



YOU are USD

FIRST-YEAR LIVING AND LEARNING



## Be the Change

In 2011, University of San Diego was named an Ashoka Changemaker Campus, and designated a hub of social innovation among a select group of the nation's colleges and universities. One of the key qualities of a changemaker campus is the development of socially minded programs across disciplines that explore and address your community's — and the world's — intractable problems.

Changemaking at USD means cultivating awareness, empathy and the ability to identify social problems, and the systemic variables that create and/or perpetuate them, in order to develop and implement creative and viable solutions. As a member of the USD community, you have endless opportunities to explore social change through purposeful, cross-disciplinary initiatives in teaching, research and community action.

Exploring social change can begin right here, in your first year. Tap into the region's ecology and be part of a sustainability dinner. Learn about local struggles for justice as you get to know San Diego. Listen to the world around you. Fortify yourself with knowledge and find your passion in positive change.

From your first day, you will see that at USD, living and learning are one and the same. Where the classroom and the residence hall serve as a community, sounding board and intellectual testing ground. Where your studies and collegiate conversations are intertwined, breaking down borders between disciplines and kicking up fresh ideas. All made even better with a little late-night pizza and new lifelong friends.



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## Living-Learning Communities

Your first year is like no other. You are likely to learn more about yourself and your capabilities than at any other time in your life. You will make connections that last decades. Every moment will be charged with possibility. What better way to nurture yourself than through a living-learning community?

In living-learning communities (LLC) students who share a common interest live and study together. Not only do LLCs ease your academic and social transition to USD, they expand your intellectual curiosity beyond the classroom, and establish an immediate sense of community with your faculty and fellow residents.

In an LLC, students take classes together and live near one another, sharing a supercharged college experience where academics meld with exciting extracurricular activities and community engagement, unfurling new understandings in the process. Built around themes such as social justice or sustainability, each LLC provides a ripe environment for you and your peers to ponder differing perspectives and galvanize into action.

### Live and Learn

National studies have shown that students in living-learning communities demonstrate stronger academic achievement, and are more invested in and connected to the campus community. By taking part in activities, using campus resources and interacting with faculty, students who choose living-learning communities overall experience a more seamless transition to college.

As a living-learning participant at USD, you are an active member of the community from the day you arrive on campus. You are surrounded by students with similar interests and mentors who want to help you succeed. Your small-classroom experiences and LLC-themed events are interrelated, and since your hall mates are also your classmates, your field of shared experiences is vast. Friendships develop and deepen. Study groups are a natural. You are inspired by others, and in turn, you inspire. Before you know it, you are not just attending USD, you are USD.

### The USD Advantage

While learning communities are increasingly popular among colleges and universities across the nation, LLCs at USD stand out as part of a comprehensive first-year experience. Each LLC theme is linked to related preceptorials, first-year core curriculum courses that are limited to 18 first-year students and taught by a full-time faculty member who also serves as your academic advisor until you choose your major. As your primary mentor, your preceptor opens the door to a higher level of intellectual inquiry, and guides you through such practicalities as registration and careful course planning. Our award-winning faculty preceptors are engaging, sought after as student advisors, and dedicated to their students and to their LLC.





Every living-learning community at USD comprises up to seven preceptorial classes that are linked to the theme so you benefit from both small-group and larger-group interactions. In addition to the preceptor, a number of people work together to create a positive experience for you. The faculty director provides overall direction for the LLC theme and related courses. Each class has a successful continuing student who assists the preceptor, mentors the students, and is a resource for campus programs and activities. Community directors, resident assistants and resident ministers round out the support staff in your residence hall, overseeing all aspects of residential life, connecting activities to your LLC theme and connecting you to academic, social and spiritual resources.

Outside of class, each LLC plans a series of theme-related activities that add another dimension to your studies, integrating your classroom experience with the lessons of life unfolding around you. They provide venues to explore social change through your classes, co-curricular events or discussions with your peers in your residence hall. In 2011, for example, social justice



LLC students combined a rock climbing trip with an examination of environmental justice, bringing ideology and reality into sharp focus.

2011 LLC events included:

#### Social Justice Community

- Attended a social justice play, “Las Mariposas,” with a reception at the La Jolla Playhouse
- Took a canoe and concert trip with an emphasis on environmental justice
- Shared a meal with Father John O’Brien, an Irish priest and social justice worker in Pakistan

#### Honors Community

- Picked apples and visited the California Wolf Center, a conservation and research institute in Julian, Calif.
- Swam with the sharks at La Jolla Shores
- Attended William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* at the Old Globe and Richard Strauss’ *Salome* at the San Diego Opera

#### Sustainability Community

- Visited Mission Gorge (one of the largest urban parks in the United States) to talk with a faculty member and a park ranger about Kumeyaay water use and the early Spanish dam



- Took part in a multi-faceted food event where different groups dined at The Linkery in North Park; visited a Hare Krishna temple, the Ocean Beach People’s Co-op and the U.S.-Mexican border; screened the film *Food Inc.*; and enjoyed dinner at USD’s Student Life Pavilion rooftop garden featuring USD-grown produce
- Traveled to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum to see Pacific Standard Time exhibits on the birth of the LA art scene and to reflect on craft and the craft economy

#### Food for Thought

Whether it is a formal Christmas dinner or a casual spring barbecue, a locally sourced meal or an exotic foreign feast, you will relish being part of a close academic community where you can nourish both body and mind. Dining Sessions are a 500-year tradition in Great Britain where students and faculty gathered to dine, sharpen their rhetorical skills and enjoy each other’s company. Imagine the dining sessions in Hogwarts and you get the picture. Our own USD Dining Sessions are a real and much newer tradition, but they have quickly become an important part of LLC life.



#### Sign me Up!

You can register for an LLC on the MySanDiego portal by choosing one of the LLC preceptorials in the freshman advising questionnaire.

If you are interested in the honors LLC, you must first be invited to apply and subsequently be accepted into the USD Honors Program.



## 2012-2013 Living-Learning Community Themes

Only about half of first-year students will participate in living-learning communities in the 2012-2013 academic year. We anticipate all entering first-year students will be in LLCs by 2014. Aligning with USD's core values, there are five living-learning community themes for 2012-2013.

### Where do you see yourself?

#### The Sustainability Community

Do you think USD can become a carbon neutral campus? Can environmental awareness be expressed in art or poetry? What is ecological stewardship? How can the sciences, social sciences and humanities collaborate to create an environmentally sustainable world? Explore these questions with your peers in the context of positive environmental change and practice "green living." Whether you are interested in sustainable fisheries, cultures of environmentalism or graphic depictions of environmental living, this LLC invites all who are interested in sustaining our environment.

#### The Social Justice Community

What is activism? Is it human nature to value social justice? Are we naturally inclined to think about justice? How can you link your academic experience to justice issues? Analyze these questions with your peers in both contemporary and historical issues of peace and justice in local, national and global contexts. Together, you will live, learn and investigate social activism, social change and the philosophical foundations of justice. Through service, immersion and relationship-building opportunities, you will be encouraged to make more just and sustainable lifestyle choices that promote the common good.

#### The Natural World Community

Are you interested in all dimensions of scientific thinking? Have you ever wondered about the responsibilities scientists have to the local, national and global community? Is science and discovery displayed in the visions of artists and actors? Can a biologist, philosopher, anthropologist and economist contribute equally to the advancement of science? If you are interested in all aspects of human discovery, this LLC will explore common questions about scientific discovery, ethical and responsible science, and the consequences of scientific knowledge. Throughout your first year you will explore fundamental questions about the sciences through multiple lenses.

#### The Space, Place and Sound Community

Have you ever wondered about the variety of spaces humans construct? Have you pondered your place in the universe? How have ideas about space and place changed over time? How can art, performance or music transform a contemporary space into a sacred space or a magnificent space? How do media shape our relationship to space and time? What turns a space into a place of belonging, a home? Explore these questions through the context of history, art, architecture, music, the cosmos and especially the imagination.

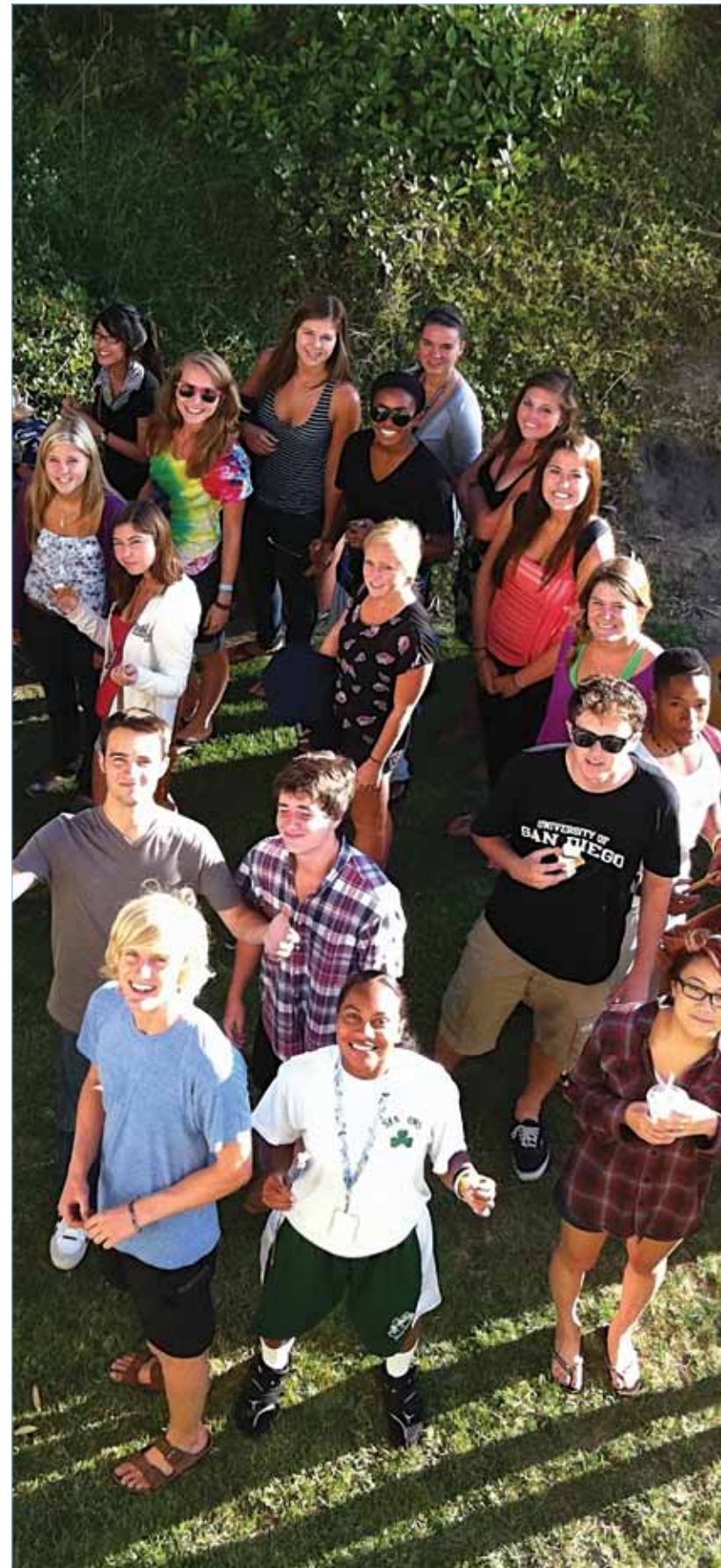


#### The Honors Community

This LLC is a community of first-year honors students dedicated to academic excellence. It will serve as your connection to a challenging and rewarding liberal arts education as you join the vibrant company of scholars to explore the universe of human knowledge. You will learn to make your own connections among a vast range of classes, disciplines and ideas, and turn old knowledge into new insights. The honors LLC is no ordinary first-year program; it marks the beginning of a lifelong quest for knowledge, enlightenment, self-improvement and social progress.

For more information about living-learning communities and how to sign up, go to:

[www.sandiego.edu/llc](http://www.sandiego.edu/llc)



"We've seen a particular closeness that students feel in the LLCs through the sharing of residential areas, classrooms and thematic questions. The physical and cognitive spaces created are very intimate, creating a kind of deep knowledge of each other that I haven't seen elsewhere."

**ESTEBAN DEL RÍO, PhD**  
Faculty Director, Sustainability LLC  
Associate Professor, Communication Studies

"Living in an honors LLC is the greatest first-year living experience I can imagine. The girls in my hall are and forever will be some of my greatest friends. Making new connections is a breeze since everyone is so close right from the beginning. Professors make themselves available to you."

**JESSICA KEMPA**  
First-year student, Honors LLC

"Being in an LLC enabled me to have a personal connection with my professor, a chance I wouldn't have had if I had gone to a bigger university."

**GABRIELLE PEREZ**  
First-year student, Sustainability LLC

"Living in the LLC has been a great experience. Having students in my class close by made studying and doing homework more convenient. I found myself being more successful within my classes because of this learning environment."

**MEGAN RICHARDSON**  
First-year student, Social Justice LLC



## Traditional Residential Communities

First-year students are required to live on campus, but really, you wouldn't want it any other way. You are on your own for the first time, perhaps new to San Diego as well. It makes sense to slow down and savor life at USD. Watch the sun set from the Garden of the Sea at the Institute for Peace & Justice. Taste the greens fresh from the Student Life Pavilion's rooftop garden. Help bring the annual snowfall to campus during Winter Wonderland. Never heard of it? You soon will.

Living among your peers just a few steps from your classes is a natural start to college life. And at USD, residential life is not just a bunk and a meal ticket. You are welcomed into an inclusive living community where you will find the support of other students and a staff of advisors, countless natural connections to campus life, and activities and events to help you kick back and make new friends.

### Come Together

As a resident student, you'll have immediate access to resident assistants, community directors and resident ministers, all of whom are dedicated to providing a positive living environment and enhancing your academic, social and spiritual growth.

#### Resident Assistants (RAs)

Resident assistants are specially trained student leaders who get to know you individually and facilitate a seamless transition to college life and community living. Not only do they encourage you to participate in residential life, they also handle everything from roommate agreements to upholding community standards so your residence hall is a productive place to live and study. Through community-building events such as movie nights, ice cream socials and game nights, RAs help residents feel more connected to each other and to the university.

#### Community Directors (CDs)

Community directors are professional staff who live in each residential area, provide oversight of all aspects of community living, and engage with the community throughout the entire academic year. Community directors supervise the resident assistants, advise on residential life programming and manage community standards for their given area. CDs are available as a resource for anything related to student life in general, and provide individual mentoring on a variety of adjustment and other common first-year student issues.

#### Resident Ministers (RMs)

Each residential living area also has a resident minister who brings the services of University Ministry directly to you, offering everything from spiritual exploration and Bible study sessions to stress relief and individual guidance. Resident ministers are uniquely able to connect you to resources in all areas of campus and community life. RMs foster community through programs such as the weekly Wednesday gathering after the Mass for Peace, where you can discuss relevant issues in your life.





### Community Living

Sharing a bedroom, bathroom and study space with your peers is an enlightening experience. From learning what you have in common with someone from a different part of the country or world to considering how your music volume affects your neighbor, discover yourself by living with your peers. Since part of the college experience is exploring who you are, living in a community is the perfect setting to nurture that process.

Not only will you interact with your peers in your residential community, you will also have opportunities to meet faculty who live in the residence halls. Faculty members socialize with residents and discuss classes, careers and life in general through formal and informal connections. Fro-Yo with Faculty on



Wednesdays in Missions Café is a great way for any student to engage with faculty outside the classroom.

### Get on (the RHA) Board

Living on campus, it's easy to find your own niche in the USD community, starting with your residence hall. Getting involved in the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is a way for you to meet other students, become a student leader and put together events that energize your community. RHA serves as the active voice on campus for residents, assessing and reporting on your needs and concerns. It's a great way to get involved with social change.

RHA also organizes social and awareness events for residents. Officers and representatives for each living area plan activities for their residents. Events include Waffle



Wednesdays, Maher Olympics, Sundae Sundays and trips to Padres games. Larger events, such as Diversi-tea and Relay for Life, are inclusive of all USD residents.

### With Opportunity and Promise

Your first year is full of promise. Living in USD's traditional residential communities, you have everything you need to become fully immersed in campus life. To become a leader. To get to know your peers. To get to know yourself as a thriving, independent scholar. You are surrounded by opportunity. We wouldn't want any less for you.

For more information on the many types of residence halls at USD, go to the residential life website:

[www.sandiego.edu/residentallife](http://www.sandiego.edu/residentallife)



"I had the best experience of my life this year and met a lot of new friends. I made really great connections with my fellow floor mates, and my RA was always there when I needed her support."

**MEREDITH KRONJA**  
Two-year resident, San Antonio de Padua Apartments

"I really like the principles that the school is based on [such as] ethical conduct and compassionate service. I really try to show that to my residents by leading by example and fostering that in our community."

**CANDACE TORREY**  
Resident Assistant, Manchester Village

"Being a resident faculty member is a unique experience in and of itself. By spending time in the residence halls, I have been reminded of the importance of the transition to college every fall semester. Personalities are shaped, attitudes are birthed, new students are transformed into thinking adults; the first semester of college is an incredibly formative experience!"

**JONATHAN BOWMAN, PhD**  
Faculty Director, Social Justice LLC  
Associate Professor, Communication Studies



## Commuter Students

There was a time when commuter students slipped on and off campus quietly, creating hardly a ripple in the university pond. Those days are long gone. As a commuter student today, becoming active in student life at USD is a simple matter. Through the Commuter Student Program, we have a number of resources that are targeted specifically to your academic and personal development here on campus. After all, when we invited you to USD, we welcomed you into our community, not just our classrooms.

### From Commuter Student to Commuter Resident

Just because you are a commuter student doesn't mean residential life is off-limits. First-year commuter students can participate in a living-learning community (LLC) and experience the best of both worlds, becoming a part of a tight-knit academic circle on campus while still living at home. Your preceptorial course is linked to the LLC theme you choose and includes students from the same LLC. In the residence hall connected to your LLC theme, you have access to all common areas, and a resident assistant in the building includes you in all theme-related activities.

Just as important, you benefit from getting to know your professors and learning in a small-group setting, making lasting connections with classmates and sharing activities related to your theme outside the classroom.

Sign up for an LLC when you fill out your freshman advising questionnaire on the MySanDiego portal ([www.MySanDiego.edu](http://www.MySanDiego.edu)). If you are interested in the honors LLC, you must first be invited to apply and subsequently be accepted into the USD Honors Program.

### Home Base

For traditional commuter students, a sense of belonging begins with having a place to call your own. It's much easier to feel a part of a community when you can put your books down and your feet up, greet friends and grab a bite in between classes. At USD, that is the Commuter Student Commons.

The Commuter Student Commons has everything you would find in a residence hall, except perhaps the loft beds and lava lamps. You can get work done at the study tables or computer stations, make lunch in the kitchenette (complete with a refrigerator, microwave and toaster oven), chat with friends, take a study break around the Wii or the television, and store your goods in the long-term or day-use lockers. You can even invite classmates in for group study sessions.

Perhaps most important, in the Commuter Student Commons you can get tips from fellow commuters and the staff about campus life as you transition to USD. Organized events like monthly breakfasts help strengthen the commuter community. For these reasons, and many more, the Commuter Student Commons will quickly become your home base in the heart of campus.

Conveniently adjacent to the Commuter Student Commons is the Center for Student Success (CSS). CSS staff administer the commuter student program, oversee the Commuter Student Commons and are available to advise you on academic or personal issues, or simply connect you with resources on campus.

Look for the 2012 Commuter Student Newsletter later this spring, which will contain important information about Torero Days, Summer Send Offs and your first-year experience at USD.

For more information about living-learning communities and how to sign up, go to:

[www.sandiego.edu/llc](http://www.sandiego.edu/llc)

For more information about commuter student programs, please phone the Center for Student Success at (619) 260-5995, email [css@sandiego.edu](mailto:css@sandiego.edu), or go to:

[www.sandiego.edu/usdcss/programs/commuter](http://www.sandiego.edu/usdcss/programs/commuter)

*"The Commuter Student Commons really helped me stay connected to the school. The advisors at the Center for Student Success helped me with class scheduling and study tips so I could be successful in my classes. You want to feel included and that's what the commons really strives for."*

**MIGUEL PEREZ**

Sophomore commuter student  
Commuter Student Commons staff member



# First-Year Foundation

No matter which experience you choose, living-learning communities, traditional residential communities or the commuter experience, at USD you have a full complement of mentors to help you successfully navigate this first year on your own.

All first-year students participate in USD's unique preceptorial program. The difference for living-learning community students is that you get to live with your preceptorial classmates and engage in co-curricular opportunities aligned with the theme of your LLC.

## PRECEPTORIAL CLASS

A small class for all incoming first-year students led by a faculty member who also serves as your academic advisor. The course fills a core curriculum requirement, and its small size encourages bonding among the group and between students and professor. If you are in a living-learning community, this course links to your LLC theme.

## PRECEPTOR

A full-time faculty member who teaches your preceptorial course, mentors you as you adjust to college-level scholarship, and offers resources and guidance as you plan and register for courses. Your preceptor remains your advisor until you declare a major.

## PRECEPTORIAL ASSISTANT

A successful continuing student who mentors preceptorial students, plans community-building events and is a facilitator for faculty preceptors.

## FACULTY DIRECTOR

A full-time faculty member who provides overall direction for an LLC theme and coordinates the preceptorial faculty and the courses connected to that theme.

## RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Peer leaders in your residence hall who are trained to facilitate your transition to USD by providing individual guidance and serving as a resource for university services and activities.

## COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

A live-in professional director for each residential community who oversees all aspects of residential life, including programming, discipline and supervision.

## RESIDENT MINISTER

A live-in minister (university minister or graduate student trained in theology and pastoral counseling) who fosters community and spirituality in each residential living community.

## RESIDENT HALL ASSOCIATION

Each residential area has a hall council that sponsors programs and advocates for students.

## CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (CSS)

A centralized support system for undergraduates, with specific programs for commuter students, transfer students and out-of-state students. Trained peer advisors and professional staff can help you address academic and personal challenges. The goal is for all students to find a home at USD and to have the resources to succeed.

## COMMUTER STUDENT COMMONS

A welcoming space on campus for commuter students, complete with lockers, a full kitchenette, computer stations, study tables, relaxing couches and more. The commons gives commuter students a place to meet other students, work together and become part of the campus community.

## TORERO DAYS

Orientation begins with contact over the summer and culminates in a four-day program where you join your preceptor group to learn about USD's mission, academic life and campus community. Not only will you have lots of opportunities to meet your USD classmates, you will meet for your first preceptorial class during Torero Days.



The first-year experience at USD goes far beyond an orientation event and a new class schedule. Whether a resident or a commuter student, you are surrounded by academic, spiritual and personal advisors throughout the year, immersed in classes and complementary events that combine scholarship and friendship, and elevated by residential environments that nourish your individuality and feed your soul.

YOU are USD.



#### **RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

Mission Crossroads, Room 215

5998 Alcalá Park

San Diego, CA 92110-2492

(619) 260-4777

Email [housing@san Diego.edu](mailto:housing@san Diego.edu)

[www.sandiego.edu/residentiaallife/student\\_housing](http://www.sandiego.edu/residentiaallife/student_housing)

#### **LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Founders Hall, Room 106

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San Diego, CA 92110-2492

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[www.sandiego.edu/llc](http://www.sandiego.edu/llc)