



Open Source  
Program Office

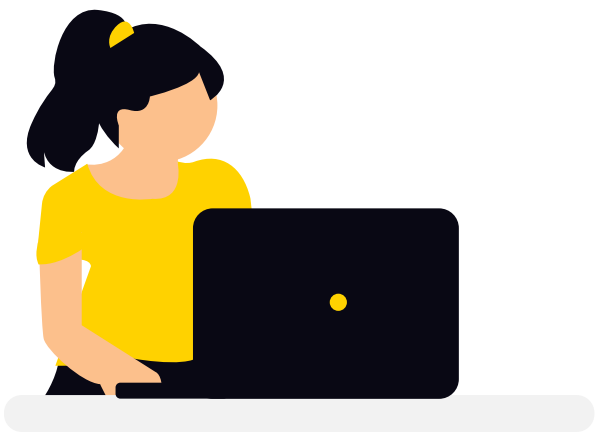
# The University of California Open Source Survey 2025

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 UC's by 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