

# UC Davis BME: The Student Perspective



**Biomedical Engineering Student Association (BESA)**

# THE TECHNICAL STUFF

Courses, program requirements, finding a lab

# Courses

## Degrees and Units

- Research PhD (40 units)
- Thesis MS (I) or Coursework MS (II) (28 units)

## 4 Core Courses (17 units)

- Cell Biology (BIM 202)
- Physiology (BIM 204)
- Signals (BIM 281)
- Statistics or Design of Experiment (BIM 284/289c)
- Teaching experience (TA, guest lecture, lead a lab, etc.)

## Electives

- Tissue engineering, imaging, immunoengineering, biopolymers, etc.
- Can be outside of BME department

## Quarter system

# Exams

## Two required examinations for PhD

### 1. Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Oral exam on research proposal
- 5 committee members (4 BMEGG, 1 outside)
- Required for “Advancement to Candidacy”


No written exam for  
QE!

### 2. Dissertation Defense

- Oral exam following written PhD dissertation
- Minimum 3 committee members
- Required to put that “Dr.” in front of your name 😊

# Finding a lab

- Start by checking lab websites
- Talk to current students (ask the “real” questions)
- Attend lab meetings (great way to see PI-student interactions)
- Meet with the professor and ask them about...
  - Rotations
    - Not required
    - BMEGG funds first two quarters so you can rotate
  - Funding
  - Expectations for graduation
- Be open minded!

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- Expectations to graduate
  - Hands on or hands off?
  - Where are the alumni now?
  - Funding?
  - Conferences?

# Funding opportunities

1. **Graduate Student Researcher (GSR)**: you are paid by your professor's grant(s)
2. **Fellowships & Grants**: you, the individual, are independently funded
  - External
    - NSF GRFP, NDSEG, NIH F31
    - NIH Training grants (T32) on campus
    - HHMI, AHA
  - Internal
    - ARCS, Schwall Dissertation, etc.
3. **Teaching Assistant (TA)**: you are paid by the department to help teach

# GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

Will I have a life outside of lab and classes?

# **MISSION OF BESA:**

Provide a community for graduate students in biomedical engineering at UC Davis



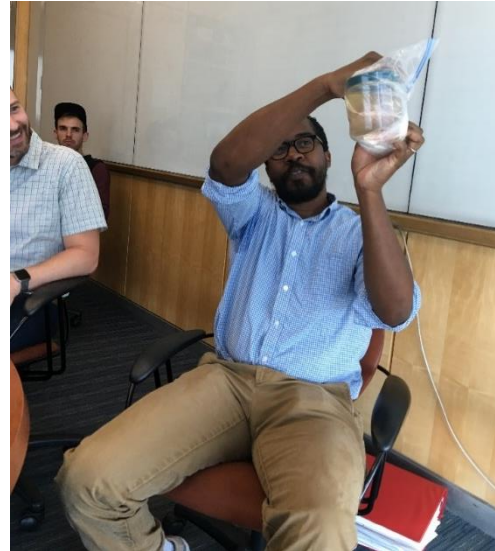
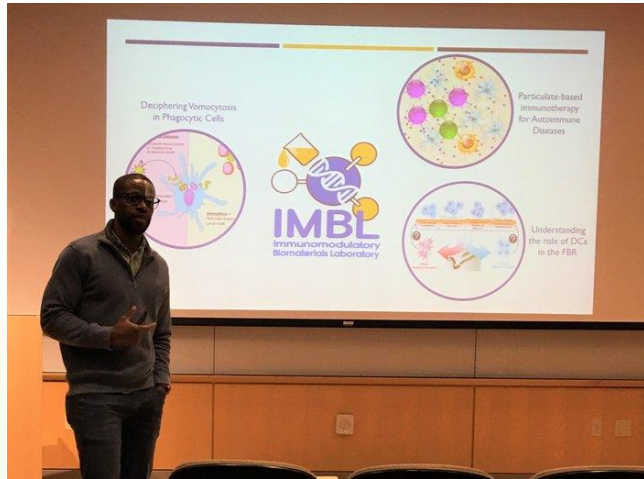
# To do this, BESA...

- Acts as a channel between students and faculty
  - Executive committee membership
  - Special council membership
- Helps new students transition into grad school
  - First-year mentoring program
- Plans events
  - Student-faculty lunches
  - Camping and cabin trips
  - IM sports
  - Outreach (community & industry)
  - Student-run conferences

# BMEGG BBQs



# Student-Faculty lunches and coffee hours



# San Francisco trip



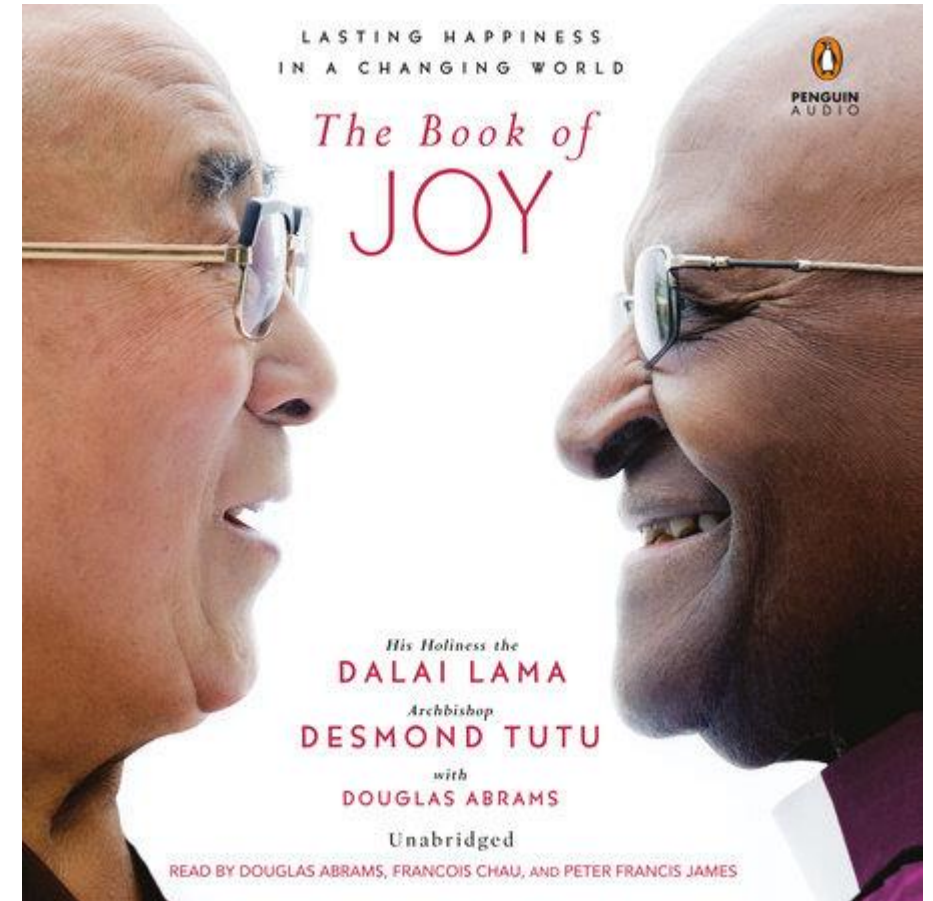
# Cabin trip



# Camping trip



# BESA Health



# Intramural (IM) sports





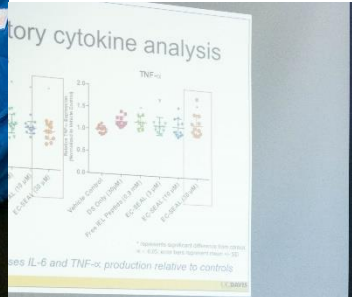
# Community outreach



# Industry outreach



# BMEGG Symposium



# Other fun



# Recruitment and orientation



# First Year Mentoring Program

- Pairs incoming grad students with current BMEGG grad students
- Helps with getting oriented in Davis and in the program
- Pre-orientation picnic
- Events throughout first year

# Professional development programs outside of BESA

- FUTURE Career Exploration program
- Designated Emphasis programs
  - Biotechnology
  - Biophotonics
  - Translational Research
- Professors for the Future
- Business development fellowships
- Leaders for the Future
- Science Communication fellowships
- & more!

# LIVING IN DAVIS

City of Davis, cost of living, housing discussion, traveling



# City of Davis – claims to fame

## Bikes!

- Regularly named as the most “bicycle friendly” town in the US
- Most convenient way to get around downtown
- Green belt bike path



## Farmer's Market

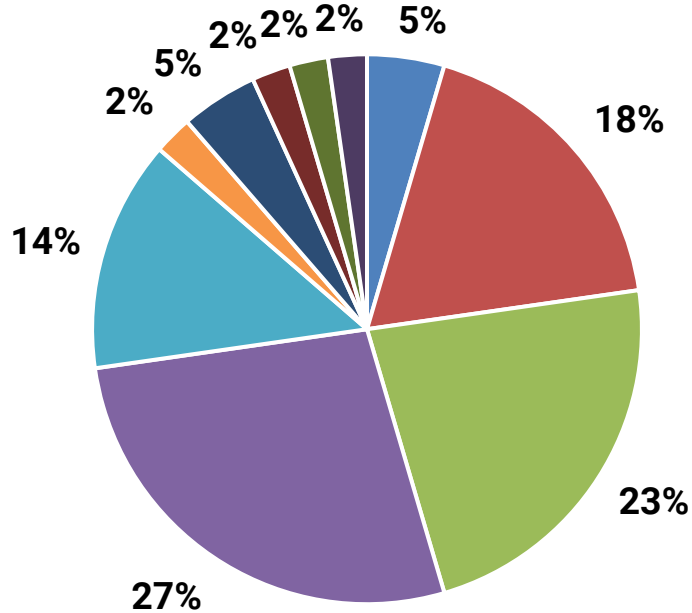


# City of Davis – claims to Fame



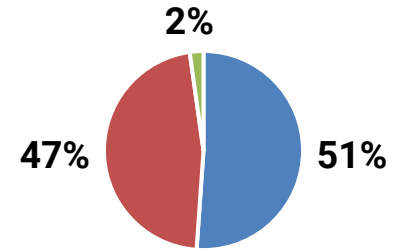
# Living in Davis

Which best describes where you live?



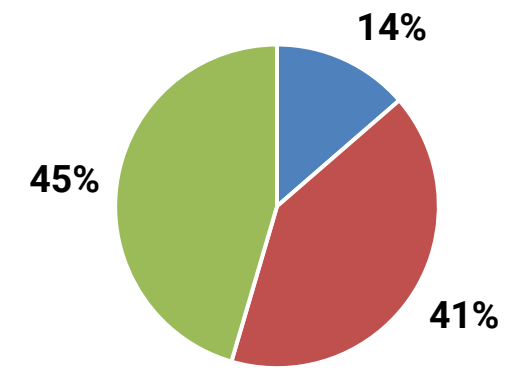
- North Davis
- West Davis
- Woodland
- Dixon
- East Davis
- Central/Downtown
- Sacramento
- South Davis
- UC Davis Campus
- El Macero

How do you primarily commute?



- Drive (Parking pass)
- Bike
- Walk

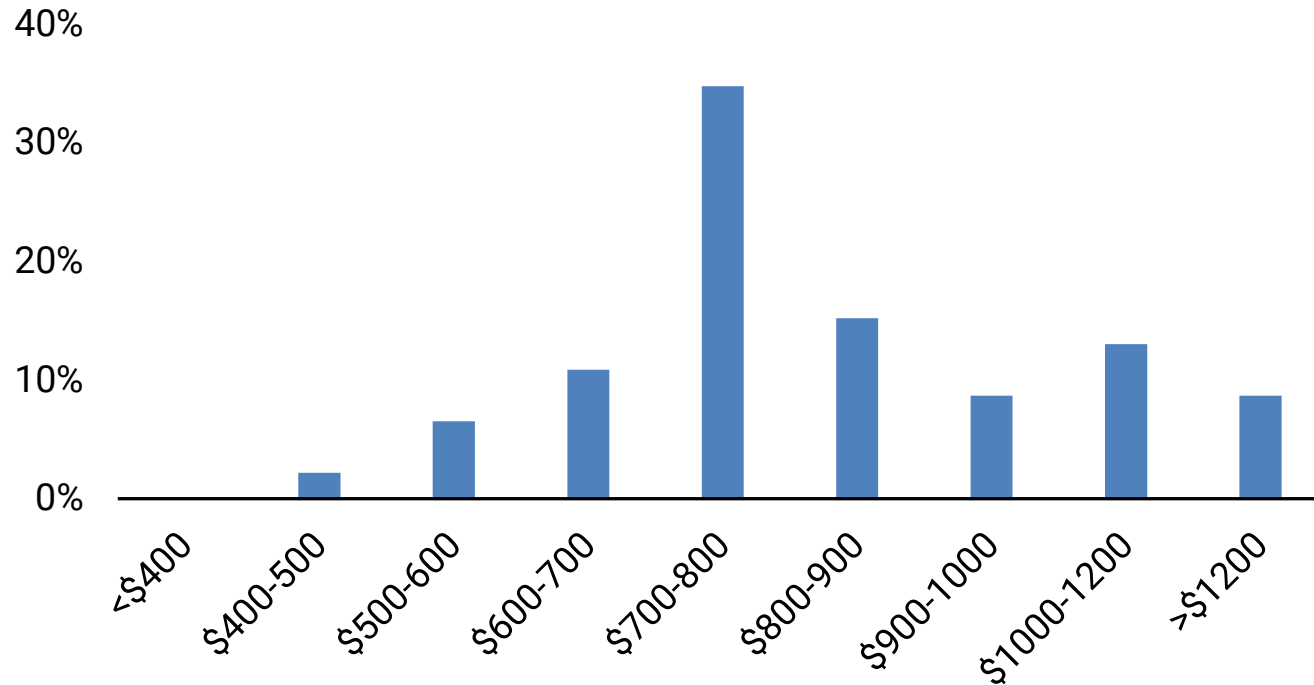
How would you describe your housing?



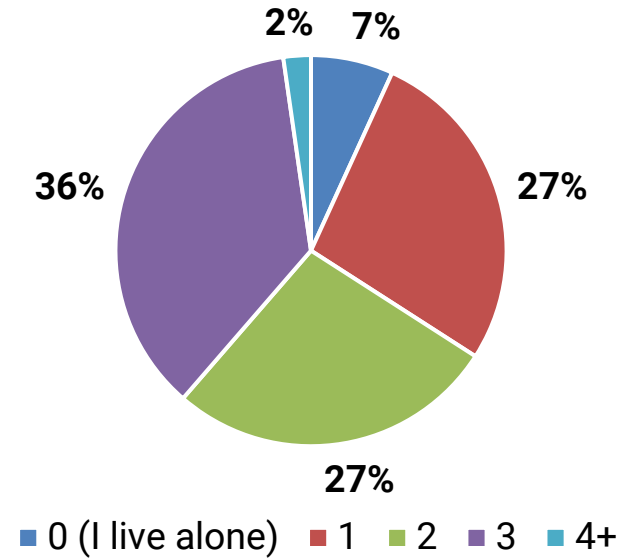
- Condo
- Apartment
- House

# Housing

How much are your monthly living expenses?

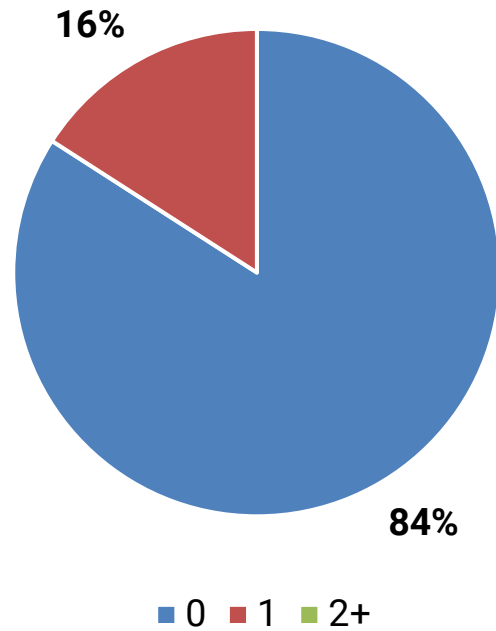


How many people live with you?  
(Housemates and/or roommates)

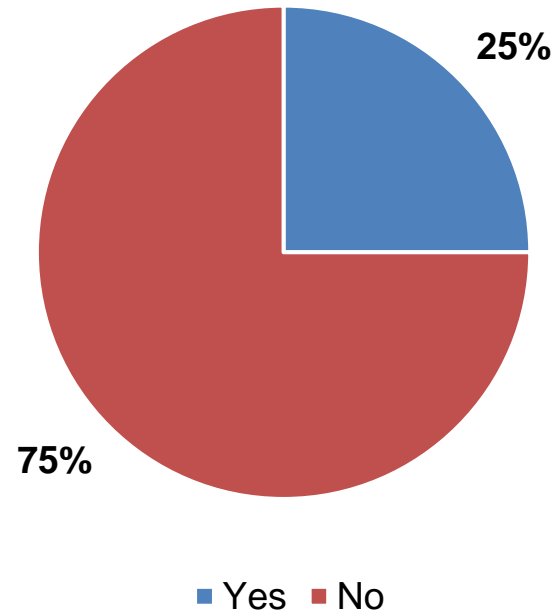


# Housing

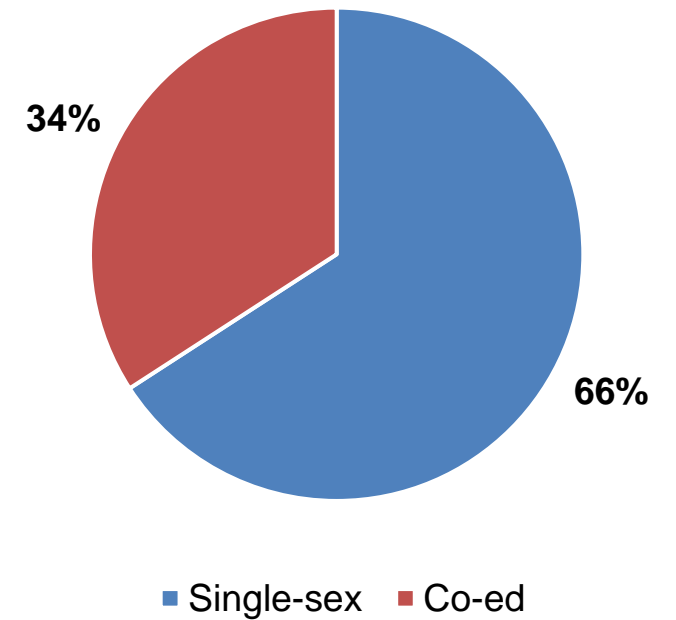
How many people do you share a room with?



Is a housemate or roommate your significant other?

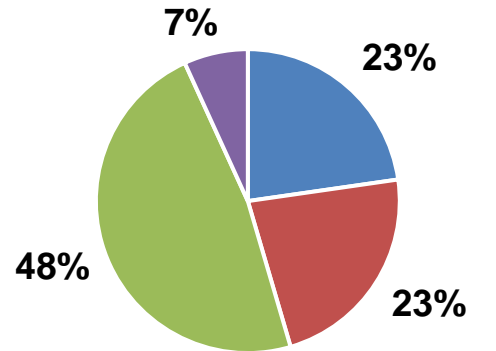


How would you describe your "household"?



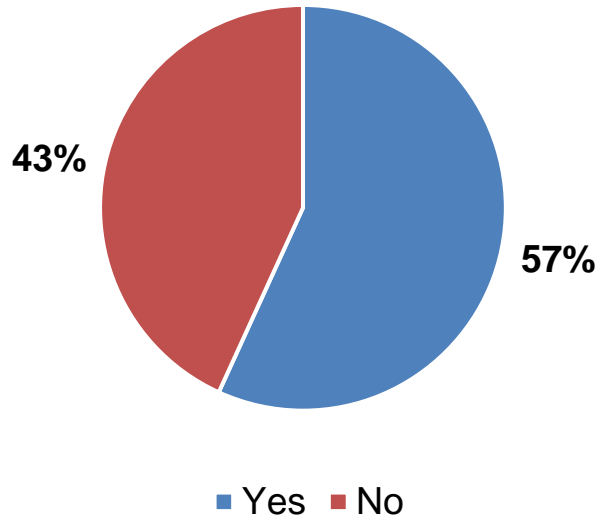
# Housing

What about pets?



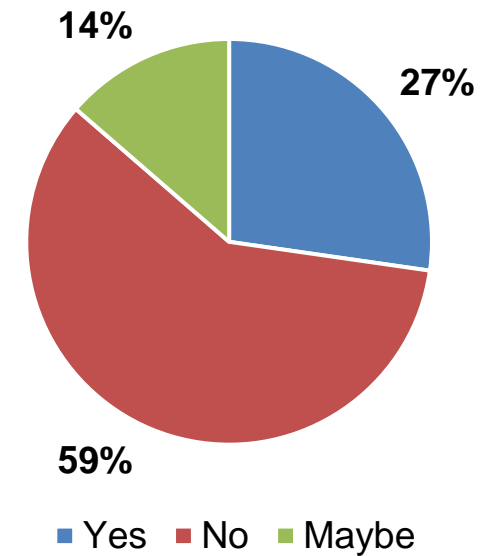
- I can and do have a pet
- I can and don't have a pet
- I can't and don't have a pet
- I can't but do have a pet

Have you moved since starting the program?



- Yes
- No

Do you think you'll move again?



- Yes
- No
- Maybe

# Housing

- In general, it's good.
- Living in Davis is best if your lab is in Davis. I live in Davis while it's cheaper, the drive is infuriating.
- Find housing with friends! Supportive roommates are important for graduate school.
- Housing in Davis is expensive. Consider it. It is probably worth the price of parking.
- The commute is a pain.
- Not a lot of rent control. Be prepared to move or pay anywhere from 3-10% increase in rent annually.
- Reach out to us to go to showings early so you don't miss out on good ones (we make you go to a showing before signing a lease).
- Craigslist is more helpful than other programs to find living arrangements
- Housing is relatively pricy in Davis. You may not have a car. On campus parking is awful though as it is often difficult to find an available spot.
- Start housing search early, be sure to check by word of mouth about living experience/landlord issues. Housing has been steadily getting more expensive.
- It's hard to find cheap housing past **Bottom line: we all make it work** always move later!

## Major Takeaways

**1. Housing can be expensive in Davis and there is no rent control**

**2. If you work in Davis, it's more convenient to live in Davis**

**3. Don't be afraid of Craigslist**

**4. Don't underestimate the influence of roommates**

**5. Sort of a crapshoot your first year**

**Bottom line: we all make it work**

# Take a break nearby...





# Take a trip to get away...



# More fun places “not so nearby”



# Summary

Grad school can be difficult in many ways...



...but BESA serves to build a strong community to make it easier (and more fun!)

Find us!

BMEGG website: [bmegg.ucdavis.edu](http://bmegg.ucdavis.edu)

BME website: [bme.ucdavis.edu](http://bme.ucdavis.edu)

BESA website: [besa.ucdavis.edu](http://besa.ucdavis.edu)

# UCDAVIS

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## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



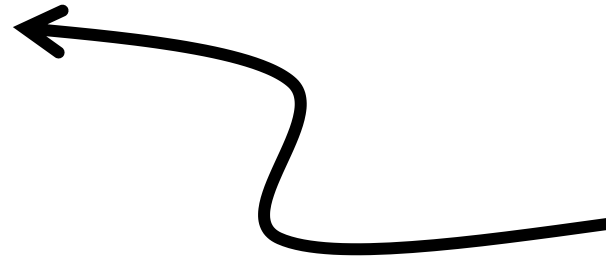
@UCDavisBMEGG



Biomedical Engineering Student Association



[besa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:besa@ucdavis.edu)



This presentation will be here!

# Questions

- Can you explain what the BMEGG is again?
- How many hours do you usually work a week?
- Do you get health/dental insurance?
- Is your stipend enough to pay bills and enjoy life?
- What's your work-life balance like?
- What's the hardest part about transition to graduate life?
- Do any of you have pets?
- Are there seasons here?
- What hobbies do you have?