

SUMMARY OF OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

VISION

Prepare the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and entrepreneurs to help the world meet its profound environmental and social justice challenges.

MISSION

Provide responsible management of resources, demonstrate leadership in sustainable business practices, and serve as a living laboratory for sustainability.



KEY AWARDS

- Only campus in nation to have been ranked among Sierra magazine's top 10 "Coolest Schools" for 12 consecutive years; ranked first in the nation 5 times (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020).
 - "Coolest Schools" means the campus doing the most to help "cool the planet" and reduce emissions through campus efforts in energy, transportation, waste, research, etc.
- Two-time recipient of the AASHE STARS Platinum rating (2018 & 2021); UCI's 2021 sustainability report received the highest score ever obtained by an institution at 88.59 points.
 - AASHE STARS is a globally recognized sustainability rating system: Platinum is the highest rating tier available.

ACADEMICS

- Nearly 50% of undergraduate and graduate courses are sustainability-related. Over 900 undergraduate-level courses and over 430 graduate-level courses are sustainability-related.
- Over 96% of the academic departments offer sustainability-related courses
 - View the 2021 Sustainability Research Inventory.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Launched the UCI Black Thriving Initiative, which recognizes and responds to anti-Blackness as an existential threat to UCI's mission as public research university.
 - Learn more about the UCI Black Thriving Initiative here.
- Over \$112 million was dedicated to offer grants to low and middle income students to minimize their cost of attendance, reduce the need for borrowing, and promote access and affordability.

ENERGY

- Committed to the University of California's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, having reduced GHG emissions by 22,000 metric tons annually.
 - Learn about UCI's climate strategy in the Climate Action Plan.
- Recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Energy for being the first educational institution to improve energy efficiency 20 percent by 2020, exceeding this goal seven years early.
 - UCI consumed 23 percent less energy in 2013 than in 2008.

FOOD SERVICES

- UCI Dining offers 200 new plant-forward menu items making 30 percent of menu options vegan- or vegetarian-friendly.
 - Learn more about UCI sustainable dining here.
- Fair Trade University designation in 2018, representing commitment to sourcing Fair Trade.
 - Learn more about Fair Trade University here.

GREEN BUILDING

- 32 LEED certified buildings, 21 Platinum and 11 Gold; the most LEED Platinum for New Construction in the U.S.
 - [LEED](#) is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification through the U.S. Green Building Council.
 - Recent LEED Platinum certified buildings include the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building and Middle Earth Housing Expansion.
 - See complete list of LEED buildings and learn more about their features [here](#).
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RESEARCH

- Over 30 percent (475 researchers) of UCI faculty conduct sustainability-related research in nearly 97 percent of academic departments.
 - View the [UCI Sustainability Research Inventory 2021](#).
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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Certified as a Bee Campus USA, a student-led effort to educate the campus community on the environmental importance of bees.
 - Learn more about Bee Campus USA [here](#).
 - [FRESH Basic Needs Hub](#) is a student-initiated effort that promotes equitable access to basic needs through student empowerment, community collaboration, and institutional integration.
 - Students have access to weekly food pantry distribution and fresh produce program.
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TRANSPORTATION

- First campus in nation to convert bio-diesel shuttle fleet to an all-electric bus fleet, providing more than 2 million student rides per year. UCI now has 20 all-electric shuttles.
 - This was an incredible student-led effort, with students voting to decommission gas-powered shuttles and replace with an all-electric fleet. Learn more [here](#).
 - Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University designation from the League of American Bicyclists.
 - UCI provides bicycle education programs and classes through [BikeUCI](#).
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OPEN SPACE

- Since 2010, UCI has been designated as a [Tree Campus USA](#) through the Arbor Day Foundation, recognized for efforts in establishing and sustaining an urban tree canopy.
 - The campus is designed to encourage open space access, providing opportunity for research, teaching, community engagement, and respite.
 - [Aldrich Park](#) - 16 acre central park; the “heart” of campus
 - [Ecological Preserve](#) - 60 acres located on the West Campus; commonly used for research projects and class instruction
 - [San Joaquin Marsh Reserve](#) - 202 acres of coastal freshwater marshes on the North Campus; serves as a natural laboratory across campus disciplines
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WASTE

- 80 percent campus waste diversion rate, the highest in the UC system.
 - This means the campus diverts 80 percent of all its waste from landfill to recycling and composting facilities. Learn more [here](#).
 - UCI, along with all other UC Campuses are [phasing out single-use plastics](#) as part of the commitment to achieve zero waste.
 - The new policy will transition UC away from plastic bags in retail and dining locations and eventually eliminate single-use plastic food service items and plastic bottles by 2023.
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WATER

- 90 percent of campus landscaping uses recycled water, which is highly treated wastewater from showers, toilets, sinks, dishwashers, etc.
 - In 2018, the central plant was retrofitted to use treated recycled water, saving approximately 80 million gallons of potable water (water considered safe to drink). Learn more [here](#).
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WELLBEING

- UCI is among the inaugural US cohort to adopt the Okanagan Charter, recognizing a dedication to infusing health and wellbeing into the campus environment. Learn more [here](#).