INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

One of the world’s most respected public research universities perched on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, UC Santa Cruz offers rigorous academic programs and cutting-edge research opportunities that teach students how to think, not what to think. Our unique, cross-disciplinary approach, combined with an unwavering commitment to research excellence has resulted in a steady stream of paradigm-changing discovery since our founding.

RANKED...

1ST in the world for the percent of papers in natural sciences and mathematics published in the 20 most highly-cited journals in the world, such as Science, Nature, and others.

1ST in the nation for the publication impact of the computer engineering Ph.D. program, by the National Research Council.

2ND on College Factual’s 2018 list of the best colleges and universities in the U.S. to study Cell Biology and Anatomical Science; 4th for Natural Resources and Conservation; and 6th for Film, Video and Photographic Arts.

5TH in the world on U.S. News and World Report’s list of Best Global Universities for Space Sciences and in the top 50 overall.

10TH in the nation for graduate programs in geophysics and seismology on U.S. News and World Report’s 2019 Best Graduate Schools guide. Earth Sciences and Physics ranked in the top 50 while six other graduate programs ranked in the top 100.

13TH on Princeton Review’s list of top graduate schools for video game design for 2018; undergraduate program is ranked 17th.

15TH in the world for research influence in the 2018-19 Times Higher Education rankings.

FACULTY HONORS INCLUDE:
- NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: 10 MEMBERS
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: 23 MEMBERS
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: 34 FELLOWS

ALUMNI HONORS INCLUDE:
- SEVEN WINNERS OF NINE PULITZER PRIZES
- FIVE MACARTHUR ‘GENIUS’ AWARDS
TEN DISTINCTIVE UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES, with each structured to support student success by addressing the whole student. Distinct college “core courses” emphasize the themes and foster a strong sense of community while advising teams focus on developmental and overall career advising, co-curricular programming, and service learning opportunities.

UC SANTA CRUZ’S CENTER FOR INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING revitalizes the university’s longstanding tradition of excellence in teaching with professional development opportunities and teaching resources.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS are made possible by the campus’s connections to Silicon Valley. Programs such as the Network Management and Operations Lab at the Baskin School of Engineering and Cruzhacks where student and companies partner with engineers from Cisco Systems to troubleshoot complex, real-world networking problems.

CONSISTENTLY NAMED AS ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST BEAUTIFUL college campuses. 2,000 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean comprised of redwood forests and expansive meadows, which include the Natural Reserves where active research is conducted.

PRODUCER OF THE FIRST WORKING DRAFT of the human genome and home of the UCSC Genome Browser, used by researchers worldwide. UC Santa Cruz is also a leader in cancer genomics through projects such as the Treehouse Childhood Cancer Initiative and involvement in the Stand Up To Cancer “Dream Teams,” the Cancer Genome Atlas, and the International Cancer Genome Consortium.

HEADQUARTERS OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA OBSERVATORIES, a managing partner of the world’s most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes at the W. M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii.

SIXTEEN UC SANTA CRUZ SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS appear on Clarivate Analytics’ “Highly Cited Researchers List,” featuring more than 3,300 top researchers in 21 fields in the sciences and social sciences.

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY honors include the National Medal of Science, Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, Benjamin Franklin Medal in Electrical Engineering, Darwin-Wallace Medal, Urey Prize in Planetary Science, Kavli Prize in Astrophysics, Weldon Memorial Prize, and Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science.

HOME TO ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH CENTERS at Long Marine Laboratory, on the shores of Monterey Bay—the second-largest marine sanctuary in the world.

LEADERS OF A RESEARCH NETWORK that’s using the University of California Natural Reserve System to detect and forecast the ecological impacts of climate change in California and the world.

UC SANTA CRUZ IS ONE OF FIVE UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE named a 2017 Social Mobility Innovator in recognition of the ways the university educates economically disadvantaged students who graduate and obtain high-paying jobs.

UC SANTA CRUZ CONSISTENTLY ranks high among universities whose graduates volunteer with the Peace Corps and work with City Year, a national organization that partners with schools to provide tutoring, mentoring, and behavior assistance for more than 150,000 students.

BEGINNING AS A STUDENT FARM IN 1967, led by master gardener Alan Chadwick, the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems has grown to train generations of new organic farmers, gardeners, and sustainable farming educators, built a model undergraduate experiential learning program, and helped shape a more sustainable food system through research and policy efforts.

UC SANTA CRUZ EDUCATION RESEARCHERS have launched the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust, which will enable teachers, principals, social workers, public and mental health professionals, judges, and probation officers to share information in real time about students and the services they are receiving.