

Capella University Fact Sheet

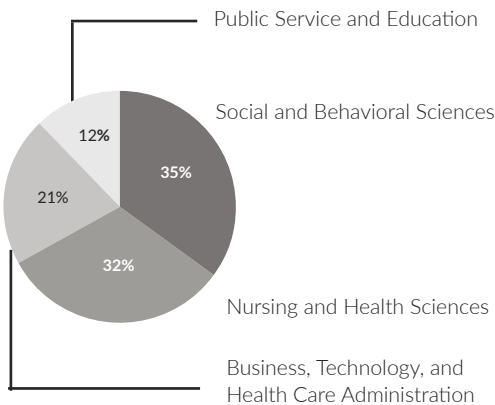
PUBLISHED AUGUST 1, 2025

Total Enrollment

51,770 students (Enrollment as of December 31, 2024)¹

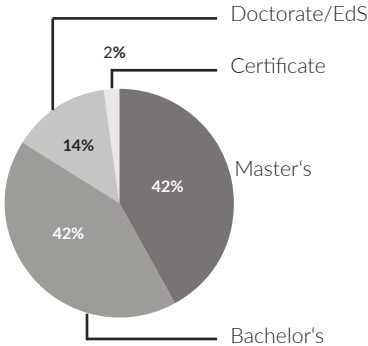
University Enrollment by School

(Updated annually - as of December 31, 2024)¹



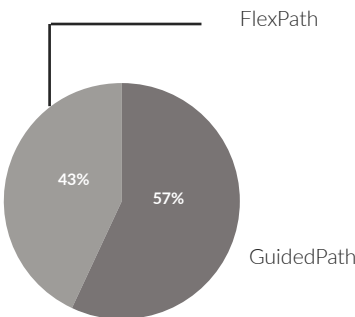
University Enrollment by Degree and Certificate

(Updated annually - as of December 31, 2024)²



University Enrollment by Delivery Model

(Updated annually - as of December 31, 2024)³



Federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data on enrollment are available as well. Since IPEDS data are generated according to U.S. Department of Education rules and are used by Capella in standardized external reports, these data may differ from the numbers presented in this fact sheet. IPEDS data provide an accurate snapshot of degree and non-degree enrollment as of the census date each fall, where census date is the 12th calendar day of the main session in a quarter – e.g., October 20, 2024, for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Student Profile

(Updated annually - as of December 31, 2024)

Capella students live in 50 states and 55 other countries or territories.

Gender

- 84% female
- 15% male
- 1% other, unknown

Average Age

- 37

Race/Ethnicity⁵

- 4% Asian
- 30% Black or African American
- 13% Hispanic or Latino
- 44% White
- 4% Two or more races
- 5% Race and Ethnicity, Other

Enrollment Status⁴

- 37% full-time
- 63% part-time

Receiving Financial Aid

- Approximately 60%

Faculty Profile

(Updated annually - as of November 1, 2023)

81% of faculty have doctorates

Of the faculty who reported their gender, 71% are female and 29% are male

Capella faculty live in 50 states and Washington D.C.

Federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data are generated according to U.S. Department of Education rules and are used by Capella in standardized external reports. IPEDS data provide an accurate snapshot of faculty as of November 1 of each year. Data above are as of the most recent update, November 2023.

Academic Offerings

Degree programs: 40

Fourteen of these degree programs are also delivered via FlexPath, our direct assessment option.

Graduate and undergraduate specializations: 80

Certificate programs: 10

Courses: 1,530+

Degrees and Certificates Conferred

(as of December 31, 2024)

Total: 178,892

- GuidedPath: 123,155
- FlexPath: 55,737

Alumni: 161,024⁶ (Degree and certificate recipients)

Accreditation

Higher Learning Commission: Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

(<https://www.hlcommission.org>, (800) 621-7440)

ABET: Capella's BS in IT program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, www.abet.org.⁷

Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs

(ACBSP): The Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP) has accredited Capella University business programs and select specializations. For full accreditation statement and the list of accredited programs and specializations, go to <http://www.capella.edu/capella-experience/about/university-accreditation>.

American Psychological Associate: Capella University's MS in Clinical Psychology clinical counseling specialization is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Questions related to this accreditation should be directed to the CoA: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NW, Washington DC 20002, (202) 336-5979, apaaccred@apa.org

Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE):

The MS in Marriage and Family Therapy program at Capella University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; (703) 838-9808, coa@aamft.org.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE): The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Capella University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>).

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP):

Capella University's PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, MS in Mental Health Counseling and MS in School Counseling programs are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) through March 31, 2028.

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

(CAEP): Capella University's Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) unit is accredited based on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards. CAEP is the only recognized national accreditor for educator preparation (CAEP, 1140 19th St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-0077).

Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE):

Capella University's Master of Science in Human Services is accredited by the Council for Standards in Human Service Education, <https://cshse.org/>.

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE):

Capella University's Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Board of Accreditation.

Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management (PMI GAC):

The following program specializations are accredited by the Project Management Institute (PMI) Global Accreditation Center for Project Management (PMI GAC) ⁷:

- Bachelor of Science in Business with a Specialization in Project Management
- Master of Business Administration with a Specialization in Project Management
- Master of Science in Information Technology with a Specialization in Project Management
- Doctor of Philosophy in Business with a Specialization in Project Management

End Notes

¹ CU Total Enrollment as of December 31, 2024.

² CU Total Enrollment as of December 31, 2024. Certificates include undergraduate and graduate certificates. Doctorate also includes EdS degree.

³ At Capella University, students can choose between two learning models: 1.) FlexPath, a self-paced direct assessment option that provides students flexibility to complete as many courses as they want, up to two at a time, for one tuition fee per 12-week billing session. FlexPath was introduced in 2013. Select bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs available. 2.) GuidedPath, a more traditional and structured learning model. All programs available.

⁴ Per the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), full-time status is defined as 9 or more credits per quarter for graduate students, and 12 or more credits per quarter for undergraduate students (including FlexPath students). Doctoral students in comprehensive, dissertation or capstone are full-time. Data as of December 31, 2024.

⁵ Race and Ethnicity, Other - includes American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Nonresident, and Race Unspecified.

⁶ Number of alumni is less than the grand total of all Degrees and Certificates Conferred; some students have completed more than one degree at Capella.

⁷ The FlexPath option(s) is not included in this specialized accreditation.

Milestones

2024

- Capella University welcomed its new provost, Dr. Iris Lafferty
- Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Clinical Counseling specialization received full accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA)
- Launched Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree program
- Capella University released a data report on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) programs among adult students and students of color
- Capella University recognized as 2024 Marketplace Honoree at 18th Annual Disability Matters North America Conference
- BS in Psychology – General specialization introduced Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP) for students to complete graduate courses from the MS in Psychology
- Launched non-credit courses Foundations of Generative AI (AI1000) and Intermediate Application of Generative AI (AI 2000) focused on generative AI ethical and practical use
- Total enrollment exceeded 50,000 students
- Capella graduated its 50,000th FlexPath students

2023

- Dr. Constance St. Germain appointed president of Capella University, the first woman and first military veteran to lead the university
- Dr. Richard Senese awarded designation as president emeritus
- The Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed Capella University's accreditation
- Bachelor of Social Work degree program launched
- Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner specialization launched
- Capella University celebrated its 30th anniversary
- Master of Science in Human Services program earned accreditation by the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)
- Project Management Institute (PMI) Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC) reaffirmed accreditation of project management specializations

2022

- Capella University received the 2022 CAEL Adult Learner Impact Award
- Master of Social Work program reaccredited by the Council of Social Work Education through 2030
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program redesignated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense through 2027
- Master of Human Services program earned accreditation from the Council for Standards in Human Service Education
- School advisory boards established in all schools, providing industry and practice-relevant insights to leaders and key decision makers
- Capella graduated its 20,000th FlexPath student

2021

- The Higher Learning Commission approved the Doctor of Education with specialization in Educational Leadership and the Doctor of Business Administration degree programs in FlexPath
- Capella University earned the Sustained Excellence in Assessment designation from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Capella published a whitepaper on the value of Prior Learning Assessment
- Capella graduated its 100,000th student and graduated its 17,000th FlexPath student

2020

- The Higher Learning Commission approved direct assessment option for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program and Master of Science in Human Resources program and two MS HRM specializations
- Capella University's PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, MS in Mental Health Counseling, and MS in School Counseling programs' accreditation was reaffirmed by CACREP for a term of eight years
- Dr. Bruce Francis was awarded designation as Faculty Emeritus
- Capella University was the recipient of the "Golden Shovel" Award for "best use of data" from Yellowdig, the "ed tech" firm focused on peer-to-peer learning
- Capella University graduated its 10,000th FlexPath student

2019

- Capella graduated its 8,000th FlexPath student

- Capella University published five-year outcomes report for the FlexPath Direct Assessment Program

2018

- The Higher Learning Commission approved FlexPath for the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration program and specializations, and additional specializations in previously approved programs
- Capella University's parent company, Capella Education Company, merged with Strayer Education, Inc., and was renamed Strategic Education, Inc. (SEI). Strategic Education is the parent company of both Capella University and Strayer University, which continue to operate as independent and separately accredited institutions
- Capella University graduated its 4,000th FlexPath student
- Capella University won a 2018 Blackboard Catalyst Award
- Capella University's Master of Social Work programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation
- Capella University's Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy program accreditation renewed by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- Capella University's Educator Preparation Provider, comprising eight advanced P-12 educator preparation licensure programs, accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- Dr. Bruce Francis was awarded designation as President Emeritus of Capella University

2017

- The Higher Learning Commission approved FlexPath option for the Master of Education in Teaching and Learning program, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, and several MSN specializations
- Founder and former CEO of Capella Education Company and former Chancellor of Capella University, Stephen G. Shank, retired from the Board of Directors
- The Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program reaccredited by the ABET
- Capella University graduated its 60,000th student and 2,000th FlexPath student

2016

- Dr. Richard Senese appointed president of Capella University
- The Higher Learning Commission approved FlexPath options for the Master of Health Administration and Master of Science in Information Assurance and Security programs,

post-baccalaureate certificates in these disciplines, and additional specializations and certificates in previously approved programs

- Capella University received the Excellence in Assessment designation from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Capella University's business and information technology programs with specializations in Project Management reaccredited by the Project Management Institute - Global Accreditation Center
- Capella University's nursing programs reaccredited by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education
- Capella University graduated its 800th FlexPath student

2015

- The Higher Learning Commission approved FlexPath option for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program
- The PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision earned accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Capella University's accreditation was reaffirmed by the Higher Learning Commission
- Capella University graduated its 50,000th student and 200th FlexPath student
- Capella University had the largest new academic offerings launch in its history

2014

- The Higher Learning Commission approved FlexPath options for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Master of Science in Psychology, and Master of Science in Information Systems and Technology Management programs
- Capella University launched the new School of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Capella University's FlexPath won the 2014 WCET Outstanding Work (WOW) Award
- Capella University's bachelor's, master's and doctoral business programs earned accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
- Capella University's FlexPath won the National University Technology Network (NUTN) 2014 Distance Innovation Award
- Capella University designated by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense (CAE IA/CD) for academic years 2014–2021

- Capella University graduated its 40,000th student

2013

- The Master of Science in Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- The Higher Learning Commission approved direct assessment options for the Bachelor of Science in Business, Business Administration specialization and the Master of Business Administration (MBA), General Business Administration specialization. These options were called FlexPath

2012

- Scott L. Kinney appointed president of Capella University
- The Doctor of Nursing Practice earned accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- The Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in School Psychology received approval from the Arizona State Board of Education
- Capella University graduated its 30,000th student

2011

- The Master of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing earned accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- The Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program earned accreditation from the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET
- The Master of Science in Education specialization in Early Childhood Education earned National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) National Recognition
- The Masters of Science in Education, Education Specialist, and PhD in Education specialization in Leadership in Educational Administration earned Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC) National Recognition (Building Level)

2010

- Larry A. Isaak appointed president of Capella University
- The Professional Education Unit at Capella University earned accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The accreditation covered advanced educator preparation offerings
- Capella University graduated its 20,000th student

- Capella University awarded the 2010 CHEA Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Capella University accepted invitation to join the President's Alliance of the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning & Accountability
- Capella University awarded the NUTN Distance Education Innovation Award by the National University Telecommunications Network

2009

- Dr. Christopher Cassirer appointed President of Capella University
- Launched Doctor of Education (EdD) degree
- Kevin Gilligan became Chief Executive Officer of Capella Education Company
- Capella University granted full institutional approval by the Minnesota Board of Teaching
- Capella established the new School of Public Service Leadership
- Capella University received the 2009 Learning Impact Award from IMS Global Learning Consortium
- The Specialist Certificate in School Psychology was granted approval with conditions from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2011, by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- Capella University became a charter member of Transparency by Design, the initiative that developed and officially launched the College Choices for Adults website in August 2009
- The Master of Science in School Counseling earned accreditation from the American Counseling Association's Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Capella University received the 2009 Outstanding Work (WOW) Award from WCET
- The PhD in Education specialization Special Education Leadership earned Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) National Recognition
- Enrollment exceeded 30,000 students

2008

- Capella University's accreditation was reaffirmed by the Higher Learning Commission
- Dr. Michael Offerman was awarded designation as President Emeritus of Capella University

- The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM™) acknowledged that three Capella HR specializations (in the BS, MS and MBA programs) fully align with SHRM's HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates
- The Master of Science in School Counseling received approval from the Arizona Department of Education
- The Doctor of Philosophy in Education specialization in Special Education Leadership received approval from the Minnesota Board of School Administrators
- The Bachelor and Master of Science in Information Technology specializations in Project Management earned accreditation from the Project Management Institute (PMI®) Global Accreditation Center for Project Management (PMI-GAC)

2007

- The Master of Science in Education specialization in Reading and Literacy received approval as a program leading to professional licensure by the Minnesota Board of Teaching. This was the first and only online Reading and Literacy program to be approved by this agency
- Capella University designated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education for the academic years 2007-2012
- Enrollment exceeded 20,000 students
- Launched Education Specialist (EdS) degree
- Capella graduated its 10,000th student

2006

- The first comprehensive AQIP check-up visit was highly successful: the visiting team recommended that all accreditation stipulations be removed, and complimented Capella University for achieving what has taken other institutions years to accomplish
- The Higher Learning Commission removed the Statement of Affiliation Status stipulation and extends Capella University accreditation to develop and deliver new undergraduate programs and degree offerings
- Capella Education Company, the parent company of Capella University, completed its initial public offering of common stock and started to trade under the ticker symbol CPLA on the Nasdaq stock market

2005

- The MS in Human Services specialization in Mental Health Counseling earned accreditation from the American Counseling Association's Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Capella University graduated its 5,000th student

2004

- Enrollment exceeded 10,000 students

2003

- Approved by Minnesota Board of School Administrators to offer education leadership specializations in School of Education
- The mental health counseling specialization in School of Human Services is accredited by American Counseling Association's Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to launch four-year undergraduate programs in Business and in Information Technology
- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer PsyD in School of Psychology
- Formed collaboration with Augsburg College to offer four-year baccalaureate degree starting in 2004

2002

- Graduated its 1,000th student

2001

- Dr. Michael Offerman became president of Capella University; Stephen Shank became chancellor
- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer upper-division bachelor's degree in Business

2000

- Became charter member of the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission; accreditation extended to 2007-2008
- Approved by Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to grant Bachelor of Science degree
- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer upper-division bachelor's degree in Information Technology

1999

- Joined the US Department of Education's Distance Education Demonstration Program
- TGSA became Capella University
- Founded School of Psychology
- Stephen Shank became president of Capella University; Bruce Francis became chancellor
- University enrollment exceeded 1,000 students; celebrated 100th graduate

1998

- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer upper-division bachelor's degree in Information Technology
- Approved by Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to grant MBA

1997

- Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; at that time, TGSA offered MS and PhD degrees in Organization and Management, Education, Human Services and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Graduated first students (9 MS degrees, 5 PhD degrees)

1995

- Dr. Bruce Francis became president of TGSA

1993

- The Graduate School of America (TGSA) founded by Stephen Shank and Dr. Harold Abel
- Dr. Harold Abel became first president of TGSA
- Approved by Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to grant MS and PhD degrees in Organization and Management, Education, Human Services and Interdisciplinary Studies

Capella University Leadership

Constance St. Germain, EdD, JD	President
Iris Lafferty, EdD	Provost, Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs
Lisa Kreeger, PhD, RN	Executive Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences
Irene Nicolet, PhD, NCSP, LSSP	Dean, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Maja Zelihic, PhD	Dean, School of Business, Technology, and Health Care Administration
Joshua L. Stanley, EdD, NCC, ACS	Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness
Jennifer Straub, PhD	Associate Provost, Vice President Academic Affairs
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Questions or Comments

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