

Our Rankings Methodology

The University of San Diego highlights four national rankings platforms chosen for their credibility, relevance to our audiences, and alignment with USD's core values of academic excellence, student success and community engagement. While many organizations publish university rankings, these platforms best reflect USD's mission and priorities. Additional recognitions may also be highlighted by individual schools, programs and departments across the university.

We evaluate potential rankings platforms using the following key criteria:

- Reputation and credibility among higher-education peers
- Scope and relevance to USD's institutional profile;
- Recency and reliability of data;
- Transparency of methodology;
- Impact and recognition among prospective students and stakeholders;
- Alignment with USD's mission and strategic priorities.

Based on this evaluation, USD focuses on ***U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, The Princeton Review and Niche***, four widely recognized platforms that together provide a balanced picture of institutional performance and student experience.

- *U.S. News & World Report* reflects USD's national academic reputation and overall institutional excellence.
- *Forbes* emphasizes student outcomes and return on investment, underscoring the long-term value of a USD education.
- *The Princeton Review* captures the quality of life and learning environment on campus through student feedback and experiential data.
- *Niche* highlights the perspectives of students and alumni, offering authentic insights into the USD experience.

Together, these rankings illustrate USD's strength across multiple dimensions — academic quality, student satisfaction, post-graduate success and community engagement — and provide prospective students and families with transparent, reliable measures of excellence. USD's excellence goes far beyond individual rankings, and we encourage you to [learn more](#) about what makes our university a uniquely special place to learn, study and work.