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, 2008, the University received $828.8 million to support a wide variety of research, instruction and public service programs. UCSD is third in the University of California system in federal awards, at $567.1 million, and third in the University of California system in federal expenditures, at $402.3 million.

The table below shows UCSD’s national research expenditures for ten fiscal years. The University has consistently ranked between fifth and tenth in the nation during this period, as shown in the National Science Foundation's Annual Report of Federally-Financed R&D Expenditures at Universities and Colleges.