

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. In 2020, two UC professors were awarded Nobel prizes: Andrea Ghez, professor of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA, was awarded the Physics prize and Jennifer Doudna, professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UC Berkeley, was awarded the Chemistry prize,

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-2020.pdf

13.1 FACULTY AWARDS

UC faculty receive prestigious awards as leaders in their fields.

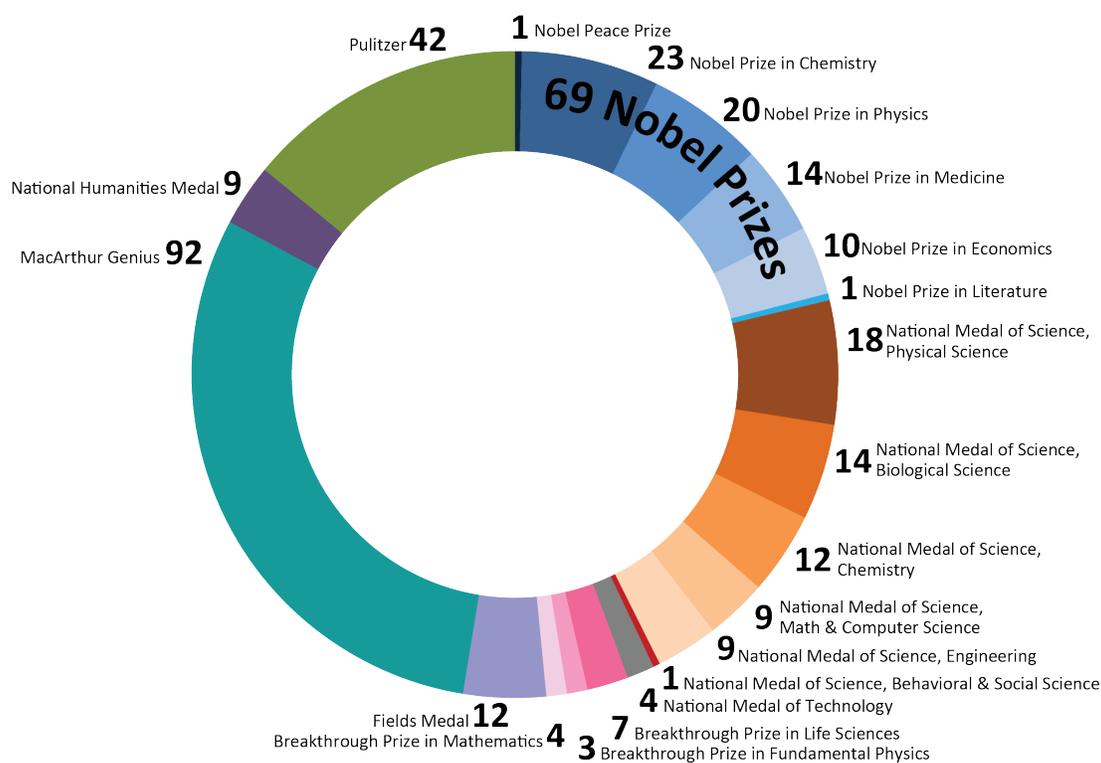
13.1.1 Nobel Prizes by campus affiliation

Sixty-eight faculty and researchers affiliated with the University of California have won 69 Nobel Prizes, adding two new Nobel Prize winners last year and representing seven percent of the 962 laureates.

A list of UC's laureates can be found at nobel.universityofcalifornia.edu.

	Chemistry	Economics	Literature	Medicine	Physics	Peace
Berkeley/ Berkeley Lab	10	5	1	1	9	
Irvine	2				1	
Livermore Lab					1	
UCLA	3	1		1	2	
Riverside	1				1	
San Diego	5	3		6	2	1
San Francisco				5		
Santa Barbara	2	1			4	
Santa Cruz				1		

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	646
National Academy of Engineering	272
National Academy of Medicine	249
National Academy of Inventors	96

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 2021

	Public	National
UCLA	1	20
UC Berkeley	2	22
Santa Barbara	6	30
Irvine	8*	35*
San Diego	8*	35*
Davis	11	39
Riverside	34	88
Merced	40*	97*
Santa Cruz	40*	97*

*indicates a tie

The U.S. News and World Report, in its 2021 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.

13.2 RANKINGS

Four UC campuses appear in the top 25 of the Academic Rankings of World Universities.

13.2.2 Shanghai Ranking Consultancy: Academic Rankings of World Universities 2020

	Global	National
Berkeley	5	4
UCLA	13	11
San Diego	18	14
UCSF	21	16
Santa Barbara	49	30
Irvine	69	35
Davis	91	39
Santa Cruz	151-200	57-65
Riverside	201-300	66-94
Merced	401-500	115-133

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 2020

	Public	National
San Diego	1	9
UCLA	3	11
Davis	5	13
Berkeley	8	17
Santa Barbara	11	20
Irvine	13	22
Riverside	15	27
Merced	31	56
Santa Cruz	54	91

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.”