Cool Things Smart Students Should Know About UC Riverside

54 Facts and Impacts
Since welcoming our first class in 1954, UC Riverside has been home to inventors and innovators, creators and community leaders, geniuses and groundbreakers. This is a university where students find the resources and support to turn their passions into purpose, to have an impact on campus and around the world.

UCR is proud to be home to students just like you whose hearts drive them not just to succeed but to make a difference. Get to know more about UCR through these 54 Facts and Impacts — our programs, our people, our heart — and find your place here too.

We can’t wait to welcome you to UCR!

Make It Official!
Follow your heart to UCR and submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) today. My.UCR.edu
Racing up the Charts

When *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2019 Best College Rankings, UCR jumped 39 spaces on the list of public universities, rising from 124 to 85 — greater gains than any other university on the list! For 2019, the publication updated its ranking methodology. In the past, schools were ranked based on factors including outcomes, faculty resources, peer opinion, financial resources, student excellence and alumni giving. Now, acceptance rates have been removed from the methodology and more weight has been given to outcomes, which takes into account how successful a school is at retaining and graduating students in six years. UCR has been nationally recognized for its high graduation rates, particularly for low-income, African-American and Latino students. *U.S. News* also rated UCR as the 49th best college for veterans, 43rd best college for undergraduate teaching and 35th best public school in the country in its 2019 rankings. “I’m heartened that more university ranking systems are beginning to recognize diversity, social mobility and student success as hallmarks of what make a great university — as opposed to exclusivity and wealth as primary measures,” UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox said when the rankings were released.

usnews.com/best-colleges
2. Healing Inland Southern California

The UCR School of Medicine, California’s first public medical school in more than 40 years, graduated its first class in 2017 and appeared on the U.S. News & World Report rankings for the first time in 2019, debuting at No. 93. The mission of the UCR School of Medicine is to improve the health of the people of California and to serve Inland Southern California by training a diverse workforce of physicians. It partnered with Eisenhower Health — a not-for-profit, comprehensive health care institution — to jointly train future physicians to address the Coachella Valley’s medical workforce shortage.

UCR provides a unique portal into the medical school called The Thomas Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine — with up to 24 seats in each medical school class filled by students who attended UCR for at least six consecutive quarters and completed their bachelor’s degree at UCR. Qualified, “mission-fit” UCR undergrads or recent graduates can apply for a guaranteed seat in a future UCR School of Medicine class with The Thomas Haider Early Assurance Program (EAP). Applicants aren’t required to take the MCAT, and get more time to focus on additional clinical experience, community service and research during their senior year or gap year!

corpus.ucr.edu

3. Empowering Future Leaders

Over 1,000 Inland Empire residents have gone to college thanks to UCR alumna Dr. Manuela G. Sosa (’66). In 1998, Sosa and her husband, Randy, co-founded The Inland Empire Scholarship Fund (IESF) to provide scholarships, academic guidance, career advice and college admission assistance to low-income Latino students in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Sosa’s own life was the inspiration for the organization’s founding. She’s a first-generation high school and college graduate. A transfer student from San Bernardino Valley College, Sosa earned a degree from Loma Linda Dental School after graduating from UCR and became the first practicing female dentist in Riverside.
Going Green

Sustainability is a way of life at UCR, from the compostable utensils used in campus dining to the solar panels found across campus, including the 9,600 solar panels installed in early 2018 in parking lots 30 and 32 that were expected to generate about 7.6 million kWh in their first year of operation. UCR was included on The Sierra Club’s Cool Schools 2018 ranking, highlighting the best environmental practices of colleges and universities. The school also ranked on The Princeton Review’s 2018 listing of the Top 50 Green Colleges, recognizing schools that share superb sustainability practices, a strong foundation in sustainability and a healthy quality of life for students on campus.

princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide

At a Glance: School of Business

Programs: UCR boasts the largest undergraduate business program in the entire UC system, along with a full-time Master of Business Administration (MBA), Flex MBA, Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA), Master of Finance (MFin), and a Ph.D. program.

Network Building: The School of Business has a strong culture of engagement with industry, the community and alumni. Being a part of honors chapters such as Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma and other business associations on campus builds students’ professional networks with future employers.

National Recognition: The school is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. A 2018 U.S. News & World Report survey ranked UCR 78th in undergraduate business schools. The School of Business is also listed among Top 100 Business Schools and is in the top 25 percent of “Best MBA Programs in America” (U.S. News & World Report, 2018).

business.ucr.edu
7. **UCR's Two Nobel Laureates**

Former MIT-turned-UCR Chemistry Professor and UCR alum **Richard R. Schrock ('67)** didn't set out to win the 2005 Nobel Prize in chemistry. He simply aspired from age eight to get involved in chemistry, which he later studied at UCR. He chose to attend UCR for its undergraduate research opportunities. That foundation led Schrock to his work in producing the first useful catalyst for metathesis, a lab method used in making drugs for hepatitis C, osteoporosis, AIDS and other diseases, and, of course, to a Nobel Prize.

**Barry C. Barish**, who won the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics for the discovery of gravitational waves, is UCR’s second Nobel Laureate! He returned home to the UC family, having earned a Ph.D. in experimental particle physics in 1962 from UC Berkeley and building an illustrious career. A first-generation college student himself, Barish champions UCR’s research programs and orientation toward student success.

provost.ucr.edu/nobel-laureates

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8. **Outdoor Excursions**

At UCR, adventure is around every corner! Join us on an outdoor trip or we can design a custom trip just for your group and we’ll lead it. Stop by **Outdoor Excursions** at the **Student Recreation Center (SRC)** to sign up for a trip, become scuba-certified, get discount ski lift tickets and rent gear for your own outdoor adventure.

excursions.ucr.edu

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9. **Fresh-Picked**

Walk around campus and you’ll be treated to the delightful scents of our fruit trees, including oranges, kumquats and pomegranates. Students can even pick fruit to eat from some of these trees, like the pomegranate varieties now growing in Lot 24. The healthy, great-tasting and free fruit available on campus is a smart snack for UCR students on the go, and also represents ongoing research being done in UCR’s College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) to develop new varieties of pomegranates and make the fruit more readily available to consumers.
10. **Live Your Best Life in Riverside**

Located just 60 miles (96 km) east of Los Angeles, Riverside is the multicultural hub for arts and culture in Inland Southern California. Topping any visitor’s must-see list is the **Mission Inn Hotel & Spa**, a world-renowned AAA Four Diamond hotel famous for its beauty, rich history, annual Festival of Lights and status as “Best Historic Hotel,” as awarded by USA Today and Historic Hotels of America. Meet up with friends at hip cafes, antique bookstores and cultural events such as the Festival of Colors, the Asian Pacific Lunar New Year Festival and the Riverside Tamale Festival. Catch a concert, musical or dance performance at the Fox Performing Arts Center and Riverside Municipal Auditorium, two beautiful venues built in the 1920s. Then order a juicy hamburger or Creole rice dish at the Riverside Food Lab, the first of its kind in the region. Stroll through the Downtown Farmer’s Market every Saturday morning and the Riverside Artwalk on the first Thursday of each month. Take care of basic needs at Riverside’s many banks, beauty salons/barbers, car service centers, fashion boutiques, grocery stores, hospitals/urgent care locations and mobile services. Transportation is accessible with bikes, Zipcar rentals, Uber, Lyft, taxis, carpools and UCR’s Point-to-Point Shuttle. Students ride the RTA bus for free around Riverside and take the Metrolink train to famous beaches, shopping malls, sporting events and amusement parks throughout Southern California. riversidelive.com

The Fox Performing Art Center opened in 1929 as a venue for film screenings and vaudeville performances. Today the Downtown Riverside theater hosts concerts, comedy shows and Broadway musicals.

11. **Discovery Starts Here**

Alum **Joshua Olivia ('15)** found a new firefly species while on a Mother’s Day hike. While UCR has been credited with finding around a dozen new insect species a year, how cool is it that an undergraduate student was able to make such an important discovery? Keep looking, Joshua!
13. **A Year for Firsts**

Highlanders fans had plenty to cheer about in 2018, most notably two UCR-history-making athletic championships. The **NCAA Division I men's soccer team** won its first-ever **Big West Tournament** in November, with a 4-2 penalty kick decision over UC Davis. This marked the team's **first appearance in a Best West Championship**, and the win over Davis gave the team its first opportunity to compete in an NCAA tournament.

In May, the **NCAA Division I softball team** made its **first-ever postseason appearance**, competing in the **National Invitational Softball Championship (NISC)**. The team swept its way through the West Regional, ultimately being named NISC West Regional Champions, following a 7-1 victory over the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The softball team went on to place second in the NISC Championship, following a 9-6 victory over Eastern Kentucky University.

12. **Good Times, Exclusively Highlander**

There's always something happening on campus — from music festivals to guest speakers to cultural celebrations. The **Block Party** and **Spring Splash** music festivals have gained legendary status with lineups that have featured A$AP Ferg, Cold War Kids, Nelly, Rick Ross, Wiz Khalifa and Young the Giant. Throughout the school year, show off your **Highlander Pride** on **R'Day Wednesdays** and head to the Bell Tower for live concerts, get-togethers, giveaways and activities. **Thursday Nights Live** brings together the campus community to enjoy great music, food and drinks. Get to know authors, performers and community leaders through live talks. All fun. All free. All Exclusively Highlander.
UCR Alumna Heads Museum

In 2018, UCR history alumna Anthea M. Hartig (’89, ’01) became the first female director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She is wrapping up the museum’s makeover, and developing new galleries that feature American innovation, democracy and entertainment. Among her many projects is the Molina Family Latino Gallery, a joint effort with the Smithsonian Latino Center. She is excited about the partnership, as Latinx history has been critical to her work in California. Hartig has worn many hats during her career, including chief executive of the California Historical Society, director of the Western Region of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, history professor at La Sierra University, municipal preservation planner and the 2011 California Preservationist of the Year.

history.ucr.edu

The Pursuit of Happiness

Sonja Lyubomirsky, professor of psychology and director of the university's Positive Activities and Well-Being Laboratory

What She’s Up To: Lyubomirsky has dedicated her research to the study of human happiness and how people can lead happier lives. Her research earned Lyubomirsky a spot on Business Insider’s list of “The 15 Most Amazing Women in Science Today.”

What She Says About Her Research: “The short answer is that I have had terrific, supportive colleagues and absolutely fantastic students. The Department of Psychology at UCR is exceptional; I can’t imagine being anywhere else.”

psychology.ucr.edu

Real Roots

During more than a century of discovery, scientists at UCR’s Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station have earned worldwide recognition for the study of plant sciences, environmental and natural resources, and pest management. Every orange, lemon, lime and mandarin orange found on your grocer’s shelf has a genetic connection to the trees at our Citrus Research Center, which was established in 1907. We’re also home to the Citrus Variety Collection, a living citrus museum with some 900 varieties of citrus, the largest collection in the world. You can even drink juice made from oranges grown on campus! So that sweet and juicy California navel orange you had for lunch today had its roots right here at UCR!
17. **Food for Thought**

Having consistent access to healthy, nutritious food is essential for success in school and in life. UCR has a number of programs to support students facing food insecurity, including R’Pantry, which offers emergency food to students in need. Student groups and individual students support R’Pantry through food drives, fundraisers and by volunteering their time. Another source of food on campus is the R’Garden community garden. Some of the fruits and vegetables grown in the R’Garden are given to R’Pantry. Students are also welcome to pick fruits and vegetables for free, and are invited to help harvest or plant new crops. rpantry.ucr.edu

18. **In the Zone**

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) has tutoring, workshops and mentorship programs to help undergraduate students excel in their classes. The center’s Transfer Success Programs provide dynamic programming to support the success of transfer students. Stop by the Transfer Student Success Zone to meet with other transfer students and attend special events. go.ucr.edu/TransferSuccess

19. **What’s Your Career Readiness Score?**

From your first day on campus to graduation, the Career Center should be a regular stop during your undergraduate career. Explore professional/career options through a series of on-campus events, personalized career counseling, career fairs and job search skill-building workshops. International students can also participate in Get HIRED, a career-development program that supports U.S. and global job searches. Join the Career Center for job discovery panels and networking events where you can meet recruiters from top organizations like Amazon, Apple Inc., Caltrans, City Year, Deloitte, Environmental Protection Agency, Esri, GEICO, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Northrop Grumman, Southern California Edison, SpaceX and Uber. Log in to UCR Handshake to access jobs and internships from more than 200,000 employers around the world. It’s your career — prepare to launch! #UCRCareerReady #HireHighlanders careers.ucr.edu
20. **Improving Solar Energy Efficiency**

How do you coax solar cells to generate more power so solar energy could be made cheaper? Ask UCR chemist and Chemistry professor **Christopher Bardeen**, who has discovered a way to boost solar efficiencies by 30 percent or more. By combining inorganic semiconductor nanocrystals with organic molecules, he has succeeded in “upconverting” photons in the visible and near-infrared regions of the solar spectrum. This upconverted photon is readily absorbed by photovoltaic cells, generating electricity from light that normally would be wasted.

cnas.ucr.edu

21. **At a Glance: Graduate School of Education (GSOE): Boosting America’s Competitive Edge**

As a nationally recognized expert in K–12 education, **Thomas Smith**, UCR’s GSOE dean, is collaborating with CalTEACH-SMI, a UC system-wide partnership that encourages undergraduate STEM majors to pursue careers in K–12 education to grow the number of qualified science and mathematics teachers and restore America’s competitive edge in these areas.

**Undergraduate Program:** The education, society, and human development undergraduate major will help you to inspire the next generation. You will learn how to make meaningful connections, develop policies to solve pressing education challenges or boost team performance with cutting-edge strategies.

**Graduate Programs:** UCR offers master’s, doctoral and teacher credentialing programs that prepare students to become outstanding classroom educators, researchers and educational leaders. Students have opportunities to work with some of the nation’s top researchers and receive a results-oriented education with experienced faculty and nationally recognized experts in statistics, memory, language development, higher education, autism, history and learning disability research.

**Hands-On Help, Research and Training:** The GSOE’s **SEARCH Center** serves families of all incomes with children on the autism spectrum and also conducts vital research on autism. The first center of its kind in the UC system, SEARCH is designed to help families navigate the variety of services and treatments available for autism spectrum disorders, and to train the next generation of autism researchers and educators.

education.ucr.edu

22. **Star Power**

Transformative research from **UCR’s School of Business** is changing the way companies groom their next generation of top talent, cultivate an environment of extreme performers and gain a competitive edge. In their latest study on extreme performance in the workplace, **Haibo Lu**, assistant professor of management, and researchers from IN SEAD business school showed that product designers who collaborate with stars are more likely to emerge as stars themselves than designers who collaborate with non-stars.

business.ucr.edu
23. **Hot Arts Scene, Cool Culture**

It’s true — SoCal has a hot arts scene. Part of the heat emanates from the UCR ARTS in downtown Riverside. See the latest art at the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery, visit the UCR California Museum of Photography (one of only six in the United States), and check out a screening, concert or lecture at the Culver Center of the Arts.

ucrarts.ucr.edu

24. **A Mind of Their Own**

Someday drones may have more control over their missions. Researchers at UCR received a $1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop artificial intelligence for drones. The technology, being developed by a team led by Amit Roy-Chowdhury, professor of electrical and computer engineering, could allow the drones to act on their own, for example by zooming in on a certain object. This innovation could be instrumental for environmental and security monitoring, or for search and rescue missions.

25. **Building for the Future**

Dating back to its start as the Citrus Experiment Station, UCR has long been at the forefront of research and innovation. State-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and lecture halls are essential to helping our students and researchers succeed. Classrooms across campus have recently been upgraded with new multi-media equipment, and furnishings that better facilitate discussion and collaboration. The newly opened Multidisciplinary Research Building (MRB) houses up to 56 researchers and their teams, and is UCR’s first LEED Platinum-certified project. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage energy- and resource-efficient buildings. The certification relies on a ratings system, with Platinum as the highest of four levels.
At a Glance: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)

Culture: In CNAS, faculty and students work side-by-side in an interdisciplinary environment that flows easily among the life, physical, mathematical and agricultural sciences. Here you can study and do research in any science field that seems interesting with no red tape because we’re all the same college.

Earth Studies: The ability to recognize and address changes in the water supply or predict devastating natural disasters gains greater importance as Earth’s population grows. Research will become more important as there is a growing shift to conservation of Earth’s resources.

Research to “Buzz” About: The Center for World University Rankings put UCR at No. 2 in entomology research in the world (2017), and assistant professor S. Hollis Woodard is creating a “buzz” with her bee research. Fascinated by the way bees adjust to climate change, Woodard tracks them in extreme environments from the Alaskan tundra to the Sonoran Desert. She shares insights about what society can do to protect these fuzzy pollinators and the important role bees play in our food supply. Her research was featured in The New York Times video, “Why Do Bees Buzz?” (2017) and Mashable’s How She Works series (2017).
entomology.ucr.edu
There’s no place like home — or your new home away from home. There are three all-inclusive residence hall communities on campus for freshman domestic and international students with study lounges, computer labs and more than 1,500 activities, including live music, barbecues, dances, sports tournaments, hall competitions, community service projects and cultural celebrations. Continuing and transfer students are eligible to live in one of UCR’s campus apartment communities, like Glen Mor, which includes a swimming pool, fitness center, dining venue, and computer and gaming lounges. Students with families feel safe and supported with on-campus housing, kid-friendly resources and UCR’s Early Childhood Services center. Construction is underway on the Dundee Residence Hall, which will house 820 freshman beginning fall 2020. Schedule a tour to explore your housing options, or take a virtual tour.

Programs: UCR has the only public policy program in the UC system that offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in public policy. This interdisciplinary program allows students to fulfill their requirements by taking courses from 12 departments, from film and visual culture to political science.

Major Transition: In 2018, the public policy major transitioned from the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) to the School of Public Policy (SPP).

Fact to Remember: Along with Stanford, Carnegie-Mellon, USC and Brown, UCR is one of the few universities in the United States to offer an undergraduate major in public policy. Students who pursue an undergraduate public policy major have the opportunity to specialize in two of six tracks that range from health/population policy to international/foreign policy.
Dedicated to Your Health and Well-Being

Being a successful student means being well inside and out. UCR’s Student Health & Wellness Services (SHWS) is a network of highly trained health professionals, peer educators and community partners committed to your overall health and well-being. No matter what you are going through, you have a place to go. Stop by Student Health Services (SHS) for annual checkups, dental exams, reproductive care, prescriptions and more. Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) offers counseling and psychiatric services. Get guidance and help solving problems from Student Affairs Case Managers. Connect with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) if you need assistance with accessibility on campus. Drop into The Well for health education and peer support. Visit the Student Recreation Center (SRC) to take a fitness class, get in a workout, swim a few laps or learn to cook delicious, nutritious meals. Get involved, get informed, feel better and, most importantly, develop the lifelong skills and behaviors that lead to success.

bewell.ucr.edu

31. Campus of Firsts

UCR consistently ranks among the nation’s most ethnically diverse universities. Our campus’ welcoming environment is supported in part by the Ethnic & Gender Programs offices, many of which are groundbreakers. UCR is the first campus to have a professionally staffed black student resource center (African Student Programs, 1972). We’re the first UC campus to open an office focused on serving Native American students (Native American Student Programs, 1980). UCR was the first public university to offer a gender-neutral housing option to all students (2005). We’re the home to the first Middle Eastern Student Center in the nation (MESC, 2013). Beyond these innovative supportive programs, UCR is the first UC campus to offer a Native American history Ph.D., the first university in California to offer an LGBT studies minor and the first university in the world to have an endowed American Indian chair.

diversity.ucr.edu

30. First Place

Bioengineering student Jessica Leon was awarded first place at The National Institute for Leadership Advancement Conference (NILA), held by the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers, for her team’s ideas to empower more Latinas in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

engr.ucr.edu
33. At a Glance: College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS)

Culture: CHASS uniquely combines the arts, humanities and social sciences into a single college so that students can explore human life and meaning from many perspectives. CHASS offers over 50 majors and its motto is “At Home in the World.” Our students are the most diverse in the UC system and by bringing the world to campus, we can study it together.

Career Watch: UCR’s global studies major prepares students to study processes and problems that transcend national boundaries, and become global thinkers and problem-solvers for the 21st century.

Fact to Remember: UCR is only UC campus to offer an undergraduate degree in creative writing. It is the first UC campus to offer a Native American History Ph.D. and is one of the few universities in the nation to offer doctoral dance program.

chass.ucr.edu

34. Coolly Collected

UCR’s libraries are home to dozens of notable collections covering literature, politics, history, religion and more. Learn about the past’s vision of the future in The Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy featuring personal papers, fanzines, comic books and manuscripts. Explore the history of the Tuskegee Airmen through a collection comprised of personal papers of Tuskegee Airmen, papers of Tuskegee Airmen memorial organizations, photographs, books, artifacts, and research materials compiled by scholars and independent researchers. Become immersed Japanese hip-hop culture in The Dexter Thomas Jr. Collection of Japanese Hip Hop, which includes CDs, manga and magazines.

library.ucr.edu

35. Developing the World’s Tastiest Avocado

The University of California launched the Global Food Initiative to address food issues confronting the world, including availability, security, sustainability and nutrition. At UCR, where researchers have played a major role in helping California become the agricultural powerhouse of the nation, UC Cooperative Extension (CE) subtropical horticulturist Mary Lu Arpaia is improving the in-demand avocado to satisfy consumers seeking healthful and tasty foods, while meeting the needs of California growers. Led by Arpaia, UCR’s avocado breeding program has released four varieties while reducing harvesting and maintenance costs thanks to its consistent production on more compact trees.

globalfood.ucr.edu
36. **Tartan and Traditions**

UCR takes pride in R’school spirit. We wear UCR gear on Wednesdays for R’Day, cheer on our athletes alongside our UCR Highlander Pep Band, hold true to four core “Tartan Soul” values (Integrity, Accountability, Excellence and Respect), and honor decades of campus traditions with our Highlander Traditions Keeper program, where students complete and track at least 54 predetermined traditions to earn a medal upon graduation.

tartansoul.ucr.edu

37. **At a Glance: Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE)**

**Culture:** As one of the nation’s top-ranked graduate and undergraduate programs, UCR’s BCOE combines academic and research excellence, individual attention and mentoring, and the opportunity for undergraduate research and internships. Ninety fellows of professional societies are included in BCOE’s faculty, and the curriculum focuses on hands-on research and multifaceted design programs that involve real-world problems. BCOE’s five-year joint B.S. + M.S. program allows top-performing students to prepare for careers in diverse industries on an accelerated schedule.

**Career Watch:** BCOE graduates are highly sought after. They go on to become software engineers, spacecraft propulsion engineers, entrepreneurs and more, working for companies like Acorn Technology Corporation, Amgen, Applied Medical, Boeing, Google and Panasonic.

**Fact to Remember:** The 2019 U.S. News & World Report ranked BCOE as 34th among public engineering colleges in the nation and moved BCOE from No. 67 to No. 61 for graduate school rankings.

engr.ucr.edu

38. **Reaching Toward Infinity**

UCR astronomers have discovered a galaxy located far, far away — 30 billion light years away, to be precise. The galaxy, z8-GND-5296, is the oldest and most distant galaxy ever discovered. Because light travels at about 186,000 miles per second, the galaxy is seen as it was just 700 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was only about 5 percent of its current age of 13.8 billion years. This is great news because this expands our understanding of the evolution of the galaxies throughout the age of the universe!

astro.ucr.edu
39. **Be the Teacher**

Undergraduate students at UCR can develop and teach their own 1-unit classes. Through R’Courses, participants work with a faculty mentor to create a discussion-based class on topics not covered in the university’s curriculum. Student-designed R’Courses have included Gender and Marvel Heroes, Harry Potter: The Literary Phenomenon of the 21st Century, Psychology of Studying, Science Behind Skin Care, and Urban Gardening. The Python Programming Language was so popular an R’Course that it became a full-time Computer Science and Engineering class! If teaching isn’t your thing, you can take up to eight R’Courses during your time at UCR and earn elective credit toward your degree. Since the program was launched in 2014, 118 students have taught 107 R’Courses to over 1,200 of their fellow UCR students.

[rcourses.ucr.edu](http://rcourses.ucr.edu)

40. **An Evolution Revolution**

Young Hoon Oh, lecturer of anthropology

**What He’s Up To: Climbing Everest!** As part of the fieldwork for his anthropology dissertation, Oh, UCR alum (’16) and anthropology lecturer, climbed the world’s tallest peak. Oh’s dissertation, “Forces of the Unknown: Subjective, Intersubjective, and Presubjective Community in Himalayan Mountaineering,” focused on the types of communities mountaineers create and the transformation of Sherpa society after nearly a century of aiding hundreds of international climbers.

**What He Said About the Research:** “I’ve studied the biographies of mountaineers who wrote about this as a religious or spiritual experience. I’m trying to talk about that kind of experience from a social science perspective and how it influences mountaineering community relations.”

[anthropology.ucr.edu](http://anthropology.ucr.edu)

41. **The Professor and the Global Economy**

Sean Jasso, professor of practice

**What He’s Up To:** Jasso, a professor in the School of Business, devotes his time to teaching UCR students about the world’s economy and the business world on a global level. He recently took students to Mexico City, New York and Washington, D.C. as part of the growing Global Programs portfolio, and led students on a residency program in Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh City to experience first-hand Asia’s emerging markets.

**What He Says About Taking Students Abroad:** “We get to see the students for who they are outside of their school work, and we can really prepare them for competing in a very fierce environment outside of the university. And our students are very well prepared to do that.”

[soba.ucr.edu/global](http://soba.ucr.edu/global)
Leader in Action
Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of public policy and political science, founding director of the Center for Social Innovation

What He’s Up To: Ramakrishnan’s research focuses on civic participation, immigration policy and the politics of race, ethnicity and immigration in the United States. He directs the National Asian American Survey, is founder of the Center for Social Innovation and AAPIData.com, a board member for The California Endowment, chair of the California Commission on APIA Affairs, and adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. In 2015, he was named one of 25 Leaders in Action by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), a list recognizing leaders who take important action every day to lift up Asian American and Pacific Islander communities around the nation. In 2018 he was named to the Frederick Douglass 200 list, which honors the impact of 200 living individuals who embody the work and spirit of Douglass.

What He Says About His Research: “The kinds of research we do here must be informed by real-world problems. It’s both — letting the world know what UCR does and also being informed by the outside world.”

spp.ucr.edu
45. **Knock Knock!**

Spend your first year at UCR interacting with faculty, graduate student teachers and peer educators in one of our many learning communities on campus. There are many benefits to joining a learning community, like starting your learning experience on the right track, exploring majors, discovering potential career choices, maintaining a higher GPA and finishing your degree in a shorter period of time. In addition, freshman students can live in Housing’s academic-based **Living-Learning Communities**. Residents share a similar major and class schedule, get academic support, take part in social activities, and connect to faculty and mentors in your field.

housing.ucr.edu/liveucr/special-interest-housing.html

46. **The Professors and the Portobello Mushrooms**

*Mişri and Cengiz Ozkan*, professors of engineering

**What They Are Up To:** Professors Mişri and Cengiz Ozkan, engineers at UCR, are turning Portobello mushrooms into batteries that may be used in your cellphones and electric cars. With long-lasting batteries in high demand, the Ozkans looked to mushrooms due to their low cost, high porosity and environmental friendliness. Another added benefit is that cellphones may see an increase in run time rather than a decrease. The research findings have been outlined in a paper recently published by the Ozkans, “Bio-Derived, Binderless, Hierarchically Porous Carbon Anodes for Li-Ion Batteries.”

**What They Say About Their Research:** “It truly represents the flagship of progress. [If] we do very well, we can define the next big change in the technological revolution.”

engr.ucr.edu
47. Bagpipes and Beyond

What’s the deal with the Highlanders? No, the UCR founders weren’t Scots. A write-in campaign in the 1950s, led by the men’s basketball team, was begun for the name “Hylanders,” suggested by freshman Donna Lewis. The name was changed to its current spelling and won easily. Turned out to be a pretty good choice, since the Box Springs Mountains were known as the Highlands and UCR has the highest-elevation campus of the UCs. Today, you’ll find a Scottish influence in building names on campus, including the Aberdeen-Inverness residence hall and Skye Hall, home to the math department and Education Abroad office. Our bear mascot, Scotty, cheers on the Highlanders dressed in UCR’s tartan, which is registered in Scotland and represents the four core values of “Tartan Soul” — Integrity (blue), Accountability (white), Excellence (gold) and Respect (black). Hear our bagpipe and drum corps at campus events including convocation and commencement. You can even take bagpipe lessons in our music department! Beyond the fun traditions, to truly be a Highlander you just have to be your optimistic, driven, passionate self.

studentlife.ucr.edu/highlander-history

48. Literary Excellence

UCR students benefit from learning from respected and accomplished professors and lecturers, some with long, storied careers and others rising stars, like Rachelle Cruz, creative writing lecturer and UCR alumna (M.F.A. ’12). Cruz was recently honored by the Before Columbus Foundation with an American Book Award for her debut poetry collection, God’s Will for Monsters. Published in 2017, the collection explores the Filipino folklore and customs first-generation-American Cruz grew up with. Through her work, Cruz shares experiences she finds still largely underrepresented in literature and media, those of Filipino women.

“I felt like, why not have a book speaking specifically to brown girls or Filipino girls? I didn’t see that so much growing up,” Cruz said.

The American Book Awards recognize outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America’s diverse literary community. Creative Writing faculty members Distinguished Professor Allison Hedge Coke (Dog Road Woman, 1998), Professor Laila Lalami (The Moor’s Account, 2015) and Professor Tom Lutz (Doing Nothing: A History of Loafers, Slackers, and Bums in America, 2008) have also been honored with the award.

highlandernews.org/34088
49. From UCR to the Capitol

Two UCR alumni are currently representing the Inland Empire as legislators — Jose Medina in Sacramento ('74, '84) as assemblymember for the 61st Assembly District and Mark Takano ('10) in Washington, D.C. as congressman for the 41st District.

Medina earned his BA in Latin American Studies and MA in History from UCR. He was a teacher with the Riverside Unified School District, member of the Riverside City Teachers Association, member of the Jurupa Unified School District Board, member of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees and a representative to the state council of the California Teachers Association (CTA) prior to his election to the California State Assembly in 2012. He led the effort to ensure UCR’s School of Medicine received $15 million of full and continuous funding through the state budget.

Takano earned his M.F.A. in Creative Writing for the Performing Arts from UCR. He taught in the Rialto Unified School District and served on the Riverside Community College District’s Board of Trustees. In 2012 Takano became the first openly gay person of color to be elected to Congress. He serves as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and as a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

50. University Honors: Pillars of Excellence

Students in the University Honors program engage with faculty through special courses; connect with fellow Honors students in first-year, transfer and upper-division living-learning communities; and take part in faculty-mentored research. Honors students have the opportunity to create and publish their own undergraduate research capstone project.

honors.ucr.edu
We Produce the Coolest Graduates!
Your Highlander family includes more than 115,000 alumni making an impact in media, science, technology, sports, government and more.

UCR Alums With Cool Careers

Mark Andrus ('78)
Screenwriter of Academy Award-Winning As Good as It Gets (1997).

Steve Breen ('92, T.C. '94)

Cory Butner ('05)
Competed in 2014 Winter Olympics; silver medalist in the 2012–13 bobsledding World Cup.

Jamie Chung ('05)

Paul Cook (M.A. '00)
U.S. Congressman currently serving his fourth term as representative for California’s 8th District.

Michael Devirian ('66)
Mission Control for the Mars Mariner and Lunar Lander Missions from 1966–70. He was also the operations manager for the Hubble Space Telescope and Camera Installation.

Elizabeth George ('70, T.C. '73)
New York Times and international bestselling author of crime and young adult novels.

Michael Huerta ('78)
Former chief of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Shola Lynch (M.A. '95)

Nakul Dev Mahajan ('02)
Choreographer for TV shows including So You Think You Can Dance and Fuller House.

Brenda Martinez ('10)
Competed in 2016 Summer Olympics; 2013 bronze medalist World Track and Field Championships.

Carol Kwang Park ('11)
Writer and award-winning journalist.

Anthony Rendon (Ph.D. '00)
Speaker of the California Assembly, assemblymember for 63rd assembly district.

Shah Selbe ('04)
National Geographic explorer.

Brendan Steele ('05)
PGA golfer with three tour wins in his career.

Learn more about our cool alumni: alumni.ucr.edu

Expert Opinion
UCR has plenty to brag about, but it’s nice when respected national leaders compliment us, too, like Robert B. Reich, UC Berkeley professor, best-selling author and former U.S. Secretary of Labor, who had this to say about us:

“... UC Riverside students are as bright and engaged as any students I’ve taught at Harvard or Berkeley, and also determined to give back to their communities and their society. UCR has the energy of an underdog that knows it's winning the race that's worth winning. I wish we could clone UCR all over America.”
Congratulations Graduates!
The Education Trust recognized UCR in 2017 for its high African American and Latino graduation rates. Supportive resources like mentorships and academic enrichment programs, nurturing relationships developed through student groups, and a range of leadership and development opportunities offered through African Student Programs (ASP) and Chicano Student Programs (CSP) are helping students succeed at UCR. UCR was also named a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award recipient by INSIGHT into Diversity in 2018 for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Among factors considered for the honor were UCR’s six-year graduation rates for full-time undergraduate students.
ucrtoday.ucr.edu/50595

Affordable Education
But what does that mean to you? Well, for starters, it means that you don’t have to go to a super-expensive school to earn a world-class degree. It also means that if you think college is too expensive, think again. At UCR, 91 percent of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid; 73 percent of those who receive financial aid have their full fees covered by grants and/or scholarships, according to UCR’s Financial Aid office. UCR students who borrow federal student loans graduate with an average student loan debut of about $21,104 — less than one-fifth of the actual total cost of tuition and housing.

There are many ways to pay for college. Some, like scholarships and grants, you don’t have to repay. Others, like loans, you will repay. You can also earn money through work-study or student employment. UCR distributed more than $455 million in grant, loan, work-study and scholarship aid for the 2017–18 academic year to undergraduate students, according to the Financial Aid office. With programs like the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan and Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program, there are many ways you may be able to fund your education.
finaid.ucr.edu
That’s just a glimpse at the people, programs and heart of UCR. There’s still so much more for you to discover about our university and everything you can accomplish here. We can’t wait to see the impact you’ll have at UCR and beyond.

Follow Your Heart to UCR!
SIR today at: My.UCR.edu

Be Financially Well
In addition to helping you secure the scholarships, grants and loans that make a UCR education affordable, our Financial Aid office can also help you develop the skills you need to make good financial decisions in college and beyond. The Financial Wellness Program hosts workshops, shares tools and offers resources that will teach you how to navigate the financial aid process, create a budget, understand credit and more. go.ucr.edu/finwell

Visit UCR!
Get a feel for campus life by scheduling a free tour or taking a 360-degree virtual tour. visit.ucr.edu

Ask questions and get the latest posts, pics and updates from UCR.

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This information is accurate and reliable at time of publication, but may change without notice. Please contact Undergraduate Admissions for the most up-to-date information. (2/19 - 36.5K)

As part of UC Riverside’s federal reporting requirements under the Clery Act, you can access our Annual Security and Fire Safety Report at go.ucr.edu/CleryAct. A full list of Consumer and Safety Information Disclosures is also available at go.ucr.edu/ConsumerSafety.
Facts and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should Know About UC Riverside

54 Facts and Impacts

#MyUCRHeart