Welcome to SDSU

At San Diego State University, we’re asking fundamental questions.

How do we inspire leadership?
How do we nurture tomorrow’s leaders?

We know the answers to these questions reside on our campus. They emerge when students work alongside faculty researchers to improve lives, when innovation is not only taught, but practiced, and when SDSU faculty, students, and staff take on community problems with dedication and purpose.

San Diego State University is characterized by remarkable students, exceptional and dedicated faculty and staff, and innovative programs. We are an intellectual community committed to the ideals of diversity and dedicated to human growth and development. Our strong culture of excellence and inclusion is moving our university forward to resolve today’s questions and anticipate those of tomorrow.
Academic and Community Engagement

San Diego State University is a community of people committed to student success. As the oldest and largest higher education institution in the San Diego region, SDSU is deeply engaged in the community. These deep community roots enable student access to internships, mentoring relationships, and volunteer opportunities that complement and enhance the classroom experience.

SDSU is an academically-rich university that provides endless possibilities for students. SDSU offers bachelor’s degrees in 89 areas, master’s degrees in 78 fields, and 22 doctoral degrees (Ph.D., Ed.D., Au.D., DNP, and DPT). SDSU is a place for students to take education into their own hands to carve out their future.
Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

Diversity is a hallmark of San Diego State University. Students from all backgrounds achieve excellence and success. SDSU’s campus reflects the diversity of our region and the world beyond. Students from all walks of life and more than 90 nations contribute to SDSU’s dynamic mix of ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds.

SDSU ranks No. 25 in the nation for ethnic and racial diversity. More than half of our students and 40 percent of our faculty members are women. We are a national model for educating military veterans. We have been ranked among the most LGBT-friendly campuses in the nation. We are guided by the principle of inclusive excellence, the idea that all students, regardless of background or station, can achieve excellence.
International Education and Global Perspectives

Education abroad is a powerful experience. Students gain new perspectives and grow personally and intellectually. More than 1,600 students study abroad each year in approximately 50 countries, including Australia, Spain, Japan, Mexico, and China. We are proud that SDSU is ranked in the top tier for the number of students who have international experience.

Our campus-based academic programs reinforce this global perspective. These programs include the Center for International Business Education and Research; the Center for Latin American Studies; the International Security and Conflict Resolution degree program; and the International Business major, one of the largest 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 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 an activity to round out your college experience.

SDSU is also noted for its NCAA Division I athletics program with 19 men’s and women’s sports teams. Both our men’s (2011) and women’s (2010) basketball teams have played in the Sweet Sixteen, and the Aztec football team has won 18 conference championships in its long and celebrated history.
Research and Creative Endeavors

San Diego State’s research and creative endeavors have grown dramatically with outside research funding at approximately $150 million per year. This funding supports research and creative endeavors in the arts, education, engineering, health and human services, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and countless professional fields. Our students collaborate with faculty and staff members on projects that address national and regional challenges, receiving countless awards including 10 prestigious Fulbright Scholarships last year. We are proud to be a nationally-ranked research university.
Leadership Starts Here

Rooted in the university’s deep engagement in the community—Leadership Starts Here speaks to the special relationship between SDSU and San Diego.

SDSU’s legacy of leadership reaches from entrepreneurship, to research and discovery, to emergency response, to community engagement, and everything in between.

SDSU alumni lead businesses and organizations throughout the world. They are CEOs, presidents, founders, and partners. Aztecs run biotech companies, accounting firms, restaurant chains, and hospitals.

- Of SDSU’s 260,000 living alumni, about 60 percent live in San Diego.
- Aztecs are the CEOs of at least 100 companies in San Diego County.
- Aztecs are presidents of more than 300 companies in San Diego County.
- Aztecs are founders of more than 50 companies in San Diego County.

SDSU’s economic impact accounts for 36 percent of the entire CSU’s impact to the state, sustains more than 9,000 jobs in the region, more than 11,400 jobs statewide, and generates more than $62 million in local taxes, and nearly $86.7 million in state tax revenue.
Mission of the University

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

The university strives to impart an appreciation and broad understanding of the 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.

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:

- Enhance our commitment to academic excellence;
- Nurture a learning-centered university;
- Create a community proud of its diversity and committed to social justice;
- Promote the growth, development, and wise use of resources;
- Create a genuinely global university.

The vision that 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.