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 seven undergraduate colleges, six academic divisions, and six graduate and professional schools.

BY THE NUMBERS

• **42,875** Total campus enrollment (as of fall 2021); the largest number of students among colleges and universities in San Diego County

• **118,360** Freshman applications for 2021

• **22,404** Transfer applications for 2021

• **$6.1 billion** Fiscal year 2019-20 revenues; 19 percent of this total is revenue from contracts and grants, most of which is from the federal government for research

• **$1.54 billion** Research funding secured during fiscal year 2021 to support research in all fields. This marks the 12th consecutive year the campus has earned more than $1 billion in funding to support its extensive research enterprise.

• **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

• **72%** Percentage of undergraduate students expected to receive some form of financial aid in the 2020-21 academic year

• **215,000** 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.

• **10,108** Number of undergraduate and graduate degrees conferred in 2019-20

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

• **165** Memberships held by current and emeriti faculty in the National Academy of Sciences (85), National Academy of Engineering (32), and National Academy of Medicine (48)

• **209** 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

• **21** 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** States across the U.S. in which UC San Diego technologies are being put into practice, 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**

• **$376.4 million** In 2020-21, UC San Diego celebrated another record-breaking fundraising year. These funds contribute to the $2.6 billion garnered thus far from more than 153,000 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**

• **6th for Positive Impact** In 2021, *Washington Monthly* named UC San Diego the sixth 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 13 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.

• **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 fifth year in a row by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2021 list of “Best High Schools.” The school was also ranked the 6th best school in the State of California among nearly 3,000 schools.

• **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** Highest population of low-income students (11 percent) among peer institutions (*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.

- **34th Best University in the World** UC San Diego was named the 34th best university in the world in the 2022 *Times Higher Education* world university rankings.

- **3rd Best Public College in the Nation** UC San Diego was ranked third among the nation’s top public colleges, according to the *Forbes* 2021 list of America’s Top Colleges.

- **8th Best Public University in the Nation** *U.S. News & World Report* named UC San Diego eighth in their 2022 Best Colleges rankings based on measures including retention and graduation rates, social mobility, faculty resources and academic reputation. The guidebook also named the campus 13th among the best colleges for veterans for participating in federal initiatives helping veterans and active-duty service members pay for their degrees.

- **13th in the Nation for Scientific Impact** UC San Diego was named 13th best research university in the nation and the 43rd best college in the world by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies of Leiden University’s 2021 report 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 Universities in the World** In the prestigious 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities released by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, UC San Diego was ranked the 18th best university in world and 14th in the U.S.

### 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* 2021-22 “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 and lung surgery (#9), geriatrics (#13), cancer (#17), and gastroenterology and GI surgery (#18).

- **Top 25 in the Nation** UC San Diego School of Medicine was named 19th in the U.S. among research-intensive programs and 5th among public medical schools in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2022 Best Graduate Schools rankings. The school was also ranked 28th in the primary care category.

- **Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality** UC San Diego Health has been recognized as a “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader” by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization. In 2020, UC San Diego Health scored a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s LGBTQ Healthcare Equity Index for the eighth year straight.
“Top Docs” More than 100 physicians from UC San Diego Health were named “Top Docs” in the 2021 San Diego Magazine “Physicians of Exceptional Excellence” annual survey. These physicians represent 48 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-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.

Graduate Programs Ranked Top 25 in the Nation Graduate programs at UC San Diego continue to rank highly as noted in the 2022 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 (3rd), best engineering school (9th), computer engineering (14th), electrical engineering (16th), aerospace engineering (17th), mechanical engineering (17th), and civil engineering (20th)

Health Sciences: pharmacy (18th), School of Medicine research program (19th), School of Medicine primary care (28th),

Sciences: discrete mathematics and combinatorics (3rd), neuroscience/neurobiology (5th), geophysics and seismology (8th), biochemistry (10th), computer science systems (11th), 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 (5th), cognitive psychology (8th), political science (8th), public finance (10th), comparative politics (10th), sociology of culture (10th), development economics (11th), economics (12th), psychology (13th), American politics (13th), labor economics (16th), political methodology (17th),
• **5th Best Drama Program in the World**
The Hollywood Reporter named UC San Diego’s Department of Theatre and Dance MFA program fifth in the world in their list of the best places to get an acting degree in 2021. 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 2021 rankings, College Choice named UC San Diego’s Master’s in Fine Arts Program sixth in the nation based on academic reputation, student satisfaction, affordability and average annual salary of early career artists.

• **21st for Entrepreneurship**
UC San Diego’s Rady School of Management MBA program ranked 21st in the Princeton Review’s survey naming the top graduate schools for entrepreneurship studies.

• **14th UC San Diego Rady School of Management’s two-year MBA program**
has been ranked 14th in the world in a 2018 Times Higher Education and Wall Street Journal business school report. The ranking was determined using data provided by schools and a survey of alumni.

• **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**

• **3rd Public Institution in World for High-Quality Science**
UC San Diego ranked 3rd among public research institutions in the U.S. by Nature Index in 2020 for “high-quality science,” based on research results its faculty, students, and staff published in 82 high-quality journals in 2019.

• **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’ 2020 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 2021, Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings named UC San Diego 4th among the top 10 public schools in the West.

**FACULTY HONORS**
**(INCLUDING FACULTY EMERITI)**

• **Nobel Prize**
Harry Markowitz, economics (1990); Robert Engle, economic sciences (2003). 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); Lei Liang (2021 Music Award); and Anthony Davis (2021)

National Medal of Science  Michael Freedman, mathematics (1987); Andrew Viterbi, electrical and computer engineering (2007); Craig Venter, pharmacology (2009); and Shu Chien, bioengineering (2011)

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

MacArthur Fellows  Michael Freedman, mathematics (1984); Arnold Mandell, psychiatry (1984); Edwin Hutchins, cognitive science (1985); Michael Schudson, communications (1990); Patricia Smith Churchland, philosophy (1991); Nancy D. Cartwright, philosophy (1993); Russell Lande, biology (1997); 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)

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); 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); Roger Revelle, oceanography (1990); Marshall Rosenbluth, physics (1997); Yuan-Cheng Fung, bioengineering (2000); Charles David Keeling, geosciences (2001); and Marye Anne Fox, chemistry (2010)

National Medal of Technology and Innovation  Irwin Jacobs (1994)


American Academy of Arts and Letters  Carrie Mae Weems, MFA ’84 (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); Paloma Young ’06 (2012); and Danny Burstein ’90 (2020)

Emmy Award  Larry Groupe, MA ’81, musical composition (1999, 2008)

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

Fields Medal  Shing-Tung Yau, mathematics (1982)

Kyoto Prize  Walter Munk, geophysics (1999)

MacArthur Fellows  Elizabeth Bates, cognitive science (1983); Ramon Arturo Gutierrez, ethnic studies (1983); Richard Schoen, mathematics (1983); Shing-Tung Yau, mathematics (1985); David Rumelhart, psychology (1987); George Lewis, music (2002); Emily Ann Thompson, history (2005); and Carrie Mae Weems, MFA ’84, photography and video art (2013)

Nebula Award  Greg Benford, MS ’65, PhD ’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  George Feher, chemistry (2007); Roger Tsien, medicine (2008)
See the "UC San Diego Campus Profile" at campusprofile.ucsd.edu for updated rankings, facts, and statistics. This list is not comprehensive. We make every effort to keep these listings current and accurate. Please notify arubalcava@ucsd.edu if you notice a discrepancy. Revised 11.3.2021