The University of California, San Diego (UCSD), continues to reflect its leadership among the nation's leading research institutions. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, the University received $627.0 million to support a wide variety of research, instruction and public service programs. UCSD is second in the University of California system in federal awards, at $507.9 million, and second in the University of California system in federal expenditures, at $328.7 million.

The table below shows UCSD's national research standings for ten fiscal years, 1991-1992 through 2000-2001. The University has consistently ranked between fifth and eighth in the nation during this period, as shown in the National Science Foundation's Annual Report of Federal Obligations for Research and Development.