

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-7455 • Admissions: 619-594-6336

CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	90
Fire Safety Rating	95
Green Rating	90
Type of school	Public
Environment	Metropolis

STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	31,086
% male/female	44/56
% from out of state	11
% frosh from public high school	91
% frosh live on campus	38
% undergrads live on campus	8
# of fraternities (% undergrad men join)	22 (7)
# of sororities (% undergrad women join)	21 (12)
% Black or African American	4
% Asian	13
% White	34
% Hispanic	34
% Native American	<1
% Pacific Islander	<1
% Two or more races	7
% Race and/or ethnicity unknown	3
% international	5
# of countries represented	106

SURVEY SAYS . . .

*Students are happy
Students love San Diego, CA
Recreation facilities are great
Frats and sororities are popular*

ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	78
% students returning for sophomore year	89
% students graduating within 4 years	48
% students graduating within 6 years	78
Calendar	Semester
Student/faculty ratio	25:1
Profs interesting rating	85
Profs accessible rating	90
Most classes have 20–29 students.	
Most lab/discussion sessions have 20–29 students.	

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

Business Administration and Management;
Psychology; Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical
Education/Fitness

STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

Academics

Students lucky enough to attend San Diego State University receive a “quality, affordable education,” all while they soak up that brilliant “San Diego sun!” And with a “wide array [of] majors and minors” along with a good deal of “flexibility in course choices,” it’s understandable why individuals are drawn to this institution. Speaking of majors (and minors), undergrads at SDSU rush to underscore a handful of really stellar academic departments. For starters, the “science programs have vigorous requirements that [truly] prepare you for grad school or medical school.” Additionally, the “music program strives to create the best educators and performers.” The nursing school is also “amazing” and really works to “accommodate...each individual.” And the international business program is considered “one of the top...in the nation.”

When it comes to professors, while there’s the occasional bad or “boring” apple, the vast majority at SDSU are “dedicated and eager to teach.” Moreover, they typically approach their time in the classroom with “enthusiasm” and manage to “bring life to every lecture.” Indeed, they “make learning the material easy and fun.” It’s also quite apparent that they “care about their students,” taking the time to “check in with them” and making themselves “accessible outside of the classroom.” And, as a grateful religious studies major explains, they often “inspire [you] to become a more intellectual person and involved student.”

Life

Simply put, life at San Diego State is “wonderful.” And, no matter whether you opt to participate in “Greek life, a student organization, or a sport, everyone [finds] something to do.” Additionally, SDSU’s Associated Students is great about sponsoring a number of “fun” events such as Aztec Nights, which in past years have included “Distress Fest, Haunted Montezuma and the Polar Plunge.” A thrilled speech pathology major rushes to brag, “Every Thursday, there is a farmer’s market on campus where students can enjoy a wide array of international cuisines prepared by local restaurants. SDSU also has “amazing athletics” and undergrads love “attending football [games], basketball [games] and other sporting events.” Of course, given that San Diego has “[beautiful] weather year round,” you won’t catch SDSU students...spend[ing] much time indoors.” It’s quite common to see students riding “bikes or skateboards across campus.” And a business administration major pipes in, “The beach is a huge draw for people whether you like surfing, paddle boarding, or just swimming.” Additionally, the “campus is located 10 minutes from Fashion Valley or Balboa Park, and there are tons of good restaurants around. It is also very close to the Mexican border for easy day trips.”

Student Body

San Diego State is comprised of a “diverse community of students who are as laid-back as they are hard-working.” Indeed, the university does a great job of attracting undergrads “from all over the world and all walks of life.” Students happily report that their peers are both “social” and “academically driven.” Even better, “they are supportive and seem to always be open to help others who are struggling.” Undergrads also appreciate that there are “endless opportunities to meet new people because the campus is swarming with students.” And, for the most part, San Diego undergrads are “very accepting of one another and open minded.” Of course, all of this goodwill can partially be attributed to the lovely surroundings. As one business student sums up, “It’s hard not to be happy when living in beautiful San Diego.”

THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

Admissions

The school reports that its standardized testing policy for use in admission for Fall 2022 is Test Blind. It is unknown at this time if the 2022 testing policy will be permanent. The Princeton Review suggests that interested applicants consult with the school for the most up-to-date standardized testing policies. *Very important factors considered include:* rigor of secondary school record, academic GPA. *Important factors considered include:* geographical residence. *Other factors considered include:* recommendation(s), extracurricular activities. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. *Academic units required:* 4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 2 science labs, 2 foreign language, 1 social studies, 1 history, 1 visual/performing arts, 1 unit from above areas or other academic areas. *Academic units recommended:* 4 math, 3 science labs.

Financial Aid

Students should submit: FAFSA; State aid form. Priority filing deadline is 4/1. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after October 1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* College/university scholarship or grant aid from institutional funds; Federal Pell; Private scholarships; SEOG; State scholarships/grants. *Loan aid offered:* Direct PLUS loans; Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans; Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 3/15. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available.

The Inside Word

The admissions process at San Diego State is very by the book. Similar to other universities within the California State system San Diego relies on the eligibility index as the crux of their decision making. Hence, your GPA will be critical. Moreover, the application is major specific; candidates will be ranked against all other individuals applying to that particular major. You will not be able to change your major during this process (though, aside from nursing, you will once you arrive on campus). Finally, all music, dance, and/or theater candidates will have to audition as well.

THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

From the Admissions Office

“Founded in 1897, San Diego State University is a major public research institution that provides transformative experiences for its more than 36,000 students. SDSU ranks as the number 1 California State University in federal research support, is a long-standing Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and resides on Kumeyaay land.

“The university is known for offering transformational research, international experiences, sustainability and entrepreneurship initiatives, internships and mentoring, and a broad range of student life and leadership opportunities. SDSU is committed to excellence and known for its efforts advancing diversity and inclusion.

“SDSU is nationally recognized for its study abroad initiatives, veterans’ programs and support of LGBTQA+ students, as well as its powerhouse Division I Athletics Program. Recognized as a national leader in higher education, students have access to more than 400 student clubs and organizations and an inclusive environment with a diverse range of programs and offerings.

“About 54% of SDSU’s undergraduates and graduates are students of color. The university’s rich campus life and ideal location offers opportunities for students to lead and engage with the creative and performing arts, career and internship opportunities with SDSU’s more than 400,000 living alumni, and the vibrant cultural life of the greater San Diego and U.S.-Mexico region.”

SELECTIVITY	
Admissions Rating	91
# of applicants	64,784
% of applicants accepted	37
% of acceptees attending	20
# offered a place on the wait list	5,012
% accepting a place on wait list	42
% admitted from wait list	38
FIRST-YEAR PROFILE	
Range SAT Composite	1110–1290
Range SAT EBRW	550–640
Range SAT Math	540–660
Range ACT Composite	22–29
# submitting SAT scores	4,132
% submitting SAT scores	85
# submitting ACT scores	1,759
% submitting ACT scores	36
Fall 2022 testing policy	Test Blind
Average HS GPA	3.8
% graduated top 10% of class	33
% graduated top 25% of class	72
% graduated top 50% of class	95
DEADLINES	
Regular	
Deadline	11/30
Notification	3/1
Nonfall registration?	No
FINANCIAL FACTS	
Financial Aid Rating	81
Annual in-state tuition	\$5,742
Annual out-of-state tuition	\$17,622
Room and board	\$19,330
Required fees	\$2,394
Books and supplies	\$1,091
Average frosh need-based scholarship	\$11,810
Average UG need-based scholarship	\$11,660
% needy frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	59
% needy UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	66
% needy frosh rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	47
% needy UG rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	38
% needy frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	90
% needy UG rec. need-based self-help aid	88
% frosh rec. any financial aid	55
% UG rec. any financial aid	61
% UG borrow to pay for school	40
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$20,300
% frosh need fully met	8
% ugrads need fully met	12
Average % of frosh need met	67
Average % of ugrad need met	65