

UC San Diego breaks into top ten ranks in major national survey

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Media Contact: Dolores Davies, (619) 534-5994

UC SAN DIEGO BREAKS INTO TOP TEN RANKS IN MAJOR NATIONAL SURVEY

The University of California, San Diego ranks 10th in the nation by the number of graduate programs rated in the top ten on the basis of faculty quality, according to the results of a major study on Ph.D. programs released today by the National Research Council (NRC) in Washington, D.C. Only nine other universities had more programs in the top ten. Ranked in order, they are: UC Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, MIT, Cornell, Yale, University of Chicago, and University of Pennsylvania.

The study ranks the faculty quality of 14 graduate programs at UCSD in the top ten in their fields: oceanography and neuroscience, first in the nation; biomedical engineering and physiology, second; pharmacology, third; genetics and geosciences, sixth; cell and developmental biology, seventh; anthropology, political science, biochemistry and molecular biology, ninth; and psychology, aerospace engineering, and mechanical engineering which all rank 10th.

"This is quite an accomplishment for UCSD to have been ranked so high in this important benchmark study," said Richard C. Atkinson, chancellor of UCSD. "The quality of a university's faculty is the primary determinant of the excellence of all of its academic endeavors. This survey has placed us firmly in the company of some of the very finest and oldest academic institutions in the country. For a university that has just recently celebrated its 35th anniversary, this is a phenomenal achievement."

The study, which evaluates the faculty quality and effectiveness of 3,635 Ph.D.

programs in 41 fields at 274 American universities, was undertaken by the National Research Council's Committee for the Study of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States. The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine.

Of the 29 UCSD programs evaluated by faculty quality in the study, a total of 24 or 83 percent rank in the top 20 in their respective fields. Programs ranking in the top 20 nationally include: linguistics, 14th; philosophy, 15th; economics and physics, 16th; mathematics, 17th; chemistry, comparative literature, ecology, and Spanish-Portuguese, 18th; and electrical engineering, 20th.

The 738-page study, which covers most academic disciplines in the arts, humanities, biological sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and social and behavioral sciences, is an updated and more extensive version of the 1982 Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States. UCSD was ranked 18th overall in the 1982 study.

According to the National Research Council, the report provides a benchmark database for future studies. The report is based on: data on students and faculty in graduate programs provided by universities participating in the study; detailed information from national databases about faculty research productivity and the demographic

characteristics of program graduates; and a survey of nearly 8,000 university faculty members providing peer assessments of the scholarly quality of each program's faculty and program effectiveness in training scholars and research scientists.

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