Safety and Transportation Survey

Selected Results and Data
UChicago Graduate Council

Survey Responses Collected from November 18th - December 1st, 2021
Disclaimers

While 1289 students across all twelve graduate divisions responded to our survey, which is over 10% of the graduate student population, it should be noted that students who responded are more likely to have opinions about safety and security on and off campus. As a result, this survey may not be representative of the entire graduate student body at UChicago and may over- or under-represent some groups of students. This should be taken into consideration when using the results of this survey to make administrative decisions or implement changes.

Graduate Council’s priorities are to provide services and programming to the graduate student body, and to promote the wellbeing of our community. The results of this survey do not reflect the opinions of GC, it’s executive team, or any of its members.
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Survey Respondent Demographics

Academic Divisions and Professional Schools

- 1,288 total responses
- Representation varies widely based on division and school
- Note that Booth enrolls the majority of part-time graduate students

★ Students in dual degree programs are counted toward both programs in comparisons but not aggregates throughout
Survey Respondent Demographics

Academic Divisions and Professional Schools

- Representation is more proportional among full-time graduate students.
Survey Respondent Demographics

Degree and Year

- Most respondents matriculated in the last 2 years
- PhD students are overrepresented
- MBA students are underrepresented
Survey Respondent Demographics

Geographic Distribution

- Hyde Park/Kenwood/Woodlawn: 73%
- Other Chicago Neighborhoods: 24%
- Suburbs: 2%
- Other: 1%
I. Demographics

II. Safety

III. Security

IV. Lighting

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VI. University Transportation
Assessments of Safety on the UChicago Campus

Respondents generally feel safe on the UChicago campus, particularly Hyde Park residents.
Assessments of Safety in Hyde Park Off-Campus

Respondents generally feel unsafe in Hyde Park off-campus, particularly those who do not live in the area.
Assessments of Safety Near Residences

Students who live in other areas of Chicago feel significantly more safe near their residences than students who live in Hyde Park.

★ Results may be biased by students choosing to live in certain areas due to their perceptions of safety.
Key Assessments of Safety

- **Students feel safe on campus**
  - Students who live in Hyde Park feel significantly more safe on campus than they do near their own residences

- **Students feel unsafe in Hyde Park off-campus**
  - Students who live in Hyde Park feel slightly unsafe near their residences and more unsafe in the broader area

- **Students feel slightly differently based on where they live but generally share the same consensus**
  - Students who live in Hyde Park feel slightly more safe there, on and off campus
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Opinions on Existing UCPD Presence

Respondents slightly disagree that policing by UCPD is adequate

Respondents who live in Hyde Park are slightly more likely to agree that policing by UCPD is adequate
Opinions on Increasing UCPD Presence on Campus

Respondents generally support increasing UCPD presence on campus but opinions are polarized.

Respondents who live in Hyde Park are more likely to oppose increasing UCPD presence, and opinions vary widely by division.
Opinions on Expanding the Safety Ambassador Program

Expanding the Safety Ambassador Program to residential neighborhoods and other public spaces in Hyde Park will be beneficial for long-term safety off campus and in adjacent neighborhoods.

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<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students strongly support expanding the Safety Ambassador Program.
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Most respondents think that street lighting in Hyde Park is insufficient

Areas that could benefit from better street lighting are coded according to the number of respondents who cited them.
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Areas that could benefit from better street lighting are coded according to the number of respondents who cited them.
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Most respondents use public transportation for their commute at least once a week.
In Booth, Crown, Graham, Harris, Law, and PME, most respondents use public transportation for their commute frequently.
Respondents who live outside of the Hyde Park area use public transportation for their commute more frequently.
CTA buses are the most frequently used mode of transportation, followed by rideshare
The most popular bus route is the 6, followed by the 55 and the 2.

Results may be biased by students choosing to live in certain areas due to easy access to certain bus routes.
Recommendations for Public Transport and Infrastructure

- **Increased and subsidized access to CTA bus routes**
  - Similar to free ID taps for CTA buses 171/172, the University could offer free or subsidized access to popular bus routes such as the 6, 55, and 2
  - Divisions in which more students commute or are required to travel (including but not limited to Booth, Graham, Law, and Crown) would benefit from increased access to public transportation and a frequent, reliable downtown shuttle service

- **Insufficient street lighting in Hyde Park**
  - Several areas have been identified as lacking sufficient street lighting, specifically around the Midway and 55th/56th/57th Metra stations
  - We hope to work with Hyde Park and city officials to improve infrastructure, in particular, roads, parking availability, sidewalks, and street lighting, all of which have been identified as major issues in survey responses
Respondents are generally familiar with University shuttle services

Hyde Park residents, who live near the shuttle service area, are significantly more knowledgeable than respondents who live outside of the area
Most respondents do not use UGo Shuttles for their commute very frequently. Hyde Park residents either rarely/never use UGo Shuttles, or if they do, tend to rely on UGo Shuttles for their commute 4-6 days/week. Most respondents who never use UGo Shuttles do not live in the Hyde Park area.
Slightly over half of respondents who live in Hyde Park use UGo Shuttles for their commute at least once a week.
Respondents are generally unsatisfied with UGo Shuttle services.

Even weekly users are not particularly satisfied with the services.
Respondents are slightly satisfied with the TransLoc Rider app.

Most respondents who have not heard of the TransLoc Rider app live outside of Hyde Park.
Recommendations for University Transportation Services

- **TransLoc App**
  - Improve accuracy of bus location
  - Provide information regarding bus schedule so that students can plan accordingly and don’t wait for buses that aren’t running
  - Provide real-time updates on bus status
  - Implement route preference functionality

- **UGo Shuttles**
  - Increased frequency and improved accuracy (reinstate shuttle frequency to every 15 minutes rather than every 30 minutes)
  - Increase drop off / pick-up range as many community members live outside of the current shuttle service
  - Offer larger shuttles for popular routes; students have waited 30 minutes for a shuttle only to have it pass as it was at capacity