The USC Dornsife Quickview

2014

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

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.
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 Shinryo-en Buddhist order supported the newly named **USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture**.

**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 housed 41 research centers and institutes, which include:

- USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education
- USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
- Korean Studies Institute
- USC Brain and Creativity Institute
- USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute
- Center for Social and Economic Research
- Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
- Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics

**USC Dornsife houses 41 research centers and institutes, which include:**

- USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education
- USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
- Korean Studies Institute
- USC Brain and Creativity Institute
- USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute
- Center for Social and Economic Research
- Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
- Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics
**Brief History**

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.