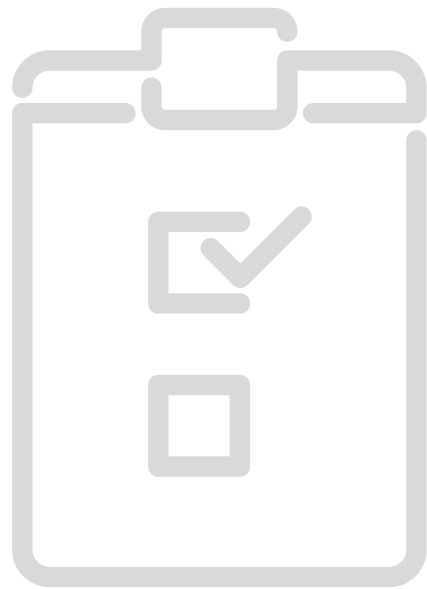


WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN ONLINE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT CHECKLIST



CAPELLA UNIVERSITY



Searching for the right online university to help you reach the next level in your career?

This checklist will help you know what factors to look for, so you can find your best fit in no time.



Educational Quality





Educational Quality | Accreditation

The credibility of your degree among peers and prospective employers depends on accreditation.

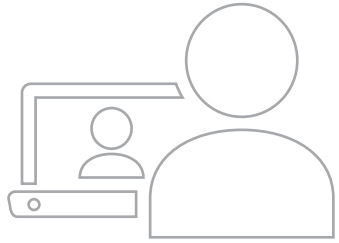
It's a quality assurance process that certifies educational institutions or programs for achieving and maintaining commonly recognized high standards. An external group of faculty and administrators, selected by the accreditor, evaluates the institution or program according to set standards.

- Is the educational institution accredited?
- How about the degree or program?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.
- In addition, Capella has specialized and program-specific accreditation recognizing the quality and legitimacy of its degree programs in counseling, teacher education, computing, nursing, business, and many other fields.

[See a full list of Capella's accreditations.](#)



Educational Quality | Experience in Online Learning

- How long has the school been serving students?
- What is its track record of success in delivering effective online education?
- Is it fully online or blended?
- Is it synchronous or asynchronous?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- The organization that became Capella University was founded in 1991 as The Graduate School of America.
- As of December 31, 2017, Capella University offers 53 programs, 144 graduate and undergraduate specializations, and 44 certificate programs—over 2,100 fully online courses.
- As of December 31, 2017, over 69,000 students have graduated from Capella and have benefited from the asynchronous structure.

[Important information](#) about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended these programs.



Educational Quality | Industry Alignment

Today's employers are looking for employees who have skills as well as knowledge.

- Is the program you're evaluating centered on the skills and abilities that leading employers want and need?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Curricula at Capella are built around competencies—sets of knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Capella partners with major organizations in key industries to inform its curriculum.
- Capella students must demonstrate mastery of key skills and abilities before passing each course—a guarantee to employers that they're a good fit for today's workplace.

[Learn more about Capella's approach to competency-based education.](#)



Educational Quality | Appropriately Credentialed Faculty

- Are instructors in your program experts in their field?
- Do they hold the degrees to prove it?
- Are they practitioners as well as scholars?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella faculty are hired not only for their expertise and research background, but also for their practical experience in the field.
- 88% of Capella faculty hold doctorates.*
- Capella faculty are responsive and accessible via online forums, email, and even by phone when students need them.

*As of December 31, 2017.



Affordability





Affordability | Tuition

- What is the cost of tuition?
- How does the cost of the program compare to the tuition of other programs at public or private institutions of a similar size?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella pricing for bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs is outlined online in each program page. In some cases, the total cost is calculated per credit. In others, it's per quarter.
- To get a complete picture of the tuition and fees associated with your intended degree program, contact an enrollment counselor at 1.855.700.2997.



Affordability | Transfer Credit Options

- If you have previous college experience, can you apply the credits to your new program?
- How easy is it to transfer?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Nearly all Capella programs allow students to transfer credits from other accredited universities — potentially saving you time and money as you earn your degree.

[Learn more about transferring credits.](#)



Affordability | Prior Learning Assessments

- Does the school recognize learning that has occurred on the job?
- Can you apply learnings gained through workplace experience toward your degree?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella offers multiple opportunities to earn credit for prior learning, including knowledge demonstrated by professional certifications.
- If you can demonstrate your mastery of specific competencies through Capella's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, you can earn credit toward your degree.

[Read about Capella's Prior Learning Assessment \(PLA\) program.](#)



Affordability | Scholarships, Grants, Discounts, and Other Ways to Save

- Is financial aid available for your program?
- Does the school provide it?
- Do other organizations offer financial assistance?
- What opportunities exist for support other than student loans?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella offers numerous scholarships for new and enrolled students.
- Education grants, which require no repayment, are available from the federal government and other lenders, through Capella.
- Many employer and professional association partners offer tuition discounts for Capella programs.

[View ways to save on your degree.](#)



Program Quality





Program Quality | Fit

- Do the programs align with your educational goals?
- Are the interests and backgrounds of other students similar to your own?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella is focused on advancing the careers of adult students.
- Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees are offered in a wide range of areas—from business to psychology, from health care to IT.
- Capella's over 37,000 students include a diverse group of adults from all 50 states and 54 other countries.

[Take a closer look at Capella's student population and degree programs.](#)



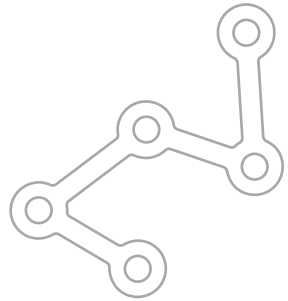
Program Quality | Curriculum Relevancy

- Is the information in courses up-to-date?
- Does technology used in the courseroom mirror innovations in the workplace?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella curricula go through formal academic review every 3 to 5 years, and regular review within their school. Both reviews help ensure industry trends and desired competencies are addressed.
- Interactive components including video, simulations, and virtual labs, are used where appropriate.

[Take a tour of Capella's online courseroom.](#)



Program Quality | Flexibility

- Does the program fit your schedule?
- Can you work on your program anytime and anywhere?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella students are not required to attend class at specific dates and times (although there are specific weekly deadlines). Courses are asynchronous: students and faculty participate in discussions at different times throughout the week.
- Alternatively, Capella's FlexPath option allows you to move at your own pace, without the constraint of preset deadlines.
- As long as you have access to a computer and the Internet, you can study anytime and anywhere.

[Take a closer look at what you can expect in a Capella program.](#)



Program Quality | Speed/Time to Completion

- How long will it take you to complete your degree?
- Are there ways to shorten the time it takes to finish?

How Does Capella Measure up?

With Capella, you can choose between two unique learning formats.

GuidedPath is a pay-per-credit/course format where the course schedule is set and in place. You simply work through the program schedule one course at a time in an interactive setting.

- FlexPath is a pay-per-session format that allows you to determine your own pace and schedule. In the end, your pace determines your price.

The time to complete a program via GuidedPath or FlexPath is dependent upon a number of factors. For a more specific estimated time to completion, contact an enrollment counselor.

[See more differences between GuidedPath and FlexPath.](#)



Program Quality | Learning Measurement

- Is graduation dependent on completing exams or papers, and accruing course hours?
- How will you be expected to demonstrate your educational advancement?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- 86% of our alumni agree or strongly agree that they felt challenged academically at Capella University.
SOURCE: Gallup research study, 2016
- More than 75% of our alumni are likely to agree or strongly agree that Capella was the perfect school for them.
SOURCE: Gallup research study, 2016

[Learn more about authentic assessments, and how Capella students track their progress through courses.](#)



Program Quality | Completion and Satisfaction

- How does the school's graduation rate compare to other schools?
- Are graduates satisfied with the value of their education?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- One year after graduation, 82% of Capella alumni survey respondents say that they have or intend to recommend Capella to others.

SOURCE: Alumni Outcomes Survey, 2016

- 72% of our alumni are likely to agree or strongly agree that their career is positively impacted by a Capella degree.

SOURCE: Gallup Research Study, 2016

Completion and retention rates are documented and updated biannually in the Capella University Fact Sheet.



Support and Community





Support & Community | Technical

- How does the school assist with technical issues you may encounter?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella Technical Support is available 24/7 via phone or chat to help students with general troubleshooting or personalized solutions.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Support & Community | Financial

- Does the school offer access to financial aid in the form of loans, grants, and scholarships?
- Is there someone to help you with the financial aid application process?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella's Financial Aid Counselors will help you with all the required steps needed to complete the financial aid process. Scholarships, loans, and grants are available to qualified individuals.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Support & Community | Academic

- Who will help you navigate program and course requirements?
- What resources are available when you get stuck?

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services](#)

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella students get support from academic coaches and program advisors. They provide valuable advice and guidance about the learning process, your specific program, instructors, and resources.
- FlexPath students have access to specific FlexPath Coaches and FlexPath Tutors. Coaches help students stay on track, and tutors provide subject matter assistance when they need help.
- Capella partners with Smarthinking to provide free online tutoring.
- The Capella Library and Writing Center staff are also available for student assistance.



Support & Community | Student Community

- How will you communicate with students outside your courses?
- How will you find students who share a similar background or goals?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella offers two primary ways for students to connect with each other. Campus iGuide and the Capella Community on Facebook provide students the opportunity to find communities outside the courseroom where they can discuss coursework, research, job opportunities, industry topics, and other general interests.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Support & Community | Alumni Services

- How does the school connect you with alumni for networking and other purposes?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella's Alumni Association offers free access to engagement opportunities, Career Center support, and resources for ongoing professional development.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Support & Community | Disability Services

- Is equal access provided to students with disabilities?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella is dedicated to providing accommodations and services to qualified students with disabilities, in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and similar state laws.
- Accommodations are available for courses, residencies, practicum, comprehensive exam and dissertation, and commencement.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



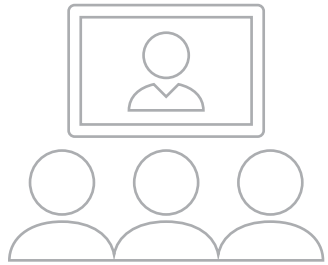
Support & Community | Military Student Support

- Does the school accommodate the needs of military members?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella provides support and resources to students who are veterans, active duty service members, Department of Defense employees, and their immediate family members.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Support & Community | Career

- Does the school assist students with their careers?
- What kind of support is offered to alumni?

How Does Capella Measure Up?

- Capella's Career Center provides access to counselors, resources, and tools that help students and alumni manage their careers at every stage.
- Graduates enjoy free access to the Career Center services and resources.

[View a full list of Capella's Support Services.](#)



Ready to get started?

Apply now and we'll waive your
\$50 application fee when you
use code **Guide1**

CONTACT US:

1.866.933.5819

CAPELLA.EDU

[Important information](#) about the educational debt,
earnings, and completion rates of students who
attended these programs.

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

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