



FIND THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU

FIND YOUR PATH.

Online or On Campus?

Choosing how you learn is just as important as choosing what you learn. At Grand Canyon University, 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.

01 Understanding Your Options

03 Who Thrives in Each Path?

05 Faith at the Center

07 Your Next Step Starts Here

02 Side-by-Side Comparison

04 Understanding the Cost

06 Questions To Guide Your Decision

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 at GCU

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 at GCU

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.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING

ONLINE AT GCU

Courses delivered through an online learning environment — complete coursework on your schedule while continuing to work, care for family or serve in the military. Designed for self-motivated, goal-driven learners.

No relocation required. 319 online programs.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

CAMPUS AT GCU

Study in person on GCU's campus in Phoenix, AZ. Experience face-to-face instruction, campus events, student organizations, residence life, Division I athletics and a Christian campus community.

Live. Connect. Belong.

SAME DEGREE. SAME FACULTY. SAME STANDARDS.

- > 386 total degree programs, emphases and certificates
- > Faith-integrated curriculum in every course
- > Institutionally accredited — respected by employers
- > Financial aid available for both learning paths

386

Total Degree Programs,
Emphases & Certificates

319

Online Degree Programs,
Emphases & Certificates

152

Campus Degree Programs,
Emphases & Certificates

As of March 2026

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	No campus housing or dining plan required	Tuition, housing, dining and other campus costs may apply
LEARNING STYLE	Strong fit for independent, self-directed learners	Strong fit for students who prefer in-person structure
STUDENT EXPERIENCE	Designed for flexibility and convenience	Designed for immersion and daily campus engagement

Recognize Yourself?

ONLINE LEARNING

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

IN SUMMARY:

Online learning works best when you need flexibility and bring self-motivation.

CAMPUS LEARNING

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

IN SUMMARY:

Campus life works best when community, structure and in-person connection matter most.

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

[Online Tuition](#)

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

[On-Campus Tuition](#)

TIP: A university counselor can help you review your program options, estimate cost of attendance and discuss potential financial aid opportunities.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

The cost of attendance (COA) is an estimate of a student's educational expenses (including tuition, fees, supplies, living expenses, etc.) for an academic year. Your academic year is determined by your modality and program of study.

[View Cost of Attendance](#)

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 FAITH EXPERIENCE

Online students can engage with a faith-integrated curriculum while pursuing their education in a flexible format. This experience is 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 on GCU's Phoenix campus.

SHARED PURPOSE

Online or on campus, GCU encourages students to pursue academic growth while preparing to serve their communities and professions with purpose. Both paths lead to the same faith-integrated GCU degree.

GCU provides affordable, quality online and on-campus programs that embody meritocracy and academic rigor while remaining grounded in Christian truth. Our mission is to cultivate leaders of character who influence the world for the better.



Ask Yourself These Questions

Before choosing a path, consider which factors matter most to you. There are no wrong answers.

01 How do I learn best: independently, in person or through a mix of both?

02 Do I need flexibility because of work, family, military service or location?

03 Do I want to relocate to Phoenix for the campus experience?

04 How important are student housing, campus events and in-person community to me?

05 Am I comfortable managing deadlines in an online learning environment?

06 Does my program have specific in-person, clinical, practicum or lab requirements?

07 What total costs should I plan for based on my modality and program?

08 What kind of support do I need to help me stay motivated?

09 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?

Remember: You do not have to make this decision alone. A university counselor can help you compare options.

Find your purpose at Grand Canyon University.

Private. Christian. Affordable.

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.

EXPLORE PROGRAMS

REQUEST INFORMATION

VISIT

[gcu.edu](https://www.gcu.edu)

CALL

855-GCU-LOPE

SCHEDULE A TOUR

[gcu.edu/visit-gcu](https://www.gcu.edu/visit-gcu)

