

General Information

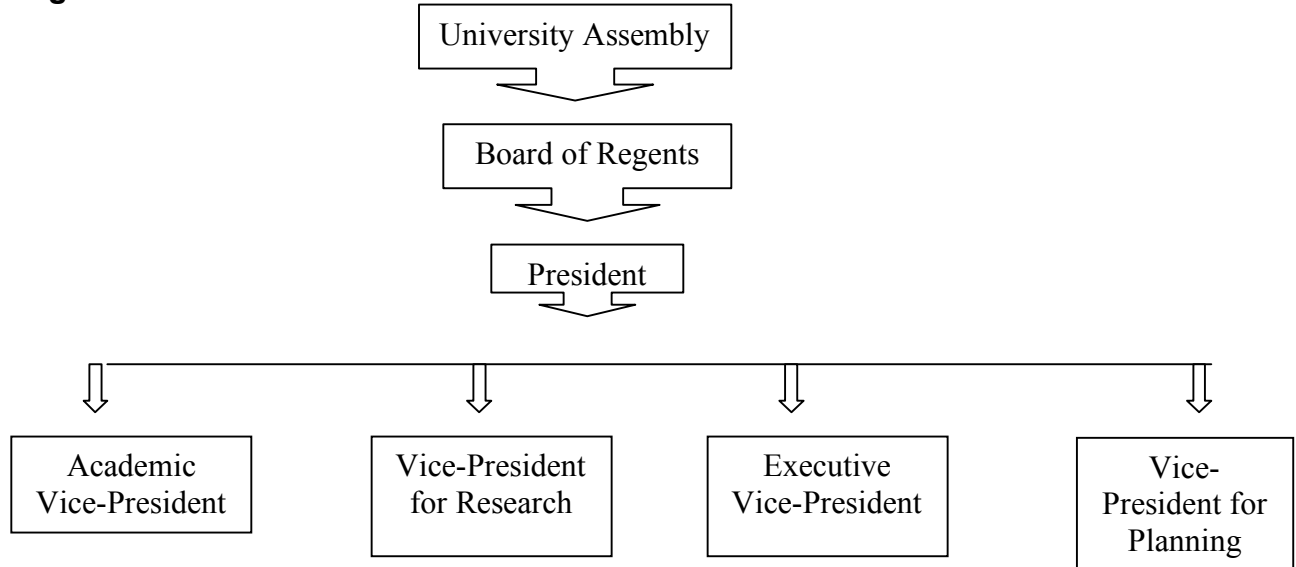
Name: Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED), Meritorious Institution for Costa Rican Education and Culture

Country: Costa Rica, Central America

Sector: State Public University

Address: Barrio Las Mercedes, San Pedro de Montes de Oca
San José, Costa Rica
P.O Box 474-2050
Phone: (506) 2527-2000

Organization:



Current University Authorities:

Members of the Board of Regents

Board's President:
Rodrigo Arias, MBA
President
rarias@uned.ac.cr

External members:
José Miguel Alfaro, PhD
Xinia Carvajal, PhD

Internal Members:
Eduardo Castillo, Master
Master Heidi Rosales, Master

Student Representative:
Alejandra Chinchilla

Vice-Presidents

Office of the Academic Vice-President
José Luis Torres, MSc
jtorres@uned.ac.cr

Office of the Vice-President for Research
Katia Calderón, PhD
kcalderon@uned.ac.cr

Office of the Executive Vice-President
Luis Guillermo Carpio, Master
lcarpio@uned.ac.cr

Office of the Vice-President for Planning
Carlos Morgan, Eng.
cmorgan@uned.ac.cr

Academic structure, services and products:

33	University Centers located throughout Costa Rica
1	University Press of its own; according to some studies done by IESALC and CSUCA, it is considered the university press with the highest production in Central American and the Caribbean
14	Undergraduate Programs (1 Technical Degree, 3 Professorate Degrees, 10 Certificate Degrees)
47	Graduate Programs (29 Bachelor's Degrees, 18 Licentiate's Degrees) in areas of Business, Education, Social & Humanities, and Exact & Natural Sciences.
24	Post-graduate Programs (20 Master's Degrees, and 4 Doctorate's Degrees)
17,495	Students registered during Ordinary Registration for the First Term in 2008 (without taking into account students from the University Outreach Program). UNED is the second university in the country as to student population.
32,000	Students graduated since its foundation (approximately)
2,983	Scholarship holders (Social-economical, cultural, sports, honor grants and for

	participating in student federations)
9,222	Titles published by the university: didactic units, editorial books, and others (out of this total, 2079 are didactic units, 316 are editorial books, and 68 are other types of materials that have been published between 2000 and 2006).
12	Videoconference rooms located in University Centers (and one main room in UNED's main campus, plus additional rooms required according to agreements and academic activities); UNED is the headquarters for the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN)
2,640	Audiovisual productions (more the 1800 radio productions; about 235 didactic videos, TV-lessons and documentaries; around 300 institutional videos, more the 100 short videos and 200 conferences designed since 2000)
53	Multimedia productions (21 educational software, 8 institutional websites, 24 congress memoirs or institutional multimedia produced since 2000)
165	Active online courses during the first term in 2008 (70 Microcampus, 94 WebCT)
1	National High school of Distance Education (CONED, for its Spanish acronym) addressed to the adult population that has not concluded high school education
1	Language Center giving Italian, English, Mandarin and French lessons

Historical Account

Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED) was created in 1977 by the Republic Law No. 6044 ratified by the Legislative Assembly. It is an institution of public nature enjoying autonomy.

Its mission is to offer higher education to all social sectors, especially those that due to economic, social, geographical, cultural, or ethnical reasons or to disabilities or gender matters need opportunities for a real and equitable insertion into society.

UNED specializes in the distance teaching methodology, which makes use of different means of social communication. Its method modifies the role of the educator and transfers great responsibility to the student. Distance methodology does not fix schedules as when attending classes; therefore, students can work and fulfill their family and work duties while studying.

The main means used is the *modular didactic unit*, a set of didactic resources that have been prepared for and addressed towards the achievement of the students' self-teaching. Furthermore, UNED uses other technological media fostering interactivity and independent learning.

In addition, UNED, during its thirty-year history, has committed itself to the academic excellence, culture development, science, arts, and human rights in order to build a fair society and a culture of peace.

Due to this historical and cultural trajectory, the Legislative Assembly, Law No.8623, honored UNED on November 22, 2007 by recognizing the university with the title of Meritorious Institution of Costa Rican Education and Culture.

Institutional Objectives:

The following objectives have been established within UNED Organic Statutes:

- a) To strengthen the values in which the Costa Rican State is based on
- b) To provide higher education, mainly through the use of distance education techniques
- c) To attend to those population sectors that due to economic, social, geographical, work or any other reason cannot go to any other center of higher education.
- d) To contribute with scientific and technological research for the cultural, economical and social progress of the country
- e) To provide adequate instruments for the improvement and constant training of all the inhabitants
- f) To work as a means for spreading culture
- g) To contribute to the non-university education of adults by establishing cooperative and coordinating systems with specialized institutions, whether national or international, and
- h) To foster the cultural, scientific, artistic, and civil spirit of Costa Rican people.