

UCSD programs in medicine, engineering, social sciences rated among nation's best in U.S. News & World Report Survey

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UCSD PROGRAMS IN MEDICINE, ENGINEERING, SOCIAL SCIENCES RATED AMONG NATION'S BEST IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT SURVEY

A survey of graduate programs by U.S. News & World Report has ranked programs in medicine, engineering, and the social and biological sciences at the University of California, San Diego among the nation's best.

The rankings will be published in the magazine's 1998 "America's Best Graduate Schools" issue and guidebook, to be available on newsstands Monday, Feb. 23. The survey results will also be available on-line at www.usnews.com on Feb. 20.

In the survey, the UCSD School of Medicine was ranked (at 19) among the top 20 medical schools in the nation. The school was also ranked 20th among primary care medical schools. The Irwin and Joan Jacobs School of Engineering at UCSD was ranked 21st (up from 23 last year), and the school's Department of Bioengineering was ranked 314 in the nation.

Within the Division of Social Sciences, the Department of Political Science was ranked 10th in the nation and specialty programs within the discipline such as international politics (8), comparative politics (8), and political theory (5) were also rated in the top ten. Other UCSD programs ranked in the top 20 include: economics (14); psychology (12); and biological sciences (15). Other specialty programs receiving high ratings include the sociology of culture (7), Latin American history (10), and experimental psychology (9). UCSD medical specialties ranked by medical school deans and senior faculty include drugs/alcohol (7).

The high rankings given to many UCSD programs reflect the emerging strength and excellence of several academic areas, including engineering and political science. In the U.S. News & World Report survey, the Jacobs School of Engineering at UCSD has gone from a ranking of 29 in 1996 to its current ranking of 21; UCSD's political science department has gone from a rating of 14 in 1996 to its current ranking of 10. This high ranking for political science, along with the strong rankings given for the specialties of international politics and comparative politics, reflects the increasing excellence and strength of UCSD's programs in international relations and public policy, including those at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) and in Latin American Studies. Other programs in the social sciences that moved up include the Department of Economics, which advanced in the rankings from 17 in 1996 to 14 this year.

U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of graduate schools and programs is based on reputational surveys and objective data such as research activity, faculty resources and student selectivity. In another survey released in 1995 by the prestigious National Research Council, UCSD was ranked 10th in the nation for the quality of its faculty and graduate programs.

The NRC study, considered the most definitive survey of its kind, ranked the faculty quality of 14 graduate programs at UCSD in the top ten in their fields. In that study, UCSD's oceanography and neurosciences

programs were rated first in the nation, and biomedical engineering and physiology were rated second. Other UCSD programs ranked high by the NRC include: biological sciences (4); engineering (9); political science (9), psychology (10); anthropology (9); and geosciences (6).

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