Cal State Northridge is the fifth largest university in California, and the third largest Cal State campus, according to fall 2005 enrollment statistics. Northridge is now larger in enrollment than the University of Southern California, and has about four times as many students as Pepperdine University.

The accounting program in the College of Business and Economics has one of the highest first-time passing rates among California universities for graduates taking the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensing exam.

U.S. News and World Report magazine for 2007 has ranked the engineering program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science among the top 40 in the nation at master's-level institutions. The magazine also ranked the program among the top dozen at public master's-level schools.

Cal State Northridge is a leading university in promoting community service learning among its students. During 2005–06, more than 1,900 Northridge students participated in academic course-related community service learning, contributing about 48,000 hours of service to the community.

Northridge leads the entire Cal State University system this year in the number of students selected for special scholarships to encourage the pursuit of research doctoral degrees. Fourteen students, the most ever from the university, have been selected as Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Scholars.