



REPORT SUMMARY

When Faculty Take Sides: How Academic Infrastructure Drives Antisemitism at the University of California (Full report [here](#))

Much of the public conversation around the post-10/7 surge in antisemitism at the University of California has assumed the crisis is student-driven and episodic, focused on protests and encampments. AMCHA Initiative's report reaches a different and more troubling conclusion: students are the most visible actors, but faculty and academic departments are key institutional drivers of the hostile environment on UC campuses.

Based on in-depth case studies of UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz, the report documents hundreds of examples of faculty using classrooms, departmental programming and communications, and faculty-group activism to promote an anti-Israel agenda, and it directly links them to the dramatic surges in antisemitism on those campuses post-10/7. Comparing July 2021-June 2023 with July 2023-June 2025:

- Incidents targeting Jewish campus members for harassment, intimidation, threats, exclusion, vandalism, and assault **rose 3,150% at UCLA, 531% at UC Berkeley, and 1,150% at UC Santa Cruz.**
- Incidents involving rhetoric glorifying violence or calling for Israel's elimination **increased 1,175% at UCLA, 2,125% at UC Berkeley, and 7,000% at UC Santa Cruz.**

Faculty and departments were involved in 40% to 60% of these incidents – either as perpetrators, public defenders or institutional enablers – and their behavior persisted even after UC entered into a [resolution agreement](#) with the federal government in December 2024, obligating the university to address antisemitism systemwide.

What the Report Shows: Faculty, Departments and Faculty Groups Are Fueling Hostility

Across the three campuses, several common patterns emerged. These include:

1. **Large concentrations of faculty, including many department chairs and administrators, have publicly endorsed an academic boycott of Israel (academic BDS), whose guidelines urge “anti-normalization,” or treating on-campus engagement with pro-Israel speakers, programs, and perspectives as illegitimate:**
 - 115 academic BDS endorsers at UCLA, including 20 chairs, directors or associate deans;
 - 171 endorsers at UC Berkeley, including 19 academic heads; and
 - 55 endorsers at UC Santa Cruz, including an Associate Campus Provost, four residential college provosts, and multiple department heads.
2. **Numerous departments sponsored dozens of one-sided, anti-Israel events** – 23 events at UCLA (18 departments), 27 at UCSC (19 departments), and 40 at UC Berkeley (34 departments) – **without sponsoring a single Israel-related event lacking anti-Israel bias.** Rhetoric at the events repeatedly condoned terrorism, denied antisemitism and delegitimized Israel and Zionism. For example:

- At UCLA, speakers dismissed reports of Hamas atrocities as “lies” and “propaganda.”
- At UCSC, an Education Department colloquium urged early-childhood educators to adopt “an anti-Zionist commitment” in their teaching.
- At UC Berkeley, speakers repeatedly cast Israel as illegitimate and dismissed antisemitism concerns as bad-faith “smear” claims.

3. **Chapters of Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) or Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (FSJP) emerged on all three campuses after October 2023 with the explicit goal of promoting academic BDS.** The groups’ activities — which included coordinating anti-Israel faculty statements and programming and mobilizing faculty and departmental participation in anti-Israel activism — escalated hostility toward Jewish and pro-Israel students. For example:

- At UCSC, FJP declared “Zionism is not welcome on our campus,” collaborated on efforts to eliminate Hillel and urged instructors to withhold grades until the university adopted BDS.
- At UCLA, FJP pledged to fight for Palestine “by any means necessary,” supported work stoppages, promoted academic BDS, and defended the exclusion of “Zionist” students from campus spaces in federal court.
- At UC Berkeley, FSJP helped de-platform a “Zionist” speaker, co-sponsored a “Week of Rage,” and called for severing ties with the Center for Jewish Studies and other bridge-building, coexistence initiatives.

It’s clear from the extensive data in the report that UC’s antisemitism crisis cannot be solved through student discipline or protest management alone. The UC Regents must focus on reining in faculty misuse of academic authority and university resources by enforcing existing rules and closing policy gaps.

AMCHA’s Recommendations to the UC Regents:

- Prohibit institutional academic boycott and “anti-normalization” implementation;
- Prohibit faculty use of instructional authority for political and anti-Israel mobilization;
- Prevent academic units from issuing official political positions through official school and unit platforms and actions;
- Prevent faculty advocacy groups from leveraging UC branding or resources;
- Establish transparent Regents-level oversight with consequences; and
- Require the Academic Senate to address misuse of faculty and academic unit authority.

AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization combating campus antisemitism in the United States.

www.AMCHAinitiative.org