Institutions

4,665 total colleges and universities in the United States

1,662 degree-granting U.S. institutions awarding bachelor’s degrees

228 degree-granting U.S. Catholic higher education institutions awarding bachelor's degrees

1,861 Catholic universities worldwide

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education 2016 Almanac
How many students?

In U.S. higher education...

- 20 million students
- 6 million Catholics

CHE serves approximately

- 1 million students.

Of the 1 million students, about 600,000 are Catholic.

Chronicle of Higher Education 2016 Almanac
CHE Leads the Way

More Female Leaders

% of Female Presidents

- Catholic Higher Education: 35%
- Non-Catholic Higher Education: 26%

Sources: Member institutions, 2016
American Council on Education, 2012
Personal Attention

12 : 1
Average student-faculty ratio at an ACCU member college

18 : 1
National average student-faculty ratio

Source: IPEDs
Shorter Time to Graduation

Students at Catholic four-year colleges graduate in less time than their peers in public, private non-Catholic, and for-profit colleges.

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, retrieved 2016
Lower Student Debt

$35,000
Median student debt overall in 2015
(Wall Street Journal)

$27,000
Median student debt at private colleges in 2013
(Council of Independent Colleges)

$24,800
Median student debt at Catholic colleges in 2015
(College Scorecard)
Lower Student Loan Default Rate

- Catholic Colleges: 7.0%
- Private Colleges: 8.2%
- National Average: 14.7%

Average student loan default rates among Catholic college graduates are the lowest of any sector of higher education.

Source: US Department of Education, FY 2013
Graduates and Service

3 in 4 Catholic institution graduates volunteer or in other ways participate in community service...

higher than any other higher education cohort.
93% (mean) of full-time first-year students on Catholic campuses receive some form of financial aid.

$16,788 average aid awarded across all Catholic colleges

Community Service

51% of ACCU institutions are listed on the 2015 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

26% of all institutions listed with distinction are Catholic.
Catholic Higher Education Alumni

According to CARA (2012), only 7% of American Catholics attend a Catholic college or university.

- 40% of lay leadership in parishes
- 45% of weekly Mass attendance
- 44% of ordinands (2016)

75% of parish registrants and contributors

Source: Perspectives from Parish Leaders: U.S. Parish Life and Ministry, 2012; USCCB 2016 Ordination Class News Release
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
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