

University of California, Davis

Accountability Profile

Introduction

One hundred years ago, UC Davis was founded to reinforce the University of California's mission of creating new knowledge to address the vital needs of a growing state. From these pioneering roots in agriculture and food science to the comprehensive array of today's academic disciplines and research interests, UC Davis has always honored its land-grant heritage. In the supportive character of its undergraduate education, its interdisciplinary graduate groups and research endeavors, and its innovative partnerships within the state, the nation and indeed the globe, UC Davis' leadership role as an exemplar land-grant research university is integral to the campus's essence, its distinctions, and its international reputation. This commitment of *doing what matters*, strengthened by the campus's breadth and prestigious academic caliber, defines its place as a transformational educational model and forms the backbone of its near-term and long-range goals. Indeed, today UC Davis touches everything that matters to us as human beings. From our health to the economy, to what we eat and drink, to how we experience and interpret life, UC Davis has impact through teaching, research and public service. For 100 years, we have prepared and inspired students and discovered solutions to some of society's most pressing problems. As we look to the future, we address those things that matter most to California in order to transform the world.

Undergraduate Student Profile

UC Davis undergraduates are highly motivated students who actively embrace a foundation of learning, discovery and engagement. Our students are known for embracing their academic goals, engaging in learning internships and dedication to public service. They attach relatively high importance to acquiring a well-rounded general education and obtaining the knowledge and skills they need to pursue their chosen careers. UC Davis students are more likely to identify with students who are serious about getting good grades. Significantly, more than 50 percent of our students work on a research project with a faculty member in the course of their undergraduate education. Each year, more than 6,000 students complete internships locally, nationally and internationally, as they apply their academic experiences to "real-world" situations. Nearly 500 students study at 150 host institutions in 35 countries around the world, and the Peace Corps ranked UC Davis 21st among all large universities in producing Peace Corps volunteers.

Undergraduate Student Experience and Proficiencies

Today more than 31,000 of the brightest, most diverse and well-rounded students in the nation are studying at UC Davis. A typical student might spend the morning experimenting in a chemistry lab, the afternoon playing club lacrosse and the evening performing on the stage of the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. By taking advantage of one of the nation's largest university internship programs and our international education programs, our students are making the world their classroom.

UC Davis students are prepared for any post-baccalaureate choices, whether in the workforce, graduate studies or professional school. Most freshmen complete their bachelor's degree in just over four years, and surveys show the majority of those pursuing a postgraduate degree

attending their first-choice or second-choice institution. UC Davis leads the nation in graduate and undergraduate education in the biological sciences, topping the charts in numbers of doctoral and bachelor's degrees conferred. One in every 276 Californians is a UC Davis graduate, and nearly 6,000 UC Davis alumni teach in our schools' classrooms.

To be sure, UC Davis students take their physical well-being as seriously as their academics. More than 45,000 people participate each year in group exercise classes and personal training sessions, and more than 20,000 people participate each year on more than 2,200 intramural sports teams.

Undergraduate Access

UC Davis is a highly selective campus. For Fall 2008, UC Davis had 40,625 freshman applicants with a 53 percent admit rate, and 8,220 transfer applicants with a 71 percent admit rate. UC Davis prides itself on accepting UC-eligible economically disadvantaged students; more than half of the 2008 admitted freshmen came from low income and/or are first-generation students. Almost 75 percent of the admitted transfer students are first-generation and/or from low-income families. UC Davis not only succeeds in recruiting a diverse student population, but it continues to improve the retention and success of its students. There is a 90 percent first-year retention rate for freshmen and 86 percent retention rate for transfer students. There is an 81 percent six-year graduation rate for freshmen and an 84 percent four-year graduation rate for transfer students.

UC Davis reviews all applications using our specific admission criteria. For freshman applicants, the strength of the high school record is the single most important component, followed by performance on standardized test scores and other criteria, such as demonstrated leadership, special talent and individual initiative. For transfer applicants, academic performance and preparation for the selected college and major are considered first and foremost. In some cases, personal characteristics, experiences and circumstances will be considered.

UC Davis offers a wide range of services, advising and retention programs that foster access to the university for prospective students, enable the academic success and timely graduation of current students and help smooth the transition from the university to the worlds of work, continuing education and civic participation. These activities include the campuswide Transfer Student Task Force; the development of additional housing options for transfer, graduate and international students; support for collaborative retail and student support programs with the Los Rios Community College District; and attaining support for student scholarships.

Diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and UC Davis combines all the benefits of a world-class university with a relaxed atmosphere. Student services support our students' varied cultural, religious and personal backgrounds while more than 450 student organizations embrace a wide range of additional interests. From 26 NCAA Division I sports (14 for women, 12 for men) and the UC system's most comprehensive breadth of recreation/leisure programming, to the arts and other creative pursuits, we're proud of the balance our campus provides between academics and recreation. International students enrich the UC Davis campus community with their cultural and academic experiences. The campus attracts more than 450 undergraduate students from around the world.

Undergraduate Affordability

At UC Davis, our aim is to make a college education affordable for all students regardless of their families' financial situations. Students and their parents will be expected to contribute a

certain amount toward fees and cost of living; we have a number of financial aid and scholarship resources available to assist in meeting expenses. Our Financial Aid Office provides information and resources to help students with their financial needs while they pursue their academic goals. Approximately 64 percent of all UC Davis undergraduates received some form of financial aid, including scholarships. UC Davis also offers many options for students who need to work while attending college. These include the Student Employment Center, the Internship and Career Center and the Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD) job listing service.

Undergraduate Student Success

UC Davis students compete successfully for coveted places in premier graduate programs throughout the world. Our biological sciences students have gone on to Harvard, our economics students have gone on to the London School of Economics, and our engineering students to MIT. From astronauts to a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to an editor at *Newsweek*, UC Davis alumni have built remarkable careers. According to recent surveys, 70 percent of working alumni report that they are in positions moderately or highly related to their chosen field. A large majority (90 percent) felt that they were more than adequately or very well prepared. Approximately 37 percent of 2004-05 graduates pursued a postgraduate degree or credential within one year of graduating from UC Davis. Nearly three-quarters of these felt more than adequately or very well prepared for their postgraduate education. Also, 53 percent of 2001-02 graduates pursued a postgraduate degree or credential within four years of graduating from UC Davis. About 64 percent of 2004-05 graduates were employed full-time within one year of graduating from UC Davis. An additional 12 percent were employed part-time by choice. Full-time employed graduates reported a mean salary of \$40,500.

Transfer Student Success

In recent years, the campus has dedicated increased attention and resources to the matriculation of transfer students from California's community colleges to the UC campuses. UC Davis plans to take advantage of its established partnerships with community colleges to grow the enrollment of these students over time. The campus will base its specific strategies on the upcoming recommendations of a joint Academic Senate and Administration Task Force on Transfer Students, whose preliminary findings focus on community college transfer programs and UC Davis/community college relationships, advising processes, increases in guaranteed student housing options, and targeted student support services. The campus also intends to use its unique relationship with the Los Rios Community College District to build the first-ever community college education center on a UC campus, as a part of the new West Village development. Discussions are underway regarding the potential for providing student housing and student service options to facilitate increased transfer rates of Los Rios students to UC Davis. Other community colleges within a 30-mile radius of UC Davis may also be included in these types of arrangements.

Graduate Student and Professional Student Profile

Graduate students are essential to UC Davis' success as a preeminent research university. Engaged in innovative research and sharing their knowledge in the classroom, graduate students are at the heart of the university's life and mission. Annual enrollments of more than 4,000 include a diverse and interactive student body of about 1,000 from around the world.

Known for its state-of-the-art research facilities, interdisciplinary research, productive laboratories and progressive spirit, UC Davis offers collaborative and interdisciplinary curricula through graduate groups and designated emphasis options – with nearly 90 dynamic degree programs. UC Davis grants among the largest numbers of doctoral degrees in the biological and life sciences among all U.S. universities. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the National Research Council and *U.S. News & World Report* consistently rank UC Davis' doctoral programs among the top in the nation. UC Davis master's and doctoral graduates become leaders in their fields – researchers, teachers, politicians, mentors, and entrepreneurs. Graduates go on to guide, define and enhance the creation of our social, cultural and scientific fabric and well-being.

Faculty

UC Davis students are taught by faculty members who are leaders in their respective fields and who address some of today's most pressing challenges: West Nile virus, environmental stewardship, immigration issues, food safety, autism and cleaner fuel technologies. From building California into an agricultural powerhouse to melding dance and theatre into a new art form, our faculty members and their students continue to transform the state, the nation and the world.

And they have earned prestigious honors along the way. UC Davis is home to two Pulitzer Prize winners, 21 members of the National Academy of Sciences, eight members of the National Academy of Engineering, four members of the Institute of Medicine, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Early Career Scientist, 14 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, two members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and, internationally, three members of the Royal Society of London, two members of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language (affiliated with the Royal Spanish Academy), one member of the Academie de France and one member of the Academy of Athens.

Why have so many prominent faculty members chosen UC Davis? It is a great place to teach, a great place to learn, and a great place to learn more about teaching and learning. The campus takes pride in providing the highest quality education for students and in encouraging teaching effectiveness and instructional innovation. Across more than 8,000 classes a quarter, UC Davis instructors use a combination of traditional and new approaches to engage diverse students in challenging academic and professional study. The campus not only values and rewards good instruction, it also supports workshops, consultation, and faculty-to-faculty teaching networks necessary for continuing inquiry, evaluation and instructional improvement. The campus supports a much-utilized Teaching Resources Center (TRC), providing our faculty with one-stop shopping for pedagogical innovations. To support the teaching mission of our faculty, UC Davis offers what is believed to be the single largest teaching prize in the nation, the \$40,000 annual prize in Scholarship and Teaching.

Research

The Office of Research is the chief administrative unit and a catalyst for advancing research at UC Davis. The vice chancellor is responsible for overseeing all leadership, establishment, development, management and quality of the research programs and for increasing the strength and effectiveness of UC Davis as a major research university. Setting a new record, UC Davis received more than \$586 million in research funding in 2007-08, the fourth consecutive year that the total exceeded the half-billion dollar mark. A strong trend in sponsored research programs

continues across a wide range of disciplines, reflecting the breadth of UC Davis research efforts.

There are four main administrative units within the office: Central Administration; Sponsored Programs; UC Davis InnovationAccess at 1850 Research Park Drive, Davis; and the Institutional Review Board at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. The Office of Research oversees more than 30 campus research centers, including the California National Primate Research Center, the UC Davis Cancer Center, the California Lighting Technology Center, the Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology, the Institute of Transportation Studies, the John Muir Institute of the Environment, and the UC Davis Energy Efficiency Center.

Rankings

From our undergraduate offerings to our professional schools to the research productivity of our faculty members, UC Davis fares well in nationally recognized rankings. UC Davis – one of 62 North American universities admitted into the prestigious Association of American Universities – is ranked 8th among U.S. universities based on their contributions to society (*Washington Monthly*), 10th in research funding among U.S. ranked public universities and 16th overall (National Science Foundation), and 12th among national public universities and 44th overall (*U.S. News & World Report*). *Princeton Review* included UC Davis as one of 100 higher education institutions on its list of “Best Value Colleges for 2009.” More specifically, UC Davis’ undergraduate program in biological and agricultural engineering is ranked 5th among large national research universities, and its overall undergraduate engineering program is ranked 35th, according to *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2009 “America’s Best Colleges.” In addition, the magazine acknowledges UC Davis for the diversity of its student body and for the strength of its undergraduate writing program. UC Davis’ student body is the 17th most racially and ethnically diverse among large national research universities, tied with UC Berkeley, according to the magazine. We are proud to be 4th among American universities in the number of international scholars (*Open Doors 2008 Report on International Educational Exchange*). And, for the 16th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* has named the UC Davis School of Medicine as among the best in the country for primary care and research in the magazine’s annual list of America’s best graduate schools. Among medical schools, the publication ranks UC Davis as 26th in primary care, tied with Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Yeshiva University; and 48th in research, tied with the University of Florida.

Finance, Capital and Development

Finance

The campus operating budget for 2007-08 was more than \$2.5 billion, funded by revenues that same year of nearly \$2.8 billion. The largest fund source was the medical center with a little more than \$1 billion in annual revenue. State funds and student fees totaled more than \$900 million and the balance of financial support was provided by the federal government, campus sales and service activities, local government and private gifts and grants. In the past 10 years, state support has increased but other fund sources have increased more quickly. Therefore, the percent of the overall budget supported by the state has declined. At present, the state represents about 22 percent of all revenue, or 35 percent of the UC Davis budget exclusive of the medical center. The state of California’s budget shortfall is creating significant challenges for UC Davis.

Capital

To accomplish campus goals, many programs require specialized land and building resources. The 5,300 acres of the Davis campus – the largest in the UC System – include not only core instruction and research buildings but also major structures for animals, greenhouse and other academic support facilities as well as agricultural land used for teaching and research. Because the Davis campus evolved within a rural setting where basic urban infrastructure was not available, the campus operates its own domestic and utility water systems, wastewater treatment plant, and solid waste landfill site in addition to electrical systems and central heating and cooling with related steam and chilled water distribution systems. The 2003 Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) is the comprehensive policy and land use plan that will guide the development of the Davis campus through the horizon year 2015-16 in support of the teaching, research and public service mission of the University. The LRDP responds to anticipated growth in student enrollment, faculty and staff employment, and UC-affiliated activities on the campus. UC Davis is proud of its environmentally responsible approach to growth, and can claim 11 buildings that are LEED certified, including the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center at Incline Village, Nevada, which was one of the nation's first laboratory buildings to achieve LEED Platinum certification. In recent years, we have transformed the campus's messy olive trees from a waste product to a marketable product – gourmet olive oil.

Development

Founded in 1959, the UC Davis Foundation is led by a volunteer fundraising board that helps to raise and increase philanthropic support, advocates for the university and manages a portion of the university's endowment. UC Davis received a record \$216.8 million in philanthropic support in 2007-08. The foundation receives private gifts to benefit UC Davis, manages its endowed gift funds and other private assets, and advises university leaders in areas related to public trust and support. The endowed funds it manages provide faculty, student and program support in perpetuity.

UC Davis is celebrating 100 years of transforming California and the world. Philanthropic support has helped UC Davis throughout its history, and it is critical to helping the university meet the challenges of the next 100 years. To sustain and build upon our contributions to society, the Foundation is pursuing gifts that will allow us to (1) invest in tomorrow's leaders; (2) foster unparalleled teaching and research; (3) transform programs and patient care; and (4) seize emerging opportunities.