CAMPUS PROFILE AND POINTS OF DISTINCTION

At the University of California San Diego, we constantly push boundaries and challenge expectations. Established in 1960, UC San Diego has been shaped by exceptional scholars who aren’t afraid to take risks and redefine conventional wisdom. Today, as one of the top 20 research universities in the world, we are driving innovation and change to advance society, propel economic growth, and make our world a better place.

UC San Diego’s main campus is located near the Pacific Ocean on 1,200 acres of coastal woodland in La Jolla, California. The campus sits on land formerly inhabited by Kumeyaay tribal members, the original native inhabitants of San Diego County. UC San Diego’s rich academic portfolio includes six undergraduate colleges, five academic divisions, and five graduate and professional schools.

BY THE NUMBERS

• **40,066** Total campus enrollment (as of Fall 2020); the largest number of students among colleges and universities in San Diego County.

• **99,115** Freshman applications for 2019

• **4.13** Admitted freshman average high school GPA

• **19,257** Transfer applications for 2019

• **3.59** Admitted transfer average GPA

• **$5.4 billion** Fiscal year 2018-19 revenues; 20 percent of this total is revenue from contracts and grants, most of which is from the federal government for research.

• **$1.4 billion** Research funding secured during fiscal year 2020 to support research in all fields. The university reached a new milestone for the fifth consecutive year.

• **7%** Total educational appropriations from the State of California; yet a small investment in UC San Diego results in significant impact to the region’s economy, workforce and businesses.

• **850+** Number of local low-income and first-generation college students who have been awarded a Chancellor’s Associates Scholarship

• **71%** Percentage of undergraduate students expected to receive some form of financial aid in the 2018-19 academic year.

• **9,499** Number of undergraduate and graduate degrees conferred in 2018/2019.

• **207,345** Number of undergraduate and graduate UC San Diego alumni worldwide; 70 percent live in California, with 25 percent in San Diego County, contributing income, payroll, property, and sales taxes to the region.

• **16** Number of Nobel laureates who have taught on campus

• **163** Memberships held by current and emeriti faculty in the National Academy of Sciences (85), National Academy of Engineering (32), and National Academy of Medicine (46).

• **204** UC San Diego faculty who have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest general science organization in the world and publisher of the journal *Science*.

• **5** Scripps Institution of Oceanography operates four research vessels and an innovative Floating Instrument Platform (FLIP), enabling faculty, students, and researchers to address our planet’s most pressing environmental challenges within a cutting-edge mobile laboratory. In 2019, the oceanographic research vessel *Bob and Betty Beyster* became the newest addition to the Scripps Fleet.

• **32** Campus structures are LEED certified; wireless sensors are situated across campus to determine the best time to gain and expend energy; and more than half of the campus community utilizes alternative transportation.

• **20** Number of public artworks that make up UC San Diego’s Stuart Collection

• **10,000+** Number of original drawings, sketches, books, and photographs created by Theodor Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, that are housed at the UC San Diego Library

• **Division I** UC San Diego is transitioning into the
NCAA Division I Big West Conference. UC San Diego has 12 men’s and 11 women’s competitive sports teams which have earned 30 NCAA national team sports championships.

**Economic Impact**

- **#1** UC San Diego is the largest employer based in San Diego County with 35,847 full and part-time academic and staff employees (as of April 2019).
- **30** Technologies invented by UC San Diego are being put into practice by companies in 30 states across the U.S., with the majority utilized by companies in California.
- **31** Number of start-up companies launched by UC San Diego faculty and students in fiscal year 2018.
- **1,000+** Number of companies that utilize or have utilized technology produced at UC San Diego.
- **440** Number of active UC San Diego-related companies located in California.
- **32,429** Direct jobs attributable to active UC San Diego-related companies.
- **100+** More than 100 research centers on campus
- **14th** In 2017, the journal Nature named UC San Diego the world’s 14th best university for developing research that is used to create products or services that benefit society and spur economic growth.
- **2,500+** In 2018, the UC San Diego Office of Innovation and Commercialization managed more than 2,500 inventions and more than 460 intellectual property agreements.
- **#2 Patent Producer** UC San Diego is second in the University of California system for the highest number of U.S. patents issued in 2016. In fiscal year 2018, UC San Diego was issued 106 patents.
- **4th** The Milken Institute identified UC San Diego among the top five in the nation for startup creation in their 2017 report, “The Best Universities for Technology Transfer.”
- **$32.4 billion** Total estimated annual sales of active UC San Diego-related companies in San Diego County, including those utilizing licensed technology.

**Private Support**

- **$344.4 million** In 2019-20, UC San Diego celebrated another record-breaking fundraising year. These funds contribute to the $2.27 billion garnered thus far from more than 145,000 donors as part of the Campaign for UC San Diego, a comprehensive fundraising effort concluding in 2022. The Campaign’s priorities include enhancing student support, ensuring student success, transforming our campus, connecting our community, and redefining medicine and health care on a global scale.
- **$1.91 billion** Total combined endowment for the campus as of fiscal year 2020, managed by the UC San Diego Foundation and the UC Regents.

**GLOBAL AND NATIONAL RANKINGS**

**Campus Accolades**

- **#1 for Positive Impact** In 2020, Washington Monthly named UC San Diego the best public university in the nation for contributions to social mobility, research and public service. UC San Diego has topped the rankings 11 times in the past 12 years.
- **Changemaker Campus** UC San Diego was designated as a Changemaker Campus in 2017 by Ashoka U for its role as a leader in social innovation education. Only 45 universities around the world have received this designation and UC San Diego is the first University of California campus to be recognized.
- **1st** In 2018 for the second year in a row, Times Higher Education ranked UC San Diego 1st among the world’s top “Golden Age” universities — the best 100 institutions that were founded between 1945 and 1966.
- **6th Best College for Transfer Students** In 2018, UC San Diego admitted nearly half of all transfer students who applied. The campus was named sixth in the nation among colleges where transfer students are succeeding in large numbers, according to Money magazine’s 2018 list of “10 Best Colleges for Transfer Students.”
- **1st in the Nation** among peer institutions for enrolling low-income students (New York Times 2017)
• **Social Mobility Innovator** UC San Diego was named a Social Mobility Innovator by CollegeNET, Inc. for successfully enrolling students from low-income backgrounds, graduating them into promising careers, and fostering a campus culture based on inclusive excellence. UC San Diego has ranked among the top 10 percent of schools on the index for the past four years. Nearly four out of 10 new students at UC San Diego are the first in their family to attend a four-year university, and the number of new freshmen from under-represented groups has more than doubled since 2012.

• **31st Best University in the World** UC San Diego was named the 31st best university in the world in the 2020 *Times Higher Education* world university rankings. The campus was also ranked 20th best in the U.S. based on teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

• **Top 10 Best Public University in the Nation** In the 2021 *U.S. News & World Report* guidebook, UC San Diego ranked 6th best public university in the nation and 21st best university in the world based on academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduate rate performance, and alumni giving.

• **13th in the Nation for Scientific Impact** UC San Diego was named 13th best research university in the nation and the 40th best college in the world by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies of Leiden University’s 2019 list that measured scientific impact of universities worldwide.

• **Top Research Output** UC San Diego was ranked 7th among U.S. universities for total research output by the journal *Nature* in their 2020 index. The university also currently ranked 7th in the nation for total research and development expenditures by the *National Science Foundation*.

• **9th in the World for Biomedical Sciences** *Nature Index* ranked UC San Diego 9th in the world among the top 200 institutions in biomedical sciences in their first-ever assessment based upon published research in a targeted set of high-quality scientific journals. The campus also ranked 6th among U.S. institutions, and Health Sciences was named 7th.

• **Among the Top 20 Best Universities in the World** In the prestigious 2020 Academic Ranking of World Universities released by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong, UC San Diego was ranked the 14th best university in world.

• **Best High School in San Diego County** The Preuss School UC San Diego—a charter middle and high school for low-income students who strive to become the first in their families to graduate from college—was ranked the best high school in San Diego County for the third year in a row by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2019 list of “Best High Schools.” The school also received a Gold Award designation and was also ranked the 7th best school in the State of California based on performance on state assessments, graduation rates and college preparation.

• **Transforming Health Care**
  - **854,000+** Total yearly outpatient visits to UC San Diego Health
  - **800+** Beds at UC San Diego Health medical centers
  - **3,005** Students, postdocs, residents and fellows
  - **9,100+** UC San Diego Health employees
  - **7,000+** Patients receiving treatment in clinical trials
  - **$476 million** UC San Diego Health provides more than $476 million in charity care and benefits to the community (FY 2019)

• **Ranked Nationally Among Best Hospitals** In the *U.S. News & World Report* 2020-21 “Best Hospitals” report, UC San Diego Health and ten of its medical and surgical specialties have been recognized as among the best in the country, including: Pulmonology (#10), Geriatrics (#13), Neurology and Neurosurgery (#22), and Cardiology and Heart Surgery (#31).

• **Top 25 in the Nation** The UC San Diego School of Medicine was named 21st in the U.S. among research-intensive programs and 6th among public medical schools in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2020 Best Graduate Schools Guidebook. The school was also ranked 30th in the primary care category.
• **Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality** In 2018, UC San Diego Health was named a “Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization.

• **“Top Docs”** More than 100 physicians from UC San Diego Health were named “Top Docs” in the 2019 *San Diego Magazine* “Physicians of Exceptional Excellence” annual survey. These physicians represent 47 diverse specialties, from emergency medicine to dermatology and urology.

• **First Comprehensive Stroke Center** In 2012, UC San Diego Medical Center-Hillcrest became one of five facilities in the country — and the only center in San Diego County — to be recognized as one of the first Comprehensive Stroke Centers, the newest level of certification for advanced stroke care awarded by The Joint Commission.

• **Top Teaching Hospital** UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest was named a 2018 Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, which places it among the top 10 percent of teaching hospitals for patient safety and quality. No other UC hospital earned this top teaching hospital recognition.

• **“A” for Hospital Safety** UC San Diego Health’s hospitals in both La Jolla and Hillcrest earned top marks from The Leapfrog Group in 2020 for keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors.

• **Among “Most Wired” Health Systems** In 2019, UC San Diego Health earned CHIME HealthCare’s Most Wired award as a certified level eight organization. The level eight certification is recognized as a Quality Award under the prestigious Most Wired program, which evaluates the use of technology in multiple areas, including clinical quality and safety, interoperability, population health, patient engagement, and analytics and data management.

**Unmatched Value**

• **3rd Best Public College Value** In 2020, *Money* magazine placed UC San Diego third among public universities in the nation in their “Best Colleges for Your Money” ranking.

• **Top 15 Best Value** In 2019, Forbes ranked UC San Diego 13th among “America’s Best Value Colleges” report, which ranked 645 universities across the nation for net price, net debt, alumni earnings, timely graduation, school quality and access for low-income students.

• **11th for Alumni Earnings** UC San Diego has been ranked the 11th best public university in the country among colleges that pay the most in a new ranking by CNBC. The rankings measured UC San Diego’s costs, financial aid packages, and the earnings for alumni at the start of their career ($61,300), as well as the mid-point ($94,050), and after they have been in the workforce for more than ten years ($126,800).

• **19th Best In-State Value Public University in the Nation** In 2019, *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* named UC San Diego the 19th best in-state value public university in the nation based on its academic quality and affordability, including high four-year graduation rates, low average student debt at graduation, the availability of financial aid, and overall great value.

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

• **Graduate Programs Ranked Top 25 in the Nation** Graduate programs at UC San Diego continue to rank highly as noted in the 2021 *America’s Best Graduate Schools* guidebook, released by U.S. News Media Group, publishers of *U.S. News & World Report*.

  Fine Arts: time-based media/new media (7th), fine arts (10th)

  Engineering: biomedical/bioengineering (4th), best engineering school (9th)

  Health Sciences: pharmacy (18th), School of Medicine research program (21st)

  Sciences: discrete mathematics and combinatorics (3rd), neuroscience/neurobiology (5th), geophysics and seismology (8th), biochemistry (10th), computer science systems (17th), programming language (13th), computer science theory (14th), earth sciences (15th), biological sciences (16th), computer science (16th), physics (17th), mathematics (19th), chemistry (20th)
Social Sciences and Humanities: behavioral neuroscience (4th), econometrics (4th), international politics (4th), cognitive psychology (8th), public finance (8th), political science (9th), comparative politics (10th), development economics (10th), American politics (11th), political methodology (12th), economics (12th), psychology (13th)

- **Doctoral Programs Ranked 1st in the Nation** Three doctoral programs offered at UC San Diego — biological sciences, bioengineering, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography — are ranked 1st in the nation according to the results of the 2010 National Research Council (NRC) Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs, conducted every ten years. Additionally, biomedical sciences was ranked 2nd, neurosciences 4th, and linguistics 9th in the nation, while 60 percent of all UC San Diego's doctoral programs are among the top 20 in their fields nationwide.

- **4th Best Drama School Program in the World** In 2020, Hollywood Reporter ranked UC San Diego’s Department of Theatre and Dance 4th in the world in their list of the world's best college drama programs. Also, the department’s undergraduate program was named among the top five in the nation for the best bachelor’s degrees to help launch an acting career in their 2018 report.

- **6th Best MFA Program in the Nation** In their 2020 rankings, College Choice named UC San Diego’s Master’s in Fine Arts Program 6th in the nation based on academic reputation, student satisfaction, affordability and average annual salary of early career artists.

- **10th for Entrepreneurship in the Nation** UC San Diego Rady School of Management’s full-time MBA program has been ranked 10th in the nation for entrepreneurship in 2019 by Bloomberg Businessweek and 22nd in the nation by the Princeton Review’s “Top 25 Graduate Schools for Entrepreneurship in 2020” report.

- **Top University to Study International Relations** In 2018, UC San Diego was ranked second among public universities and 11th overall in Foreign Policy magazine’s rankings of top U.S. undergraduate institutions to study international relations. The university’s master’s program for policy careers in international relations ranked first among public institutions globally.

- **Top 20 Internationally for Philosophy** UC San Diego's graduate program in philosophy was ranked 20th overall in the 2018 Philosophical Gourmet Report, an international reputational survey conducted by Wiley Blackwell to recognize the top philosophy programs in the world.

**ADDITIONAL RANKINGS**

- **4th Public Institution in World for High-Quality Science** UC San Diego ranked 4th among public research institutions in the U.S. by Nature Index in 2019 for “high-quality science,” based on research results its faculty, students, and staff published in 82 high-quality journals in 2017.

- **World’s Most Influential Researchers** Fifty-two faculty members at UC San Diego are among the world’s most influential researchers — those whose studies were among the top one percent most-cited publications in their fields based on their publications over the past decade — according to Clarivate Analytics’ 2019 Highly Cited Researchers report.

- **Top 10 Public Universities for LGBTQ+ Students** UC San Diego was named the 9th best public university in the nation for LGBTQ+ students according to a new ranking by Campus Pride in partnership with BestColleges. The 2020 Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students ranking, which placed the campus 17th overall, recognizes higher education institutions that provide both a quality academic experience as well as a safe and inclusive space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) students.
• **World’s 3rd Most Beautiful Library** In 2017, CNN Travel named UC San Diego’s Geisel Library the 3rd most beautiful library in the world in their list of the top seven most architecturally inspiring libraries.

• **Top Academic Surfing School in the Nation** In 2018 UC San Diego was ranked 1st nationally among “Top 10 Surf Colleges” by *Surfer Magazine*. Criteria included high academic standards and notable alumni, as well as access to high quality surf. UC San Diego’s surf team has won six national championships.

• **Top 10 Public Colleges in the West** In 2020, *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College Rankings named UC San Diego 7th among the top 10 public schools in the West.

**ACTIVE FACULTY HONORS**

• **Nobel Prize** Nobel Prize Harry Markowitz, economics (1990). The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to former vice president Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, whose roster of researchers lists nearly two dozen Scripps Institution of Oceanography scientists including Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Richard Somerville and Lynne Talley.

• **Fields Medal** Michael Freedman, mathematics (1986); and Efim Zelmanov, mathematics (1994).

• **American Academy of Arts and Letters** Chinary Ung (2020)


• **National Medal of Science** Margaret Burbidge, astrophysics (1983); Craig Venter, pharmacology (2009); Marye Anne Fox, chemistry (2010); and Shu Chien, bioengineering (2011).

• **Pulitzer Prize** Roger Reynolds, music (1989); Rae Armantrout, poetry (2010); and Anthony Davis, music (2020).

• **MacArthur Fellows** Edwin Hutchins, cognitive science (1985); Nancy D. Cartwright, philosophy (1993); Kun-Liang Guan, pharmacology (1998); Guillermo Algaze, anthropology (2003); Carol Padden, communication (2010); and Stefan Savage, computer science (2017).

• **Tony Award** Judith Dolan, theatre and dance (1997).

• **Grammy Award** Kamau Kenyatta (2014).

• **John von Neumann Theory Prize in Mathematics** Ruth Williams (2016).

• **Academy Award** Henrik Wann Jensen, computer science and engineering (2004).

• **Wolf Prize** George Feher, chemistry (2007).

**NOTABLE FORMER FACULTY AND ALUMNI HONORS**

• **Nobel Prize** Harold Urey, chemistry (1934); Linus Pauling, chemistry (1954); Francis Crick, physiology or medicine (1962); Linus Pauling, peace (1962); Maria Goeppert-Mayer, physics (1963); Robert Holley, physiology or medicine (1968); Hannes Alfven, physics (1970); George Palade, physiology or medicine (1974); Renato Dulbecco, physiology or medicine (1975); Roger Guillemin, physiology or medicine (1977); Susumu Tonegawa ’68, physiology or medicine (1987); Paul Crutzen, Mario Molina, chemistry (1995); Sydney Brenner, physiology or medicine (2002); Robert Engle, economic sciences (2003); Clive Granger, economic sciences (2003); Roger Tsien, chemistry (2008); and Bruce Beutler ’76, physiology or medicine (2011).

• **National Medal of Science** Harold Urey, chemistry (1964); Linus Pauling, chemistry (1974); Roger Guillemin, medicine (1976); Margaret Burbidge, astrophysics (1983); Walter Munk, geophysics (1983); George Palade, medicine (1986); Michael Freedman, mathematics (1987); Roger Revelle, oceanography (1990); Marshall Rosenbluth, physics (1997); Yuan-Cheng Fung, bioengineering (2000); Charles David Keeling, geosciences (2001); Andrew Viterbi, electrical and computer engineering (2007); and Craig Venter ’72, pharmacology (2008).

• **National Medal of Technology and Innovation** Irwin Jacobs (1994).

• **Pulitzer Prize** Bernard Rands, music (1984).

• **Kyoto Prize** Walter Munk, geophysics (1999).

• **American Academy of Arts and Letters**
Carrie Mae Weems ’94 (2020)

- **Balzan Prize** Roger Driscoll, political science (1986); Roger Revelle, oceanography (1986); James Freeman Gilbert, geophysics (1990); Wolfgang Berger, geosciences (1993); and Harmon Craig, geophysics (1998).

- **Tony Award** Jefferson Mays ’91 (2004) and Paloma Young ’06 (2012).

- **Emmy Award** Larry Groupe, musical composition (1999, 2008).

- **Presidential Medal of Freedom** Sally Ride (2013) and Mario Molina (2013).

- **Fields Medal** Michael Freedman, mathematics (1986); and Shing-Tung Yau, mathematics (1982).

- **MacArthur Fellows** Elizabeth Bates, cognitive science (1983); Ramon Arturo Gutierrez, ethnic studies (1983); Richard Schoen, mathematics (1983); Michael Freedman, mathematics (1984); Arnold Mandell, psychiatry (1984); Shing-Tung Yau, mathematics (1985); David Rumelhart, psychology (1987); Michael Schudson, communications (1990); Patricia Smith Churchland, philosophy (1991); Russell Lande, biology (1997); George Lewis, music (2002); Emily Ann Thompson, history (2005); and Carrie Mae Weems, photography and video art (2013).

- **Nebula Award** Greg Benford ’67 (Best Novelette, If the Stars Are Gods, 1975; Best Novel, Timescape, 1980); Kim Stanley Robinson ’74, PhD ’82 (Best Novella, The Blind Geometer, 1987; Best Novel, Red Mars, 1993); and David Brin MS ’78, PhD ‘81 (Best Novel, Startide Rising, 1984).

- **Wolf Prize** Roger Tsien, medicine (2008).