

December 20, 2012 | By Christine Clark

## PayScale.com Names UC San Diego a Top Return on Investment (ROI) College for Alumni

A recent college salary report by PayScale.com ranked the University of California, San Diego the fourth best public university for its return on investment (ROI) for alumni who are California residents.

Data was collected from more than 850 U.S. colleges (for both in- and out-of-state tuition when applicable) to rank college tuition ROI—what students pay to attend versus what they get back in lifetime earnings.

According to PayScale.com, an online provider of compensation calculations, the 30-year net gain in income by a UC San Diego graduate versus a high school graduate is \$647,100. The annual gain in income or ROI is 10.8 percent. In addition, the website notes that the average starting salary of UC San Diego alumni is \$48,400 and they have a mid-career income potential of \$96,700.

UC San Diego also earned high marks for the amount of financial aid the university awards its students. Nearly two-thirds of UC San Diego's undergraduates receive need-based financial aid and more than 45 percent receive the Federal Pell Grant for low-income students.

“UC San Diego continues to be an academic powerhouse that is accessible and affordable to students,” said Ann Klein, director of UC San Diego's financial aid office. “The campus is committed to providing strong financial aid programs to ensure there is opportunity for all students to thrive at UC San Diego.”

In 2012, UC San Diego was named a best value public college by both *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* and *The Princeton Review*. In addition, the university has consistently been ranked among the nation's top 10 public colleges by *U.S. News and World Report* and for the past three years, *Washington Monthly* has named UC San Diego the nation's number one university in the magazine's annual college guide.



*According to PayScale.com, an online provider of compensation calculations, the 30-year net ROI for alumni is \$647,100 and annual ROI is 10.8 percent. Photo by Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego Publications*

For more information on the PayScale.com 2012 ROI Rankings: College Education Value Compared, go to <http://www.payscale.com/college-education-value>.

---

#### MEDIA CONTACT

Erika Johnson, 858-534-9372, [stu-ejohnson@mail.ucsd.edu](mailto:stu-ejohnson@mail.ucsd.edu)

UC San Diego's [Studio Ten 300](#) offers radio and television connections for media interviews with our faculty, which can be coordinated via [studio@ucsd.edu](mailto:studio@ucsd.edu). To connect with a UC San Diego faculty expert on relevant issues and trending news stories, visit <https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/media-resources/faculty-experts>.