

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*



Sharing Information on Progress 2026

Knauss School of Business

October 2026

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*”

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about Knauss School of Business, including key details and basic institutional data.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	787
Faculty & Staff at the University	1,109
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	207
Student Enrollment at the University	8,815
Student Enrollment at the Institution	2,597
Undergraduate Attendance	2,073
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	536
Doctoral Student Attendance	0
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	0

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

-  Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)
-  Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
-  Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)

Masters Programs

-  Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)
-  Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Definition of Purpose

At Knauss, purpose is the reason behind our work: preparing leaders who use business as a force for good. Guided by USD's Changemaker mission, we develop students who create economic value while advancing inclusive prosperity, strengthening communities, and protecting the natural systems on which future generations depend.

Institutional Engagement

26% - 50% of faculty at Knauss School of Business actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing responsible management education, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



How We Define Values

At the Knauss School of Business, values are the ethical commitments that guide how we teach, research, and engage with our community. Rooted in USD's Catholic intellectual tradition, they center human dignity, the common good, and care for the planet, and they hold our school accountable to society beyond profit.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- ❖ Individual leader

Student Awareness

0% - 25% of students at Knauss School of Business are aware that we are a PRME Signatory Member.

Student Engagement

76% - 100% of students at Knauss School of Business actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing RME, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.

Continue telling your story

Real Estate Awareness and Discovery Initiative (READI)

The Real Estate Awareness and Discovery Initiative (READI) program promotes real estate as a career path for high school students in underserved communities of San Diego County. Most high school students, and likely their parents, would not think of real estate as a career path. In addition, these parents and students in our underserved communities are unlikely to have any connection to career opportunities. Our mission is to provide these students with an understanding of the variety of career opportunities that exist within real estate through access to local companies specializing in all areas of real estate.

The READI program is a partnership program between the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate and non-profit organizations in San Diego that serve junior high and high school students from underserved communities.

The first cohort of the READI program, in 2022, included 14 students from the Barrio Logan College Institute (BLCI) who visited four commercial real estate companies in successive weeks in San Diego. Company representatives provided an overview of their respective companies and described the various career opportunities within their real estate sector. Students then rotate through five or six stations to hear about specific duties of the real estate career professions. Afterwards, students participate in a group dinner with all of the company employees.

READI student participants receive a \$200 grant to fund necessary items like technology and professional attire for the program. The success of the READI program has demonstrated a need for additional programming in other parts of San Diego. As a result, the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate expanded the program to include a total of six cohorts from organizations including the Barrio Logan College Institute (BLCI), Junior Achievement, Project Next and Nativity Prep.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sandiego.edu/business/centers/burnham-moores-real-estate/building-relationships/readi.php>

MBA Community Service Requirement

The Knauss School of Business MBA program requires students to complete a minimum of two 6-8 hour projects or one 15+ hour project for their community service requirement. These projects are a key part of the experiential learning component, which also includes two consulting projects. The community service component is designed to help students gain practical experience and embodies the program's values of social impact and positive change in the community.

USD Food Pantry

USD is working towards eliminating the concern of food insecurity from our university. The pantry offers food as well as school supplies, hygiene supplies and laundry detergent to any community member experiencing food insecurity. Pantries are supported by Associated Students, HOST Student Organization, Mortar Board, the Torero Renaissance Scholars Program, and through community donations. Goods are replenished by student donations from move-out and items are purchased bi-weekly.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sandiego.edu/food-pantry/>

Environmental Integration Lab

The Environmental Integration Lab centers on caring for our common home through strategic collaboration. These efforts aim to deliver integrative and innovative solutions to address urgent challenges related to climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice. We aim to integrate sustainability and climate across the USD curriculum, support impactful research to develop solutions to environmental challenges, and work develop strategic partnerships across the USD community and with local and regional organizations.

For more information please visit: <https://www.usdeil.com/>

San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative

The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative (Climate Collaborative) was established in 2011 as a network for public agencies to advance climate change solutions that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Climate Collaborative has since expanded to become a resilience hub and a catalyst for collaborative, cross-jurisdictional work in the San Diego region.

Partnering with academia, non-profit organizations, and business and community leaders, the Climate Collaborative raises the profile of regional leadership, shares expertise and leverages resources.

For more information please visit: <https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/centers-and-institutes/nonprofit-institute/signature-programs/climate-collaborative/>

Community Service Event: San Diego Center for Children

On May 29, 2025, Knauss School of Business Faculty and Staff volunteered at the San Diego Center for Children where they supported the center's mission through gardening and painting rooms—creating a more welcoming and supportive space for children and teens navigating mental, emotional and behavioral challenges.

Community Service Event: The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

On Dec 3, 2025, Knauss School of Business Faculty and Staff will volunteer at the The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank to support the Food Bank's mission to provide nutritious food to people in need, advocate for the hungry, and educate the public about hunger-related issues by sorting and packaging food for local families in need.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



How We Define Teach

At Knauss, teaching means embedding responsible management across the curriculum, from the first-year sustainable ventures course to the senior capstone on global and sustainable strategy. More than 100 undergraduate and graduate courses address ethics, sustainability, or social impact, and experiential projects connect students with social ventures and community partners.

Educator Recognition

At Knauss School of Business, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual teaching excellence awards
- ❖ Faculty promotion and tenure consideration
- ❖ Institutional recognition events
- ❖ Course evaluation scores

Barriers to Innovative Curriculum

In 2025, Knauss School of Business identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing curriculum:

- ❖ Assessment challenges
- ❖ Change fatigue
- ❖ Collaboration barriers
- ❖ Faculty expertise gaps
- ❖ Faculty resistance
- ❖ Industry misalignment
- ❖ Learning curve for faculty
- ❖ Overloaded faculty
- ❖ Time constraints

Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

In 2025, Knauss School of Business identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing pedagogy:

- ❖ Collaboration barriers
- ❖ Change resistance
- ❖ Budget constraints
- ❖ Assessment rigor concerns

- ❖ Faculty resistance
- ❖ Faculty confidence gaps
- ❖ Learning curve for faculty
- ❖ Student engagement concerns



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

How We Define Research

At Knauss, research means rigorous scholarship that examines how business shapes people, communities, and the planet. Our faculty study ethics, sustainability, governance, health equity, and inclusion, and they share findings with practitioners, policymakers, and students so that evidence informs more responsible management and a more just economy.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



Research Funding

In 2025, Knauss School of Business was awarded funding for research that is:



Local



Regional



National

Socializing Research

In 2025, Knauss School of Business contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ National media
- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Public events and lectures

Research Awards

In 2025, Knauss School of Business was awarded 1 research award for responsibility- and/or sustainability-related research.



The Blasker Grant - Bridging the Gap: Advancing Equitable and Regenerative Nature-Based Climate Solutions in the San Diego Region

Granter: The San Diego Foundation

Grantee: Nichole Wissman

Award Description:

This qualitative study will examine barriers and opportunities in scaling regenerative, nature-based climate solutions on land and sea. Using engaged qualitative methods, Professor Wissman will investigate how policies, cross-sector collaborations, and intermediaries enable or hinder adoption by analyzing the social, organizational, and environmental dynamics shaping these efforts. The findings will inform academic publications and provide practice-based guidance for policymakers, community stakeholders, and organizations.

This work is made possible by the Blasker Grant through the San Diego Foundation. "The San Diego Foundation inspires enduring philanthropy and enables community solutions to improve the quality of life in our region."

Research Barriers

In 2025, Knauss School of Business identified the following barriers to conducting research related to sustainability and/or responsibility:

- ❖ Skills and expertise gaps
- ❖ Time constraints
- ❖ Retention and engagement



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

How We Define Partner

At Knauss, partnership means working alongside businesses, nonprofits, government, and community organizations to create shared value. Through faculty board service, student consulting with social ventures, and mentoring programs with local microentrepreneurs, we exchange knowledge with our partners and hold ourselves accountable for our impact on the San Diego region and beyond.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ Ashoka U
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Net Impact

Partnerships

The following provides more details on 1 key partnership at Knauss School of Business.

USD Women in Business

Women in Business at the University of San Diego is a student organization of passionate future business leaders who have made a lasting impact on the USD campus and beyond since 2020. Our purpose at WIB is to empower women's professional development in the business world and within their industries.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

How We Define Practice

At Knauss, practice means holding ourselves to the standards we teach. Through our PRME Working Group and Societal Impact Coordinator, we examine our own operations, governance, and culture, work toward greater responsibility and sustainability in how we operate, and model for students the ethical, inclusive conduct we expect from future business leaders.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ AI use guide
- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Responsible procurement policies
- ❖ USGBC building guides
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

USD Climate Action Plan - FINAL-compressed

[View document](#)  [Download document](#) 

USD EMP Report Final 2021_v7-compressed

[View document](#)  [Download document](#) 

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MBA Community Service Requirement

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Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



How We Define Share

At Knauss, sharing means communicating our progress openly, including where we fall short. Through PRME reporting, faculty forums, and public dialogue with peers and partners, we exchange what works and what does not, so that we and other institutions can learn together and advance responsible management education.

Engagement Opportunities

Knauss School of Business offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Community events and consultation forums
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations

Communication Audiences

Knauss School of Business communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Chamber of commerce and local communities
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Media and public relations channels
- ❖ Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

Communication Barriers

Knauss School of Business faces the following barriers in transparent communications:



**Feedback
loops**



**Engagement
gaps**



SIGNATORY

Knauss School of Business



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