

UC San Diego

Search for the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education University of California San Diego La Jolla, California

THE SEARCH

The University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) seeks an experienced, strategic, and collaborative leader to serve as its next Dean of the [Division of Undergraduate Education \(DUE\)](#). The Dean will play a pivotal role in leading an innovative teaching and learning community where undergraduate students, regardless of background, fully achieve their academic goals. The Dean will join the Division at a time primed for strategic integration and alignment to foster a supportive and enriching academic experience for students. With many new opportunities ahead, including the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree offered through the [UC San Diego – Chula Vista Program](#), the Dean will engage the campus community toward a forward-looking vision for undergraduate education.

Since its founding in 1960, UC San Diego has become one of the top 20 research universities in the world – a rapid ascent that is a testament to the excellence and entrepreneurial nature of UC San Diego’s faculty, staff, and students. The university comprises 12 academic and professional schools, eight undergraduate colleges, and numerous cross-cutting administrative units, including DUE. Under the leadership of [Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla](#), UC San Diego recently completed an ambitious 10-year campaign through which more than \$3 billion was raised, making UC San Diego the youngest university in the nation to reach a multi-billion-dollar milestone in a single campaign. Leveraging this fundraising effort and guided by UC San Diego’s [strategic plan](#), the campus is transforming itself culturally, physically, and intellectually through a sustained focus on five priority areas that include student experience and success, diversity and access, interdisciplinary research, community enrichment, and the development of a supportive infrastructure. As an academic and research powerhouse, the university generated \$1.7 billion in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2025. Additionally, UC San Diego consistently sets new records for the number of applicants from prospective students, making it one of the most sought-after campuses in the University of California system.

The Dean will be expected to lead the DUE and enhance UC San Diego’s reputation for academic excellence, collaboration, and innovation. In partnership with other campus units, the Dean will foster a student-centered culture and promote DUE’s visibility and impact across the university. The Dean will provide a strategic vision and lead academic initiatives that support a high-quality undergraduate experience, while ensuring the educational policies and practices meet accreditation standards. To be

successful, the Dean will address the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in greater detail below:

- Develop and implement an ambitious and innovative vision for the Division of Undergraduate Education;
- Enhance and elevate infrastructure and processes that support student success and academic achievement across the undergraduate student population;
- Expand collaboration within and beyond UC San Diego;
- Lead an agile, collaborative, and mission-driven team of high-performing professionals;
- Effectively steward and augment resources for the greatest impact.

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

The Division of Undergraduate Education fosters a student-centered university for undergraduate students at UC San Diego who join the campus as first-year and transfer students, both as California residents as well as domestic and international non-residents. The division focuses on creating an innovative and inclusive teaching and learning community where every student achieves their academic goals with integrity and discovers their path to make a meaningful difference in the world. DUE is the administrative home to several units, including the eight colleges, [the Teaching + Learning Commons](#), Summer Session, summer programs, Academic Integrity Office, Office for Students with Disabilities, Triton Testing Center, and the Triton Student System (TSS).

The Division of Undergraduate Education elevates undergraduate education through broad efforts, including the following: increasing access and improving student success; fostering academic integrity; enhancing advising and support systems; supporting innovative teaching and learning practices; ensuring accountability and data-driven assessments; guiding in holistic reviews of academic programs; and enriching the student experience through co-curricular learning, research opportunities, and community engagement. Additionally, DUE facilitates campus-wide committees, task forces, and working groups to address current and critical issues impacting undergraduate education. [Accreditation](#) is an important responsibility of DUE and ensures that the educational practices meet the accreditation standards of an R1 research university. UC San Diego is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), with the most recent reaffirmation in February 2020. The next accreditation cycle will take place in 2029-30.

Collaborations are essential to the DUE. Critical partnerships exist across campus, including with the Academic Senate, departments and programs, undergraduate colleges, and other administrative units, such as Student Affairs and Campus Life and Organizational Transformation. These partnerships help strengthen resources, advance institutional goals, and deliver a high-quality, holistic undergraduate education to all students.

ABOUT THE COLLEGES

A hallmark of UC San Diego is the family of eight undergraduate colleges, each of which is led by a college provost. Every undergraduate student belongs to one of the eight colleges and experiences the benefits of a small, liberal arts college while enjoying the resources of a large, research university. Each of the colleges has its own residential facilities, staff, traditions, general education requirements, and distinctive educational themes. The college system allows students to have a tight-knit community, a focused general education curriculum, and a holistic approach to enrich the student experience.

More information on the colleges can be found [here](#).

ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting directly to the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Dean provides campuswide leadership to advance excellence, equitable access, and innovation in undergraduate education. Direct reports to the Dean include the provosts of the undergraduate colleges, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, the Faculty Director of the Teaching & Learning Commons, the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Academic Advising Program Director, a Principal Project Policy Analyst, an Academic HR Analyst, and an Executive Assistant.

The successful candidate will provide academic leadership in the development, enhancement, and delivery of undergraduate academic programs, including efforts towards curriculum assessment, innovation, and reform, while strengthening academic support services for undergraduate students. The Dean manages accreditation for the university by serving as the campus Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and leads the campus through reaffirmation of accreditation reviews. The Dean also engages closely with the Academic Senate, such as the Educational Policy Committee and Undergraduate Council. The Dean is a close partner to other campus organizations and units, including department and program leadership, academic advisors, Career Services, and Associated Students. Close collaboration with faculty as well as other administrative leadership, such as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Campus Life, Vice Chancellor for Organizational Transformation, and Dean of the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs, are essential to develop, plan, and coordinate short- and long-range academic initiatives and programs. As a representative of the campus and the broader UC system, the Dean will represent the campus in the systemwide Council of Vice Provosts and Deans for Undergraduate Education.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

To be successful in this role, the Dean will serve as an effective leader, relationship builder, and change agent as they address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Develop and implement an ambitious and innovative vision for the Division of Undergraduate Education

The incoming Dean will have the opportunity to set a vision and strategy to position the division for future growth by building on the [most recent strategic plan](#). The Dean will manage recent restructuring of DUE by addressing the needs of each individual unit and incorporating their roles within the division. UC San Diego is committed to supporting student success, academic excellence, and innovation through collaboration, which will require the incoming Dean to develop a vision that incorporates the university's broader goals and gain buy-in across campus stakeholders. As the university grows in population, the Dean will develop and implement strategies that help to ensure that students graduate with the skills and experience necessary to achieve their academic and career goals. The Dean should remain up to date on issues impacting undergraduate education at UC San Diego and beyond, so that the division remains both nimble and proactive to the needs of undergraduates across a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Enhance and elevate infrastructure and processes that support student success and academic achievement across the undergraduate student population

The Dean will continue to build on the success of the previous strategic plan, creating cohesion and connection across academic and student affairs to promote a holistic undergraduate student experience. The Dean will make data-informed decisions to identify and remove barriers to student achievement, foster a culture of belonging in the classroom, and partner across academic and student affairs units to ensure that every student has access to the full range of UC San Diego's opportunities. An important component of the portfolio includes academic advising, which will require political will and skill to work across campus partners and build an integrated process that benefits students, while reducing barriers for faculty and staff. Given the complex governance structure, the Dean will work with and across internal and external stakeholders to ensure undergraduate education is prioritized.

The Dean will need to be creative in generating resources to address complex issues in undergraduate education, including interdisciplinary majors and online education. As a spokesperson for DUE, the Dean will need to be well-versed on a variety of emerging topics, such as artificial intelligence and its impact on teaching, learning, and assessment, online education, and equitable access, and be prepared to discuss innovative methods to address these complex topics.

Expand collaboration within and beyond UC San Diego

The DUE is in a unique position to bring people together to collaborate on best practices to enhance the undergraduate experience. The Dean regularly facilitates shared conversations about academic programs, policies, and student success. The successful Dean will build and maintain relationships with departments, programs, and the colleges through effective communication to advance transformative instruction and pedagogy and ensure that students have high-impact learning opportunities. The Dean will work closely with faculty and be committed to shared governance to support students in personal development, academic learning, and experiential and community-engaged learning.

The Dean represents UC San Diego across the UC system through systemwide leadership opportunities to advance the goals of undergraduate education beyond the campus. The Dean will engage with leaders of

other campuses to share knowledge and incorporate best practices, including those related to accreditation, to enrich the goals of the DUE in alignment with the broader mission of the UC system.

Lead an agile, collaborative, and mission-driven team of high-performing professionals

The DUE staff is composed of mission-driven individuals that are committed to student achievement at UC San Diego. The team, comprised of more than 70 full-time professionals, brings institutional knowledge and relationships to the Division. The successful Dean will build upon the existing framework and consider novel ways to further support the team's efforts. The Dean will inspire staff to think creatively about how they can serve as a model for collaboration across the university. The Dean will also provide opportunities for team engagement, morale, and professional development, with the goal to best support each staff member within the DUE. The Dean will be an advocate for DUE and ensure that the structure of DUE is aligned with the goals of the university.

Effectively steward and augment resources for the greatest impact.

The new Dean will manage the budget for DUE, ensuring that financial resources are used effectively and with accountability. With a data-driven mindset, the Dean must be thoughtful in investing resources in programs that improve outcomes and advance campuswide goals and initiatives. Furthermore, the Dean plays an essential role in demonstrating the value of investment in undergraduate education across the institution and statewide. The Dean will be a leader at the UC system level and beyond, working closely with administration to advocate for external resources to support education at UC San Diego.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The desired qualifications and experience of an ideal dean include the following:

- A distinguished record of teaching, scholarship, and service appropriate for a tenured faculty appointment at UC San Diego;
- Demonstrated leadership in fostering academic excellence and advancing undergraduate education, including curriculum development, program assessment, and student success initiatives;
- A strong commitment to the shared vision for the future of undergraduate education at UC San Diego;
- The ability to stimulate new directions and promote existing resources to build for the future;
- Proven administrative experience in managing academic operations, personnel, and budgets;
- Excellent communication skills, including in written communication, report preparation, and data-informed decision-making;
- Ability to work collaboratively with faculty, students, and administrators across a variety of academic and administrative units;
- Commitment to fostering an inclusive and innovative educational environment.

LOCATION

UC San Diego's main campus is located near the Pacific Ocean on 1,200 acres of coastal woodland in La Jolla, California, in San Diego County. The campus sits on the ancestral homelands of the Kumeyaay Nation. Kumeyaay people continue to have an important and thriving presence in the region. UC San Diego is fortunate to have a thriving community of world-class research institutions at its doorstep. Preeminent institutional partners include Scripps Research, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, among others. The opportunities for scientific collaborations and resource sharing are an unparalleled asset for UC San Diego. In addition, corporate entities in the region include major pharmaceutical and biotech companies, such as Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Illumina, CSL Limited, and Arena Pharmaceutical.

La Jolla is known for its rolling hills, high cliffs, and miles of Pacific shoreline. Founded as a small, quiet village, well isolated from the bustle of downtown San Diego, La Jolla boasts a vibrant economy and, thanks in large part to UC San Diego's presence, serves as an intellectual and cultural hub for Southern California. San Diego is the eighth largest city in the United States and the second largest city in California. With a population of 1.38 million, the city is an ethnically rich area with a near-perfect climate and easy access to beaches, mountains, and deserts. San Diego is also a vibrant cultural center, with world-class museums, theater, and music imbued with the traditions of the many cultures that coexist within the city limits, with immediate access to the border with Mexico.

To learn more, see <https://www.sandiego.org>.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-san-diego/dean-division-undergraduate-education>. Electronic submission of materials is required. For full consideration, applicants must also apply via the UC San Diego academic recruitment website at: [UC Recruit: Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education](#) by November 13, 2026. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position has been filled.

UC San Diego is required to provide a reasonable estimate of the compensation range for this role. This range takes into account the wide range of factors that are considered in making compensation decisions, including but not limited to experience, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, licensure and certifications, and other business and organizational needs. Salary offers are determined based on the final candidate's qualifications and experience. The budgeted salary range that the University reasonably expects to pay for this position is \$275,000-\$340,000.

This search is led by David Bellshaw, Luciano Zuniga, and Salem Adisu of Isaacson, Miller

The University of California San Diego is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. [Per UC Regents Policy 4400](#), diversity is a defining feature of the University of California, which embraces it as a source of strength. Differences — of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, socioeconomic status, abilities, experience and more — enhance the university's ability to achieve its core missions of public service, teaching and research. The UC welcomes faculty, staff, and students from all backgrounds and wants everyone at UC to feel respected and valued.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by The University of California San Diego. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by The University of California San Diego would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

APPENDIX I

University of California (UC) System

The University of California San Diego is one of 10 campuses in the UC system. Founded in 1868, the UC system is recognized as one of the world's largest and most successful academic institutions, with a tripartite mission of research, teaching, and public service. The 10 campuses that make up the UC system – Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz – collectively enroll approximately 295,000 students and are supported by more than 265,000 faculty and staff, and 2 million alumni living and working around the world. Another 500,000 people benefit from UC's continuing education courses each year, as well as from research centers and educational programs operating throughout the state. The UC extends its work beyond its campuses through national laboratories, medical centers, and outreach programs in neighboring communities throughout California, worldwide, and online. To learn more about the UC System, please see: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us>.

University of California, San Diego

Founded in 1960, UC San Diego has grown into a world-class public university that has increased social mobility, research productivity and civic engagement across California. In 2025, *US News and World Report* listed the campus as the 6th best public university in the country and 29th overall on the complete list of over 400 of the nation's colleges. UC San Diego solidified its reputation as a leading global academic institution and ranked 4th among U.S. public universities, and 20th overall, by *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)*.

UC San Diego enrolls a large student body of 46,178 (as of Fall 2025), including 35,442 undergraduates and 10,736 graduate and professional students. The university's focus on student success, inclusive instruction, and social mobility serves students of wide-ranging socioeconomic, cultural, and academic backgrounds. More than one-third of new matriculants identify as first-generation college students, and nearly one-third are from historically underrepresented groups.

UC San Diego offers more than 140 degrees and programs through its 12 academic and professional schools: School of Arts and Humanities, School of Biological Sciences, Halıcıoğlu School of Data Science and Computing, Jacobs School of Engineering, School of Physical Sciences, Rady School of Management, School of Global Policy and Strategy, School of Medicine, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science, and School of Social Sciences. Two administrative units further support the educational and training mission of UC San Diego: The Division of Undergraduate Education, as well as the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs. As one of the nation's 10 largest centers for science, engineering, and medicine, the campus' research funding has grown to \$1.7 billion in sponsored research support in fiscal year 2025.

The campus is home to an outstanding faculty of over 1,700 full-time tenure and tenure-track faculty representing a variety of backgrounds. Faculty honors include two Fields Medalists; four Pulitzer Prize winners; five MacArthur “Genius” Fellows; three recipients of the National Medal of Science; 169 members of the National Academies, including the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and National Academies of Medicine; and several other major honors including a Tony Award winner, a Grammy Award winner and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Sixteen Nobel Laureates have taught at UC San Diego. Shared governance —a hallmark of the University of California — is an especially important feature at UC San Diego, where the Academic Senate sets admissions and graduation requirements, and advises on the budget and other matters pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the campus.

UC San Diego has more than 256,000 alumni worldwide, including 23 percent who live in San Diego County. For more information about UC San Diego, please visit <https://ucsd.edu>.