



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

# AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

## Overview

Honors and rankings are one way to demonstrate the University's performance and prestige. They reflect reputations and help to position the University nationally and internationally. This chapter first presents metrics of faculty awards and memberships. These represent some of the highest aspirations of research faculty, signaling noteworthy participation and contribution to research and scholarship in a particular area of expertise.

While the University's faculty demonstrate unparalleled excellence, also notable is the opportunity for students of diverse backgrounds to learn and study with these distinguished researchers and educators. One of the points of pride for the University of California is providing students from the bottom end of the economic spectrum with access to an educational and research environment comparable to the nation's finest private institutions but on a significantly larger scale.

Universities are ranked in numerous ways, with publishers of rankings choosing criteria based on different audiences and different aims. This chapter highlights three well-known rankings. U.S. News and World Report (USNWR) focuses on academic reputation, graduation rates, student selectivity, and financial resources to create its list of America's Best Colleges. The Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities ranks institutions around the globe, primarily using faculty research productivity. The Washington Monthly ranking looks at doctoral-granting research universities based on contribution to the public good. Additional rankings for UC campuses are available at the link in the section below. While recognizing that these rankings may be useful sources of information, UC does not endorse any particular ranking system nor does it have specific goals with respect to any of them.

## For more information

Rankings topic brief with additional rankings: [ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/\\_files/rankings-brief-2019.pdf](https://ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/rankings-brief-2019.pdf)

## 13.1 FACULTY AWARDS

**UC faculty receive many prestigious awards because they are thought leaders in their fields.**

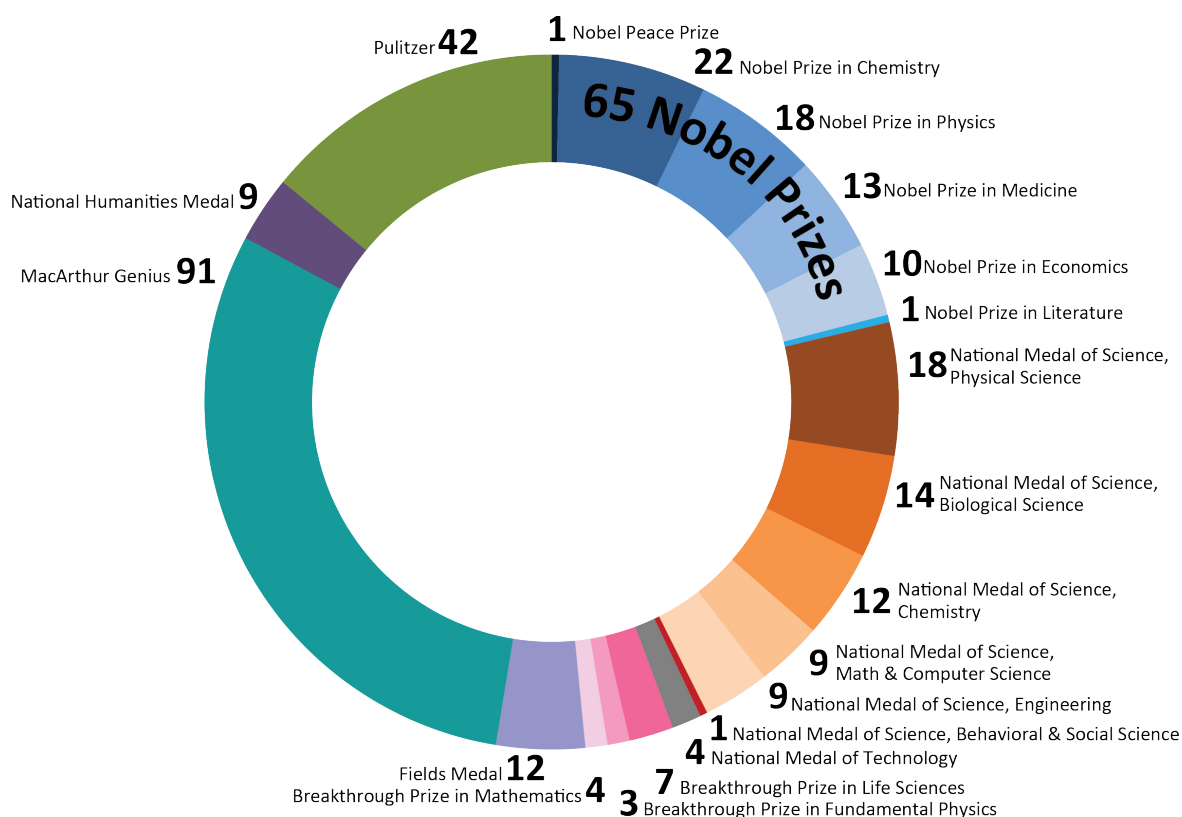
### 13.1.1 Nobel Prizes by campus affiliation

Sixty-four faculty and researchers affiliated with the University of California have won 65 Nobel Prizes, representing nearly seven percent of the 935 laureates.

A list of UC's laureates can be found at [nobel.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://nobel.universityofcalifornia.edu).

	Chemistry	Economics	Literature	Medicine	Physics	Peace
Berkeley/ Berkeley Lab	9	5	1	1	8	
Irvine	2				1	
Livermore Lab					1	
UCLA	3	1		1	1	
Riverside	1				1	
San Diego	5	3		6	2	1
San Francisco				5		
Santa Barbara	2	1			4	

### 13.1.2 Prizes, medals, and awards won by UC faculty



In addition to the prizes, medals, and awards presented in the chart above, many UC faculty are members of prestigious National Academies, providing leadership in service and general welfare to the nation.

National Academy of Sciences	634
National Academy of Engineering	265
National Academy of Medicine	231
National Academy of Inventors	85

## 13.2 RANKINGS

**Of the top ten national public universities in the U.S. News and World Report ranking, six are UC campuses.**

### 13.2.1 U.S. News: America's Top National Public Universities 2020

	Public	National
UCLA	1	20
Berkeley	2	22
Santa Barbara	7	34
Irvine	9	36
San Diego	10	37
Davis	11	39
Santa Cruz	34	84
Riverside	39	91
Merced	44	104

The U.S. News and World Report, in its 2020 national university rankings, focused on academic reputation, financial resources, and selectivity in undergraduate admissions. Its assessment on these metrics placed UC campuses among the very best public universities in the country:

- UCLA and UC Berkeley were ranked first and second as the top public institutions
- Five UC campuses were among the top ten public institutions in the nation

- For public and private institutions combined, six UC campuses ranked among the top 50

Numerical rankings can provide false precision based on very small actual differences among campuses. Campuses are first assigned a score, and the scores are ranked. When the scores are clustered closely, a small change in score can have a large effect on the rank.



## Four UC campuses appear in the top 20 of the Academic Rankings of World Universities.

### 13.2.2 Shanghai Ranking Consultancy: Academic Rankings of World Universities 2019

Berkeley	5
UCLA	11
San Diego	18
UCSF	20
Santa Barbara	48
Irvine	80
Davis	90
Santa Cruz	101-150
Riverside	151-200
Merced	401-500

The Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) was created in 2003 by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China to determine the global standing of Chinese research universities. Since 2009, the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy has published these rankings.

The rankings are based entirely on measures of research strength and faculty honors and awards. English-speaking universities, especially those in the United States, tend to dominate the ARWU rankings.

This ranking system emphasizes research outputs, such as total research expenditures. Because research outputs are not normalized by number of faculty, larger institutions tend to rank more highly than smaller ones. Institutions with strong research programs, especially in the sciences, also tend to score higher than those whose major strengths are in the humanities and social sciences.

## 13.2 RANKINGS

**Washington Monthly ranked five UC campuses in the top 20 and all in the top 100 out of 395 institutions.**

### 13.2.3 Washington Monthly Research University Ranking 2019

San Diego	7
Davis	11
UCLA	12
Irvine	18
Berkeley	20
Santa Barbara	21
Riverside	27
Merced	53
Santa Cruz	86

Washington Monthly ranks “National universities — four-year institutions that award a significant number of doctoral degrees — based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research, and promoting public service.”