

The University of California excels in national and international rankings

College and university rankings vary widely in how they assess institutions and sometimes change their assessment methodology. Across these diverse and changing approaches, University of California campuses do very well, particularly among ranking systems that focus on social and economic mobility, return on investment and international recognition of academic quality.

Rankings emphasizing social mobility

The U.S. News and World Report (USNWR), in its 2019 national university rankings, uses similar categories as in prior years: expert opinion, outcomes, faculty resources, financial resources, student excellence, and alumni giving. But this year they shifted emphases towards new metrics that emphasize social mobility. Specifically, USNWR added two measures related to Pell Grant graduation rates within their outcomes category, eliminated acceptance rates, and reduced the emphasis on expert opinion to account for the new social mobility factors. Using this new methodology, UC campuses ranked highly:

- UCLA, followed by UC Berkeley, were the top-ranked public institutions.
- Among public institutions, five UC campuses in the top 10 and all nine undergraduate campuses were in the top 70.
- When public and private universities are combined, six UC campuses ranked among the top 50.

2019 U.S. News & World Report

	Public	National
UCLA	1	19
Berkeley	2	22
Santa Barbara	5	30
Irvine	7	33
Davis	10	38
San Diego	12	41
Santa Cruz	26	70
Riverside	35	85
Merced	67	136

This new methodology builds on the New York Times' College Access Index, which 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 most recent 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

Rankings emphasizing return on investment

UC campuses also perform well in rankings that evaluate benefits to the public, along with students and their families. For example, the Washington Monthly university rankings consider social mobility, research, and public service.

In its 2018 rankings:

- Three UC campuses were among the top 10 in the nation.
- All nine undergraduate campuses were in the top 100.

2018 Washington Monthly

San Diego	7
UCLA	9
Davis	10
Berkeley	18
Irvine	20
Riverside	28
Merced	39
Santa Barbara	45
Santa Cruz	85

Money Magazine has developed a complementary system that ranks high-value colleges based on institutions' educational quality, affordability, and alumni success. In its 2018 rankings:

- UC San Diego, UC Irvine, and UCLA ranked second, third, and fourth.
- UC campuses took five of the top 11 spots, with two additional campuses in the top 40.

2018 Money Magazine

San Diego	2
Irvine	3
UCLA	4
Berkeley	7
Davis	11
Riverside	32
Santa Barbara	38

Rankings emphasizing international reputation and academic excellence

Finally, UC campuses also stand out internationally. 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. By these metrics, UC is a global force:

- Four of the top 20 universities in the world are UC campuses.
- UC campuses account for five of the top seven U.S. public institutions included in the rankings.

2018 U.S. News & World Report (Global)

Berkeley	4
UCLA	13
UCSF	15
San Diego	16
Santa Barbara	28
Santa Cruz	47
Davis	52
Irvine	75
Riverside	141
Merced	693

The 2018 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 Social Science citations, and per capita academic performance.

Based on this criteria,

- Four UC campuses rank among the top 25.
- Seven ranked among the top 100 best universities in the world.

2018 ARWU Shanghai

Berkeley	5
UCLA	11
San Diego	15
UCSF	21
Santa Barbara	46
Irvine	83
Davis	96
Santa Cruz	101-150
Riverside	151-200

Taken as a whole, UC is proud to be a nationally-recognized engine of social mobility and a standard-bearer for college return on investment while having some of the best public research universities in the nation and operating as the best public university system in the world.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings also evaluates universities across the globe, based on teaching, research, citations, industry income, and international outlook. Based on these criteria,

- UCLA and Berkeley rank in the top twenty.
- Six UC campuses in the top 100 best world universities.

2018 THE World University

UCLA	15
Berkeley	18
San Diego	31
Santa Barbara	53
Davis	54
Irvine	99
Santa Cruz	162
Riverside	198