

The University of California Open Source Survey 2025



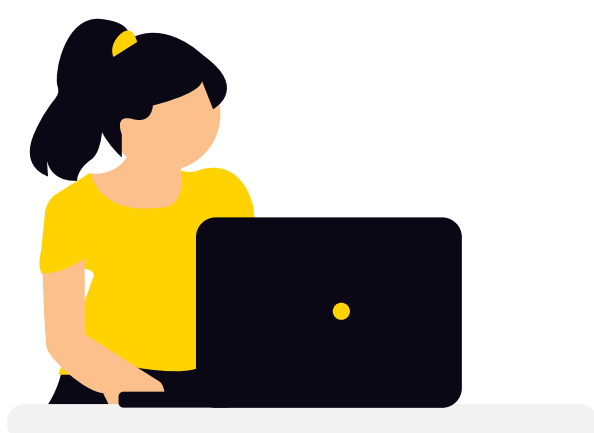
Open Source Program Office

Brought to you by the UC OSPO Network

In May 2025, the UC OSPO Network surveyed 294 experienced or aspiring open source software contributors. Respondents included students, faculty, and staff from ten UC campuses. This study aims to characterize challenges faced by UC's open source contributors and identify opportunities for increased support.

KEY RESULTS

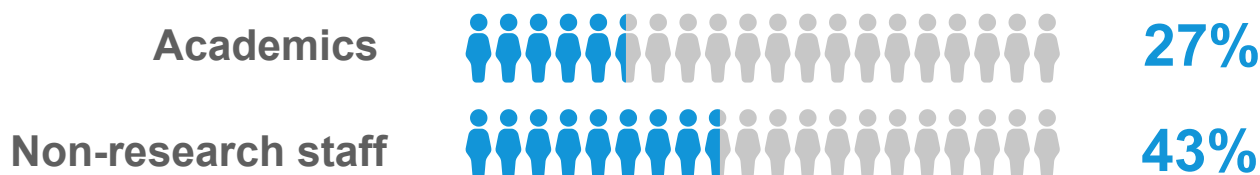
92% of students and **93%** of researchers report that open source software is important for their work



58% of UC open source contributors are project maintainers*

*A maintainer is someone who takes responsibility for the open source code. There are many ways to contribute to a project.

WHO CONTRIBUTES TO LARGE PROJECTS?



#1 CHALLENGE

Finding time for documentation

Most frequent challenge for experienced contributors



TOP 3 SOLUTIONS

selected by

Experienced contributors



Nearly 1 in 3 experienced contributors said **sustainability grants** would be the most helpful solution the university could offer.

Aspiring contributors



2 out of 3 aspiring contributors said **accessible computing environments** would help them get started contributing.

CULTURE CHANGE

suggestions from survey participants



Personnel
Centralized maintenance help



Careers
Education on OS careers



Guidelines
Clear rules for UC employees



Code review
Communities of practice