In 2016-17, UC spent $4.5 billion on research activities, with approximately $2.1 billion from federal sources and another $700 million from other sources outside the state.

UC research funds support nearly 27,500 full-time employees who live throughout California. They earn $2.1 billion dollars, which is spent in local communities across the state and contributes to California's tax base.

Research funds were used to purchase over $1.2 billion in goods and services. On average, one of every three dollars was spent on vendors in California.

UC research generates 5 inventions each day, leading to more than 550 U.S. patents issued in fiscal year 2017 alone. UC currently manages over 2,300 technology licenses. Many of these licenses go to startup companies, and since 1976, UC research resulted in more than 1,000 startups, with 85% located in California.

As of 2017, there were over 1,300 active technology licenses granted to more than 600 separate California companies.