



UC San Diego

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

STRUCTURES.UCSD.EDU

The Structural Engineering major at UC San Diego prepares students to design and analyze structures that support modern society, from bridges and buildings to aerospace and marine systems. The program blends theory and hands-on learning in areas such as mechanics, materials, structural analysis, geotechnical engineering, and advanced technologies like composites and earthquake engineering. Students benefit from world-class research facilities, innovative faculty, and opportunities to tackle real-world engineering challenges. UC San Diego's program emphasizes creativity, problem-solving, and societal impact, equipping graduates to become leaders in shaping safe, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- UC San Diego's Jacobs School of Engineering ranks #6 among public institutions in the nation.
- World class research facilities, including the Structural Components and the Advanced Composite Structures Laboratories.

SPECIALIZATIONS

(Available after enrollment)

- Aerospace Structures
- Civil Structures
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Structural Health Monitoring/Non-Destructive Evaluation

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?

Learn about how you can apply your major to various opportunities after you graduate. The information below is based on recent surveys from alumni in this (or similar) majors and is not an exhaustive list.

RECENT EMPLOYERS

Caltrans • City of San Diego • Clark Construction Company
• Turner Construction Company • University of California

JOB TYPES

Aerospace Engineers • C-Suite Executives • Civil Engineers
• Industrial Engineers • Mechanical Engineers • Project Engineers •

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Aerospace • Civil Engineering • Computer & Information Sciences
• Data Science • Materials Science • Mechanical Engineering • Statistics

SKILLS

Common: Communications • Leadership • Operations • Research
Specific: AutoCAD • Civil Engineering • Construction • SolidWorks



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

RESEARCH

Learn how to make the most of your experience at UC San Diego within the context of your major.

Conduct research in your field of student with one of the many research programs available. Research opportunities in this major include, but are not limited to:

Center for Extreme Events Research (CEER) Summer Research Program

- Available during summer (8 weeks).
- Self-funded research program.

EMPOWER

- Available winter and spring quarters, possible summer component.
- Open to transfer students only
- Stipend available

Cancer Research and Education to Advance Health Excellence (CREATE) Scholars Program

- Available during Summer
- Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors
- Stipend available

For more details, eligibility, and to explore more programs, visit our [Undergraduate Research website](#).

INTERNSHIPS

UC San Diego offers strong internship pathways for undergraduates through the Academic Internship Program (AIP) and the Research Experience and Applied Learning (REAL) Portal. AIP enables students to earn academic credit while gaining professional experience in fields across all majors, supported by faculty mentorship and an academic component. The REAL Portal serves as a centralized hub for finding research, internships, service learning, and other hands-on opportunities on and off campus. Together, these resources help students explore career interests, build professional skills, and connect academic learning with real-world experience.

Find a Program

- Academic Internship Program: aip.ucsd.edu
- REAL Portal: real.ucsd.edu

STUDY ABROAD

Students are encouraged to explore study abroad opportunities which allow students to experience the culture and history of another country and gain a global perspective, all while earning academic credit toward their degree.

Learn more about study abroad opportunities for [Structural Engineering](#).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

With over 600 student organizations, students are able to connect with other students who share similar interests. And, if you can't find something that interests you, it's easy to create a new one with just a few other students.

[Explore UC San Diego student organizations](#).

Be sure to check out these organizations related to your major: Society of Civil & Structural Engineers (SCSE) • Engineering World Health (EWH) • Triton Engineering Student Council (TESC)