



UC SANTA BARBARA

UC Santa Barbara consistently ranks among the best public research universities in the nation, according to many highly regarded “Best Colleges” guides. UC Santa Barbara is a world-class university and research institution that provides well-recognized and interdisciplinary educational excellence in the liberal arts, sciences and engineering. Our close community draws on our environmental emphasis and unique and beautiful 1,000+ acre campus located on the Pacific Ocean. From California and around the world, our students embark on a journey of learning and discovery that stimulates critical reasoning, independent thought and creativity.

UC Santa Barbara’s diverse community of faculty, students and staff is known for a culture of collaboration and is a leader in multicultural studies and programs. UC Santa Barbara is ranked by the New York Times College Access Index among the nation’s top colleges most committed to economic diversity. On September 1, Dennis Assanis succeeded Henry T. Yang as the university’s sixth chancellor. Chancellor Assanis guides the campus in its research, teaching, and service mission.

Enrollment, Scholarships, and Academic Offerings

- **200+ Majors, Degrees & Credentials:** 90+ undergraduate majors and more than 50 graduate programs.
- **~25,000 Enrollment:** Includes ~22,000 undergraduates and ~3,000 graduate students.
- **Financial Aid:** Nearly \$1.5 million in privately funded scholarships were awarded to undergraduate students in 2024-25; graduate students were awarded just over \$3 million in privately funded fellowships in 2024-25.

A Leading Research University

- UC Santa Barbara is one of only 71 research-intensive institutions in the U.S. and Canada elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, cementing its status as a higher-education leader.
- The UC Santa Barbara faculty includes 56 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s top honorary societies, among whose ranks are winners of Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, Oscars, Emmys, and more.
- Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. The honor has been so accorded to 34 UC Santa Barbara faculty members.

In Pursuit of Excellence

UC Santa Barbara is an elite research university on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. In our dynamic environment, research and creativity unite to produce discoveries that lead California and the world.

UC Santa Barbara students, faculty, and researchers are changemakers on the forefront of scholarship. These achievements — and those in our future — emanate from our trademark collaborative spirit.

**No. 12 Public University
Forbes (2025)**

Quick Facts

- Established as a UC campus in **1944**
- ~**25,000** students, undergraduate and graduate, are enrolled in on-campus programs
- **200+** majors, degrees, and credentials
- **12** national institutes and centers and **7** natural reserves
- **500** student organizations
- **120+** startups based on UC Santa Barbara technology
- **1,127** acres with **7** miles of bike paths
- **20** Division **I** sports

Academic Success & Leadership

- Eight UC Santa Barbara researchers and one alumna have won the Nobel Prize, including the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics, which went to UCSB faculty John Martinis and Michel Devoret.
- According to U.S. News and World Report, UC Santa Barbara has consistently been among the highest ranked public research universities in the nation over the last decade.
- Globally, UCSB ranked No. 179 out of more than 1,500 institutions (2026 QS World University Rankings).
- The Princeton Review ranks UC Santa Barbara No. 12 for Best Career Placement Among Public Schools (2025).
- UC Santa Barbara ranked No. 34 for affordability and No. 35 for access (2025 Washington Monthly).

Research, Creativity & Innovation

- Over half of our undergraduates collaborate with faculty on original research and creative projects.
- Our faculty includes recipients of the Pulitzer Prize, the Millennium Technology Prize, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation and the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, the National Book Award, and an Emmy Award.
- UC Santa Barbara was rated the No. 21 Best College for Research among public universities (2025 Washington Monthly).
- Prominent faculty collaborate to advance UC Santa Barbara's strengths, including quantum science and engineering; LED; ocean science; green energy and energy efficiency; economic, political and social issues; and the humanities and fine arts.

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