

# ARCS Partner University Application – UC Merced



Nov 15, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**MERCED**

# UC Merced Application and Voting Process

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# Opening

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*UC Merced has come to embody the best of what the University of California has to offer when it comes to research excellence, social mobility and diversity.*

- UC President Michael Drake, M.D.  
October 2020



# Our Journey with UC Merced

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- We established the Steering Committee and reconnected with UC Merced this past January
- Next, the Exploratory Committee was formed to advise on a potential UC Merced partnership
- UC Merced hosted a virtual campus visit in March for all members
- University Relations presented at the May Annual Meeting with participation by UC Merced senior leadership

# Our Journey with UC Merced

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- UC Merced sent us their application with 3 departments:
  1. Environmental Systems
  2. Physics
  3. Cognitive and Information Sciences
- The Assessment Committee and then the NCC Board voted unanimously to move the UC Merced application forward
- The active membership of ARCS NCC voted overwhelmingly in support of UC Merced's application (98%)
- The ARCS National UR Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of UC Merced and the three departments by the ARCS National Board

# UC Merced Impresses Us

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- Serves the San Joaquin Valley community

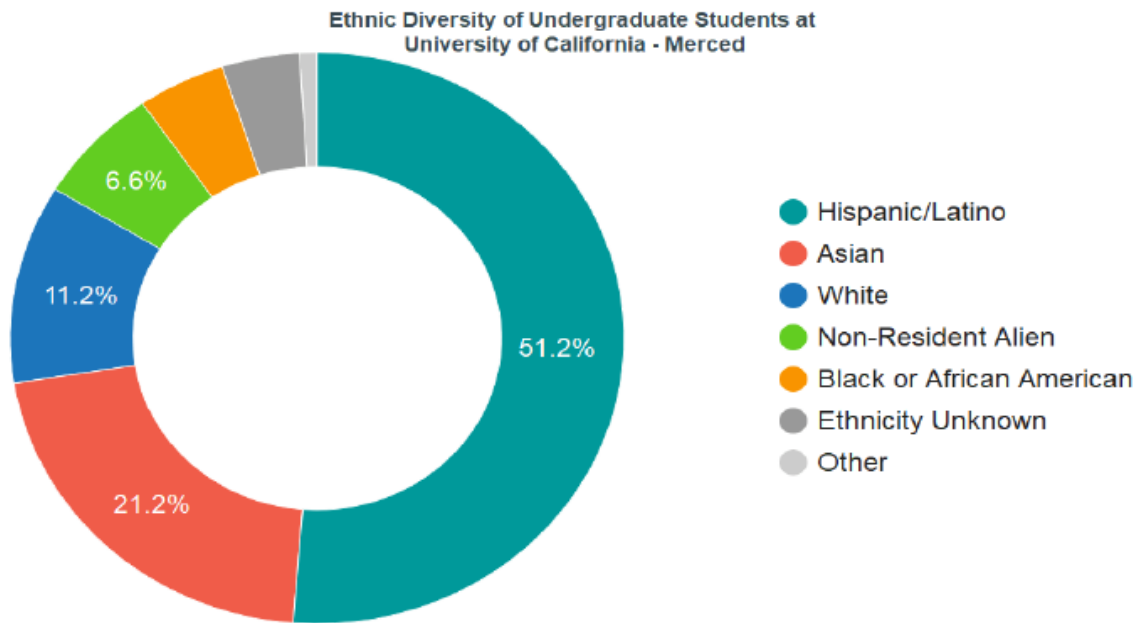


**In the Middle of Everything**



# UC Merced Impresses Us

**Most ethnically and culturally diverse student body of all UC campuses**



collegefactual.com

# UC Merced Impresses Us

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- Fastest university to achieve the prestigious Carnegie R2 research classification; UC Merced is on track to reach Carnegie R1 classification in record time
- *Times Higher Education Young University Ranking*: No. 3 in U.S. among universities younger than 50 years
- *Money Magazine*: No. 76 (out of 769 schools) in Best Colleges rankings and No. 12 in most Transformative University
- 28 Prestigious NSF CAREER Awards



# UC Merced Impresses Us

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- Home to the following prominent STEM Institutes and Centers:
  - Health Sciences Research Center
  - Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society
  - Advanced Solar Technologies Institute
  - UC Center for Climate Justice
  - Sierra Nevada Research Institute



# UC Merced Impresses Us

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- 73% of undergraduates and 48% of graduate students are first in their families to attend college
- UC Merced has the most diverse student body of any UC campus:
  - Over 50% of undergraduate students are Hispanic
  - 31% of the graduate students are Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islanders or African-American

# 2022 USNWR Rankings

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Rises to 93rd among national universities (up 72 spots over 4 years)

38th among public universities

18th among R2 universities

2022



No. 8 for the economic diversity of its students

No. 57 on the “most innovative” list

No. 4 for creating social mobility

# Key Considerations

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- Why is UC Merced ready to be an ARCS partner?
  1. **Strength of leadership and financial support/sustainability** -- Excellent! Leading public university in the world starting a new campus with full support.
  2. **Scholar support** -- Extensive! (exemplary student:faculty ratios; supportive programs; outstanding mentoring; etc.).
  3. **Faculty** -- Impressive! (recipient of many prominent grants; significant scholarly publications; prestigious positions in professional organizations; etc.).

# FAQ's

1. *Is UC Merced sufficiently advanced in its academics and research to be a partner with ARCS NCC?*
  - **Yes.** UC Merced has achieved remarkable success and has a proven track record as a research and teaching university.
  
2. *Will funding ARCS Scholar Awards at UC Merced decrease the funding of scholars at our other six NCC university partners?*
  - **No.** The UR Council and the Board are committed to maintaining and growing our current funding allocations while bringing in UC Merced.

# FAQ's

3. *Will there be sufficient US citizens in the graduate student population to receive Awards?*
  - **Yes.** With 64% of UC Merced graduate students being US residents (currently 460 and growing fast, and a higher percentage than at many research universities), there will be many qualified candidates.
  
4. *Will the distance to UC Merced be a factor in our partner activities -- for both scholars and members?*
  - **No.** While further from the Bay Area than our current university partners, we do not see this as an obstacle, nor does UC Merced.

# Discussion

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**Thank You**  
For Your Attention!

Any Questions

