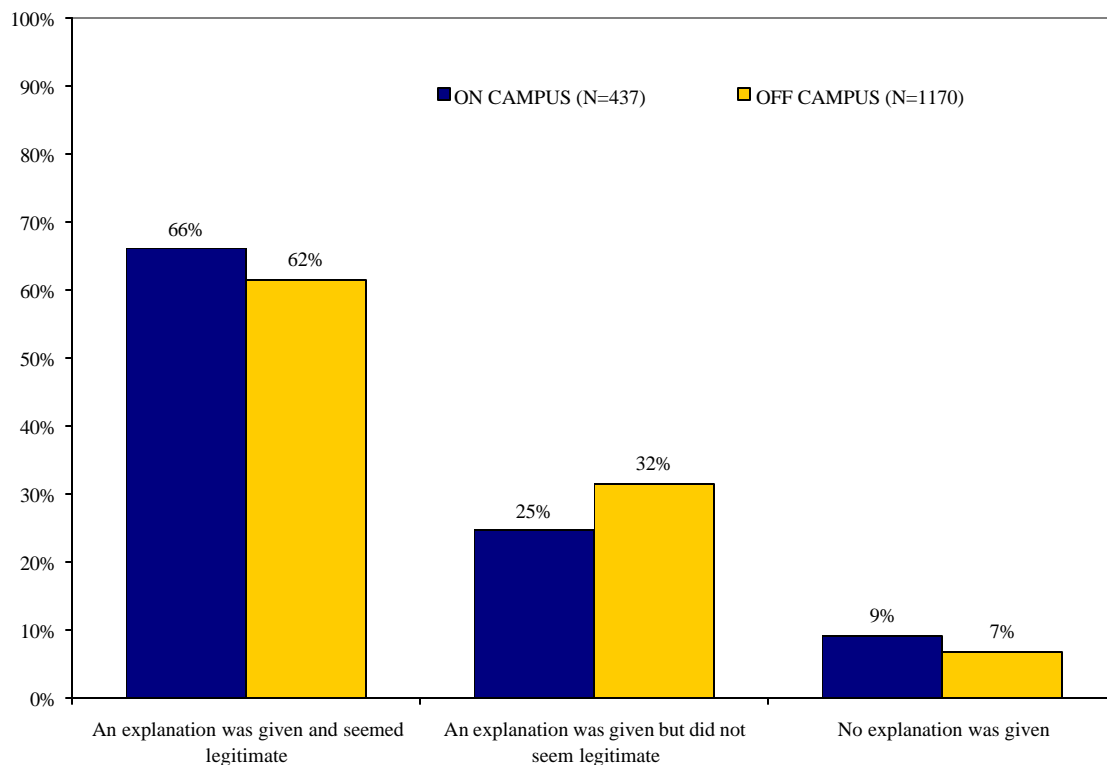
Student Ethnicity	At least one student-initiated interaction with police OFF CAMPUS	At least one police-initiated interaction with police OFF CAMPUS	Three or more police-initiated interactions OFF CAMPUS
American Indian/Alaskan Native	24%	15%	4%
Black/African American	16%	42%	13%
Chicano/Mexican American	17%	28%	6%
Chinese/Chinese American	9%	13%	1%
East Indian/Pakistani	15%	21%	4%
Japanese/Japanese American	14%	19%	2%
Korean	12%	20%	3%
Latino/Other Spanish American	15%	20%	3%
Pilipino/Filipino	12%	17%	3%
Pacific Islander	15%	13%	3%
Other Asian	9%	16%	3%
White/Caucasian	17%	20%	2%
Vietnamese	11%	17%	2%

Students' Satisfaction with Explanation of Police-Initiated Interactions ON and OFF CAMPUS

Figure 3 shows students' perception of the explanation offered by the police in their most recent police-initiated interaction. Sixty-six percent (66%) of students reported a *legitimate* explanation for most recent police-initiated interaction ON CAMPUS, while 62% of students reported a *legitimate* explanation for most recent police-initiated interaction OFF CAMPUS.

Females were more likely than males to receive what they considered to be a *legitimate* explanation both ON CAMPUS (75% vs 59%) and OFF CAMPUS (65% vs 58%).

Figure 3: Percentage of Students Who Received a Satisfactory Explanation for Their Most Recent Police-Initiated Interaction



Differences were noted by ethnicity (Table 2), with Black/African American students least likely to receive what they consider to be a *legitimate* explanation both ON CAMPUS and OFF CAMPUS. East Indian/Pakistani students were also less likely than other students to be satisfied with the explanation given, both ON and OFF CAMPUS.

Table 2: Student Satisfaction with Explanation for Police-Initiated Interaction, by Student Race/Ethnicity

Student Ethnicity	ON-CAMPUS	OFF-CAMPUS
	An explanation was given and seemed legitimate (for most recent police-initiated interaction)	An explanation was given and seemed legitimate (for most recent police-initiated interaction)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	50%	86%
Black/African American	36%	36%
Chicano/Mexican American	46%	47%
Chinese/Chinese American	72%	70%
East Indian/Pakistani	38%	42%
Japanese/Japanese American	60%	69%
Korean	89%	67%
Latino/Other Spanish American	75%	70%
Pilipino/Filipino	80%	70%
Pacific Islander	75%	57%
Other Asian	57%	47%
White/Caucasian	71%	68%
Vietnamese	77%	45%

Differences were also noted by the frequency of police-initiated interactions (Table 3). Of students who reported only one police-initiated interaction ON CAMPUS, 73% considered the explanation given for that interaction *legitimate*; OFF CAMPUS 71% considered the explanation *legitimate*. Of students who reported five or more police-initiated interactions ON CAMPUS, 44% considered the explanation for the most recent interaction *legitimate*; OFF CAMPUS, only 17% considered the explanation *legitimate*.

Table 3: Student Satisfaction with Explanation for Police-Initiated Interaction, by Student-Reported Frequency of Interaction

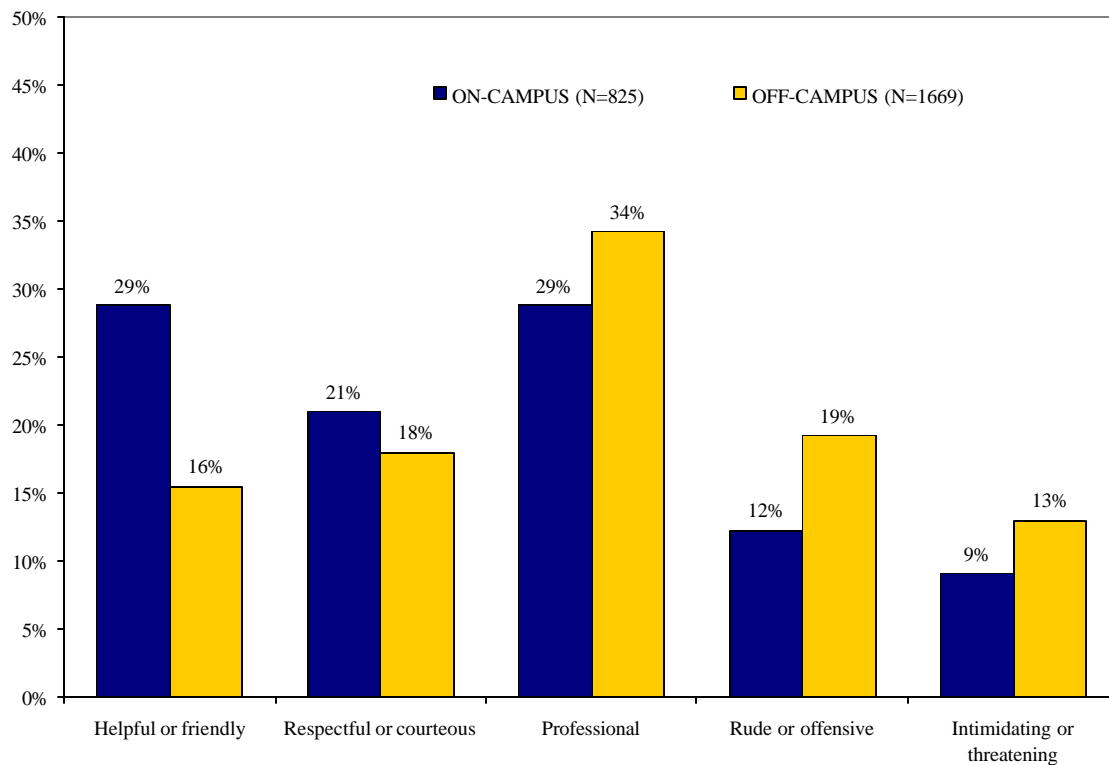
	ON CAMPUS An explanation was given and seemed legitimate (for most recent police-initiated interaction)	OFF CAMPUS An explanation was given and seemed legitimate (for most recent police-initiated interaction)
1 time	73%	71%
2 times	47%	52%
3 times	48%	36%
4 times	50%	27%
5 or more times	44%	17%

Students' Perception of Police Behavior ON and OFF CAMPUS

Figure 4 shows students' perception of police behavior in their most recent interaction, whether student-initiated or police-initiated. Most students reported a positive perception of police behavior, both ON and OFF CAMPUS, with 79% describing police as *helpful or friendly*, *respectful or courteous*, or *professional* in their most recent interaction ON CAMPUS, and 68% describing police in that way OFF CAMPUS.

Females responded more positively than males both ON CAMPUS (16% vs. 27% considered police behavior *rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening*) and OFF CAMPUS (29% vs 37%).

Figure 4: Student Perception of Police Behavior in Most Recent Police Interaction, Whether Student-Initiated or Police-Initiated



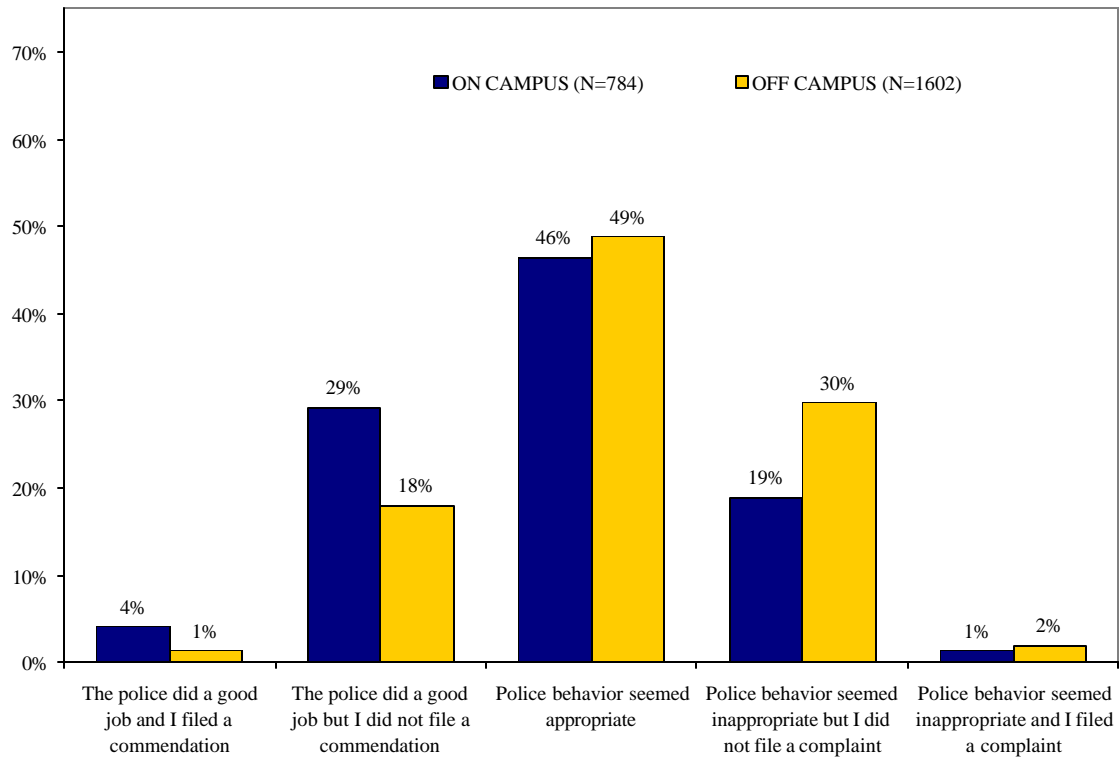
As shown in Table 4, no significant difference by ethnicity was noted for interactions ON CAMPUS. However, differences by ethnicity were noted for interactions OFF CAMPUS. Black/African American students were more negative in their perception of police behavior than other students (65% described police behavior as *rude/offensive* or *intimidating/threatening*).

Table 4: Student Perception of Police Behavior, by Student Race/Ethnicity

	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS
Student Ethnicity	Positive perception of police behavior (helpful or friendly, respectful or courteous, or professional)	Positive perception of police behavior (helpful or friendly, respectful or courteous, or professional)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	73%	100%
Black/African American	63%	35%
Chicano/Mexican American	72%	59%
Chinese/Chinese American	83%	67%
East Indian/Pakistani	64%	59%
Japanese/Japanese American	67%	78%
Korean	83%	69%
Latino/Other Spanish American	76%	69%
Pilipino/Filipino	73%	76%
Pacific Islander	50%	50%
Other Asian	70%	67%
White/Caucasian	82%	73%
Vietnamese	82%	60%

As seen in Figure 5, students were unlikely to register an official response or reaction to police interaction, regardless of the perception of police behavior. Fewer than 5% of students reported filing either a commendation or complaint concerning police behavior, although only about one-half considered behavior to be simply *appropriate*.

Figure 5: Student Response to Most Recent Police Interaction



Appendix A

2006 UCUES Police Interaction Items

In this academic year, how many times have YOU INITIATED an interaction with the police? (reported a crime, requested assistance, etc.)

On Campus 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more

Off Campus 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more

In this academic year, how many times have the POLICE INITIATED an interaction with you? (stopped or questioned you, etc.)

On Campus 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more

Off Campus 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more

Think back to your most recent POLICE-INITIATED interaction this academic year. Did you understand the reason for it?

On Campus

- An explanation was given and seemed legitimate
- An explanation was given but *did not* seem legitimate
- No explanation was given
- No police-initiated interaction on campus this year

Off Campus

- An explanation was given and seemed legitimate
- An explanation was given but *did not* seem legitimate
- No explanation was given
- No police-initiated interaction off campus this year

Think about your most recent interaction with the police this academic year, whether initiated by you or by the police. Characterize the behavior of the police in that interaction.

On Campus

Helpful or friendly
Respectful or courteous
Professional
Rude or offensive
Intimidating or threatening
No police interaction on campus this year

Off Campus

Helpful or friendly
Respectful or courteous
Professional
Rude or offensive
Intimidating or threatening
No police interaction off campus this year

Once more, think about your most recent interaction with the police this academic year, whether initiated by you or by the police. Did you file a formal commendation or complaint with the police department related to this experience?

On Campus

The police did a good job and I filed a commendation
The police did a good job but I did not file a commendation
Police behavior seemed *appropriate*
Police behavior seemed *inappropriate* but I did not file a complaint
The police behavior seemed *inappropriate* and I filed a complaint
No police interaction on campus this year

Off Campus

The police did a good job and I filed a commendation
The police did a good job but I did not file a commendation
Police behavior seemed *appropriate*
Police behavior seemed *inappropriate* but I did not file a complaint
The police behavior seemed *inappropriate* and I filed a complaint
No police interaction off campus this year

Appendix B

Table 5: Characteristics of Respondents to UCUES 2006 Police Interaction Items					
	UC Davis Student Population*		Respondents to Police-Interaction Items		% Responding
	N	%	N	%	
Student ethnicity					
American Indian/Alaskan Native	134	1%	47	1%	35%
Black/African American	539	2%	119	2%	22%
Chicano/Mexican American	1781	8%	477	8%	27%
Chinese/Chinese American	4079	19%	1229	19%	30%
East Indian/Pakistani	753	3%	214	3%	28%
Japanese/Japanese American	437	2%	142	2%	32%
Korean	654	3%	148	2%	23%
Latino/Other Spanish American	608	3%	172	3%	28%
Pilipino/Filipino	1008	5%	260	4%	26%
Pacific Islander	230	1%	65	1%	28%
Other Asian	651	3%	202	3%	31%
White/Caucasian	8232	38%	2580	41%	31%
Vietnamese	1268	6%	293	5%	23%
Other/Decline to State	1441	7%	401	6%	28%
Total	21815	100%	6349	100%	29%
Student gender					
Female	12090	55%	3939	62%	33%
Male	9725	45%	2410	38%	25%
Student level					
Freshman	4004	18%	1253	20%	31%
Sophomore	4086	19%	1170	18%	29%
Junior	5892	27%	1635	26%	28%
Senior	7792	36%	2281	36%	29%
Limited/2nd BA	41	0%	10	0%	24%

* Based on 2006 UCUES population