Welcome to SDSU

At SDSU, faculty, staff, students, and community partners come together to pursue knowledge and meet the challenges of our region and our world. The educational process is not confined to classrooms and laboratories. It flows seamlessly wherever faculty and students come together—in traditional campus settings, in the community, and in the international arena. Faculty members exemplify the integrated role of teacher/scholar, enabling students to learn through both interaction and participation in ongoing research efforts, internships, study abroad and community-based learning projects. This pedagogical approach allows students to apply classroom learning to real-world challenges. San Diego State’s reputation for academic excellence and practical problem-solving inspires the confidence of community leaders, who look to SDSU for ideas and solutions.

San Diego State is characterized by remarkable students, exceptional faculty and innovative programs. We are an intellectual community committed to the ideals of diversity and dedicated to human growth and development. All of these attributes make San Diego State a vibrant university whose graduates are well prepared to serve our region, our state, our nation, and our world.
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.

Your SDSU
San Diego State University is an academically rich urban university that provides endless possibilities for students. SDSU offers bachelor’s degrees in 85 areas, master’s degrees in 76, one educational specialist degree (Ed.S.), research doctorates (Ph.D./Ed.D.) in 19 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 award-winning professors, top-notch research facilities, and a location at 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 make a difference not only in the San Diego region, but also around the world. What difference will you make? Start imagining now.
Diversity in Action

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 90 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.

A Diverse Campus

Diversity is a hallmark of San Diego State University. With the largest Educational Opportunity Program in California, SDSU ranks No. 25 in the nation for racial diversity. More than half of students and 40 percent of faculty members are women. We are also a national model for educating U.S. veterans, and have been ranked among the most LGBT-friendly campuses in the nation.

SDSU’s 283-acre campus is a hub for a diverse array of academic, social and creative activities. A state-of-the-art library, student union, recital hall, performing arts theatres, student health center, modern recreation center, 12,000-seat sports and performance arena, and top-quality baseball stadium all enhance student life. The campus also maintains two astronomical observatories, a public broadcast radio and television station, and seismology and weather stations.

SDSU is also a Division I NCAA college with 14 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.
San Diego, the second largest city in California, is a thriving cultural, scientific and educational center.

San Diego: An International Hub

On the Pacific Rim and bordering 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, we welcome thousands of international students who provide enriching cultural interaction for the campus community. Our study abroad program is unparalleled in the opportunities offered to SDSU students. 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 our international programs gain intercultural communication skills, global understanding, a broader view of the world, lifelong friendships, foreign language skills, and a better awareness of self. SDSU is ranked second in the nation in its class for the number of students who have an international experience. Join more than 1,600 students studying abroad each year in approximately 50 countries, including Australia, Spain, Japan, Mexico, and China.

Globally-focused Programs—Campus-based academic programs and centers with a global focus 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, which is one of the largest of its kind in the nation.
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.

**Clubs and Organizations**—With more than 200 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 21 discipline-based 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, student awards, and various other personal growth events and activities.

**Fraternities and Sororities**—SDSU is home to 45 Greek-letter social organizations, plus many culturally based groups. Fraternities and sororities offer opportunities for lifelong 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 campus services such as concerts, child care, and recreation programs.

**Community Service**—Do you want to volunteer in community projects? SDSU’s Student Life & Leadership 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.

**Recreation**

Associated Students campus recreation activities include fitness programs, weightlifting, and cardio training. Students can also participate in intramural sport leagues, outdoor adventures, recreation classes, rock climbing, bowling, racquetball, sport clubs, tennis and basketball. Students interested should call (619) 594-PLAY (7529).

Sports facilities on campus include the 12,000-seat Viejas Arena, Tony Gwynn Stadium, Aztec Tennis Center, Aztec Athletic Center, and the Aztec Center Bowling and Games. The Aztec Aquaplex is a beautiful three-pool facility that supports both athletic and recreation activities, while the 80,000 square foot Aztec Recreation Center gives students a place to exercise 24-hours-a-day with a broad range of programs, state-of-the-art weight and cardio equipment, as well as four full-sized basketball courts.
What Makes SDSU a Great University?

At San Diego State University, our mission is to provide research-oriented, high quality education for undergraduate and graduate students. 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. Faculty and students contribute to our community and to the world through distinction in teaching, research, and service.

SDSU offers 182 different academic degree choices. Students benefit from excellent classroom instruction and hands-on research opportunities as they work alongside faculty mentors at field sites and in classrooms, studios and laboratories. Since 2000, SDSU researchers have secured more than $1.1 billion in external funding, bringing both cutting-edge equipment and the excitement of discovery into laboratories and classrooms.

Active at the international level, SDSU ranks second among universities of its type for the number of students studying abroad. International opportunities—including pioneering triple-degree programs offered in conjunction with universities in Canada and Mexico or Mexico and Chile—give students a competitive advantage as they move into professional careers or pursue graduate studies.

San Diego State’s urban cosmopolitan campus reflects the diverse cultural legacies of our region and the world beyond. Students from all walks of life and more than 90 nations contribute to SDSU’s dynamic ethnic, racial and social mix. SDSU is No. 6 in the nation and No. 2 in California for bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics; and No. 11 in the nation for bachelor’s degrees awarded to ethnic minorities.

New Challenges, New Programs

San Diego State University also embraces the role of community resource and partner.

In one of the most diverse inner-city communities of San Diego, SDSU directs the City Heights Educational Collaborative, designed to bolster student achievement and increase teacher retention. Elsewhere, SDSU strives to improve K-12 curriculum 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 offers undergraduate degree programs in nursing, hospitality and tourism management and construction engineering. A major in international security and conflict resolution (ISCOR) is the first of its kind in California.
Campus Growth

The San Diego State campus, with its distinctive California mission style of architecture, has supported more than $700 million in new construction during the last decade. The BioScience Center; a new home for the College of Arts and Letters; a completely redesigned tennis complex, softball field and swimming pools; and a striking pedestrian bridge that connects the residence halls with campus are just a few of the recent projects. The San Diego Trolley station at SDSU provides another means of transportation to and from campus for thousands of students, staff, and faculty. These important projects support academic and athletic programs and 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 doors in downtown San Diego to seven faculty and 91 students. The current campus on Montezuma Mesa, founded in 1931, covers 283 acres and enrolls more than 30,000 students. The university also offers classes at the Imperial Valley Campus in Calexico and a satellite facility in Brawley, operates the renowned Mount Laguna Observatory, and manages four biological field stations covering 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. Now, more than ever, a degree from SDSU remains highly sought after, highly regarded and highly valued.

In 2009-2010, SDSU granted 10,500 degrees including 2,600 master’s degrees and 118 doctoral degrees.
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 region and the world 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 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.

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.

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;
- 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.