

Intercollegiate Athletics Overview

UC Davis Athletics sponsors 25 varsity sport programs at the NCAA Division 1 level; 16 for women and 9 for men. UC Davis is one of the largest athletic programs in the country with over 650 student-athletes. With multiple conference memberships, UC Davis’ competitive footprint spans coast-to-coast.

UC Davis competes with many sister campuses in the Big West Conference including Irvine, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and recently San Diego, while Berkeley and UCLA compete in the Pac-12 Conference. UC Davis is one of only three UC campuses to field a football team. However, while UC Davis competes in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Berkeley and UCLA compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), which is the highest level of college football in the nation. Most schools in the FBS receive significantly greater revenue from ticket sales, broadcasting rights, merchandise, and other similar sources. These type of sources are a much smaller share of revenue at the FCS level. With different funding models at the FCS versus FBS levels, UC Davis and others competing at the FCS level rely more heavily on student fees and institutional support than generated revenue, which is the primary funding source at the FBS level.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) receives funding support through student fees, generated revenue, development, and institutional support. Table 1 below shows the funds received in each of these categories over the past 5 years, including recent campus investments of over \$1M ongoing funds to support two new women’s sports.

Table 1: ICA Sources, 5 Year Summary

	2017-18 Actuals	18-19 Actuals	2019-20 Actuals	20-21 Prelim Actuals	2021-22
Sources					
Student Fees					
SASI	\$9,906,091	\$10,449,315	\$10,945,414	\$11,235,178	\$11,436,000
CEI	\$6,601,246	\$7,041,478	\$7,226,826	\$7,418,338	\$7,551,000
FACE	\$3,630,387	\$3,812,140	\$3,867,829	\$3,961,379	\$4,005,000
SSF	\$2,186,559	\$2,238,394	\$2,274,929	\$2,292,280	\$2,327,000
sub-total, Student Fees	\$23,624,284	\$23,541,327	\$24,314,998	\$24,907,175	\$25,319,000
ICA Generated Revenue					
Tickets	\$562,408	\$671,117	\$624,534	\$20,419	\$400,000
Guarantees	\$753,209	\$1,466,680	\$1,270,700	\$31,040	\$1,347,000
Sponsorships / Pouring Rights	\$686,325	\$636,773	\$659,162	\$471,138	\$565,800
Other	\$183,984	\$213,371	\$180,253	\$18,999	\$103,000
NCAA/Big West/Big Sky	\$1,771,368	\$1,906,977	\$1,040,021	\$1,410,071	\$1,700,000
Camps/Misc. Sport Team Income	\$619,904	\$956,407	\$493,214	\$177,394	\$696,000
sub-total, Generated Revenue	\$4,577,197	\$5,851,325	\$4,267,884	\$2,129,061	\$4,811,800
Development					
Gifts - Current Use Operating	\$1,095,472	\$1,128,180	\$995,184	\$844,847	\$980,000
Gifts - Other	\$396,093	\$400,066	\$376,243	\$663,867	\$100,000
Gifts - Capital	\$1,254,509	\$1,169,879	\$4,359,493	\$4,084,336	\$2,000,000
Gift Fee	\$99,899	\$121,358	\$244,217	\$260,845	\$123,000
Endowment Payout	\$115,193	\$131,009	\$168,510	\$185,383	\$145,000
sub-total, Development	\$2,961,166	\$2,950,492	\$6,143,647	\$6,039,278	\$3,348,000
Institutional Support					
Institutional Support - General On-Going	\$1,321,663	\$751,440	\$998,111	\$1,177,184	\$2,638,000
Institutional Support - General One-time		\$630,000	\$386,566	\$472,000	\$204,000
Institutional Support - Financial Aid	\$1,615,409	\$1,682,037	\$1,473,827	\$1,584,727	\$1,510,000
Institutional Support - Budget Savings Target				-\$50,000	-\$100,000
New Sport		\$720,268	\$870,601	\$1,129,000	\$1,285,000
sub-total, Institutional Support	\$2,937,072	\$3,783,745	\$3,729,105	\$4,312,911	\$5,537,000
Total, Sources	\$34,099,719	\$36,126,888	\$38,455,633	\$37,388,425	\$39,015,800

ICA Budget Summary

In addition to approximately \$2.3M in Student Services Fee (SSF), ICA receives funding support from 3 campus based fees: SASI, CEI, and FACE/LEEAP. Below is a summary table that displays the use of each fee and approximate annual revenue.

Table 1: ICA Sources, Campus Based Fees Detail

Campus Based Fee	Annual Amount	% of Total Sources	Use
CEI	\$7.5M	20%	Grant-in-Aid
FACE/LEEAP	\$4M	10%	Debt service and operating expenses for Aggie Stadium and Schaal Aquatic Center
SASI	\$11.5M	30%	Operating support for 25 varsity athletic teams (i.e.; team travel, equipment, home game expenses, medical related expenses, coach salaries)

Additional information about each of the above [student fees](#) follows. ICA presents financial data and program information to COSAF at least annually using COSAF templates consistent with other student fee funded programs. Information is available from the [COSAF website](#). Financial aid implications is in a separate section.

Student Activities and Service Initiative (SASI): Originally approved by referendum in 1994, SASI funds broadly supports operations and are not earmarked for anything in particular within Athletics.

2021-22 SASI Annual Undergraduate Fee: \$387.38 per student
 Amount of fee dedicated to Athletics: \$343.56 per student

Campus Expansion Initiative (CEI): Originally approved by referendum in 2002, CEI was part of the move to Division 1 and is earmarked for Grant-in-Aid and makes up about 80% of the ICA scholarship funds.

2021-22 CEI Annual Undergraduate Fee: \$603.66 per student
 Amount of fee dedicated to Athletics: \$226.83 per student

Facilities and Campus Enhancements Fee (FACE): Originally approved by referendum in 1999, FACE funds allocated to ICA support debt service for the Schaal Aquatics and the UC Davis Health Stadium.

2021-22 FACE Annual Undergraduate Fee: \$456.41 per student
 Amount of fee dedicated to ICA facilities: \$99.72

Revenue from student fees are a necessary part of funding a successful Division 1 Athletics program. Without this funding, UC Davis’ ability to be competitive at the Division 1 level would be seriously impacted. Table 3 below shows a comparison of student fee funding and institutional support across UCs. On average, athletics

ICA Budget Summary

programs at the FCS level operate with about 75% of revenue coming from allocated sources (e.g., fees or institutional support such as state funds, tuition or other sources). UC Davis is often right in line with this percentage or just below it.

Table 3: University of California Intercollegiate Athletics Revenue by School – Fiscal Year 2019-20
(dollars in thousands)

School	Conference	Student Enrollment	Number of Sports	Student Athletes	Total Revenue	Student Fees		Institutional Support		St. Fees + Instit.		\$/Athlete	\$/Sport
						\$	%	\$	%	\$	%		
UC Berkeley	PAC-12	29,988	29	881	\$105,045	\$444	0%	\$19,635	19%	\$20,079	19%	\$119	\$3,622
UCLA	PAC-12	30,963	25	700	\$97,675	\$2,517	3%	\$60	0%	\$2,577	3%	\$140	\$3,907
UC Davis	Big West	30,151	25	621	\$39,457	\$24,524	62%	\$3,825	10%	\$28,349	72%	\$64	\$1,578
UC Irvine	Big West	29,786	18	325	\$23,963	\$5,215	22%	\$13,292	55%	\$18,507	77%	\$74	\$1,331
UC Riverside	Big West	21,636	17	265	\$19,514	\$2,450	13%	\$11,569	59%	\$14,019	72%	\$74	\$1,148
UC San Diego	Big West	29,966	23	556	\$24,934	\$17,962	72%	\$1,274	5%	\$19,236	77%	\$45	\$1,084
UC Santa Barbara	Big West	22,846	20	464	\$20,578	\$2,254	11%	\$13,835	67%	\$16,089	78%	\$44	\$1,029

* Source: NCAA Financial Report via WinAD

**Figures based on NCAA reporting requirements, slight variation from Table 1. Includes debt service. Capital expenses not included in NCAA reporting data.

FINANCIAL AID

In 2003, the Campus Expansion Initiative (CEI) fee was established to fund, in part, grant in aid expenditures in support of UC Davis moving to Division 1. ICA utilizes a partial-scholarship model to administer their grant in aid program. Few students will receive a full athletics scholarship that covers all of their expenses, but instead most will receive some athletics based financial aid to help them through school.

In addition to grant in aid supported by CEI, both CEI and FACE/LEEAP have a return to aid (RTA) component of the fee that provides the Financial Aid Office with funds that are allocated based on need to any eligible UC Davis student. In 2020-21, CEI and FACE/LEEAP generated \$7.5M in RTA of which \$2.4M is attributable to the portion of those fees that is allocated to ICA.

BENEFITS OF THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

The following are notable benefits of a successful athletics program:

- Community-building for students, staff, and City of Davis residents. Approximately 120,000 people attend ICA events in a given year.
- College athletic programs are a large part of any college experience. A sense of community and belonging is critical to student engagement and retention.
- Student athletes at UC Davis are very successful academically. Student athletes are currently enrolled in approximately 70 different academic majors and over an overall average team GPA of 3.5.
- Visibility for all of UC Davis. Visibility supports student recruitment, fundraising efforts, and general recognition of UC Davis. For example, over 4M people watched UC Davis in the 2017 NCAA Tournament where there was messaging on sports broadcasts promoting our broad academic strengths.

ICA Budget Summary

- All of the top 30 public universities have Division 1 athletic programs.
- Alumni engagement and fundraising opportunities. Competitive success has created and strengthened points of connection and engagement for all supporters of the university, not just ICA donors.

In 2017, ICA created the Aggie EVO System designed to focus on preparing student-athletes for future success after they graduate. The program offers professional skill development and career preparation programs. This program is unique to UC Davis and is unlike any other program of its kind at the Division 1 level. Aggie Evo continues to expand their partnership with the campus Internship and Career Center, while also enhancing development and corporate partnerships. Aggie EVO has served as a model for Aggie Launch, as the campus scales up and adapts the program for students of all majors.

Additionally, ICA hires over 150 students to work part-time and about 5 recent graduates into full time jobs each year. Many students beyond athletes are involved in their events, including Aggie Hosts, student EMTs, student athletic trainers, band, cheer team, and dance team. These are examples of the broad benefit to students across campus.

ICA engages the campus in other ways when opportunities arise. During the pandemic they worked with the ASUCD Pantry to provide a temporary location and put together the Gunrock's Gallop 5k to raise funds supporting the Pantry. While primarily used for varsity athletics, UCD Health Stadium and Schaal Aquatics Center are also used significantly by student groups and club teams. Other uses of the Stadium include Sunset Fest, movie nights, and commencement. Students also use facilities such as the tennis courts, Hickey Gym, gymnastics equipment, track, and beach volleyball courts for general use and club sports. Some facilities (i.e., beach volleyball courts and the track) are available to the general public as well. Beginning in Fall 2022, the new Student-Athlete Performance Center includes general classroom space that will be assigned by the Registrar for campus use. That facility also includes clinical space for UC Davis Health that will expand specialty care offerings in Davis. While the maintenance and costs are overseen by ICA, most of the facilities managed by ICA provide additional benefits to the campus community.