Our Commitment to Student Life

As one of the top 10 public universities in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report, UC San Diego is an academic powerhouse dedicated to attracting a diverse population of students and to enriching the campus experience for its current students. Student Affairs is deeply committed to enhancing all aspects of student life outside the classroom, from health and well-being to experiential learning and residential life.

Our mission is simple, yet ambitious: to foster the well-being and development of students as whole persons, complementing and enhancing their academic skills while preparing them for leadership roles in a global society. Through Student Affairs programs and services, we embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential ingredients of academic excellence and personal development.

Innovation is central to who we are and what we do at UC San Diego. The strategic initiatives outlined here are a plan in progress; we welcome comments and input from all members of the UC San Diego campus community.

Student Participation
2002–10
Percentage of students who participated a minimum of one hour per week in:
- Student Clubs or Organizations
- Weekly Service or Volunteer Activities

Students Abroad
1999–2010
Total number of students who participated in programs abroad per academic year
Creating a New Student Affairs Strategic Plan

In light of the challenges and opportunities that the University of California, San Diego faces, Student Affairs recently completed a comprehensive strategic plan. Through this plan, we are strengthening our sense of community, enhancing the quality and memorability of the student experience, and aligning co-curricular programs more closely with the university’s academic mission—all to better serve UC San Diego students.

We began our strategic planning process in 2008 with interviews of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members in order to gain a broad perspective on needs, perceptions, and expectations. We then engaged the Student Affairs Leadership Team, as well as all departments and colleges, in numerous visioning sessions that resulted in five aspirational goals, each based on a set of vision statements. For every goal, we identified objectives, actions, and tools for measuring our progress.

What emerged was a dynamic and student-centered framework for ongoing innovation. Especially essential is a measureable results focus that will enable us to gauge our success and continually improve our programs and services.

Goal 1

Gateway

**Vision:** We aspire to be the preferred UC campus for California’s brightest and most diverse students.

**Goal:** To prepare, attract, and enroll students of the highest capability who represent the diversity of the people of California.

**Sample of Actions:** We are adopting new approaches to reach outstanding students, including historically underrepresented, first-generation, and low income students, by engaging current students and alumni in outreach and recruitment efforts, supporting student organizations in hosting high school conferences for diverse potential applicants, and creating new web- and media-based ways to learn more about UC San Diego.
Goal 2

Flourishing

Vision: Our students will flourish in all aspects of well-being—social, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual—and engage fully in the intellectual life of the campus.

Goal: To facilitate the wellness, retention, intellectual growth, and graduation of all students.

Sample of Actions: We are improving the integration of health, counseling, and recreation programs to meet the wellness needs of most students, while increasing the use of student wellness peers and creating unique spaces, such as The Zone, where students can have fun while participating in wellness activities. We are offering more academic enrichment opportunities that engage students with faculty in research and in social settings through programs like Dine-with-a-Prof.

Goal 3

Community Building

Vision: We will create a true sense of community among all students, where differences are respected and embraced.

Goal: To build a welcoming, engaging, safe, and inclusive community that creates a sense of belonging for all students.

Sample of Actions: We are providing new opportunities for positive student interactions with peers, faculty, staff, and alumni, from their arrival at their college during Welcome Week and Convocation through Senior Spring and Commencement. We are also promoting participation in student organizations and diversity education, and addressing the needs of growing transfer and nonresident student populations through peer mentorships and programs that bring together international and US students.
Goal 4

Real-World Experiences

Vision: All graduating students will be able to thrive in new environments with diverse people and cultures, whether in graduate school or the workplace, in the United States or abroad.

Goal: To provide experiences that foster self-discovery and develop the personal, academic, and professional skills and relationships needed for a successful transition into diverse and global communities.

Sample of Actions: We are developing new real-world learning opportunities for students through education abroad, community service, internships, and faculty-led research, while also encouraging students to participate in reflective work on the relationship of these experiences to their personal, academic, and career goals.

Goal 5

Ownership

Vision: Participants in Student Affairs programs will become long-term stakeholders in UC San Diego’s future.

Goal: To engage students, parents and family members, alumni, and UC San Diego and external community members in experiences that ignite a sense of pride, ownership, and personal investment in the ongoing success of the university.

Sample of Actions: We are involving more students in the design and improvement of their university’s programs and services, and in opportunities to represent their campus and engage in aspects of its governance. We are also engaging alums in more Student Affairs leadership, career development, and mentoring programs to keep them better connected to their alma mater.
Major Themes

In order to achieve our strategic goals, we are engaging in a number of cross-cutting and supportive efforts that reflect the core values of Student Affairs.

Student-Centered Focus: Enhancing the UC San Diego Experience

Being student-centered is a core value: thinking about services, websites, and the overall educational experience from the student’s standpoint. Students participate in the oversight of most Student Affairs programs and facilities, are typically members of planning groups, and are engaged as peer advisors in many program areas.

Inclusive Excellence

Student Affairs plays an essential role in insuring a climate of inclusive excellence at UC San Diego. We strive to insure that an increasingly multicultural student body learns from and about the diversity around them. Through engagement with campus and community programs, students will emerge prepared for an increasingly global and diverse world.

Unique College System

UC San Diego’s six unique undergraduate residential colleges create a vital small college atmosphere that enables each incoming student to find a niche and get involved. The colleges promote student well-being and deliver critical student development programs that contribute significantly to achievement of strategic plan goals.

Technology Innovations

Students engage with university opportunities and services in an increasingly online and mobile environment. Students Affairs strives to innovate continuously and to provide staff with IT support that meets evolving student needs for interactive information and services.

Assessment

Student Affairs is committed to the use of evaluation data to inform our program decision making. We have adopted key performance indicators and student learning outcomes as well as the use of survey and other techniques to measure the extent to which our programs and services are enhancing the experience and the education of students outside the classroom.

While the outstanding staff of Student Affairs played an integral role in creating these strategic goals, achieving them will depend on collaborations within Student Affairs and with other partners, and the ability to adjust priorities in response to financial challenges and opportunities. We welcome meaningful collaboration as we seek to meet the needs of UC San Diego students. To view the entire strategic plan and related actions please visit: http://stage-students.ucsd.edu/student-life/_organizations/student-affairs/strat-plan.html.
About Us

Student Affairs shares a vision that seeks to ensure all UC San Diego students have access to the best combination of academic and cocurricular programs and services of any university in the United States, enabling them to achieve their highest academic, career, and personal development aspirations.

To fulfill this vision, we maintain twenty departments and programs, organized into four clusters, in addition to the services and leadership provided by the VCSA office and the Student Affairs operations in the colleges:

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Parent and Family Programs
- Resource Administration
- Student Conduct
- Student Research and Information

Admissions and Enrollment Services
- Admissions and Relations with Schools
- California Student Opportunity and Access Program
- Financial Aid
- Registrar
- Student Affairs Technology Services

Experiential Learning
- Academic Enrichment Programs
- Career Services
- International Center
- Office for Academic Support and Instructional Services

Health, Recreation, and Well-Being
- Campus Recreation
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention Resource Center
- Student Health Services

Student Life
- Associated Students
- Center for Student Involvement
- Crafts Center
- Graduate Student Association
- Student Legal Services
- University Centers
- University Events Office

Student Affairs also oversees Intercollegiate Athletics and Residential Life and operates major facilities such as the Student Services Center, International Center, Career Services Center, RIMAC and RIMAC Annex, Price Center, Student Center, Main Gym Complex, Canyon View Aquatics Complex, East Campus Recreation Area, and various fields and open spaces around the campus.

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