

2005–2006

General Catalog



President Stephen L. Weber

“San Diego State University is a wonderfully talented, diverse, energetic learning community dedicated to supporting human growth and development through educational experiences, both in and out of the classroom. As a leading public university in California, SDSU has everything you need as you prepare for success in your career and community.

At SDSU, you’ll find a group of students, faculty, and administrators who live and learn together and share a common vision of academic excellence through teaching, research, and service.”



H I S T O R I C H E P N E R H A L L S D S U

photo: Alan Decker

Academic Excellence



At San Diego State University, we are dedicated to preparing our students for success in today's world and for tomorrow's.



SDSU is the first U.S. university to offer a transnational triple degree among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

San Diego State University strives for excellence in all we do: as scholars, as community members, and as participants in the quest for human advancement.

Campus Community

SDSU is a community of people committed to student success. As the oldest and largest higher education institution in the San Diego region, SDSU has deep roots and connections. You'll have access to valuable internships, volunteer opportunities, and practical wisdom from experts in your field of study to enhance your classroom instruction.

What is Your SDSU?

San Diego State University is an academically rich, urban university that provides endless possibilities for students. SDSU offers bachelor's degrees in 81 areas, master's degrees in 72, one educational specialist degree (Ed.S.), research doctorates (Ph.D./Ed.D.) in 14 areas, and one professional doctorate (Au.D.). SDSU is a place to challenge yourself... to take your education into your own hands and carve out your future.

With almost 34,000 students, award-winning professors, top-notch research facilities, and a location that serves as the gateway to Latin America and the Pacific Rim, SDSU gives you the tools to expand your knowledge and your potential. This is your journey... discover how to make SDSU your own.

Make a Difference

SDSU alumni from all fields of study not only make a difference in the San Diego region, but around the world. What difference will you make? Start imagining now.



photo: Tom Farrington

Diversity

SDSU's urban, cosmopolitan campus reflects the healthy diversity of our region and the world beyond. Students from all walks of life and more than 92 nations contribute to SDSU's dynamic mix of ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds. More than 40 percent of our student population come from traditionally underrepresented groups.



photo: Tom Farrington



photo: Lori Palmer

SDSU is designated a **Doctoral/Research University—Intensive**, placing it among the top 6.7 percent of higher education institutions in the United States.

Value

SDSU's low cost of attendance allows your college dollars—including any financial aid or scholarship money—to go much farther. All this adds up to value: an academically competitive university coupled with affordable costs!

As the university's academic reputation and the success of our alumni continue to increase, the value of an SDSU degree is worth more than ever before.

In-state fees for SDSU are among the lowest in the nation for a four-year university. In fact, fees at SDSU are approximately half the national, public university average.

SDSU's 283-acre campus provides ample classrooms and laboratories, as well as on-campus housing. A state-of-the-art library, student union, recital hall, performing arts theatres, health center, modern recreation center, 12,000-seat arena, and top-quality baseball stadium all enhance student life. The campus also maintains two observatories, public broadcast radio and television stations, and seismology and weather stations. With Division I NCAA athletics and a multitude of opportunities outside the classroom, SDSU offers something for everyone.

Admission

SDSU is an increasingly popular campus, known for the quality of its academic programs. Students may have to meet criteria beyond those required by the California State University system to be considered for admission. In addition, a number of SDSU's majors are in high demand and may require further criteria once students are admitted to SDSU.

San Diego: An International Hub



New projects that total more than \$1 billion in value are under way. This includes a 5.9-mile extension of the San Diego Trolley, scheduled to open in 2005.



photo: Joel Zwink

SAN DIEGO, the second largest city in California, is a thriving cultural, scientific, and educational center.

Bordering the Pacific Rim and Mexico, San Diego offers a wide variety of social and cultural activities. Known for its near-perfect climate, miles of sandy beaches, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, and fun-filled waterfront activities, San Diego is also recognized globally as a growing academic and research mecca.

San Diego's geographic location and diverse regional population help make the area a dynamic international hub.

International Education

SDSU encourages students to engage in international educational opportunities. Each year, the campus welcomes students from all parts of the globe who provide enriching cultural interaction opportunities. The University also sends many students abroad to learn first-hand about other cultures, languages, and people. For more information, contact the International Student Center at www.sdsu.edu/isc.

International Students—The International Student Center provides services and programs to meet the needs of international students. The American Language Institute provides English language instruction for international students and professionals.

Study Abroad Programs—Students in study abroad programs gain intercultural communication skills, international understanding, a broader view of the world, lifelong friendships, foreign language skills, and self-awareness. Join over 950 students who study abroad each year in more than 180 programs in 40 countries, including Australia, Spain and Japan.

Academic Programs—International academic programs include the Center for International Business Education and Research; International Security and Conflict Resolution; and the International Business major, which is the largest program of its kind in the nation.



Student Life

SDSU enjoys a well-deserved reputation for an abundance of student activities outside the classroom. Whether you want to play a sport, join one of nearly 300 clubs and organizations or an honor society, lead a community service project, live on SDSU's fraternity row, write for the student newspaper, or run for student office, you'll find something to round out your college experience.

Clubs and Organizations—With nearly 300 clubs and organizations on campus, there is literally something for everyone. Clubs are organized around a variety of themes: academic, residential, cultural, political, religious, social action, honorary, and service.

Honor Societies—Honor societies represent the heritage of academic excellence within higher education and they symbolize this university's proud commitment to that tradition.

Students with superior scholastic ability have the opportunity to join the following university-wide honor societies: Phi Eta Sigma (freshmen), Golden Key (juniors and seniors), Mortar Board (seniors), Phi Kappa Phi (juniors, seniors, graduates), and Phi Beta Kappa (juniors and seniors).

In addition, the university recognizes 23 discipline-specific honor societies which accord recognition to students who demonstrate superior scholastic and leadership in specific academic fields.

Leadership Programs—Student leadership programs include the Freshman Leadership Connection, a leadership class for credit, student awards, and various other personal growth events and activities.

Fraternities and Sororities—SDSU is home to approximately 40 Greek-letter social organizations, plus many culturally based organizations. Fraternities and sororities offer opportunities for life-long friendships, social activities, community service projects, academic assistance, and development of leadership skills.

Associated Students—Associated Students of SDSU (A.S.) is an independent, student-run corporation that provides a wide variety of services and programs. Student government is the backbone of A.S., representing students' interests and overseeing the many services offered such as concerts, child care, and recreation programs.

Community Service—Do you want to volunteer in community projects? SDSU's Center for Community Based Service Learning offers volunteer opportunities, a database of community service projects, events to promote service learning, a resource library, alternative break programs (where students provide service to communities in need in the U.S. or abroad during their spring break), and much more.



Aztec Athletics

Athletics and recreation are a big part of life at SDSU. San Diego offers the weather and SDSU offers the programs. You'll find several options for sports and recreation.

Campus activities include intramural sports, leisure classes, recreational sports, sports clubs, bowling, and games. Students interested in recreational sports should contact 619.594.6424.

Sports facilities on campus include the Student Activity Center, the 12,000-seat Cox Arena, Tony Gwynn Stadium, and Aztec Bowling. The Aztec Recreation Center provides a 76,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility including five full-size gyms, a cardiofitness center, and rock climbing wall.

For more information, call the Athletic Department directly at 619.594.5163 or go to www.sdsu.edu/athletics.



photo: Tom Farrington



What Makes San Diego State a Great University?



SDSU's most popular majors are Business Administration, Psychology, and Biology.



In 2003–2004, SDSU granted 7,963 degrees.

At San Diego State University, learning is our highest value and has been for more than a century. We are committed to creating educational opportunities that not only contribute to human intellectual development, but also equip our students to succeed in an increasingly technological and global society.

Our academic programs offer more than 160 fields of study. Students benefit both from excellent classroom instruction and from hands-on research opportunities as they work alongside faculty mentors at field sites and in classes, studios, and laboratories. In the past four years, SDSU researchers have secured more than \$500 million in external funding, bringing both cutting-edge equipment and the excitement of discovery into laboratories and classrooms.

Operating at a global level, in 2004, SDSU ranked No. 2 among all doctoral-intensive universities in the nation for students studying abroad. International opportunities at SDSU—including pioneering triple-degree programs offered with universities in Canada and Mexico, or in Chile or Mexico—give students a competitive advantage as they step into professional careers or pursue graduate studies.

San Diego State University's urban, cosmopolitan campus reflects the healthy diversity of our region and the world beyond. Students from all walks of life and more than 92 nations contribute to SDSU's dynamic mix of ethnic, racial and social backgrounds. In 2004, SDSU ranked 15th in the nation for bachelor's degrees awarded to minorities and 7th in the nation for bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics. Since the 1999–2000 academic year, 34 percent of SDSU's tenured or tenure-track faculty hires have been people of color—double the percentage of qualified applicants of color available nationwide.

New Challenges, New Programs

San Diego State University also embraces a key role as community resource and problem-solver. In the inner-city community of City Heights, we direct the City Heights Educational Collaborative, an ongoing program designed to improve student achievement and teacher preparation. SDSU is also working to improve K–12 curriculums locally and nationwide with its Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE) and the Qualcomm Institute for Innovation and Educational Success.

Responding to local economic needs, SDSU has launched an undergraduate degree program in hospitality and tourism



photo: Tom Farrington



photo: Alan Decker



photo: Alan Decker

management and is currently developing a curriculum in construction engineering designed to meet the demands of Southern California's contractors. We have also partnered with area hospitals to create Nurses Now, a program to alleviate the region's critical shortage of nurses by expanding our nursing faculty and, in turn, the number of nursing graduates.

Campus Growth

A tangible mark of San Diego State University's vitality is the current pace of campus construction. Projects recently completed or under way total more than \$1 billion in value. These facilities include the Chemical Sciences Laboratory, the Geology, Chemistry and Computer Science (GMCS) building, parking structures, dining and residence halls, a fraternity complex, and the Aztec Athletics Center. The construction also includes part of a 5.9-mile extension of the San Diego Trolley, as well as redevelopment of the adjacent College Area neighborhood. These important projects promise to support academic and athletic programs and to enhance the learning and living environment of the campus community.

No one could have predicted this phenomenal growth in 1897 when San Diego Normal School opened its downtown doors to seven faculty and 91 students. Today's main campus on Montezuma Mesa, founded in 1931, covers 283 acres. In addition, the university offers classes at our Imperial Valley Campus in Calexico and at a satellite facility in Brawley. SDSU also operates the renowned Mount Laguna Observatory and manages four biological field stations totaling more than 9,000 acres.

Throughout the years and the changes, San Diego State University's commitment to academic excellence and community involvement has never wavered. As we move ahead into the twenty-first century, a degree from San Diego State University remains highly sought after, highly regarded, and highly prized.



photo: Joel Zwink



As we move ahead into the twenty-first century, a degree from San Diego State University remains highly sought after, highly regarded and highly prized.

photo: Tom Farrington



Mission of the University

The mission of San Diego State University is to provide well balanced, high quality education for undergraduate and graduate students, and to contribute to knowledge and the solution of problems through excellence and distinction in teaching, research, and service.

The university serves to impart an appreciation and broad understanding of human experience throughout the world and the ages. This education extends to diverse cultural legacies; accomplishments in many areas, such as the arts and technology; the advancement of human thought including philosophy and science; the development of economic, political, and social institutions; and the physical and biological evolution of humans and their environment. San Diego State University accomplishes this through its many and diverse departments and interdisciplinary programs in the creative and performing arts, the humanities, the sciences, and the social and behavioral sciences.



photo: Tom Farrington

Academic Goals

SDSU has adopted the following academic goals to sustain and strengthen our position as a leading university:

- To encourage the intellectual and creative development of a diverse group of students by helping them learn about themselves and others, their own and other cultural and social heritages, and their environment;
- To foster development of critical thinking, reading, oral communication, quantitative and qualitative analysis as well as a commitment to lifelong learning and international perspectives needed to contribute to communities and chosen fields of endeavor;
- To provide the basis for informed citizenship in a democracy;
- To offer advanced undergraduate and graduate students professional training and preparation for further study in a broad range of disciplines, with a special emphasis on the preparation of teachers;
- To support faculty in developing specialized contributions to knowledge, including innovative curriculum and pedagogy responsive to intellectual and professional needs of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students;
- To support faculty in their professionally related community activities and informed exchanges with diverse professional and lay communities that strengthen the university's courses and scholarship;
- To encourage scholarship, including creative and performing arts, by students, faculty, and administrators from all areas of the university; and
- To continue our commitment to research, including the expansion of externally funded projects and doctoral programs where appropriate.

San Diego State University pursues its mission and goals through shared vision, a community-wide conversation out of which five goals were identified by a broad cross section of faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, parents, and community leaders:

- Academic excellence in all SDSU's programs and offerings;
- Educational opportunities for the whole person, both inside and outside the classroom;
- The appreciation of diversity in its many manifestations and social justice within the university community;
- The wise use of our precious human and fiscal resources; and
- An international institution where pupils become global citizens.

The vision that first motivated our founders continues to energize us. We are a community of learners, of all ages and levels of experience, engaged in a continuous journey of invention, creation and discovery.



photo: Tom Farrington