UNIVERSITY Institutional
OF Research and
CALIFORNIA Academic Planning

The University of California in national and international rankings

Washington Monthly

The Washington Monthly rankings are based on contributions to the public good. The aim is to offer a "socially-conscious" assessment that measures cost, student social mobility, post-graduation earnings and public service. This year, UC San Diego was once again the highest-ranked public university, with four other UC campuses in the top twenty. On individual metrics, several campuses stood out: UC Davis was ranked the second-best public university in the country for social mobility, and UC Riverside was No. 15 nationally for its commitment to community service.

2020 Washington Monthly

	Public	National
San Diego	1	9
UCLA	3	11
Davis	5	13
Berkeley	8	17
Santa Barbara	11	20
Irvine	13	22
Riverside	15	27
Merced	31	56
Santa Cruz	54	91

Money Magazine

Money Magazine ranks high-value colleges based on institutions' educational quality, affordability, and outcomes. In the 2020 ranking, five UC campuses placed in the top twenty and eight in the top 100.

2020 Money Magazine

San Diego	9
Davis	10
Irvine	13
Berkeley	17
UCLA	19
Riverside	48
Santa Barbara	55
Merced	76
Santa Cruz	111

U.S. News and World Report

The U.S. News and World Report (USNWR) rankings assess U.S. bachelor's degree-granting institutions. The latest edition evaluated 1,452 institutions across seventeen measures, including retention and graduation rates, social mobility, faculty resources and academic reputation. This year, for the first time, it included graduate indebtedness.

All nine undergraduate campuses ranked among the top 100 universities in the country, public or private. In its ranking of top national performers on social mobility, UC campuses took four of the top five spots: Riverside (1), Irvine (2), Santa Cruz (4), Merced (5); others followed closely: UCLA and Santa Barbara (13--tied), Davis (15), San Diego (33); and Berkeley (76).

2021 U.S. News & World Report

	Public	National
UCLA	1	20
UC Berkeley	2	22
Santa Barbara	6	30
Irvine	8*	35*
San Diego	8*	35*
Davis	11	39
Riverside	34	88
Merced	40*	97*
Santa Cruz	40*	97*
*indicates a tie		

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Academic Ranking of World Universities

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) evaluates the quality of education based on alumni winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, quality of faculty based on similar awards and research citations, research output based on papers in Nature and Science and Science and Science citations, and per capita academic performance.

2020 ARWU Shanghai

	Global	National
Berkeley	5	4
UCLA	13	11
San Diego	18	14
UCSF	21	16
Santa Barbara	49	30
Irvine	69	35
Davis	91	39
Santa Cruz	151-200	57-65
Riverside	201-300	66-94
Merced	401-500	115-133

CNBC Make It

CNBC Make It recognized UC campuses for providing an education that translates to future success and post-graduate earnings. Their "50 Colleges that Pay Off the Most" ranking spotlights fifty schools in the United States that provide students the highest average salaries for their tuition dollars. Seven UC undergrad campuses made their list of top 25 public universities — more than any other public university system in the country.

CNBC Make It		
Berkeley	8	
UCLA	10	
San Diego	13	
Riverside	14	
Irvine	16	
Davis	19	
Santa Barbara	22	

U.S. News & World Report (Global)

In addition to its national rankings, the U.S. News and World Report ranks the top universities in the world based on institutions' academic research performance and their global and regional reputations. Eight UC campuses placed in the top 100 out of 1,250 ranked institutions.

2021 Global Universities

Berkeley	4
UCLA	13
UCSF	15*
San Diego	21
Santa Barbara	56
Davis	66
Irvine	78
Santa Cruz	81
Riverside	158
Merced	693