UCSD was named the “hottest” university in the nation to study science by the 2006 Kaplan/Newsweek College Guide.

Did you know...

- Teacher quality is one of the most prominent factors impacting student achievement.

- California is only producing half of the secondary mathematics and science teachers it requires.

- Nearly one-third of current physics and chemistry teachers and one-quarter of mathematics teachers either lack credentials or are credentialed in a different subject than they are teaching.

- Schools with the largest populations of students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences have the largest percentage of underprepared teachers.

- Over the next five years, San Diego County will need almost 400 more mathematics teachers than it will produce.

- San Diego’s high-tech and biotech industries have added 100,000 new jobs over the past two decades and rely on a steady flow of skilled workers.

- Currently, only 4% of 9th graders in California schools go on to complete a bachelor’s degree in sciences, mathematics or engineering.

(Sources: Review of Educational Research, California Department of Education, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Dialogue, Critical Pathway Analysis)
As our children move toward the day when their decisions will be the ones shaping a new America, will they be equipped with the mathematical and scientific tools needed to meet those challenges and capitalize on those opportunities? We know what we have to do, the time is now—before it’s too late.  (Glenn Commission Report, 2000)

Are you curious about how people learn science and mathematics?

Are you considering teaching at the K-12, community college or undergraduate level, or just interested in becoming a better, more reflective learner?

If so, consider UCSD’s new Minor in Mathematics Education or Minor in Science Education.

Explore your options by signing up for one of the freshman seminars or introductory courses in the minor.

UC San Diego’s science and mathematics education program is part of California Teach, a UC-wide initiative designed to address the critical shortage of K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

By increasing the number of highly prepared teachers in California classrooms, the program will cultivate skilled workers for California’s growing high-tech and biotech industries, as well as citizens capable of making sound decisions about the many science-based issues they will face in their daily lives.

Unlike traditional programs, in which courses about teaching and learning are “tacked on” to the major in science, mathematics or engineering, UC San Diego’s unique program is integrated from the beginning. Scientists and mathematicians with an authentic interest in K-12 education partnered with education studies faculty to develop the innovative program. The result is an intellectually stimulating course of study that bridges disciplines to investigate how people learn mathematics and science.

The Mathematics and Science Education Minors provide hands-on experience in local schools and the foundational coursework to prepare you to become a paid intern teacher if you enroll in a credential program after you complete your bachelor’s degree. By doing so, you can receive your undergraduate degree, preliminary teaching credential and a master’s degree in five years.

Math, science and engineering majors may sign up for either minor if they have the appropriate prerequisites for the upper division courses. (Note: Mathematics Secondary Education Majors cannot take the Mathematics Education Minor. Chemical Education Majors and General Physics/Secondary Education Majors cannot take the Science Education Minor.)

Ask about financial incentives that may be available for your participation in field-based work in educational settings.

“We need to recruit, educate, and retain excellent K-12 teachers who fundamentally understand biology, chemistry, physics, engineering and mathematics. The critical lack of technically trained people in the United States can be traced directly to poor K-12 mathematics and science instruction. Few factors are more important than this if the United States is to compete successfully in the 21st century.”

(“Rising above the Gathering Storm,” National Academies, 2006)