At the University of California San Diego, challenging convention is our most cherished tradition. Through the Campaign for UC San Diego — our university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort concluding June 30, 2022 — we are enhancing student support, ensuring student success, transforming our campus, connecting our community, and redefining medicine and health care on a global scale.

Division of Physical Sciences

Fundamentally Different

The Division of Physical Sciences is a crucial cornerstone of UC San Diego’s history — and future. Our departments were founded in the university’s earliest days and have been vital to our transformation into one of the top research institutions in the world. Our faculty in the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mathematics, and Physics fuel our powerful engine for innovation and discovery. Inherently interdisciplinary, we usher fundamental discoveries into practical applications in partnership with our colleagues in life sciences and engineering.

Our grand vision demands the vitality of a diverse community of faculty and students whose experiences inspire novel, creative exploration as we advance scientific understanding and improve life on our planet. Our aspirations include initiative-specific research that gives students hands-on experiences; substantial scientific contributions to conservation, data modeling, dynamic materials and more; and cross-campus partnerships that will improve our performance as a pipeline for increased equity and inclusivity in scientific discovery.

Fueling discovery means investing in opportunities to sustain our people and programs. Philanthropy enhances boundary-breaking research as we expand the frontiers of scientific discovery and address complex challenges facing our global society in five key areas: protecting planet earth, foundations of data science, physical biosciences, materials chemistry and physics, and exploring the cosmos. Support for our students and faculty underpins our ability to achieve research excellence and educational innovation — all enhanced by diverse experiences and backgrounds.

7 top 25 programs
Including discrete mathematics and combinatorics (#3) and biochemistry (#10) (U.S. News & World Report)

Nearly 70,000
Student enrollments in physical sciences undergraduate courses per year

170+
Renowned faculty members, including Nobel Laureates, Fields Medalists, members of the National Academy of Sciences, and fellows of the Academy of Arts and Sciences

Continue the nontradition.
Division of Physical Sciences Priorities

Student Support and Success

» **Student support** in the form of undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships attracts and retains top students.

» Immersive learning experiences, mentorship and conferences improve student outcomes and professional development, offering students the chance to envision themselves in the world of scientific discovery beyond the classroom.

Our Campus and Community

» New **named endowed chairs** and **faculty fellowships** create sustained resources for our leading faculty, honoring their vital role on our campus and in their field.

Research and Innovation

» We are **protecting planet earth** by accelerating research that enhances our foundational knowledge about the environment, allowing us to develop protective tactics and technologies to slow and manage climate change.

» As our mathematicians tackle the **foundations of data science**, we can leverage analytic tools and huge vaults of data to derive new insights to better understand and predict human behavior and natural systems.

» Our **physical biosciences** faculty and students are leaders in interdisciplinary discovery, exploring the engines of life and developing quantitative clarity on the road to revolutionary discoveries across the fields of biology and medicine.

» With our innovative spirit, we delve into fundamental **materials chemistry and physics**, seeking solutions for energy generation and storage, driving advances in electronics and biotech, and producing safer and greener construction materials.

» We are **exploring the cosmos** from the smallest subatomic particles to the structure of the Big Bang, exemplifying our driving spirit and fundamental curiosity about the origins of everything.

Help us continue the nontradition.

With your help, UC San Diego will continue to lead as a physical sciences research and discovery engine — a pioneering role it has played since our founding.

Together with your philanthropic support of the [Campaign for UC San Diego](campaign.ucsd.edu), we can build a diverse pipeline of student and faculty talent ready to blaze new trails to advance scientific understanding for global good.

Learn more at [campaign.ucsd.edu](campaign.ucsd.edu).