Excellence with impact

A global research university, UC Santa Cruz is part of the world’s most celebrated system of public higher education and stands among the most renowned institutions of higher learning. Leading at the intersection of innovation and social justice, UCSC faculty and students conduct transformative research and scholarship that serves society.

RANKED...

1ST in the nation for racial and gender diversity in leadership. 2022 Women’s Power Gap Initiative
2ND in public universities in the nation for students focused on making an impact on the world. 2023 Princeton Review
2ND among the top 20 public colleges for high-paying jobs in engineering. 2023 Burning Glass Institute
5TH in game/simulation development programs in the nation 2024 U.S. News and World Report
9TH among the top 20 public colleges for high-paying jobs in tech. 2023 Burning Glass Institute
TOP 20 for excellence in undergraduate teaching among national public universities 2024 U.S. News and World Report
15TH for top game design graduate programs. 2022 Princeton Review
18TH for universities with the greatest social mobility. 2022 U.S. News and World Report

Additional Campuses
• Silicon Valley Campus, Santa Clara
• Coastal Science Campus, Santa Cruz

Natural Reserves provide living labs for hands-on learning

Carnegie Classification Indicating very high research activity

YEAR FOUNDED
1965
2,000 ACRES
OVERLOOKING SCENIC MONTEREY BAY

73 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS
43 UNDERGRADUATE MINORS
66 GRADUATE PROGRAMS

18,834 Enrollment 2022–23

16,938 UNDERGRADUATES
1,896 GRADUATE STUDENTS

92% CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS (Undergraduates)
3.7% INTERNATIONAL
4% OUT-OF-STATE

35% FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADS

140,000+ NUMBER OF UCSC ALUMNI

FACULTY HONORS
1 Nobel Laureate
15 members, National Academy of Sciences
26 members, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
42 fellows, American Association for the Advancement of Science

ALUMNI HONORS
9 winners of 11 Pulitzer Prizes
7 MacArthur ‘Genius’ Awards

MEMBERSHIPS
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Pacific Rim Universities

Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)
Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities
Asian American & Native American Pacific Islander–Serving Institution (AANAPISI)
UCSC RESEARCHERS released the first truly complete sequence of a human genome—allowing greater understanding of genetic diseases, human diversity, and evolution. Then they followed that breakthrough by leading the human pangenome project and the complete sequencing of the human Y chromosome.

PRODUCED FIRST-EVER TOOLKIT FOR RNA sequencing analysis, providing more diverse data to researchers around the world.


REDEFINING WHAT CONSTITUTES THE OUTER LIMITS OF OUR GALAXY, as astronomers find the most distant stars located halfway to Andromeda.

HOME TO ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP marine mammal research centers at Long Marine Laboratory, on the shores of Monterey Bay—the second-largest marine sanctuary in the world.

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY HONORS INCLUDE the National Medal of Science, Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, Benjamin Franklin Medal in Electrical Engineering, Darwin-Wallace Medal, Urey Prize in Planetary Science, Kavli Prize in Astrophysics, Weldon Memorial Prize, and Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science.

LEADER OF A MULTICAMPUS INITIATIVE on coastal resilience and climate adaptation that teams our experts in coastal science and policy with researchers at UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

TEN DISTINCTIVE UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES with each structured to support student success by addressing the whole student. Distinct college “core courses” emphasize the themes and foster a strong sense of community while advising teams focus on developmental and overall career advising, co-curricular programming, and service-learning opportunities.

THE DOLORES HUERTA RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS focuses on the experiences of Latinx people in the U.S. and the social, political, economic, and environmental forces shaping Latin America.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS are made possible by the campus’s connections to Silicon Valley. These include programs such as the Corporate Sponsored Senior Projects at the Baskin School of Engineering and CruzHacks, where students compete to solve complex, real-world problems.

CONSISTENTLY NAMED ONE OF THE WORLD’S most beautiful college campuses, UCSC’s 2,000 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean are comprised of redwood forests and expansive meadows. These include the Natural Reserves, where students and faculty conduct active research.

EARNED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DESIGNATION, marking more than 50 years of industry-leading research in organic agriculture and sustainable farming practices at the campus and opening doors to expanding community impact.

HOME TO VISUALIZING ABOLITION, the nation’s most ambitious and sustained art and prison abolition initiative. The emerging CENTER FOR COASTAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE is working to apply scientific research to develop policy around climate change and identify solutions that can benefit people and nature in coastal communities.

EARNED THE SEAL OF EXCELENCIA, following a thorough, data-driven review by Excelencia in Education. The seal is in recognition of intentional campuswide efforts to serve Latinx students.

BRINGING PROJECT-BASED STEM EDUCATION TO STUDENTS WORLDWIDE by developing a method for using remote-controlled, internet-connected microscopes to enable students, who would otherwise not have access, to pursue their interest in STEM fields.