

2020 Capella Consumer Information

General institutional information

Accreditation and licensure of institution and programs

Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to **our regional accreditation**, Capella has achieved **specialized and program-specific** accreditations.

Capella University is registered as a private institution with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and is an approved institutional participant in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). Capella is authorized to operate in all SARA-member states and is registered, or authorized to operate in states not participating in SARA, or as required based on Capella's activities in states that fall under the jurisdiction of the respective state educational agency. [Legal & Regulatory Information](#)

Upon request, Capella will provide students or prospective students with a copy of accreditation and licensure documents.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Capella University complies with the provisions of [FERPA of 1974](#), which regulates the confidentiality of data in education records and terms for its disclosure. Capella has a department dedicated to ensuring compliance with the act, and creating relevant policies and procedures regarding the release of student education records and related information under the act.

Career Center

In support of Capella University's focus on providing high quality career education, the mission of the Career Center is to help learners, alumni, and prospective learners make meaningful and effective career decisions, and empower them to proactively manage and enrich their careers.

Transfer credits

Capella University evaluates official transcripts from regionally and nationally accredited or internationally recognized institutions to determine **acceptance of transfer credit**.

Articulation agreements

Articulation agreements made with Capella's partners simplify and streamline the transfer process for students moving from a two- to a four-year degree program. Capella's current articulation agreement partners are listed below.

- Madison Area Technical College, Wisc.
- Normandale Community College, Minn.
- Valencia College, Fla.

For more information regarding articulation agreements or how your credits might transfer, contact an enrollment counselor at 1.866.679.9682.

Course materials

Capella partners with VitalSource and Ambassador for the delivery of course materials, which could include eBooks, textbooks, scholarly articles, interactive media, course-specific software, course packs, and other instructional materials.

Three-day cancellation

An applicant who provides written notice of cancellation within three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and federal and state holidays) of signing an enrollment agreement is entitled to a refund of the application fee. The school will provide a 100% refund within 30 days of receiving the notice of cancellation.

Academics

Academic programs

Capella University offers certificates and bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. There are 53 degree program offerings and 127 specializations as of January 31, 2020.

Residency

Capella University students in certain graduate-level programs are **required to attend residencies**, which are in-person learning experiences that provide face-to-face interaction between faculty and students.

Capella faculty

Capella University is dedicated to recruiting **faculty members** who hold top academic credentials and professional experience in the specialized areas they teach.

Written arrangements

Capella University has not entered into any written arrangements with any other schools, and does not participate in the following: consortium agreements (either to be the host school or home school) or study abroad programs.

Tuition and financial aid

Notice of availability of institutional and federal financial aid information

The office of financial aid is the primary source for information about financial assistance—both **federal aid** and **other options**—available at Capella University. To speak with a financing coach, call 1.888.CAPELLA (1.888.227.3552).

How to apply for federal aid

To receive financial aid, students must apply for aid each aid year. Our website has **step-by-step instructions on how to apply** for federal financial aid and other aid awards. To speak with a financing coach, call 1.888.CAPELLA (1.888.227.3552).

Tuition and fees

The **tuition and fees page** outlines potential costs per program. To calculate your cost (including potential savings through transfer credits, corporate alliances, military affiliations, etc.), and explore financing options, contact an enrollment counselor at 1.888.CAPELLA (1.888.227.3552).

Capella scholarships and grants

Capella offers scholarships to students who are new to Capella or alumni and several scholarships for currently enrolled learners. Visit the [Visitor Center](#) or [Campus](#) for more information. Review eligibility requirements and application dates to determine if you qualify.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

FSEOG recipients must have applied for a Capella scholarship for an eligible program and meet other eligibility requirements. The grants are awarded to Pell recipients who have demonstrated exceptional financial need based on the expected family contribution provided by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The award amount depends on your financial need. The FSEOG is considered to be gift aid; therefore, it does not have to be repaid.

Federal Work-Study Program

Capella participates in the Federal Work-Study Program, which provides part-time employment to eligible students who demonstrate financial need. Financial need is based on the expected family contribution, which is determined by completing the FAFSA. Federal Work-Study funds are a part of the financial aid package; however, they are paid to students biweekly after they meet employment requirements and earn a wage.

Private education loans

Private education loans are available to students who are ineligible for federal financial aid or find that federal financial aid does not cover their full education costs. Students are encouraged to apply for federal financial aid prior to considering private education loans. Federal financial aid program terms and conditions may be more favorable than private education loans. For additional information, contact a financing coach at 1.888.CAPELLA (1.888.227.3552). All private loans will be processed accordingly. Self-certification forms are available and will be completed upon request.

Disbursements and federal aid refunds

Students who are in the GuidedPath Learning format, eligible for financial aid, enrolled at least half time (for federal loans), and have engaged in their course(s) will have their funds disbursed to Capella during the third week of their course(s). Students in the FlexPath Learning format will have their funds disbursed within the fourth to fifth week of each 12-week billing session. After applying funds to a student's balance, Capella will process a federal aid refund (if applicable) within seven business days.

Once the refund has been processed, it will take three to five business days for Capella to disburse the refund by direct deposit or mail. Disbursements made after the third week of courses are processed using the same timelines.

Books and supplies

Many of Capella's degree programs offer a Resource Kit, which is a flat-rate quarterly fee that covers the cost of eBooks, textbooks, interactive media, software, course packs, and more. For programs that do not offer the Resource Kit, learners will have access to all electronic materials for the first three weeks of class to allow time to purchase full access.

Cost of attendance and net price calculator

Financing your education takes both planning and budgeting. Our [financial aid tools](#) can help you set expectations for the types of funding you may be eligible to receive, and the cost of attendance for your degree and program.

Experimental sites initiative (ESI)

Capella participates in three ESIs, which test the effectiveness of statutory and regulatory flexibility for disbursing Title IV student aid. The Prior Learning Assessment and Competency-Based Education experiments are ending on June 30, 2020.

ESI Experiment six involves testing the effect of reduced Unsubsidized Direct Loan borrowing limits on graduation and persistence rates. For Capella, this will take the form of a \$2,000 reduction (\$500 per quarter) in the annual unsubsidized eligibility for a select population of students. This is a statutory exemption from the usual regulatory provisions provided by the Department of Education.

The Prior Learning Assessment ESI involves testing the effect of an increase in cost of attendance allowing learners to receive additional Title IV aid toward prior learning assessment (PLA) fees. For Capella, this will take the form of an increase in Title IV eligibility for the exact cost of the PLA fee, which varies by number of credits and career level. FlexPath is excluded from this initiative.

The Competency-Based Education Experiment allows for the disbursement of Title IV aid for direct costs as soon as the learner completes a required number of competencies, regardless of how many weeks of instructional time have elapsed. Disbursements of Title IV funds for indirect costs would be made at regular intervals related to the completion of a certain number of weeks of instruction. FASAP and R2T4 requirements are waived under this experiment.

Financial responsibility

Students can better plan for their future by **borrowing responsibly**. This begins with borrowing only loan funds that are needed and planning ahead for repayment. For more information regarding the terms of the Direct Loan program, students may review their **Master Promissory Note** or the Department of Education **Student Aid website**.

Tuition refund policy

Students who drop or withdraw from course(s) will have a percentage of tuition and fees refunded in accordance with **university policy**.

Return of Title IV funds procedure

Under the Department of Education's return of funds regulations, an institution must first determine the amount of Title IV program funds that a student earned. If the student withdraws during the first 60% of any period of enrollment or payment period, the amount of Title IV program funds that the student earned is equal to a pro rata portion of the funds for which the student would otherwise be eligible. If the student withdraws after the 60% threshold, then the student has earned 100% of the Title IV program funds. For FlexPath offerings, which are nonterm, a Title IV return of funds can also be triggered by a period of student nonenrollment that is greater than 25 days and occurs during the course of the FlexPath 12-week billing period if the nonenrollment is not related to an approved leave of absence per Capella University policy. The institution must return to the appropriate Title IV programs, in a specified order, the lesser of (i) the unearned Title IV program funds and (ii) the institutional charges incurred by the student for the period multiplied by the percentage of unearned Title IV program funds. An institution must return the funds no later than 45 days after the date of the institution's determination that a student withdrew.

Undergraduate students will have funds returned in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Direct Loans
2. Subsidized Direct Loans
3. Federal Grants
4. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants

Graduate students will have funds returned in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Direct Loans
2. Graduate PLUS Loans

Defining 60% of a term

GuidedPath: The federal formula to calculate 60% takes the number of completed¹ calendar days divided by the total number of calendar days in that term. FlexPath: Due to the fluid timing of FlexPath offerings, the formula for determining the 60% date is based on a projection of course completion time. For example, Capella assumes that a student who completes three program points in 16 weeks would continue to complete points at that rate. For undergraduate students, who need to complete nine program points to complete one payment period, their projected payment period would be a total of 48 weeks.

¹Completion refers to days in which there is a record of active course participation (posting in the courseroom, submitting tests, etc.). For certain courses (e.g., dissertation), ongoing participation is not tracked in the courseroom and the date of withdrawal is determined by the date of the course drop.

Timeline for return processing

Capella University calculates the return of Title IV funds no later than 30 days after determining that a student withdrew or stopped participating. The funds are returned to the Title IV program from which they disbursed within 45 days.

The master's in psychology FlexPath option is waived from the return of Title IV funds requirements with participation in the ESI for competency-based education.

Separation or withdrawal from the university

Students may request an immediate or delayed **discontinuation from the university** by completing and submitting the discontinuation request form, located on [Campus](#).

Financial aid satisfactory academic progress

Students are required to meet and maintain **satisfactory academic progress** to be eligible for federal financial aid. Failure to meet minimum requirements will result in students being placed on financial aid warning or probation, or becoming ineligible.

Entrance and exit counseling

Students who request Direct Loans are required to complete the entrance counseling via the [StudentAids.gov](#) website. The counseling provides comprehensive information on the terms and conditions of the loan and the borrower's responsibilities.

Capella notifies students about completing **exit counseling** once they have dropped below half-time enrollment, withdrawn, or have graduated. Exit counseling helps students understand their rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower.

National student loan data system (NSLDS)

NSLDS is the Department of Education's central database for student financial aid. Students who request and receive student aid are documented by NSLDS. Loans will be accessible to guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools if they are authorized to use the NSLDS system. Students may access this information to see an integrated view of Title IV loans and/or grant information.

Percentage of students using financial assistance

At Capella, approximately three-quarters of students use financial aid assistance, including federal financial aid, nonfederal financial aid, scholarships, and alternative loans.² Of all undergraduate students, 43% receive Pell Grants.

Federal financial aid penalties for drug law violations

A student who has been convicted of a drug-related violation under federal or state law can be disqualified for federal financial aid funding.

Those convicted of possessing illegal drugs will lose financial aid eligibility for:

- First offense – one year from date of conviction
- Second offense – two years from date of conviction
- Third+ offense(s) – indefinitely

Those convicted of selling illegal drugs will lose financial aid eligibility for:

- First offense—two years from date of conviction
- Second offense—indefinitely

²Federally required data is provided to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Student outcomes

Learning and career outcomes

Capella University is committed to offering clear, transparent information about what students can expect from completing one of our programs. Each program is designed to provide career-relevant skills and help students advance professionally after graduation. See learning and career outcomes at [CapellaResults.com](https://www.capellaresults.com).

Advanced education for bachelor's graduates

20 to 25% of students who received a bachelor's degree from Capella as of December 31, 2019, re-enrolled in a master's program.

Retention rate

The industry standard for retention rate is based on the percentage of first-time, full-time bachelor's-degree-seeking students from the previous fall quarter who are enrolled in the current fall quarter. Capella University does not serve a large percentage of first-time, full-time undergraduate students. Our most recent retention rate for this population is 56% and is based on a cohort of nine students. The university's retention rate for first-time, part-time undergraduate students is 27%.

Graduation rate

The industry standard for reporting an institution's graduation rate is based on first-time, full-time bachelor's-degree-seeking undergraduates, graduating within 150% (6 years). This is also referred to as the Student Right-to-Know graduation rate.

For the 2018-2019 reporting year, Capella did not have any degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates to report. First-time, full-time undergraduate learners make up less than 1% of our fall enrollment.

Placement rates

Capella does not offer job placement services or regularly calculate placement rates. Capella University is not required by any state or regional accrediting agency to calculate placement rates. The Capella University alumni survey contains the following question: "Are you currently employed?" In 2019, 90% of respondents who were three years after graduation indicated that they were employed (84% full-time, 6% part-time). The response rate for this population is 42%, and includes responses from both our undergraduate- and graduate-level alumni. This information does not address whether the graduate was employed in a field related to his or her studies, and it does not address whether the graduate already had a job while enrolled at Capella and/or advanced to another job after graduation.

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs ([CACREP](https://www.cacrep.org)) requires that Capella University report job placement rates for the MS in Marriage and Family Therapy, MS in Mental Health Counseling, and MS in School Counseling.³ The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Education ([COAMFTE](https://www.coamfte.org)) requires that Capella University report job placement rates for graduates of the MS in Marriage and Family Therapy program.⁴ Placement data for these programs are found on:

- <https://www.capellaresults.com/outcomes/masters-marriage-family-therapy-outcomes>
- <https://www.capellaresults.com/outcomes/masters-mental-health-counseling-outcomes>
- <https://www.capellaresults.com/outcomes/masters-school-counseling-outcomes>

Student demographics

Capella's student [demographic percentages](#) are based on first-time undergraduate students. The information regarding ethnicity is based on self-reported information from students.⁵

Degrees and Certificates Conferred (as of Dec. 31, 2019) (1993-2019): 96,589

Number of alumni (Degree and certificate recipients): 97,100

Health and safety

Annual crime statistics

In accordance with the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, Capella University makes available to all students and employees the Annual Crime Report that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. The report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by the university, and on public property within, or immediately adjacent and accessible to the campus.

View the Capella University Annual Crime Report

1. Access the U.S. Department of Education's [Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool](#).
2. Select, Get Data for One School.
3. Use the Search page to select the campus (Capella University) and view the crime report data listed there.

Drug and alcohol awareness

Capella University is committed to providing a drug- and alcohol-free environment for students, faculty, and employees. The university maintains policies, procedures, and programs to provide information surrounding drug and alcohol awareness. See the [Campus Crime Policy](#) and the [University Policy on Drugs and Alcohol](#) for more details about Capella's student drug awareness program. Capella University faculty and employees should read the Capella University Employee Handbook for more details about Capella's employee drug and alcohol policy, and for available resources.

³Capella University PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, MS in Mental Health Counseling, MS in School Counseling, and MS in Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy programs are accredited by the American Counseling Association's Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) through March 31, 2020.

⁴The MS in Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy program at Capella University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 703.838.9808.

⁵Source: IPEDS Fall 2018 enrollment

Capella complies with the requirements of the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. Under this act, employees must notify human resources of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace not later than five days after the conviction. Capella is required to notify the Department of Education within 10 days of an employee's conviction and must take action against an employee within 30 days of a violation of the policy.

Campus crime policies

Capella University is dedicated to providing a safe environment for students, faculty, and employees. Programs, policies, and procedures that may minimize the risk of criminal activity are outlined in the [Campus Crime Policies](#).

Sex offender registry

The Federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act requires that colleges and universities advise the community where law enforcement agency information provided by a state concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a state to provide notice of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed or is a student.

To learn the identity of registered sex offenders visit the [Sex Offender Database](#). The information provided here is intended to be in compliance with the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act and is for safety purposes only. It should not be used to intimidate, threaten, or harass. Misuse of this information may result in prosecution.

Information for crime victims about disciplinary proceedings

Upon written request from the complainant of any crime of violence or nonforcible sex offense, Capella will disclose the results of any disciplinary actions taken by Capella against the student who is the respondent of such crime or offense. If the complainant is deceased as a result of the crime or offense, the information shall be provided, upon request.

Vaccinations

As an online university with no physical student campus, Capella generally does not have specific requirements for vaccinations.

However, some Capella programs do require fieldwork at sites that may or may not have their own requirements for vaccinations. Students must comply with the requirements of their fieldwork site. As an example, Oregon regulations require that nursing students with direct patient contact complete and provide, through their university, a criminal background check, proof of immunizations, drug test, health screening and evidence of professional liability insurance prior to clinical placement. The Oregon Health Authority Immunization Requirements are as follows:

- Hepatitis B (Hep B)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)
- Varicella
- Recommended but not required—polio
- Recommended but not required—influenza (seasonal flu)

Capella University partners with CastleBranch Inc. to collect, store, and share student immunization, health, criminal backgrounds, and insurance information for these purposes.

Additional information

Copyright and file sharing

Faculty, staff, and students must comply with federal [copyright and trademark laws](#), such as the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#). No one may use Capella information resources and other information technology tools for unauthorized file sharing, posting of copyrighted materials as one's own, or other copyright violations. Copyright infringement can result in civil and criminal penalties.

Consequences of illegal download

Summary of civil and criminal penalties for violation of federal copyright laws

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement. Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay

either actual damages or statutory damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For willful infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.

Services for students with disabilities

We provide [access, accommodations, and advocacy for Capella students who have disabilities](#). Examples include both online classroom considerations, such as accessible textbooks and additional time on learning activities, and residential colloquia support, including sign language interpreters and mobility assistance. To learn more about our disability services policies and procedures or how to request academic accommodations, call 1.888.CAPELLA (1.888.227.3552).

Voter registration

Students not registered to vote can use the USA.gov website to obtain voter registration requirements for their specific state.

Information for pregnant and parenting students

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including pregnancy and related conditions, in educational programs and activities that are eligible for federal funding. Capella's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault Policy](#) (4.02.04) clearly states that discrimination is prohibited against persons on the basis of race, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, or status with regard to public assistance in its educational programs and activities. This includes discrimination based on pregnancy. If you have any questions about this statement or your rights, visit our Campus page, [information for pregnant and parenting students](#).

Contact Information

Capella University Capella Tower 225 South 6th Street, 9th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55402 USA

(toll-free): 1.866.283.7921

Canada (toll-free): 1.866.734.5934

International: 1.612.339.8650

Fax: 1.612.977.5060

Monday–Friday: 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

All times listed are Central Time.