CAMPUS PROFILE

POINTS OF DISTINCTION AND RANKINGS

MARCH 2024

UC San Diego

CAMPUS PROFILE, RANKINGS 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, UC San Diego is one of the top 20 research universities in the world with a rich academic portfolio that includes eleven academic, professional and graduate schools and eight undergraduate residential colleges. Our campus is also home to the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UC San Diego Health. Together, 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 UC San Diego community holds great respect for the land and the original people of the area where our campus is located. The university is built on the un-ceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation. Today, the Kumeyaay people continue to maintain their political sovereignty and cultural traditions as vital members of the San Diego community. We acknowledge their tremendous contributions to our region and thank them for their stewardship.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **43,381** Total campus enrollment (as of fall 2023); the largest number of students among colleges and universities in San Diego County

- **130,830** Freshman applications for fall 2023

- **19,942** Transfer applications for fall 2023

- **$7.5 billion** FY 2021–22 revenues; 17% of this total is revenue from contracts and grants, most of which is from the federal government for research

- **$1.76 billion** Research funding secured during FY 2022–23 to support research, a more than 6% increase over the previous 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

- **2,500+** Number of local low-income and first-generation college students who have been awarded a Chancellor's Associates Scholarship

- **70%** Percentage of current undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid (2022–23 academic year)

- **11,973** Number of undergraduate and graduate degrees conferred in 2022–23

- **245,000** Number of UC San Diego alumni worldwide; 24% live in San Diego County, contributing income, payroll, property and sales taxes to the region

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

- **168** Memberships held by current and emeriti faculty in the National Academy of Sciences (88), National Academy of Engineering (32), and National Academy of Medicine (48)

- **216** 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*

- **4** Scripps Institution of Oceanography operates four research vessels that enable 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.

- **58** UC San Diego has completed 58 LEED-certified buildings and renovations on campus; 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

- **22** Number of public artworks that make up UC San Diego's Stuart Collection

- **20,000+** 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 competes in the NCAA Division I Big West Conference and will be eligible for postseason league and national championship competition beginning in 2024–25. UC San Diego has 12 men's and 11 women's 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 **40,285** full- and part-time academic and staff employees (as of April 2023).

- **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 FY 2018–19

- **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.

- **#3 Patent Producer** UC San Diego is third in the University of California system for the highest number of U.S. patents issued in FY 2019–20. In FY 2019–20, UC San Diego was issued 96 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

- **$565.7 million** In FY 2022–23, UC San Diego celebrated its sixth record-breaking fundraising year, exceeding $500 million for the first time.

- **$2.63 billion** Total combined endowment for the campus as of FY 2023, managed by the UC San Diego Foundation and the UC Regents

- **$3.05 billion** Raised in the Campaign for UC San Diego thanks to the support of more than 164,000 donors, making us the youngest university in the country to surpass a multibillion milestone in a single campaign. Through the Campaign for UC San Diego — our 10-year university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort, which concluded on June 30, 2022 — philanthropy empowered us to enhance student support, ensure student success, transform our campus, connect our community, and redefine medicine and health care on a global scale.

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL RANKINGS

Campus Accolades

- **7th for Positive Impact** In 2023, *Washington Monthly* named UC San Diego the seventh best public university in the nation for contributions to social mobility, research and public service.

- **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 by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2023 list of Best High Schools. The school was also ranked the sixth best school in the State of California among more than 2,500 schools.

- **Top "Golden Age" University** In 2020 for the fourth year in a row, *Times Higher Education* ranked UC San Diego 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 2021, UC San Diego admitted more than 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."

- **Highest population of low-income students** 11% of UC San Diego students come from low-income households, more than any other peer institution (*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% 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 2024 *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* 2023 list of America's Top Colleges.

- **6th Best Public University in the Nation** *U.S. News & World Report* named UC San Diego the 20th best university in the world and the nation's sixth best public university in their 2024 Best Global Universities Rankings based on measures including retention and graduation rates, social mobility, faculty resources and academic reputation.

- **12th in the Nation for Scientific Impact** UC San Diego was named 12th best research university in the nation and the 45th best college in the world by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies of Leiden University's 2023 report that measured scientific impact of universities worldwide.

- **10th in the World for Biomedical Sciences** In 2022, *Nature Index* ranked UC San Diego 10th in the world among the top 200 institutions in biomedical sciences in their assessment based upon published research in a targeted set of high-quality scientific journals.

- **Top Research Output** UC San Diego was ranked fourth among public U.S. universities for total research output by the journal *Nature* in their 2023 index. The university also currently ranks seventh in the nation for total research and development expenditures by the National Science Foundation.

- **33rd Best Public University in the World** According to Pitchbook's 2023 annual rankings, UC San Diego ranked 33rd in a list of the top 100 undergraduate universities in the world based on the number of alumni entrepreneurs, and ninth among public undergraduate universities in the U.S.

- **29th for Reputation** UC San Diego is the 29th university in the world, according to *Times Higher Education* World Reputation Rankings 2022. UC San Diego is also ranked 17th in the U.S. and fifth among public colleges in the country.

- **Among the Top 20 Universities in the World** In the prestigious 2023 Academic Ranking of World Universities released by the ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, UC San Diego was ranked the 19th best university in world and 15th in the U.S.

- **33rd Best University in the World** The Center for the World University Rankings named UC San Diego the 33rd best university in the world and 21st in the U.S. in 2023.

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

- **$558 million** UC San Diego Health provides more than $558 million in charity care and benefits to the community (FY 2022).

- **Ranked Nationally Among Best Hospitals** For the first time, UC San Diego Health earned its place on the 2023–24 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Hospitals Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only 22 hospitals nationwide. Ten of our medical and surgical specialties were recognized as among the best in the country, including pulmonology and lung surgery (#9); ear, nose and throat (#14); geriatrics (#17); gastroenterology and GI surgery (#18); and cancer (#20).

- **Best in California and San Diego** UC San Diego continues to rank number one in San Diego and this year tied with UC Los Angeles, UC San Francisco, Stanford Health Care, and Cedars-Sinai for first in California in *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual Best Hospitals rankings.

- **Top 25 in the Nation** UC San Diego School of Medicine was named 21st in the U.S. among research-intensive programs and sixth among public medical schools in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023–24 Best Graduate Schools rankings. The school was also ranked 30th in the primary care category.

- **18th Best Pharmacy School in the Nation** UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences ranked 18th in the 2020 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of best pharmacy schools. The school is also fourth in the nation for NIH grants and total research funding according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's 2022 institutional rankings report.

- **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 2022, UC San Diego Health scored a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's LGBTQ Healthcare Equity Index.

- **Top Docs** More than 100 physicians from UC San Diego Health were named Top Docs in the 2023 *San Diego Magazine* Physicians of Exceptional Excellence annual survey. These physicians represent 50 diverse specialties, from cardiovascular disease and emergency medicine to neurology and geriatrics.

- **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 Health's hospitals in La Jolla and Hillcrest were recognized among the nation's Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group in 2022. This is the most competitive recognition for excellence in hospital safety and quality. No other UC hospital earned this top teaching hospital recognition.

- **"A's" for Hospital Safety** UC San Diego Health's hospitals in both La Jolla and Hillcrest earned top marks from The Leapfrog Group in fall 2022 for keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors.

- **Among Most Wired Health Systems** UC San Diego Health was named a level nine most wired hospital in both acute and ambulatory categories by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) in 2021. These distinctions recognize UC San Diego Health's efforts to focus on technology strategies that support meaningful outcomes for patients.

Unmatched Value

- **5-Star Rating** UC San Diego has earned five stars — the highest rating available — in *Money*'s Best Colleges in America 2023 list. The outlet, which annually recognizes colleges that combine quality and affordability, named UC San Diego one of only 13 public universities in the nation to receive a five-star rating.

- **8th Best Value Public University in the Nation** UC San Diego has been ranked eighth among the nation's top public colleges for students seeking an outstanding education at an affordable price, according to the *Princeton Review's* Best Value Colleges for 2023.

- **11th for Alumni Earnings** UC San Diego has been ranked the 11th best public university in the country among colleges that pay of the most in a 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 10 years ($126,800).

- **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.

- **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 2023-24 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 (#7), fine arts (#10)

  Engineering: biomedical/bioengineering (#5), computer science systems (#8), computer engineering (#10), computer science (#12), best engineering school (#12), computer science programming language (#12), computer science artificial intelligence (#12), computer science theory (#12), electrical engineering (#14), aerospace engineering (#18), mechanical engineering (#23), civil engineering (#25), material engineering (#30)

  Health Sciences: School of Medicine research program (#21), School of Medicine primary care (#30)

  Sciences: discrete mathematics and combinatorics (#5), physics of living systems (#5), biochemistry (#8), geophysics and seismology (#8), earth sciences (#9), neuroscience/neurobiology (#9), algebra (#10), genetics (#10), cell biology (#12), molecular biology (#12), condensed matter (#13), biochemistry/biophysics (#13), geometry (#15), theoretical chemistry (#15), biological sciences (#17), physical chemistry (#17), mathematics (#20), chemistry (#20), physics (#21), geochemistry (#21), math analysis (#23), biostatistics (#34), statistics (#41)

  Social Sciences and Humanities: behavioral neuroscience (#1), international politics (#5), econometrics (#7), political science (#8), comparative politics (#10), sociology of culture (#10), development economics (#11), psychology (#12), American politics (#13), economics (#14), public finance (#14), labor economics (#17), political methodology (#17), microeconomics (#18), macroeconomics (#18)

- **4th for Entrepreneurship** UC San Diego Rady School of Management ranked fourth in the nation for entrepreneurship and learning by Bloomberg Businessweek in 2022.

- **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 2022. 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 2022 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.

- **13th for Entrepreneurship** UC San Diego's Rady School of Management MBA program ranked 13th in the *Princeton Review's* 2023 survey naming the top graduate schools for entrepreneurship studies.

- **14th Best MBA Program** 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.

- **19th Globally for Philosophy** UC San Diego's PhD program in philosophy was ranked the 19th best in the world by Wiley Blackwell in 2022, which also ranked the university in the top five for the philosophy of Kant and the philosophy of cognitive science.

ADDITIONAL RANKINGS

- **4th Public Institution in Nation for High-Quality Research** UC San Diego ranked fourth among public research institutions in the U.S. by *Nature Index* in 2023 for high-quality science, based on research results its faculty, students and staff published in high-quality journals in 2022.

- **World's Most Influential Researchers** Clarivate's 2022 listing of Most Highly Cited Researchers in the World includes 66 individual distinctions from UC San Diego. The annual listing has identified nearly 7,000 researchers across the globe who demonstrated significant influence in their chosen fields through the publication of highly cited papers during the last decade.

- **Top 10 Public Universities for LGBTQ+ Students** UC San Diego was named the ninth 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.

- **Top 15 Aquariums in the U.S.** *U.S. News & World Report* named Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography among the top 15 aquariums in the nation in 2023.

- **World's 3rd Most Beautiful Library** In 2017, CNN Travel named UC San Diego's Geisel Library the third 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 first 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 fourth among the top 10 public schools in the West.

FACULTY HONORS
(INCLUDING FACULTY EMERITI)

- **Nobel Prize** 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** Rand Steiger (2011 Music Award); Chinary Ung (2020); Lei Liang (2021 Music Award); Anthony Davis (2021); and Roger Reynolds (2023)

- **American Academy of Arts and Sciences** Susan Ackerman (2019), Yishi Jin (2019), John Wixted (2019), Paul M. Churchland (2020), Vicki H. Grassian (2020), Margaret S. Leinen (2020), David G. Victor (2020), Ananda Goldrath (2021), Eileen Myles (2021), Stefan Savage (2021), Arshad B. Desai (2022), Karen Oegema (2022), and Ana Celia Zentella (2022)

- **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); Harry Markowitz, economics (1990); 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)

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

- **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)

UC San Diego

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 3 7 2024