

# THE WEBER HONORS COLLEGE SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY



[honors.sdsu.edu](https://honors.sdsu.edu)

# Transform Your Tomorrow

If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

## Honors Mission

The Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College provides an academic environment in which students experience a dynamic, interactive, and engaged education. One of the most important aspects of participating in the Weber Honors College is becoming part of the honors culture at SDSU and getting to know other diverse, curious, and motivated students who share a commitment to academic excellence.



*Honors students enjoying the 1,593-foot summit of Cowles Mountain, the highest point in the city of San Diego.*

# Your Journey Begins With Honors

## Live Your Dream

The Weber Honors College Residential College provides a unique, supportive community where highly motivated students encourage each other to excel as they share experiences in and out of the classroom. Honors students from diverse backgrounds enjoy a rich array of academic, co-curricular, and experiential activities and an endless opportunity for interaction with other Honors students, faculty, and staff.

## Embrace Your Campus

Mark your calendar! Honors students kick off the year by participating in Aztec Nights, a line-up of exciting on-campus, after-dark activities during the first weeks of each semester. In addition, there is the Aztec Recreation Center where you can participate in intramural sports, take group fitness classes, and go rock climbing. And, do not forget to enjoy the state-of-the-art Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union and to be a part of The Show, the unique student section at SDSU athletic events.

## Explore Your World

Weber Honors College students can live and learn all over the world through more than 350 study abroad programs in over 50 countries. Honors students have studied Art in the Context of Globalization and Social Change in Morocco, Cultural Change and Sustainability in Finland, and Conflict Resolution and Sustainable Peace in Costa Rica. Where in the world will you go?

## Make Your Mark

The Weber Honors College offers support for students to participate in extraordinary opportunities. As a result of this support, Honors students from SDSU have attended graduate programs at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, served as interns in the White House, received Fulbright awards, and won prestigious national accolades such as the Udall Scholarship for their commitment to the environment.

## Contribute to Your Community

The Weber Honors College community offers more than just an enhanced academic experience with top faculty. You can gain leadership experience within more than 300 student organizations, serve as an Executive Officer in the Weber Honors College Student Society, support SDSU as an Ambassador, and help coordinate educational, social, and service activities. Honors students sponsor and participate in events such as Aztecs Rock Hunger, The Color Run, Trivia Nights, and volunteer at the International Rescue Committee.



*Zura Hall, home of the Weber Honors College Residential College.*

# What Are The Benefits Of

The Weber Honors College provides students with numerous benefits for their participation. Through interdisciplinary classes taught by our best faculty, Honors students engage with challenging ideas, work side by side with professors, and apply their knowledge to real-world problems. The Weber Honors College represents a community of undergraduates who will become global citizens capable of the highest levels of critical thought, skilled in analysis and expression, and capable of negotiating difference. Weber Honors College graduates have a strong foundation and commitment to being engaged, dynamic, citizens with the calling and responsibility to build a better, stronger society.



*Honors student Nick Furey in Morocco as part of his study abroad experience.*

## Honors Residential College

All first-year Weber Honors College students are required to live on campus in the Honors Residential College during their first year at San Diego State University (SDSU). This policy was designed to ensure an exceptional undergraduate experience for Honors students at SDSU. Students living in the Honors Residential College will have the advantage of experiencing a small, intellectually and socially vibrant liberal arts environment, while enjoying access to all the resources of a large research university.

## Smaller Class Size

The number of students who may enroll in an Honors course is limited to 25. Although the university average classroom enrollment is 42 students per class, that is not necessarily the case for General Education classes, many of which are held in large lecture halls seating 80 to 300 people.

## Academic Advising Support

The Weber Honors College Academic Advisor provides support and guidance to help Honors students reach their academic goals.

## Academic Engagement Support

The Weber Honors College Associate Director helps Honors students identify and compete for nationally and internationally competitive scholarships, as well as research, leadership, service, and creative arts opportunities.

# Being In The Weber Honors College?

## The Honors Minor In Interdisciplinary Studies

The Weber Honors College cultivates local and global leaders through an interdisciplinary and integrated high-impact curriculum that develops bold and innovative thinking. The Honors curriculum encourages a high level of faculty-student interaction, meaningful exchange among motivated students, and integrative thinking across diverse disciplines. Students completing the Honors curriculum graduate with a major in their primary field of study and with the Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies.

## A Community

Students enrolled in the Weber Honors College participate in a number of social, cultural, academic, and community service activities organized by the Weber Honors College Student Society.



*Honors student Melanie Marquez participates in The Color Run, a unique race that celebrates health and happiness.*

## Study Abroad Opportunities

The Weber Honors College is founded on the belief that studying abroad is one of the most beneficial opportunities that undergraduates have at SDSU. Study abroad offers students opportunities to expand their knowledge of the world and to better understand both themselves and others. To meet the study abroad requirement, Honors students can choose from short-term study tours, summer-abroad programs, semester-long or year-long exchanges.

## Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Opportunities

The Weber Honors College is committed to enhancing the intellectual climate and to developing a community of undergraduate scholars by promoting a variety of opportunities for student engagement in research, leadership, service, and the creative and performing arts. Through their participation in these opportunities and in the broader intellectual life of the university, Honors students lay the foundation for even greater academic achievement.

## A Private Library Study Room

Honors students have exclusive access to the private Darlene Gould Davies Honors Study Room in the Love Library. The private room is a great place to study between classes, hold a group-project meeting, or spend quiet time doing research. Students do not have to compete for study space with thousands of other students as they do in public areas of the library.

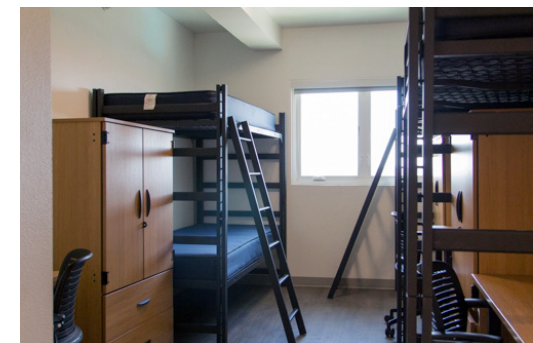
# Living and Learning in Honors

## Zura Hall

The Honors Residential College in Zura Hall provides a unique community where highly motivated students encourage each other to excel as they share experiences in and out of the classroom. The supportive educational environment offers a place where students from diverse backgrounds can enjoy a rich array of academic, co-curricular, and experiential activities and creates opportunities for students to use their talents and creativity in the service of understanding the world, of communicating effectively with others, and of making a positive difference. In addition, the Honors Residential College promotes involvement on campus, leadership, and academic achievement.

**All local and out-of area Weber Honors College first-year students are required to live on campus in the Honors Residential College in Zura Hall during their first year at SDSU.**

**All out-of-area Weber Honors College first-year students are required to live on campus for two years as part of the SDSU Sophomore Success Program.**



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**D**ata shows that students who live on campus are better prepared academically, enjoy an increased sense of community and campus connectedness, and graduate at faster rates than those who do not.

# The Weber Honors College Curriculum

## The Honors Minor

The Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies is the unique curriculum that Honors students take while they are at SDSU. The Honors Minor includes classes dedicated to interdisciplinary inquiry and provides an ideal avenue for students to become intellectually well-rounded. All Honors classes are interactive and discussion-based, and enrollment is capped at 25.

The Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies consists of 16 total units. Three of these units count toward General Education requirements. The 16 units (six classes) are intended to be spread across the student's time at SDSU. Students enroll in at least one Honors class per academic year, and depending on when they are admitted, students can complete the curriculum in two, three, or four years. As part of the Honors Minor, students are required to study abroad and participate in at least one additional high-impact experience (research, leadership, service, or creative activity) before they graduate. In order to graduate from the Weber Honors College, students are also required to maintain a cumulative 3.2 GPA.

Honors classes do not offer merely more of the same material as their non-Honors counterparts; instead, they show greater breadth and integration and are taught seminar style. Honors faculty incorporate course enhancements that provide an enriched

### Examples of Honors classes

- HONOR 113:
  - Radical Empathy and Revolutionary Poetics
  - Digital Damage
  - The Idea of the University
  - Identity and Music
  - The Practice and Science of Mindfulness and Compassion
- HONOR 313:
  - Global Food Security
  - Humanity's Journey: Towards Evil or Hope
  - Public Health Pathways to Preventing Gun Violence
  - The Science of Behavior Change
  - Dystopian Literature: Visions of the (Not So) Distant Future
  - Surfing and the Anthropological Lense
  - Piracy in History and Popular Culture
- HONOR 413:
  - Art and Crime
  - Intersection and Human Sexuality
  - Purpose, Perspective, and Human Connection
  - Healers, and Healing from Around the World
  - Lived Experience of Immigrants and Refugees

learning environment, such as field trips and service-learning projects within the community. Honors classes address topics of broad interest and do not have prerequisites.

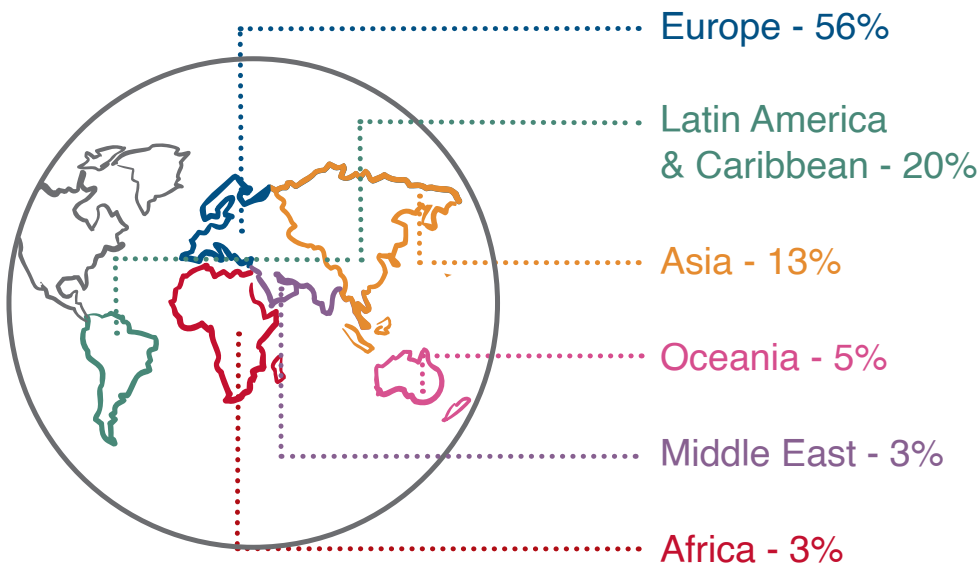
Honors students often do better in their Honors classes than in their non-Honors classes, partly because of the quality of the instruction, partly because of the personalized mentoring students receive from professors, but mainly because of the power that comes from putting curious, engaged, and motivated students together.

# Study Abroad

The Weber Honors College recognizes that student participation in an approved study abroad program is a transformational educational experience. With the understanding that learning is not limited to within the classroom, the Weber Honors College requires students to complete a credit-bearing international experience to enrich their undergraduate education. This experience abroad helps students cultivate an appreciation and understanding of cultures that exist in the world in order to be better equipped as problem solvers and community leaders.

## Where Honors Students Study Abroad?

With the abundance of programs offered, students can choose to study practically at any destination they wish. While a majority has studied in Europe, Honors students have traveled to all areas of the world, including Australia, Brazil, China, Morocco, and Thailand.



## When do Honors Students study abroad?

In addition to the destination country, students can choose when and for how long they would like to study abroad. The majority of Honors students choose to study abroad in their junior and senior years, although some students elect to study abroad after their freshmen year. Almost half of Honors students study abroad during the summer, while over a third study abroad for a semester or academic year.

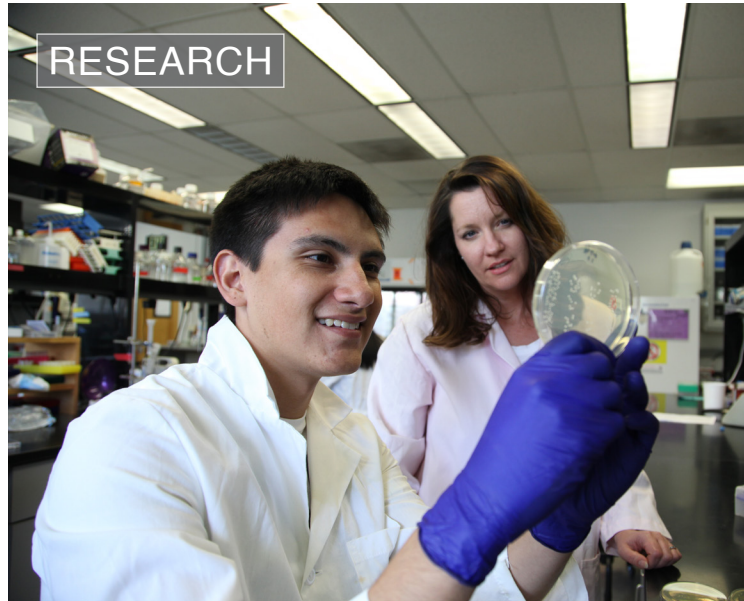
The cost of studying abroad is a primary concern for students and families. However, students and families are often surprised by the affordability of study abroad programs. SDSU offers options that would allow students to transfer financial awards and pay the same amount of tuition as if students were attending courses at SDSU. In addition, SDSU and the Weber Honors College offers a multitude of resources for scholarships to help fund the study abroad program.



# High Impact Learning Experiences

The Weber Honors College is focused on high-impact learning or high-impact educational experiences. High-impact learning occurs when students actively pose and solve problems, work collaboratively in a community of peers, experience real-world applications of knowledge, and reflect on their learning. Students engaged in high-impact learning often see improvement in their grade point averages, gain their degrees more quickly, and are more engaged in their education.

In addition to studying abroad, all Weber Honors College students are required to participate in at least ONE additional high impact experience (EITHER research, leadership, service, or creative activity) before they graduate.



# Honors Student Life: Diversity in Action



In the Weber Honors College, academic excellence and student engagement are complementary, not contradictory. At a large, diverse institution like SDSU, participation in the Weber Honors College is a university-wide pursuit that reaches across departments, programs, and colleges to engage students from different backgrounds and interests. The flexibility and creativity of the curriculum, coupled with the diversity of student talent, supports a culture of engagement. Our students participate in a wide range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities.



The Weber Honors College is proudly a part of the following networks:





White-51.9%  
 Mexican American-16.5%  
 Multiple Ethnicities-8.7%  
 Other Hispanic-6.6%  
 Other Asian-5.0%  
 African American-5.3%  
 Filipino-3.1%  
 SE Asian-1.7%  
 International-1.1%  
 Native American-0.1%

Average GPA  
**3.7**  
 of Graduates

Over 80 Different Majors

Biology



Business



most common



Kinesiology



Psychology



83%

Have completed the FAFSA



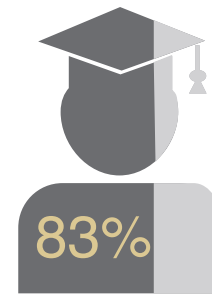
47%

Have some financial need



21%

Are Pell Grant eligible



Graduate in four years or less

# Life After Honors

A significant number of our graduates choose to continue their education through pursuit of a master's degree, doctoral degree, or professional degree such as medicine or law. However, many of our graduates decide to get started in their careers immediately and work in a diverse area of disciplines. Others choose a career in public service or work overseas. Whatever path you decide, your Weber Honors College education will help you reach your goals.

## Universities

where our graduates pursue advanced degrees:  
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**Columbia University**  
**Cornell University**  
**Harvard Business School**  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
**Stanford University**  
**The Ohio State University Veterinary Medicine**  
**Tufts Medical School**  
**University of California Los Angeles Law School**  
**University of Michigan**  
**University of Southern California**  
**University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**  
**Medical Center Yale University**

## Organizations

where our graduates are employed:  
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**Amazon Media Group**  
**Apple**  
**Ernst & Young**  
**Geico**  
**Google**  
**KPMG**  
**Pacific Life**  
**Pfizer**  
**San Diego Padres**  
**Space X**  
**Teach for America**  
**The Arizona Republic, Gannett Company**  
**United States Olympic Committee**

# Alumni Success

**Tom Paulus**  
2018 Honors Graduate  
Currently at Amazon Web Services

Since graduating from San Diego State, I have been working at Amazon Web Services as a Software Development Engineer. My experience with the Honors College, especially the small, interdisciplinary seminar-style classes provided me with the experience necessary to effectively work with my peers and other teams, many of which are located across the globe. The Honors College also helped me to stand out amongst the crowd of other STEM applicants and provided me with relevant experiences to discuss during interviews.



**Levi Lentz**  
2012 Honors Graduate  
Ph.D. from MIT

Honors paralleled my engineering studies nicely by providing a human element often missing from the rigors of mathematical modeling. Overall, Honors is the main reason I enjoyed so much success at San Diego State by teaching me the necessity of working with people from all backgrounds. I was able to leverage my experiences in Honors and continue my studies in graduate school at MIT.



**Kiarra Speaker**  
2016 Honors Graduate  
Currently at Oracle

Since graduating from San Diego State, I have been working for Oracle as a consultant. At Oracle I am working with customers from countries around the world to implement software with an overall goal to help them optimize their business processes. The Honors College prepared me to stand out in my first job hunt as well as to be successful at my first job. Gaining global experiences and learning about many different cultures in the seminar classes and studying abroad has aided my success at an international company.



**Javon Ogbeide**  
2015 Honors Graduate  
Currently at GEICO

Since graduating from San Diego State University, I have started working with GEICO's highly regarded Emerging Leaders Program, where I am able to use my talents and knowledge in leadership, cross-cultural communication, and teamwork to fuel my GEICO team. My experience with Honors, mainly studying abroad and the critical thinking skills acquired from the innovative interdisciplinary seminars, has allowed me to organize my goals and prepare for an even brighter future.



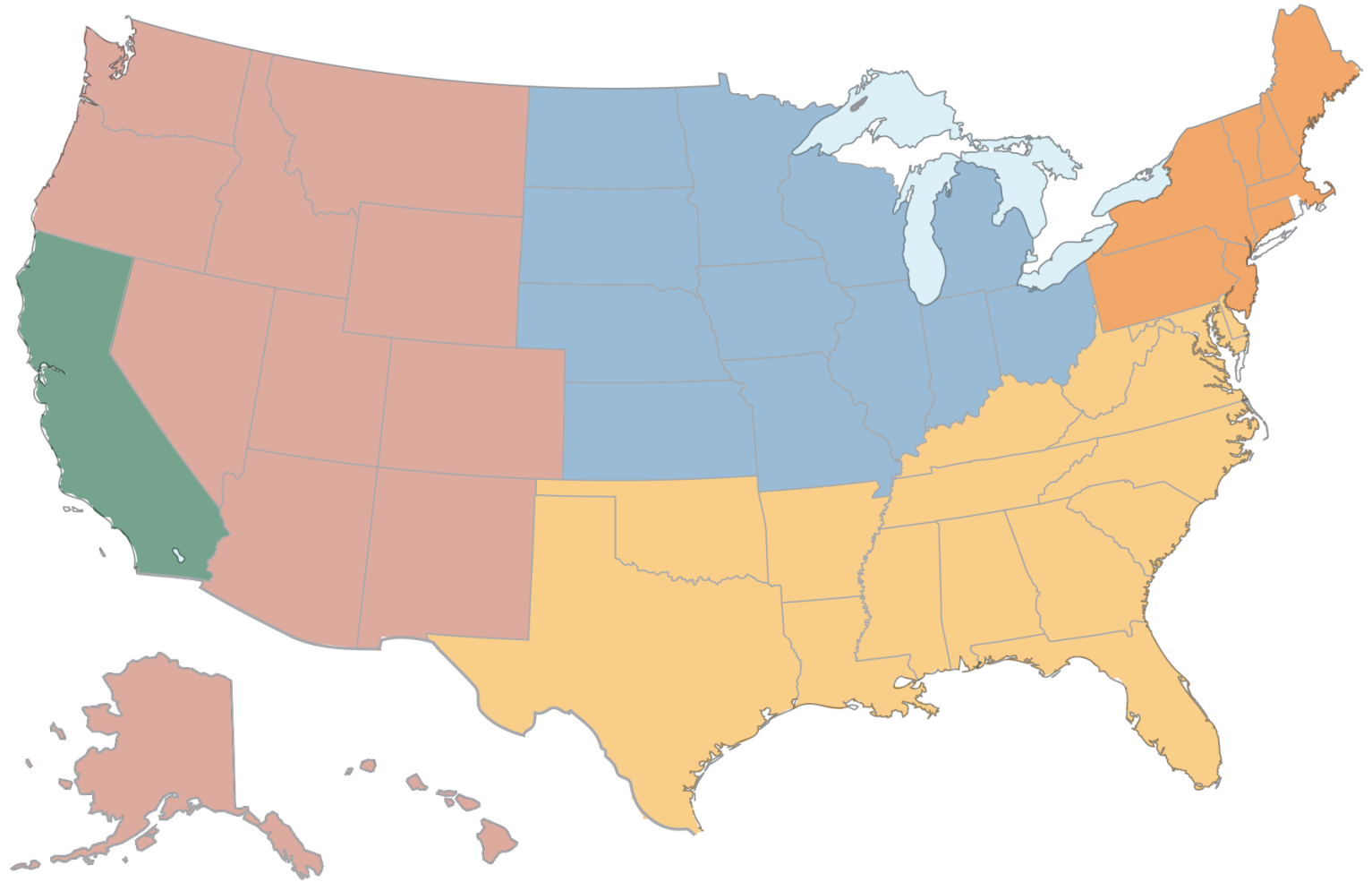
**Estefanía Castañeda Pérez**  
2014 Honors Graduate  
Ph.D. from UCLA

The Honors College mentored me to embark in a life-changing, academic-year study abroad program in Japan, and to combine my passion for activism and research into an undergraduate thesis. The academic experiences I gained as an Honors scholar made me confident to apply to competitive programs such as Fulbright and Rhodes. The Honors College helped me develop as an active global citizen, and inspired me to always exceed my own expectations.



# Applicant Snapshot

AVERAGE  
**GPA**  
4.29  
APPLICANTS



## In-State

California - 90%

## Out -of-State

Northeast - 3%  
Southeast - 2%  
Midwest - 1%  
West - 4%



1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENT

# Ready To Apply?

## Eligibility Requirements

### High School Applicants

High school seniors (incoming college first-year students) must have at least a weighted grade point average of 3.70 or above in order to apply.

### Currently enrolled SDSU Applicants

Current SDSU students must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average in order to apply.

### Transfer Applicants

Students applying from a community college or another university must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average in order to apply.

**Apply online at [honors.sdsu.edu](https://honors.sdsu.edu)**

#### Application Deadlines:

Priority Consideration-February 28  
Final-March 30

#### Decisions Made:

Late March  
Mid-April

Given the competitive nature of the application process, we strongly urge all interested students to apply to the Weber Honors College by February 28. Applications submitted by February 28 ensure consideration for Weber Honors College scholarships for high school applicants.



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The Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College is named in honor of Susan Weber and her husband, Dr. Stephen Weber, the seventh president of San Diego State University.

The Webers devoted their lives to the pursuit of knowledge and were passionate advocates for higher education. During Dr. Weber's service as president (1996 to 2011), the university increased its academic standing and emerged as a leading public research university. As first lady, Susan Weber raised SDSU's profile through her leadership of community organizations.

SDSU's commitment to Honors was a special interest of the Webers. Dr. Weber directed funds toward an endowment that helped build the Honors College, and Susan Weber introduced honors students to San Diego community members.



**SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**