Welcome

The Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is the academic heart of the University of Southern California. Our students and preeminent faculty across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are passionate about excellence, the creation of new knowledge and improving the world. As the liberal arts core of a powerhouse research university, USC Dornsife provides the foundation upon which students become critical thinkers, learn to devise solutions and ultimately go out into the world ready to tackle the complexity awaiting them. In these great times of discovery — whether it’s in the library, in the lab or in the community — our faculty are exploring novel connections among their disciplines to push the limits of innovation, and our talented young minds are emerging as their generation’s leaders.
selected 2014 highlights

USC Dornsife’s sponsored research budget is $292.2 million. USC Dornsife’s research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has increased by 37% in four years while the NIH Extramural Budget Allocations have remained flat for the same period.

USC Dornsife faculty members received international recognition, including the Fulbright Fellowship and Grawemeyer Awards as well as election to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and recognition by Thomson Reuters as “The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds.”

Of the nearly 52,000 applications for undergraduate admission USC received, more than 26,000 or 50% were applicants to USC Dornsife.

USC Dornsife undergraduate and graduate students were selected for prestigious Fulbright and Mellon Mays Fellowships as well as Gates Cambridge, Truman, Boren, Goldwater, McNair, and Gilman Scholarships.

“USC Dornsife is on the cutting edge of a movement that aims to create the first truly modern university. Here theory can be directly translated into practice, research can lead to cures and collaboration can expand the scope of our capabilities.”

Steve Kay
Dean, USC Dornsife
The USC Dornsife Initiative as part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California raised $137 million. Since 2011, the initiative has raised a total of $496 million.

USC Dornsife led the university’s platinum sponsorship of the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science’s national conference in Los Angeles.

USC Dornsife’s School of Religion launched a new doctoral program with three tracks: Asia Pacific religions, comparative Christianities and global Islam.

USC students dedicated approximately 80,000 service hours to the local community through USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project.
By the Numbers

- Undergraduate Majors: 79
- Undergraduate Minors: 69
- Doctoral Degree Programs: 35
- Master’s Programs: 39
- Research Centers and Institutes: 41
- Academic Departments and Programs: 37
- Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty: 460+
- Bachelor’s Degrees Awarded: 20
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows: 346
- National Academy of Sciences Members: 13
- National Academy of Engineering Members: 6
- Nobel Prize Recipients: 4
- Royal Society Fellows: 1
- American Association for the Advancement of Science Members: 51
- Bachelor’s Degrees Awarded: 1,947
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellows: 20
- Master’s Degrees Awarded: 6
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Average Class
Size

1,111
Ph.D. Students

10,727
Undergraduate
Students

69,052
Alumni

574
Master’s
Students

203
Doctoral
Degrees Awarded

73
Graduate
Certificates Awarded

47
Fulbright
Fellows since
2008

30
New Faculty
Hires

1960–
2190
Middle 50% SAT Composite
Score Range for Enrolled
Freshmen

76
Study Abroad
Programs in
37 Countries

19% of
Undergraduates are
First-Generation
College
Students

21% of Undergraduates are Under-represented Students of Color

33
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows

17
of USC’s valedictorians since 1992 majored in USC Dornsife
USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience
Noteworthy Landmarks

A $50 million gift from pioneering surgeon Gary K. Michelson and his wife, Alya Michelson, funded the **USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience**. As the cornerstone of a new collaboration between USC Dornsife the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, the center aims to transform how research is conducted at the intersection of engineering and the life and biomedical sciences.

The **Center for Advanced Genocide Research** was established to study how and why mass violence occurs, and how to intervene in the cycle that can lead to genocide. The center serves as the research and scholarship unit of the USC Shoah Foundation.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded USC a $1.9 million grant to support a program of graduate and postdoctoral training in the **digital humanities**.

USC Dornsife introduced **professional pathways courses** for sophomores, juniors and seniors to explore different careers and to connect them with USC’s extensive network of career resources. Students learn directly from experts, participate in internships and shadow professionals.
USC Dornsife launched an initiative in practical politics or the blending of theory with skills to prepare undergraduates for careers in the political arena. This includes a semester-long program in Washington, D.C. that offers three international relations courses and internships.

The Center for Self-Report Science was founded with the mission of gathering the most accurate information from self-reports such as medical questionnaires, pharmaceutical drug trial patient feedback or public-opinion polling.

USC Dornsife inaugurated a Science and Health Program to support undergraduates pursuing careers across the healthcare industry. The program includes courses designed to prepare students for the new MCAT and opportunities for clinical rotation experience in Los Angeles and abroad.

A $6.6 million gift from the Shinnyo-en Buddhist order supported the newly named USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture.
1880 The College of Liberal Arts is founded along with the university, which opens its doors with 53 students and 10 teachers.

1924 The School of International Relations, the second oldest international relations school in the U.S. and the third oldest in the world, is established.

1964 The Ahmanson Center for Biological Research is founded and includes research projects in bacteriology, biology, chemistry, pharmacy and psychology.

1994 USC Distinguished Professor George Olah is the sole winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research in the field of hydrocarbons.

2000 Time magazine and the Princeton Review choose USC as “College of the Year” citing USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project and its model of service learning as the main reason they chose USC.

2011 The USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is named.

2013 USC Distinguished Professor Arieh Warshel receives the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing powerful computer approaches to understand chemical processes.

Before 1895, USC’s official color was gold and the College of Liberal Arts had its own color — cardinal. In 1895, both colors were adopted as USC’s official colors.