

A STUDENT DECISION GUIDE

Find Your Path: Online or On Campus?

Choosing how you learn is just as important as choosing what you learn. At GCU, both pathways lead to the same destination — a degree grounded in purpose, faith and academic excellence. This guide will help you discover which learning environment fits your life, your goals and your calling.



Online vs. Campus: What's the Difference?

GCU offers online and campus learning options designed for students in different seasons of life. Whether you need the flexibility to study while balancing work and family responsibilities, or you want the full traditional campus experience, GCU can help you explore a path that aligns with your goals.

ONLINE LEARNING

Learn on Your Schedule

Online learning at GCU is designed for students who need flexibility. Depending on your program, you may complete coursework through an online learning environment while balancing responsibilities such as work, family, military service or other commitments.

Online learning may be a strong fit if you are self-motivated, comfortable communicating digitally and looking for a learning environment that can fit into your current routine.

CAMPUS LEARNING

Live the Full Experience

Campus learning at GCU gives traditional students the opportunity to study in person on GCU's campus in Phoenix, Arizona. Students can experience face-to-face instruction, campus events, student organizations, residence life, athletics and a Christian campus community.

Campus learning may be a strong fit if you want a structured class schedule, in-person connection and an immersive college experience.



Online learning fits around real life — work, family and faith, wherever you are.

Which Experience Fits You?

Use this comparison to evaluate each option across the factors that matter most to you.

FACTOR	ONLINE	CAMPUS
Schedule	Flexible coursework designed to fit into a busy schedule	Structured class times within a traditional academic environment
Location	Study from your current location, depending on program requirements	Attend classes on GCU's campus in Phoenix, Arizona
Class Format	Online coursework, discussions and deadlines vary by course and program	In-person classes, labs, activities and campus-based experiences
Community	Digital connection with classmates and faculty	Residence life, clubs, events, athletics and campus traditions
Faith Integration	Christian worldview integrated into coursework	Christian worldview integrated into coursework and campus life
Support	Access to student support resources in an online environment	Access to student support resources and in-person campus services
Cost Considerations	No campus housing or dining plan	Tuition, housing, dining and other campus-related costs may apply
Learning Style	Strong fit for independent, self-directed learners	Strong fit for students who prefer in-person structure and interaction
Student Experience	Designed for flexibility and convenience	Designed for immersion and daily campus engagement

Find the Environment Where You'll Do Your Best Work

Online: This Might Be a Great Fit If You...

- ✓ Work full time or part time and need flexibility
- ✓ Are a parent, caregiver or balancing family responsibilities
- ✓ Serve in the military or are transitioning from military service
- ✓ Prefer to learn independently
- ✓ Are comfortable using technology to communicate and complete coursework
- ✓ Want to study without relocating to Phoenix
- ✓ Need a learning path that can fit into your current routine

Campus: This Might Be a Great Fit If You...

- ✓ Want a traditional college experience
- ✓ Prefer in-person instruction and face-to-face connection
- ✓ Want to live on or near campus
- ✓ Are excited about student organizations, events and campus traditions
- ✓ Want to attend GCU athletics events and participate in campus life
- ✓ Value structured schedules and in-person accountability
- ✓ Want to build community through shared daily experiences



A Look at the Investment

The cost of your education depends on factors such as your program, modality, transfer credits, housing selection, dining plan and financial aid eligibility.

Online Students May Consider:

- [Tuition and fees](#) for their program of study
- Technology needs for online coursework
- Transfer credits, employer tuition assistance or scholarship opportunities
- The ability to continue living and working in their current location

Campus Students May Consider:

- [Tuition and fees](#) for their program of study
- Housing and dining costs, if applicable
- Transportation, books, supplies and other personal expenses
- Scholarship opportunities and financial aid options
- On-campus employment opportunities, if available

TALK IT THROUGH

A university counselor can help you review your program options, estimate [cost of attendance](#) and discuss potential financial aid opportunities.

Purpose-Driven Education in Both Formats

GCU is a private Christian university that integrates a Christian worldview into the educational experience. Whether you study online or on campus, your coursework is designed to help you think about your field of study through the lens of purpose, service and ethical leadership.

Online or on campus, GCU encourages students to pursue **academic growth** while preparing to serve their communities and professions with purpose.

Online Faith Experience

Online students can engage with a faith-integrated curriculum while pursuing their education in a flexible format — designed to help students connect their studies to their values, goals and sense of calling.

Campus Faith Experience

Campus students can experience faith as part of daily campus life through chapel, ministry opportunities, community events and a Christian learning environment.

Ask Yourself These Questions

Before choosing a path, consider:

- 1 How do I learn best: independently, in person or through a mix of both?
- 2 Do I need flexibility because of work, family, military service or location?
- 3 Do I want to relocate to Phoenix for the campus experience?
- 4 How important are student housing, campus events and in-person community to me?
- 5 Am I comfortable managing deadlines in an online learning environment?
- 6 Does my program of interest have specific in-person, clinical, practicum, lab or field experience requirements?
- 7 What total costs should I plan for based on my modality and program?
- 8 What kind of support will help me stay motivated?
- 9 How do I want faith and community to shape my college experience?
- 10 Which path best supports my long-term personal, academic and career goals?



Wherever you study, take time to reflect on what fits your life and your calling.

Talk Through Your Options With GCU

You do not have to make this decision alone. A university counselor can help you compare online and campus options, review program availability and answer questions about admissions, transfer credits, tuition, financial aid and next steps.

Connect With GCU

- 1 Explore [degree programs](#) at gcu.edu
- 2 [Request more information](#)
- 3 [Schedule a campus tour](#), if you are considering campus learning
- 4 Speak with a university counselor

Find your purpose at Grand Canyon University.

Private. Christian. Affordable. Visit gcu.edu