UC San Diego

SIX UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES - ONE GREAT UNIVERSITY
The Undergraduate College System

History of the Undergraduate College System

- Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and vision for a “public Caltech” in terms of faculty and students.
- Building from the “Top Down”
- Attraction of outstanding senior faculty and SIO graduate students and researchers, then undergraduates
- Faculty/scholars recruited from the sciences, humanities and social sciences actively working together to solve societal problems.
- 1960 - Arrival of 15 graduate students in Physics and opening of UCSD
The Undergraduate College System

History of the Undergraduate College System

“One of the Most Interesting Experiments in Higher Education”

- The 1963 Master Plan called for an innovative system of semi-autonomous liberal arts colleges within a single research university campus as its centerpiece.

- Original idea – a federation of independent colleges, a series of interdisciplinary schools, multidisciplinary academic communities with each college having its own: faculty, general education requirements, major curricula, classrooms, residence halls, dining facilities, administration.

- The colleges would offer a broad liberal arts education and in-depth education in a limited number of disciplines and majors.
Master Plan Continued:

- Faculty would form campus-wide academic departments but physically dispersed among the colleges.
- Students would receive 2/3rds of their university experience (academic and non-academic) within a single college.
- Enrollment: 27,500 Full Time Equivalents with 12 Colleges by 1995
- 2000-2300 students per college
- 10,450 graduate students (38% of total enrollment)
- Combine the intimacy of a small college undergraduate educational environment with the interdisciplinary tradition of SIO and the resources of a large research university.
The Undergraduate College System

Master Plan Continued:

- Provides smaller "home" communities where undergraduate students get to know each other, staff and faculty members better than in most large research universities.
- Fosters the intellectual, personal, and social development of their students.
- Provides an educational environment in which students can explore and expand their leadership potential and build community through participation in a wide variety of college organizations and special events.
- Students affiliate with their college throughout entire time at UC San Diego from admission to graduation.
An Integrated Undergraduate Experience

- General Education
- Academic Advising
- Writing Program / Core Course Instruction
- Student Affairs
- Residence Life
- College-Based Counseling & Psychological Services
• 94-96% of first year students live on campus.

• 85% of second year students live on campus.

• Most third and fourth year students live off-campus.

• Some upper-division students live in International House or serve as Resident Advisors.
Commuter & Transfer Students

- Commuter Lounges
  - Lockers & kitchen facilities
  - Ride-Share Boards
  - TV, DVD Player and Wireless

- “Adopt-A-Commuter" Programs by Residence Halls for first year students.

- Commuter and Transfer Student Organizations at each college.
Traditions at the Colleges

- Traditions are the building blocks that serve to establish and develop a sense of belonging and connectedness to the college. Because the colleges are small enough, students can feel more like a participant and less like a spectator. Increased sense of “ownership” over college traditions.
- Traditions are key elements in fostering a sense of community.
- College Traditions largely reflect and reinforce the spirit and philosophy of the colleges.
Traditions at the Colleges

- For many students, traditions define their college experience. When asked to reflect on their experiences at college, traditions will always emerge as significant experiences. Think back to your own experiences. Some of the strongest and longest lasting traditions are those that are developed and fostered by students, not imposed on students.
- Traditions aid in retention of students.
Traditions at the Colleges

These are but a few college traditions as there are many others:

- Leadership Programs
- College Festivals
- Semi-formal Dances
- Welcome Week Activities
- Orientation programs
- Family/Parents Days
What the Colleges ARE:

- Each college has its own General Education courses which reflect the unique mission and philosophy of that college
- Each college has a living /learning community
- Each college provides general four year academic advising
- Each college creates student life programs based in their environment
- Each college delivers the writing program component of the GEs
- The colleges bridge the academic and co-curricular experiences for students
- The colleges provide an integrated, holistic experience for our students
What the Colleges Are NOT:

- Self-contained small liberal arts colleges
- Academic departments delivering courses for the major
- Residential Colleges similar to the Ivy League Schools and the English College System
With the increasing enrollments and growth experienced at UCSD over the past 5-10 years coupled with an expected enrollment of 30,000 students by 2010, there has been a movement to ensure consistent and equitable implementation of policy and procedures across the colleges. It is important to note that while the inclination is to make each of the colleges more similar than different in some regards, the Colleges maintain a sense of identity that is directly related to their unique philosophy and mission which in many cases is incorporated predominantly into the student life programmatic initiatives.
Residential Life at the Colleges

- Each College houses their students in on-campus residence halls and apartments.
- All students are guaranteed housing for 2-years.
- All students living on campus are required to have a meal plan for the numerous dining halls on campus.
- All apartments and residence halls are cleaned on a regular basis by custodial staff.
Six Undergraduate Colleges
One Great University

“STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING – A UNIQUE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY.”

- A PROBABLE VENTURE, 1993
The Six Colleges

- Revelle College
- John Muir College
- Thurgood Marshall College
- Earl Warren College
- Eleanor Roosevelt College
- UCSD Sixth College