

The University of California excels in national and international rankings

College and university rankings vary widely in how they assess institutions. Across the diverse approaches, University of California campuses do very well. That holds true among rankings focusing variously on academic and research excellence, serving the public good, and providing a high-quality education to underserved students.

The U.S. News and World Report, in its 2018 national university rankings, focused on academic reputation, financial resources, and selectivity in undergraduate admissions. Its assessment on these metrics placed UC campuses among the very best public universities in the country:

- UC Berkeley and UCLA were ranked as the top public institutions.
- Five UC campuses were among the top 10 public institutions in the nation.
- For public and private institutions combined, six UC campuses ranked among the top 50.

Numerical rankings can provide false precision based on very little actual differences among campuses. For example, there is only a three point difference in the overall score for universities ranked 37th and 46th.

2018 U.S. News & World Report

	Public	National
Berkeley	1	21
UCLA	1	21
Santa Barbara	8	37
Irvine	9	42
San Diego	9	42
Davis	12	46
Santa Cruz	33	81
Riverside	58	124
Merced	87	165

Other rankings recognize UC's performance in critical dimensions of college quality. For example, the Washington Monthly considers social mobility, research and public service. In its 2017 rankings:

- Two UC campuses were among the top 10 in the nation.
- Six ranked among the top 25.

2017 Washington Monthly

San Diego	6
Davis	9
Berkeley	14
UCLA	15
Irvine	20
Riverside	21
Santa Barbara	33
Merced	43
Santa Cruz	85

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UC campuses also stand out internationally. Four UC campuses rank among the top 25 and eight among the top 100 best universities in the world according to the Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy. Factors considered in these rankings include quality of the faculty and research output.

2017 ARWU Shanghai

Berkeley	5
UCLA	12
San Diego	15
UCSF	21
Santa Barbara	45
Irvine	64
Davis	85
Santa Cruz	98
Riverside	151-200

While we are proud of these rankings, we are even prouder of UC’s record of promoting social mobility.

The New York Times’ College Access Index ranks institutions with at least a 75 percent five-year graduation rate by the share for freshman entrants that are Pell grant recipients, the graduation rates of those students, and overall net cost for low-income students.

Using these criteria, in its 2017 ranking:

- UC campuses held the top five slots.
- Six UC campuses were in the top ten.

2017 College Access Index

Irvine	1
Santa Barbara	2
Davis	3
San Diego	4
UCLA	5
Berkeley	9

UC enrolls a higher percentage of Pell Grant recipients, who are very low income, (40 percent) than any other leading research university in the nation, and sees 82 percent of these students graduate within six years.

Finally, within five years of graduation, a majority of these students earn more than their families, demonstrating how investing in these students results in positive financial returns for these individuals, their families and the State.