Our University

Innovation is central to who we are and what we do at the University of California, San Diego. Here, students learn that knowledge isn’t just acquired in the classroom—life is their laboratory. UC San Diego is an academic powerhouse and economic engine, recognized as one of the top 10 public universities by U.S. News & World Report and ranked number one in the nation for public service by the Washington Monthly. Our location is unparalleled, our impact unmistakable. UC San Diego shapes minds, changes lives, launches industries and builds the future … one student, one discovery and one achievement at a time.

Points of Distinction

- Scripps Institution of Oceanography climate scientist Charles David Keeling was the first to confirm the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. His precise measurements, which he began calculating in 1958, produced a data set now known widely as the “Keeling Curve,” a benchmark of global warming studies.
- The Jacobs School of Engineering is home to the world’s first full-scale outdoor shake table, designed to create realistic simulations of the most devastating earthquakes on record to advance seismic safety.
- UC San Diego is unique among other UC campuses—our university offers undergraduates the “small college” concept patterned after those at Cambridge and Oxford. Each of the six undergraduate colleges has its own residence halls, student services, traditions and even graduation ceremonies. While the undergraduates remain part of one university, they also develop a sense of identity within the smaller family of their chosen college.
- In 1986 UC San Diego established the first Cognitive Science Department in the world, which has become one of the leading centers of this field.
- The San Diego Supercomputer Center at UC San Diego is home to Gordon, one of the fastest supercomputers in the world, with 4 petabytes of disk storage, 64 terabytes of random access memory and 300 terabytes of flash memory. Gordon has the ability to tackle the most vexing data-intensive challenges, from mapping genomes to creating ultra-detailed simulations of earthquakes.
- Geisel Library at UC San Diego is the chief repository for the work of Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss), holding more than 8,000 original drawings, sketches, books and other memorabilia valued at $2.3 million.
- San Diego’s first biotechnology company, Hybritech, was started in 1979 by a UC San Diego professor. Since then, UC San Diego faculty, staff and alumni have spun off more than 150 local companies, including more than one-third of the region’s biotechnology companies.
- The first direct evidence of how a cancer gene works was achieved by UC San Diego biomedical researchers, including Russell Doolittle, who discovered the first cancer gene.
- UC San Diego was one of the first universities in the nation and the first UC campus to found a privately-funded commercialization center—the von Liebig Center for Entrepreneurism and Technology Advancement.
- Sustainability is part of UC San Diego’s institutional DNA. More than 30 campus structures are equipped with solar panels and over a dozen buildings 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.

By the Numbers

29,052 Total campus enrollment (as of Fall 2012)
67,392 Freshman applicants for 2013
4.11 Admitted freshman average high school GPA
$3.4 billion FY2012 revenues; 29 percent of this total is revenue from contracts and grants, most of which is from the federal government for research
6.6% Total revenue 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
66% Percentage of students that received financial aid (2011-2012 academic year)
$1 billion Total research funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, an increase of about $50 million over the previous year
8,182 Number of degrees conferred in 2012
51% received a B.A. 52% men
28% received a B.S. 48% women
20% received a graduate degree
1° degree data unavailable

150,900 Number of UC San Diego alumni; 28% live in San Diego County, contributing income, payroll, property and sales taxes to the region
73% live in California, with the highest percentage (28%) in San Diego
20% live in the United States (outside of California)
1% live abroad
6% address data unavailable

16 Number of Nobel laureates that have taught on campus

Economic Impact
646 Companies launched by UC San Diego faculty, staff and alumni, including many San Diego biotech and technology firms
156 Number of active local UC San Diego-related companies
$15.3 billion Total estimated annual sales of active UC San Diego-related companies
18,400 Direct jobs attributable to active UC San Diego-related companies
$20 billion Total economic impact in San Diego County of active UC San Diego-related companies
#1 Employer Our campus is the largest employer based in San Diego County

Private Support
$554 million Total endowment for the campus, managed by the UC San Diego Foundation, a non-profit corporation established to help obtain, manage and invest private gifts in support of research, teaching and public service. For more information or to offer support, visit giving.ucsd.edu
$131.1 million Amount raised in private support for FY2012, with $13.3 million committed to Invent the Future, the UC San Diego Student Support Campaign to fund scholarships and fellowships

Global and National Rankings
Campus Accolades
15th in the World for Scientific Impact
UC San Diego was named 15th best research university in the world by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies of Leiden University’s 2013 list that measured scientific impact of universities worldwide.

15th Best University in the World
In the prestigious 2012 Academic Ranking of World Universities released by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong, UC San Diego was ranked the 15th best university in world. In 2013, UC San Diego was ranked 20th best university in the world by the Center for the World University Rankings and 34th best in the world according to Times Higher Education’s “World Reputation Rankings.”

8th Best Public University in the Nation
For more than a decade, our campus has been listed among the nation’s top 10 public universities by the U.S. News & World Report 2013 Best Colleges Guidebook. Our university is 38th among the nation’s top 281 universities. The UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering’s undergraduate program is ranked 23rd for their engineering doctorates program and garnered a 5th place spot in the Biomedical/Biomedical Engineering category.

6th Best for Happiest Freshmen
UC San Diego was ranked 6th in the nation for public universities with the “happiest” freshmen by CBSNews.com’s “Top 25 State Universities with the Happiest Freshmen” rankings for 2013.

Best High School in the Nation
The Preuss School UCSD, a charter middle and high school located on the campus of UC San Diego, has been named the top transformative high school in the nation by Newsweek magazine in their 2013 “America’s Best High School” issue released in May. Preuss is also ranked best high school in San Diego County by the U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 list of “Best High Schools,” 4th best high school in California, 7th best charter school in the nation and 30th overall in the nation.

1st for Positive Impact
In 2012, for the third consecutive year, UC San Diego is ranked 1st in the nation by the Washington Monthly’s College Guide based on the positive impact the university has had on the country and was named to the 2012 President’s Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

6th in Research Funding
UC San Diego currently ranks 6th among top U.S. universities in total research and development expenditures by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

1st Among Division II Sports
The 2012 National Collegiate Scouting Association’s Power Rankings once again ranks UC San Diego 1st place among Division II colleges and 9th place overall, based on student-athlete graduation rates, academic strength and athletic prowess.

Transforming Health Care
#1 Best Hospital in San Diego
The UC San Diego Health System is recognized as #1 among San Diego’s adult hospitals and #5 in California by the 2013-2014 U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Hospitals” issue, and ranked among the best in the nation in ten specialty areas including cancer, cardiology, geriatrics, neurosurgery, urology, gastroenterology, diabetes and more.
Top 100
Becker’s Hospital Review named UC San Diego Health System among the top “100 Hospitals with Great Neurosurgery and Spine Programs” in 2013 for complex brain and spinal care and the Sulipizio Cardiovascular Center among the top “100 Hospitals with Great Heart Programs” for outstanding heart care.

National Achievement Award
UC San Diego Health System received the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeon’s Commission on Cancer for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients.

“Top Docs”
San Diego Magazine named 122 UC San Diego Health System physicians as “Top Docs” in 2012.

15th in the Nation
The School of Medicine is ranked 15th in research-intensive programs among 126 medical schools with the primary care program is ranked 39th out of 114 medical schools. Also, the AIDS program in the primary care category is ranked 8th by the U.S. News and World Report “America’s Best Graduate Schools, 2012 Edition.”

First Comprehensive Stroke Center
UC San Diego Medical Center-Hillcrest is 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 in 2012.

Unmatched Value
4th Best Return on Investment
UC San Diego was ranked 4th best public university for its return on investment for alumni who are California residents in PayScale.com’s 2012 College Salary Report.

10th Best Value
Kiplinger’s Personal Finance ranks UC San Diego the 10th best value public university in California in its 2013 top 100 list. The university was also ranked among the nation’s top best value public colleges for 2012 by The Princeton Review.

Graduate Programs
Graduate Programs Ranked Top 25

- Jacobs School of Engineering is ranked 14th out of 199 engineering schools; the biomedical/bioengineering program within the engineering school is ranked 3rd in the nation.

Although not all newly ranked this year, UC San Diego’s other graduate programs ranking in the top 20 in the 2012 and 2013 editions of “America’s Best Graduate Schools” include:

- The Sciences: physics specialties/plasma (5), discrete mathematics and combinations (6), neuroscience/neurobiology (7), biochemistry (10), physics (14), computer science (14), biological sciences (15), earth sciences (17), chemistry (20), mathematics (21)

- Social Sciences and Humanities: behavioral neuroscience (1), cognitive psychology (3), econometrics (4), international politics (5), American politics (6), comparative politics (6), sociology of culture (6), experimental psychology (7), political science (8), political methodology (8), psychology (14), economics (15)

- Arts and Sciences: master of fine arts in art and design (13)

7th in the Nation
The Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) project at the College of William and Mary ranked UC San Diego 7th in the Top 10 International Relations Ph.D. Rankings of 2012.

19th in the World for Faculty Research
The Rady School of Management at UC San Diego has been ranked 19th in the world for faculty research and 7th in alumni entrepreneurship in the Financial Times’ Global MBA rankings 2013, out of 700 full-time MBA programs surveyed globally. Within the U.S., Rady School ranks 16th in the nation for faculty research and 3rd within California for entrepreneurship by the Financial Times. The Rady School earned accreditation in 2011 from the prestigious AACSB International - Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business — one of the youngest in the nation to achieve recognition.

7th in the Nation for Study Abroad
UC San Diego was ranked 7th in the nation among doctoral institutions for the number of students who study abroad for a full academic year, by the Institute of International Education (IIE) Open Doors 2011 report.

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 country, two more are among the top four in their disciplines, and 60 percent of UC San Diego’s programs are among the top 20 in their fields nationwide according to the results of the 2010 National Research Council (NRC) Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs, conducted every ten years.

Additional Rankings
#1 Best Surfing School in the Nation
In 2013 the global Web site Surfl ine ranked UC San Diego as the #1 campus in the nation for surfing based on our proximity to the world-renowned Black’s Beach, nationally ranked surf team, lively student life, affordable educational costs and extensive offering of surf classes.
13th Top School for Peace Corps Service
UC San Diego ranks 4th among large California universities and 13th nationally on the Peace Corps’ 2013 list of “Top Colleges and Universities.” There are currently 70 UC San Diego alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

Top Internet Clout
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has ranked UC San Diego 19th in the nation for the most “buzzed about” university on the Internet.

Best Apps
USA Today included UC San Diego in its 2012 list of “5 Colleges with Great Mobile Apps.”

Best Vegan-Friendly School
In 2012, UC San Diego was ranked 1st in the nation as the most vegan-friendly university by peta2, a youth division of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Top Sustainable School
UC San Diego is one of only 10 campuses in the United States and Canada to earn a “gold” sustainability-performance rating in the prestigious Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) 2011 survey.

Incomparable Art Collection
Mary Beebe won the 2011 Americans for the Arts’ Public Art Network Award for her work as director of the Stuart Collection, a unique program of site-specific works by leading artists on the campus of UC San Diego.

Current Faculty Honors

Nobel Prize
Harry Markowitz, economics (1990); Paul Crutzen, chemistry (1995); Mario J. Molina, chemistry (1995); Robert F. Engle, economics (2003); Roger Tsien, chemistry (2008). 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 Mario Molina, Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Richard Somerville and Lynne Talley.

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

Balzan Prize

National Medal of Science
Margaret Burbidge, astrophysics (1983); Walter Munk, geophysics (1983); Michael Freedman, mathematics (1987); Yuan-Chen Fung, bioengineering (2000); Andrew Viterbi, electrical and computer engineering (2008); Craig Venter, Pharmacology (2009); Marye Anne Fox, chemistry (2010); Shu Chien, bioengineering (2011).

Pulitzer Prize
Roger Reynolds, music (1989); Rae Armantrout, poetry (2010).

Kyoto Prize
Walter Munk, geophysics (1999).

MacArthur Fellows
Michael Freedman, mathematics (1984); Edwin Hutchins, cognitive science (1985); Michael Schudson, communication (1990); Patricia Churchland, philosophy (1991); Nancy D. Cartwright, philosophy (1993); Kun-Liang Guan, pharmacology (1998); Guillermo Algaze, anthropology (2003); and Carol Padden, communication (2010).

Tony Award

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

See the “UC San Diego Campus Profile” at http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/campus_profile for updated rankings, facts and statistics.

Revised 07 16 2013