The USC Dornsife Quickview 2011–12

The USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
The academic heart of the University of Southern California
Overview

Founded in 1880, the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences advances knowledge in traditional and emerging disciplines across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Anchoring the university’s commitment to the importance of scholarly inquiry within these fields, USC Dornsife combines two “worlds” — the world of the self-contained liberal arts school, with small classes and close working relationships between students and faculty, and the larger world of the research university, where new ventures and ideas are being explored by preeminent scholars. USC Dornsife also offers many opportunities for post-baccalaureate study including graduate programs that lead to master’s degrees and doctor of philosophy degrees through the USC Graduate School. At the core of USC’s mission to promote world-class research, USC Dornsife trains the next generation of scholars, and provides undergraduates with an education that is innovative, engaging, student-centered and experiential.
Message from Dean Steve Kay

Welcome to the largest, oldest and most diverse school of the University of Southern California. The USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is the academic core of the university. The breadth and depth of USC Dornsife is vast with more than 30 academic departments and programs across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, and dozens of research centers and institutes. USC Dornsife faculty and students are passionate about excellence, the creation of new knowledge and improving the world. Our faculty explore never before conceived connections between their disciplines, and our students embrace the entrepreneurial spirit that is at the heart of USC. In these great times of discovery — whether it’s in the library, in the lab, or in the community — our talented young minds have incredible opportunities to emerge as their generation’s critical thinkers and leaders.

USC Dornsife houses more than 30 research centers and institutes, which include:

- USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education
- USC Brain and Creativity Institute
- USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute
- USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
- Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration
- Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
- Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics
Selected 2011–12 Highlights

USC Dornsife’s extramural funding has increased **12%** in four years to **$74.5 million**.

USC Dornsife faculty members received international recognition, including the Guggenheim Fellowship as well as election to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

More than **500** undergraduates received **$1.1 million** plus in funding to work with faculty researchers.

Undergraduates received more than **$1.7 million** in scholarship support and graduate students received **693** awards toward tuition and research.

Ten undergraduates were selected as inaugural Dornsife Scholars based on their academic achievements that address questions of human value and vital social challenges.

The first USC Dornsife summer internship program combined paid internships with a course focused on leadership themes and mentorships with distinguished professionals to prepare students for the workforce.

**Noteworthy Landmarks**

Since 1972, more than **70,000** students have committed more than **1 million** service hours participating the local community through USC Dornsife’s Joint Educational Project (JEP), one of the nation’s oldest and largest service-learning programs.

The **USC Dornsife-Keck School of Medicine Academic and Advising Program** was implemented to enhance pre-health undergraduate programming and advising across the university.

The First-Year Investigations program was launched as a series of introductory seminars taught by USC Dornsife’s top faculty for USC Dornsife undergraduates, to help them understand the resources available during their careers at USC.