Step inside our world.
Situated on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, the UC Santa Barbara campus enjoys mountain views to the north and ocean views to the south. Here, you can just spot the Channel Islands.

Who are we?

We are professors known internationally for our discoveries and personally by our students.

We are students known just as much for our kindness as our intellect.

We are engaged with our studies, teaching, and research but still actively engaged with our community, our environment, and our world.

We are a global family of alumni, found in the halls of Congress, the heart of Silicon Valley, and in our local community.

We are a diverse community, celebrating each other’s accomplishments and always lending a helping hand.

#1 happiest students in California (Princeton Review, 2019)

#5 public university in the U.S. (U.S. News & World Report, 2019)

As a tier one research university, UCSB is on the cutting edge of new discoveries that are changing the world.

Our campus’ undergraduate focus means students have the opportunity to be active members of this research community—and it’s not all lab coats and test tubes. Our students also push creative boundaries, explore the nature of humanity, and discuss solutions for society’s challenges. Whichever questions you ask, we’ll support you in seeking the answers. Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) grants fund student research projects, and the Faculty Research Assistance Program (FRAP) allows students to work with leading UCSB researchers while earning academic credit.

6 faculty Nobel Prizes in chemistry, economics, and physics
10 national institutes and centers, several of which are funded by the National Science Foundation, including the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics
3 million print volumes in the UCSB Library collections, plus manuscripts, sound recordings, cartography, and digital resources

A student works with liquid nitrogen in the Biometric Circuits and Nanosystems Group. The lab’s research focuses on soft matter, electronics, and neuroscience.
The College of Letters and Science offers a broad liberal arts curriculum that prepares students to be citizens of the world. Whether they are interested in professional careers or graduate study, students will develop the critical thinking and communication skills needed in today’s constantly changing world. With majors in the humanities and fine arts, life and physical sciences, mathematics, and the social sciences, students have opportunities to explore and make connections across disciplines. All students benefit from college and departmental advising, including programs designed to help Pre-Law, Pre-Health, and transfer students.

80 majors in the College of Letters and Science
2,000 courses offered each quarter by the College of Letters and Science
$300,000+ in grants and funding to support undergraduate research each year through Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)
The College of Engineering offers five undergraduate majors that prepare students to design the world of tomorrow. The environment and modern laboratory facilities foster creativity, collaboration, and discovery. Courses balance theory and applied science, leading students to successful careers in academia and industry. An exceptionally low student-to-faculty ratio encourages students to assist professors in cutting-edge research. The Technology Management Program offers entrepreneurial students an understanding of business principles so they can successfully run the companies created by their innovations. Outstanding students can take advantage of combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science (BS/MS) programs that provide an opportunity to earn two degrees in five years.

5 majors: Chemical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering

150+ faculty members, three of whom are Nobel Laureates

800+ undergraduate students participate in the Technology Management Program

Most professors in engineering and the sciences at UCSB are leading one or multiple research projects, and they encourage undergraduate students to intern in their labs.
The College of Creative Studies supports highly motivated students in research and the creation of new knowledge in one of eight disciplines in science, humanities, and the arts: Small seminars and close mentorship by faculty permit students to make original contributions to their fields while still having access to classes and resources across campus. Applicants must submit a supplemental application for review by faculty.

- Majors: Art, Biology, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Computing, Mathematics, Music Composition, Physics, and Writing & Literature
- 75% of alumni attend graduate school
- 1 College of Creative Studies alumna Nobel Prize winner
At UCSB, students focus on succeeding in the classroom while also making room to be social. Employers take note of this. They consistently say that UCSB graduates are not only bright but great colleagues—their ability to balance academics with social life means they know how to work in teams, give presentations, and collaborate.
Student life at UCSB is lively and abundant. Students can join clubs, serve in student government, and volunteer in the community. By getting involved, students meet new friends, learn through their experiences, and pursue their passions. Many organizations also put on campus events, giving students constant opportunities to be exposed to something new.

Alpha Kappa Psi is a co-ed business fraternity open to all majors and class levels.

500+ student organizations
9,000 UCSB students volunteer in the local community each year
$14M in funding each year to Associated Students, a student-run organization that helps voice student opinion through elected positions, boards, and committees.
Active lifestyle is a phrase students hear a lot on campus. It makes sense. On any given day, thousands of bikes commute through campus, many zipping over to our state-of-the-art recreation facilities. With nearly 300 days of sunshine every year, students can take advantage of the outdoor fields and pools year-round. Some also prefer to use our indoor amenities. From rock climbing to pottery, students have many options to unwind and find their fit.

Gaucho athletes have won a variety of conference titles, including NCAA championships, and many have become professional or Olympic athletes.

19 NCAA Division I sports teams
27 sport club teams, from rowing to field hockey
18,000 students participate in intramural sports each year, making it the most popular program on campus.
The vibrant community of students from a rich mix of cultures and backgrounds ensures that every UCSB student can feel like they belong on campus. Students can find a home in our cultural resource centers and exchange ideas in the MultiCultural Center. When these different perspectives come together, our students learn more about themselves and the world around them, preparing them for success when they leave UCSB.

Each year, UCSB holds Black Graduation and Chicana/Latina Graduation ceremonies where students can celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends.

5 cultural resource centers including American Indian, African diasporic, Chicana/Latina, Middle Eastern, and Asian

2015 was the first year UCSB achieved Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) status, an elite designation given to universities in which Hispanic enrollment is at least 25%.

60+ cultural student organizations on campus
Balance defines UCSB’s culture. Students here work hard in the classroom, but they also make time for their personal wellness. Some take long walks on the beach. Others spend their weekends on outdoor adventures. As a campus, UCSB strongly supports student well-being through health and wellness programming and resources. The result? A college experience that is both educational and enjoyable.

65+ different trips and classes are available to students each year through Adventure Programs.

13 Why The Fruit? (WTF) bowls around campus provide fresh, local, and organic fruit for free.

25+ doctors, dentists, and nurse practitioners provide excellent care in Student Health.
Whether you want to explore Europe, then study in Asia, or backpack through South America, there is an Education Abroad Program for you.

Studying abroad allows UCSB students to take classes at top international universities, experience new cultures, gain internship or research experience, learn new languages, and make lifelong friends. Students in all majors have access to excellent courses abroad, and programs range from a summer to a semester or full year in length. Students interested in the political process can take advantage of the opportunity to study and intern in Washington, D.C. or Sacramento, CA through the UCDC and UCCS programs.

400+ program options in 40 countries around the world
1,000+ UCSB students study abroad each year
#1 UC sending the most students abroad for full year programs
Opportunities for our students don’t end on campus. Career Services helps current students and recent graduates find and prepare for great internships, jobs, and graduate school opportunities. With hundreds of companies visiting campus each year and a network of over 215,000 alumni, students find themselves well-connected for their next step.

93% of graduates say UCSB has prepared them very well to adequately for their present occupation.

400+ top companies visit UCSB for recruiting events each year.

86% of recent graduates have either full-time or part-time positions after graduation.

UCSB hosts Career and Internship Fairs as well as Graduate and Professional Schools Days to connect students with jobs and graduate schools.
Open kitchens and floor-to-ceiling views of the surrounding mountains make the Portola Dining Commons an ideal spot to grab sliders, pizza, or a banh mi sandwich.

Living in paradise has its perks. UCSB Housing operates residence halls, undergraduate apartments, and family student housing. Many rooms have ocean or mountain views, and Living-Learning Communities in the residence halls connect students with similar interests. The campus is also home to four Dining Commons that offer fresh, sustainable, local, and organic food in an all-you-care-to-eat setting. Students can select a meal plan that works for them ranging from seven meals per week to an unlimited pass.

4 years of housing guaranteed for freshmen and 2 years for transfers
16 Living-Learning Communities including Women in STEM, Outdoor Adventure, Multicultural Experience, and more
8,300 students live in university-owned housing
Isla Vista is the community directly adjacent to the UCSB campus. This beachside community is home to many UCSB students who savor the beach culture, warm weather, and energetic atmosphere. Students enjoy restaurants, parks, coffee shops, grocery stores, and a bike-friendly atmosphere that makes a sustainable commute to campus a breeze. UCSB maintains a strong presence in Isla Vista through the Associated Students Pardall Center, Embarcadero Hall, and more.

2 square miles of land area make up Isla Vista
23,000 residents, many of whom are UCSB students
25 parks, beach access points, and open spaces in Isla Vista
Santa Barbara lies between the Santa Ynez mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Often described as the American Riviera, the Mediterranean climate means residents enjoy pleasant temperatures year-round. The city is accessible by Amtrak, the Santa Barbara airport, and U.S. Highway 101. As a tourist attraction, Santa Barbara is home to numerous performing arts venues, museums, parks, restaurants, and shops.

- Santa Barbara hosts many cultural events throughout the year including Old Spanish Days, the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Greek and French festivals, and more.

- 283 average sunny days in Santa Barbara
- 100+ events presented per year by UCSB Arts & Lectures at venues on campus and in Santa Barbara
- 92,000 estimated total residents
Our world...

A place where notes, nachos, and waves are shared.

Where passions are ignited, frontiers are explored, and communities are formed.

Where humanists, scientists, artists, dreamers, and discoverers tackle problems together.

Where relaxation and rigor coexist.

Where great minds work together to change the world.

"I chose UCSB because of the amazing opportunities to grow socially, academically, and professionally as well as the inclusivity and love that I have felt from the community both on and off campus."

Shelly Luong
Economics

"From the moment I stepped foot on campus, I knew that UCSB was the perfect fit for me. The warm weather, the welcoming and positive students, and the endless amount of resources the campus offers speaks to how the university truly cares about their students. I knew that I would be able to thrive here both academically and socially."

Michael Stallworth
Sociology, Black Studies

"Our world... a place where notes, nachos, and waves are shared. Where passions are ignited, frontiers are explored, and communities are formed. Where humanists, scientists, artists, dreamers, and discoverers tackle problems together. Where relaxation and rigor coexist. Where great minds work together to change the world."

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