COMMUNITY Minded

Making a positive impact on our local economy, culture, and resources
There’s no place like home.
At the **University of California, Santa Cruz**, we have called the Monterey Bay home for more than half a century. During that time, we’ve played an essential role in contributing to the region’s education, economy, and culture. We care deeply about our hometown and we love living here. So we want to do everything in our power to help our community thrive. By partnering with community leaders and organizations, we help to solve pressing challenges, promote resource sustainability, and elevate the area’s quality of life.
We help stimulate the local economy.

UC Santa Cruz brings money into the community. With 4,700 faculty and staff, we’re Santa Cruz County’s largest employer. Roughly 19,500 alumni also live, work, and play here. Between the university itself and our staff, faculty, students, and visitors, together we spend more than half a billion dollars here every year.

$672 million
Spent by UC Santa Cruz employees, students, and visitors (2014–15)

$1.33 billion
The campus’s overall influence on our local economy

$271M
Staff and faculty spending

$195M
Student spending

$178M
Campus purchases and capital expenditures

$28M
Visitor spending
We enrich the community’s culture, as well.

Being a good neighbor means serving as a vital member of the community. And that’s precisely our intention. As enrollment climbs, we expand our area’s cultural diversity. With growing Latino/a enrollment, the student body now more closely represents California. We also capitalize on every opportunity to educate and inspire the community through arts and sciences, public lectures, volunteer services, K–12 programs, and more.
Easing the squeeze on housing is a top priority.

From the beginning, UC Santa Cruz has embraced an innovative residential approach. Today, our campus housing continues to offer intimate “living and learning” environments. Every undergraduate is affiliated with one of our 10 residential colleges. Nearly all first-year students live in campus housing. Each student is guaranteed housing for two years. And among all UC campuses, UC Santa Cruz houses the highest percentage of students.

Our plans don’t end there. In the coming years, we’ll be adding even more housing. Preparations are underway for new construction that will add approximately 3,000 new beds. We’re also exploring ways to streamline financing and construction of future housing projects.
No one wants to minimize traffic more than we do.

Our commitment to minimizing motor vehicle traffic goes as far back as 1965. Today, thanks to aggressive traffic reduction and alternative commuting programs, we experience roughly the same number of vehicle trips as we did 16 years ago.

Our road work, however, is never finished. As enrollment grows, the campus will continue to establish sustainable transportation policies that preserve the environment, reduce emissions, and minimize impacts on the community. As one example, the university has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2025.

Our students, faculty, and staff make up 50% of the county’s Metro ridership.

Campus shuttles transport 12K people each and every school day.

Weekday traffic to campus has declined by 2,151 vehicle trips per day since 2005.
Water-wise practices sustain our growing campus.

Water is one resource we simply can’t afford to waste. That’s why we’ve been planning carefully, investing in modern infrastructure, and promoting conservation for better than a decade. Our campus now uses less water than it did 25 years ago when we were roughly half of our current size. Our efforts are helping us steadily reduce water consumption to reach sustainable levels.
Meanwhile, our research is reshaping the global community.

While we’re known for our teaching and public service, UC Santa Cruz is also internationally recognized for groundbreaking research. Our environmental scientists are studying climate change’s influence on marine and coastal ecosystems. Our research and fieldwork have also contributed to breakthroughs and novel discoveries in cancer genomics, sustainable agriculture, historic and cultural influences on immigration, high-tech innovation, and the partnership of engineering and the arts.

$128M is our 2016 total for grants and contracts

4th is our 2016 ranking for influence among the world’s research universities

1st to assemble and release a working draft of the human genome sequence

We feel it’s not enough to be a good neighbor. Being a good global citizen is also our responsibility. So whether the focus is climate change, cancer genomics, or sustainable agriculture, we’re determined to have our research be part of building a better future for Santa Cruz—and beyond.

1 — Times Higher Education World University Rankings
Most important, we never forget what Santa Cruz does for us.

We’re very fortunate—we know that. The Monterey Bay is a rare and enviable place to lead our lives. Naturally, we’ll continue doing our part to keep it that way. We’ll continue to foster an open dialogue about the future of our community. We’ll strengthen our partnerships with local government and businesses so we can face challenges together. And we’ll contribute in any way we can to the vibrancy and sustainability of our community’s economy, culture, and education.

From breaking news to community events there are lots of things always happening on and off campus. Visit ucsc.edu or events.ucsc.edu to learn more. Have a question? Write to us at goodneighbor@ucsc.edu.