

# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

**Houston Christian University:  
Executing Strategies for  
Growth and Impact**

*Rooted in our steadfast commitment to excellence in Christian education, Houston Christian University has continued to thrive—advancing academic excellence, enriching our campus environment, celebrating the accomplishments of our students, friends and alumni, championing our Southland Conference-winning baseball team, and deepening our impact in the community.*

'24



'25



**ROBERT B. SLOAN**  
*President*



As we reflect on the 2024–2025 academic year, I am filled with gratitude for the momentum, mission clarity, and Kingdom impact we continue to experience at Houston Christian University. From record-breaking enrollment to groundbreaking innovation, this year marked a season of extraordinary growth.

Together, we launched new degree programs aligned with today's most pressing workforce needs, celebrated our first Doctor of Ministry graduates, and opened Founders Hall II—expanding academic space for the Honors College. Generous donors fueled initiatives such as the Grace Hopper Scholarships, enabling the doubling of computer science and engineering enrollment, and supported the construction of the \$60 million Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science, and Nursing Building now underway.

Our students, faculty and alumni are living out our mission—from community engagement to championship athletics. Husky Baseball inspired us all with a thrilling Southland Conference title and NCAA Tournament berth, while student-athletes posted a record 3.445 GPA and gave back through 1,000 plus service hours.

We welcomed the largest incoming class in school history for Fall 2025—another signal that HCU's mission and momentum are stronger than ever.

This year, HCU remains in a strong financial position, enabling us to both sustain our current momentum and strategically invest in initiatives that drive long-term growth and institutional excellence.

This report highlights the impact of your support and HCU's unwavering commitment to excellence in Christian higher education. We are preparing students to lead with wisdom and serve with integrity—in Houston and beyond. 🙏

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# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

HCU continues to advance its mission by expanding academic programs to nurture well-rounded students ready to positively impact the world. Pairing innovative teaching with state-of-the-art facilities, HCU remains a thriving center of academic excellence grounded in faith and forward-thinking education.



**Scholarly Thought.** *HCU Associate Professor of History Robert Llizo leads a discussion with Honors College students.*



## IMPERATIVE 1: Growing Size and Place

HCU's mission reflects the Lordship of Jesus and seeks the greater good of our city. As we grow as a comprehensive Christian university, we are committed to producing more Christian graduates across all fields. To achieve this, we're launching new academic programs and expanding current ones, aiming to enroll 10,000 students across all levels and formats by 2030.

### Grace Hopper Scholarships for Engineering and Computer Science

A visionary donor is funding up to full tuition for new students with a 3.25 GPA to accelerate growth in engineering and computer science programs. The donor challenged HCU to double incoming majors in Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Information Systems or Mathematics from fall 2023 to 2024, and again by 2025. Incoming student counts rose from 93 in 2023 to 209 in 2024, and we met the goal to double again with 375 new students in these programs in fall 2025.

## NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

HCU's Strategic Enrollment Plan is driving our growth towards 10,000 students by opening new degree programs that appeal to students and meet strategic market needs.

### From 2024-25:

- Bachelor of Social Work – Residential
- BS in Learning, Technology, and Design – Hybrid
- MS in Data Science – Online
- MS in Leadership – Online

### Launched in Fall 2025:

- BA in Classical Christian Education – Residential
- BS in Engineering Science – Residential
- Master's of International Business – Residential
- MSHRM in People Analytics – Residential & Online
- Professional MBA (PMBA) in Accounting and Finance, in Business Data Analytics, and in Management – Residential & Online
- MS in Criminal Justice – Online
- MS in Artificial Intelligence – Online
- MS in Computer and Information Sciences – Online
- MS in Data Science – Two Online Formats

## Expanding Student Success

This year, HCU launched the Writing Center, staffed by trained student mentors offering online and in-person support. In its first year, the center surpassed expectations by coaching 390 students—over twice its goal. Meanwhile, new staff in Counseling, Career and Calling, Student Success and Residence Life have significantly expanded our capacity to serve and retain students.

## Expanding Educational Spaces for Growing Programs

HCU celebrated the ribbon-cutting for Founders Hall II on Feb. 18, 2025, marking the completion of the final building in the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty. The new addition includes nine classrooms, one seminar room and a new home for HCU's Honors College.

On April 10, 2025, HCU held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building. This \$60-million, 71,000-sq.-ft., three-story, multi-disciplinary facility will be a cornerstone of HCU's commitment to academic excellence. It will feature advanced laboratories, cutting-edge learning spaces and state-of-the-art technology for engineering, science and nursing programs. Construction is underway on the east side of campus, with a direct view of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty.

## First Doctor of Ministry Program Graduates

The first four graduates of Houston Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program earned their degrees at the May 2025 Spring Commencement. Tailored for ministry professionals, the DMin offers advanced academic study with practical application. In three years, the program has grown to 42 students across three cohorts and two concentrations: New Testament and Faith & Culture.

**Inspiring Firsts.** *Houston Theological Seminary's inaugural class of Doctor of Ministry graduates celebrate milestone achievement.*



## IMPERATIVE 2: Reinvigorating the Christian Liberal Arts Core

When classical liberal arts disciplines are shaped and infused by the convictions and the character of a Christian worldview, they become channels through which we can guide students to more fully know and make known God, his creation in its complexity, humans as his image-bearers and his plans to redeem and renew the world for his glory.

### New Core Curriculum

Drawing from HCU's Ten Core Convictions, a faculty team has identified nine focal literacies that will enable every HCU graduate to excel. Dr. Emily Stelzer, professor of literature, was appointed to a new position as dean of the core curriculum. Core courses will be redeveloped around these focal literacies in order to launch the new core in Fall 2026.

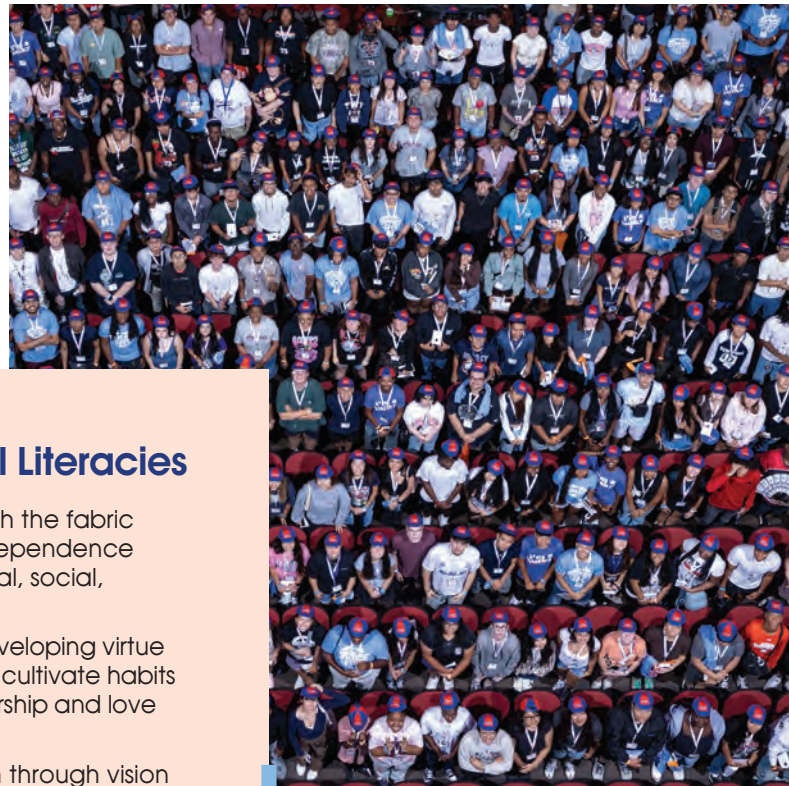
#### "Knowing God" Core Curriculum Focal Literacies

- Biblical literacy
- Theological proficiency
- Scientific literacy
- Quantitative literacy
- Aesthetic literacy
- Recognition of the dignity of humans as God's image-bearers
- Engagement with the fabric of human interdependence (historical, cultural, social, literary, etc.)
- Flourishing by developing virtue and creativity to cultivate habits of service, leadership and love for others
- Christian wisdom through vision and practices of Christianity

#### "Persuasion and Poetics"

In support of the new core, a new two-volume anthology, "Persuasion and Poetics," was prepared for use in freshman-level English courses. This reader includes topically arranged scripture, prose and poetry, with writing assignments aligned to help students engage reflectively with the mission and framework of the revised core curriculum. Volume 1 was piloted in Fall 2024, with all residential sections using the new reader in Spring 2025.

HCU's Community Work-Study Program supported over 1,750 hours of student work at a number of non-profit organizations (e.g., Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, BakerRipley and Buckner International). Student-athletes recorded over 1,000 hours of community service.



**New Class.** Incoming freshman class gathers in Dunham Theater following Welcome Days' traditional Beanie Ceremony.

## IMPERATIVE 3: Renewing Community Life and Culture

As we grow in size and influence, we also want to grow in depth and in ability to serve others - through spiritual formation, professional development and community engagement.

### Spiritual Life

The 2024–25 theme, *TRUE*, was inspired by Jesus’s words in John 8:31b–32: “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Throughout the year, our teaching series explored key dimensions of truth: how we can reliably know what is true, our true identity as image-bearers of God, the path to true peace amid anxiety, the value of true community within the church and how to seek true answers to life’s most difficult questions.

The impact of Convocation continues to grow, while personal discipleship flourishes through dozens of one-on-one relationships. Spiritual renewal was evident during our fall and spring IGNITE weeks, and our partnerships with eight national campus ministries remain strong. A new initiative, the HCU Local Church Collaborative, launched this year to help students prioritize membership and active ministry within a local church.

Faculty discipleship cohorts continued for a fourth consecutive year, offering a one-semester journey of learning, faith development and community to equip participating faculty to more richly integrate their academic disciplines with the Christian faith.

**SPOTLIGHT:** Scan the QR code to learn more about Convocation in the 2025-26 Academic Year.





**Legacy of Service.** *HCU student veterans Ryan Martz (top) and Logan Henderson, president of the Husky Veterans Association (bottom), continue their mission of service in the classroom and across campus.*

## C-LITE Initiatives

The Center for Learning Innovations and Teaching Excellence (C-LITE) offered programs to advance academic quality across the University. Key activities included New Faculty Orientation, the Fall Community Symposium and ongoing adjunct faculty onboarding and development opportunities, all designed to support instructional excellence. C-LITE also hosted a variety of book discussions, evidence-based workshops and consultations to enhance instructional practices and student success.

## Community Service

HCU's Community Work-Study Program supported over 1,750 hours of student work at a number of non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, BakerRipley and Buckner International. Student-athletes recorded over 1,000 hours of community service.

## Cullen Trust Grant for Early Literacy

In August 2024, HCU was awarded its first \$100,000 grant from The Cullen Trust for Higher Education to enhance early literacy at two Title I elementary schools located near campus in the Houston Independent School District. Twenty HCU students served as tutors and reading helpers at Lovett and McNamara elementary schools.

In 2025, HCU won its second \$100,000 award for this program and added an additional elementary school: Neff Elementary School.

## Veterans, Transfers and International Students

Through initiatives in the Strategic Plan, HCU has added staff and resources to support veteran, transfer and international students. We have seen significant growth in the number of military-affiliated and veteran students, nearing 300 in Fall 2025. New resources have also been provided to Residence Life, Student Life, Student Success, Career and Calling, and the Counseling Center, resulting in significant gains in retention of undergraduate students.

## **IMPERATIVE 4:** **Engaging the Marketplace**

HCU marketplace initiatives seek to help students serve God's purpose with work that benefits the world particularly in the fields of health and wellness, energy, education, cyber and data.

### **College Advisory Boards**

Each college at HCU has an advisory board that has expanded its reach into Houston marketplaces and civil society, building partnerships to improve the quality of programs and to provide opportunities for graduates. Cumulatively, these advisory boards leverage the support of over 140 members, who provide connections to more than a hundred different corporations, churches, non-profits and other institutions.

### **New Cyber and Data Degrees**

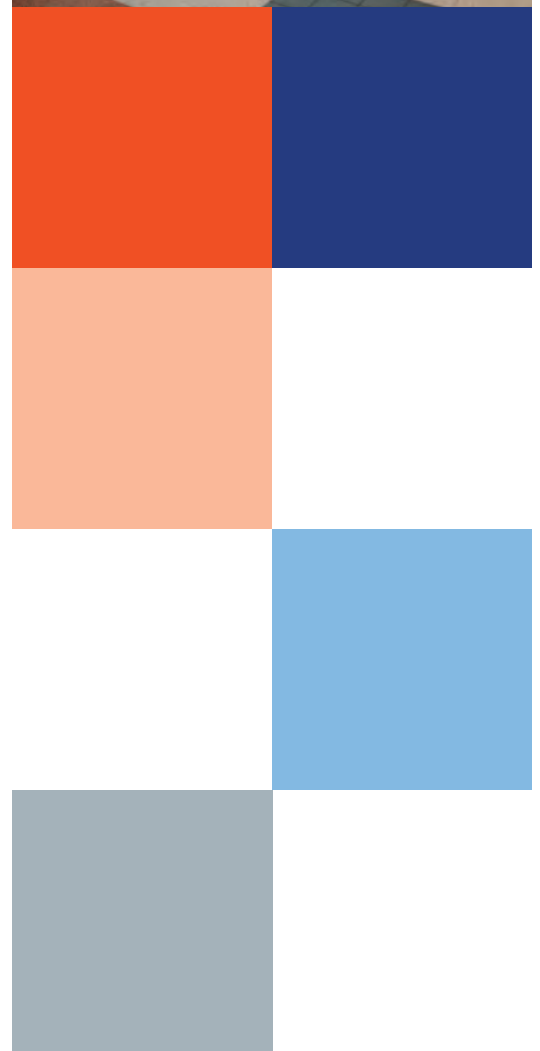
Because of the increasing importance of data science and cybersecurity to every economic sector, we have been rapidly building our undergraduate and graduate degree programs in these fields, expanding our faculty, and exponentially growing our majors in programs like artificial intelligence, computer science, cyber engineering, data science and information systems.

### **Center for Christianity in Business (CCB)**

The Center for Christianity in Business (CCB) advanced its mission through a series of four luncheon seminars addressing pressing marketplace challenges. Featured speakers included James Taylor, President of the Heartland Institute, who spoke on Christian engagement with climate issues, and Dr. Emily Wenger, Assistant Professor at Duke University, who spoke about the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

**This year also marked the launch of the CCB Scholars Program, made possible by more than \$100,000 in external funding. The program provides \$5,000 scholarships to incoming students in the Archie W. Dunham College of Business, along with access to a network of Christian business leaders and opportunities for professional and spiritual formation.**

**HCU has the only ABET-  
accredited Cyber  
Engineering bachelor's  
program in Texas.**





**Artists Rise to the Top.** Constantine St. John won first place for the above entry, titled, "La Hambre," and Dominic Clay won second place for his entry, titled "CY," in the 2024 annual statewide Rising Eyes of Texas juried art competition. Five HCU students were among the 29 artists whose artwork was featured in the exhibit.



## Business Certificate Programs

With support from corporate partners, 85 HCU students earned certificates in banking, commercial real estate, leadership and professional development—gaining insights from industry leaders to build skills for marketplace impact. Weekly “Meet My Major” events, the annual Commercial Real Estate Forum, and 70+ guest lectures and workshops further connected students with alumni and industry professionals.

**HCU was named one of the  
Best Colleges in Texas by U.S.**

**News & World  
Report in 2025.**



## OUR SIX COLLEGES

### Archie W. Dunham College of Business

- Accounting, Economics and Finance
- Management, Marketing and Business

### College of Arts and Humanities

- Narrative Arts: Cinema, Media Arts and Writing
- English, Modern Languages and Communication
- History, Philosophy, Law and Society
- Music
- Visual Arts
- The Honors College

### College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

- Counseling
- Education
- Psychology

### College of Science and Engineering

- Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics
- Engineering and Computer Science

### Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing

- Nursing
- Kinesiology

### School of Christian Thought / Houston Theological Seminary

- Theology
- Apologetics
- Classics and Biblical Languages



## IMPERATIVE 5: Planning for Continuous Improvement

Continuous academic program review and improvement remain a strategic priority. Positive accreditation was received from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for education, ABET for engineering, and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for nursing. We completed year four of a five-year internal review cycle for all academic programs. Operational enhancements include:

- “BookPass” for digital, affordable instructional resources
- Transition to cloud-based “Banner SaaS” enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, modernizing processes
- Long-term facilities maintenance planning
- Policies guiding appropriate AI use aligned with HCU’s Christ-centered mission

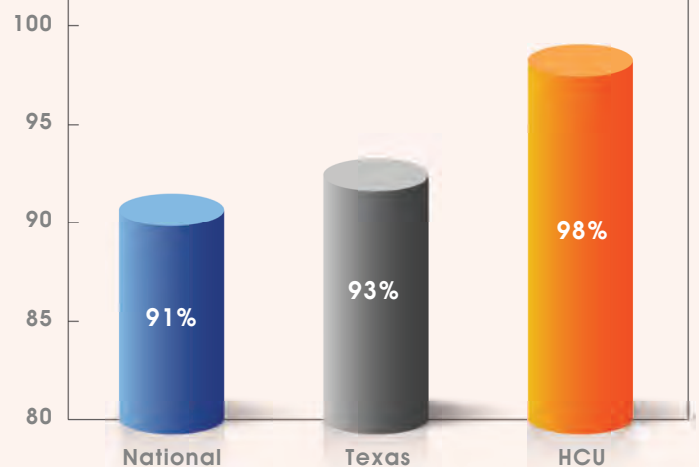
Final branding and marketing efforts led to new media partnerships, updated campus signage, a redesigned website, and increased Houston-area awareness of HCU. 🏰



**2025 Piper Professor.** *Dr. Lisa Ellis was named the 2024-2025 HCU Piper Professor. Dr. Ellis is an associate professor of biology in the College of Science and Engineering. Piper Professor nominees who are selected as university candidates each year are submitted to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation to be considered for statewide recognition. She is also president of the Faculty Assembly and sponsor of Beta Beta Beta Honor Society and is a Secondary Athletics Certification Officer.*

### First-Time NCLEX Pass Rate

Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing at HCU



2024 National Council Licensure Examination Pass Rate

## HCU graduates have found success in careers at many notable organizations:

- Second Baptist Church of Houston
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- The Walt Disney Company
- Chevron
- Bank of America
- HP
- Fluor Corporation
- Houston Texans
- Voddie Baucham Ministries
- The Sundance Film Festival
- U.S. House of Representatives
- NASA



**Only the Best.** HCU alumna Dr. Nay Chevalier was named 2024 B.E.S.T. (Baptist Educators Serving Texans) Award winner. Awards are given annually to honor a teacher or administrator in Texas public schools who is a graduate of a Texas Baptist institution and a member of a Texas Baptist church. Chevalier earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services from HCU's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in 2023.

# ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Fueled by a championship victory and a renewed spirit of leadership, Husky Athletics is rising to new heights. With HCU Men's Baseball claiming the Southland Conference title and new coaches bringing fresh vision across multiple sports, we are pursuing our calling of shaping student-athletes who compete with purpose—in mind, body and soul.

## MEN'S SPORTS

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Soccer  
Track and Field

## WOMEN'S SPORTS

Basketball  
Beach Volleyball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Track and Field  
Volleyball

## Huskies Capture Southland Conference Title

In his first year at the helm, head coach Clay VanderLaan led HCU baseball to its second-ever Southland Conference (SLC) championship, completing one of the best turnarounds in NCAA baseball in 2025.

The Huskies posted a 32-25 record—improving by 14 wins from the previous season, tying for the ninth-biggest year-over-year jump nationally. A decade after their first SLC title, the team once again surged through the tournament, sweeping bracket play as the No. 6 seed in Edinburg, Texas.

HCU then hosted a thrilling championship series against New Orleans at Husky Field, where overflow crowds witnessed back-to-back victories (8-3 and 16-11) as the Huskies clinched the title and a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Although the Huskies fell to second-ranked Texas and Kansas State in the Austin Regional, the team's performance established them as a program on the rise with momentum heading into future seasons.

**Ticket Punched.**  
*HCU Men's  
Baseball Team  
captures Southland  
Conference Title.*



## Academic Excellence

HCU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in 2024-25, with 27 earning academic All-Conference honors, including standout Edouard Lecrivain (track & field) who was named SLC Student-Athlete of the Year for both indoor and outdoor seasons.

The Southland Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll recognized a record 254 HCU student-athletes for achieving a 3.0 GPA or higher—surpassing last year's 242. In the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), men's soccer had 11 athletes named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll, with senior Sam Zeeman earning the OVC Medal of Honor for the highest GPA in his sport.

Department-wide, HCU's scholarship student-athletes recorded an impressive 3.445 cumulative GPA, with every sport posting at least a 3.0 GPA.



## 17 NCAA Division teams



**Run the Race. SLC**  
*Student-Athlete of the Year*  
Edouard Lecrivain powers  
ahead of his competitors  
during the NCAA West  
First Round at E.B. Cushing  
Stadium in May 2025.

## Women's Basketball Coach

Following the arrival of four new head coaches last year, HCU introduced just one new face for 2025-26: Drew Long, the sixth head coach in HCU women's basketball history, who joined in April.

Long comes from McMurry University in Abilene, where he transformed a 2-16 team into a 23-6 NCAA Division III Sweet 16 contender in just four seasons, closing with a 54-48 record. His 2024-25 squad posted the third-best mark in program history, earning him D3Hoops.com Region Coach of the Year honors. During that season, he coached Emily Holland to all-region, honorable mention All-America, and a spot in the 2025 Division III All-Star Game.

In 2023-24, Long was named American Southwest Conference (ASC) Coach of the Year after guiding the ASC Player of the Year. Prior to McMurry, he held administrative roles at Abilene Christian University, including Deputy Athletic Director, where he oversaw multiple sports, athletic facilities and operations.

Long also coached at Faith West Academy in Katy, leading the team to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 3A state semifinals and mentoring two all-state players. Earlier in his career, he spent five seasons as a men's assistant coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy and three years under former NBA coach Jeff Bzdelik at Colorado.

A native Houstonian, Long played at Northwestern under coach Bill Carmody and holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications and a Master's in Coaching Administration from Concordia University – Irvine.

"To return to the city where it all started is unbelievable," Long said. "I'm grateful for this opportunity and eager to see what God has in store for HCU women's basketball." 🏀

Drew Long, Head Coach  
of Women's Basketball



**Department-wide, HCU's scholarship student-athletes recorded an impressive 3.445 cumulative GPA, with every sport posting at least a 3.0 GPA.**

## Huskies in the Community

HCU student-athletes continued to make a strong impact across campus, the Sharpstown area and the broader Houston community during the 2024-25 academic year, logging 2,090 hours of community service.

From helping fellow students on move-in day to teaming up with KPRC-TV for a housing restoration project for Houstonians in need, Huskies represented the University with pride. Among many initiatives, men's basketball brought smiles to Braeburn Elementary students during "High Five Friday," and softball athletes spent a day with Special Olympics participants.

Women's soccer players engaged in prison ministry, while baseball players helped beautify the Avondale House grounds. HCU football took on hunger relief at the Houston Food Bank, assembling 16,400 meals for the Backpack Buddy Program.



# KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT

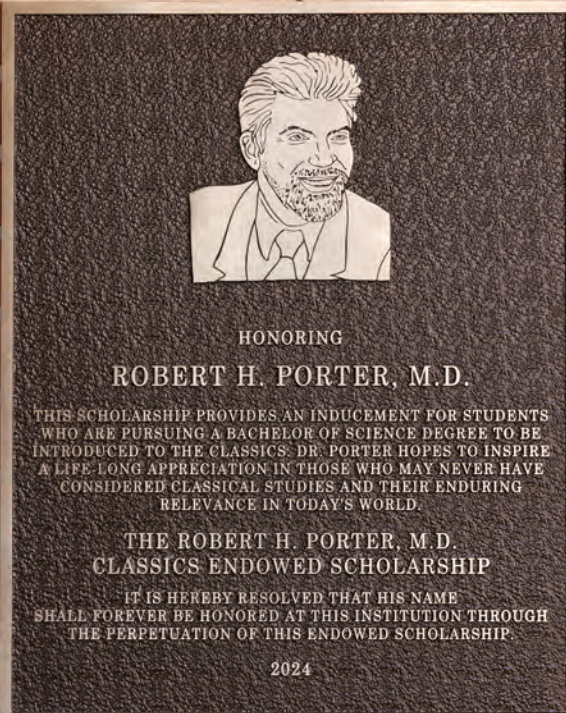
During the last fiscal year, Houston Christian University received more than \$12.7 million in generous donations from alumni, friends and foundation support. More than \$79 million has been raised for capital projects for the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty complex and construction of the Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building.

**Giving Hearts.** This year, a transformative planned gift from the estate of Olin and Mildred Anne Humphries established the Olin and Mildred Anne Humphries Endowed Scholarship.



"While modern education increasingly emphasizes STEM, it is equally important to preserve the connection to the foundations of our Western heritage. The Classics are the intellectual and cultural roots of this heritage. By studying them, students are better able to balance modern innovation with an understanding of the wisdom of the past."

ROBERT H. PORTER, MD



## The Annual Fund

The HCU Annual Fund transforms lives, with 98% of students receiving some form of financial aid. It addresses the University's most critical needs, including scholarships and student programs that ensure a Christ-centered education for all. Signature initiatives like Huskies Give Big and the LOVE HCU Auction support scholarships, academic programming, spiritual and student life, and faculty and staff development.

Since its inception in 1991, the Spirit of Excellence Gala has been a cornerstone event of the Annual Fund.

## Endowments & Scholarships

The University Endowment supports HCU's mission and financial stability, ensuring the continued pursuit of Christian higher education. In 2023–2024, over \$1.7 million in endowed scholarships were awarded, thanks to 383+ generous donors. Established in 1969 by Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., the Endowed Scholarship Program remains a cornerstone of student support. Specialized awards—like the Robert H. Porter, MD Classics Endowed Scholarship—offer tuition incentives for undergraduate students studying the classics.

## Covenant Society/ Planned Giving

The Covenant Society now includes nearly 200 members committed to sustaining HCU's future through estate planning. This year, a transformative planned gift from the estate of Olin and Mildred Anne Humphries established the Olin and Mildred Anne Humphries Endowed Scholarship. Their generous bequest honors their unwavering commitment to faith, education and nurturing the next generation of servant-leaders who will carry their values forward.



**“I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to be an Alumni Endowed Scholar on the Jane Jester [‘68] and Stephen Andrew Marmion Alumni Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship has meant so much to me as it has given me the opportunity to learn, grow, and pursue God’s calling on my life.”**

DANIEL JACOB,  
*Class of 2028*

## Capital Giving

### Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building

Philanthropic support continues to drive HCU's future, highlighted by the April 2025 groundbreaking of the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building. With a \$20 million lead gift from the Smiths, over 80 donors have contributed to the \$60 million, 71,000-square-foot facility. Set to open in Fall 2026, the state-of-the-art building will feature advanced labs, tech-enabled classrooms and collaborative spaces to prepare students for high-demand careers. It marks a key step in HCU's plan to grow to 10,000 students by 2030 and develop future servant-leaders in engineering, science and nursing.

|                                            |                                                    |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sherry and Jim Smith                       | Vivian L. Smith Foundation                         | Stephen Pickett '08                 |
| Linda R. and Dr. Archie W. Dunham          | Lucy and Skip McBride                              | Sandy and Reid Smith                |
| Esther Tan Wong                            | Sharon and Dr. Les Saunders                        | Dr. Alfredo Villareal Gonzalez '80  |
| Sarofim Foundation                         | Ed Rachal Foundation                               | Charles Copeland                    |
| The Cullen Trust for Higher Education      | Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox '81 and Ray L. Cox, Jr. '81 | Pam and Clois Smith                 |
| Linda Davis and Bruce Williams             | Sandra and Frank Mooney                            | Melanie and Dr. Duane Brooks        |
| Sue and Dr. Robert Sloan                   | Carrie and Ron Woliver                             | Becky and the Honorable Jeff Leach  |
| Hamill Foundation                          | Rosalyn and Barry Margolis                         | Nona and Rev. Tom Mosley            |
| Jennifer and Tadd MBA '99 Tellepsen        | Tana and Dale '83 Jefferson                        | Dr. Susan Priest                    |
| The Brown Foundation                       | Cathy and Steve Moniaci                            | Heather and Dr. James Steen         |
| Cindy and Randy '76 Garbs                  | Emmitt Nelson                                      | Vivian Camacho Winslow '91          |
| The Fondren Foundation                     | Judy and Geren Graham                              | Rev. Willie Davis                   |
| Col. Newt Cole                             | Kelly and Rev. Gregg Matte                         | Dr. Jacqueline Peltier Horn         |
| MD Anderson Foundation                     | Orphalinda and Rev. Ramiro A. Peña                 | Shelby Stafford Waddell '17, MA '19 |
| Memorial Hermann Health System Foundation  | Melissa and Matthew Morris                         | Gillian Alexander                   |
| The Elkins Foundation                      | Lindsay and Marc Rylander                          | Jill Bullard '90 and David Almaguer |
| Cindy and Dr. Dan Wilford                  | Jan and Jerome Smith                               | Dr. Marie Mater                     |
| Jennifer '99 and Damon '00, MBA '03 Maddox | Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing                  | Mark Schmidt                        |
| Max Cowan                                  | Judi '94 and Mark Pyburn                           | Julie Voss                          |
| Drs. Jane '75 and C. J. '77 Wheeler, III   | Susan and Clay Porter                              | Patricia Bailey                     |
| Becky and Dr. Tom '75 Wheeler              | Jane Jester '68 and Steve Marmion                  | Candace '94 and Keith Desrosiers    |
| The Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation   | Vicki and Dr. Stanley Napper                       | Teri Marbach                        |
| The John M. O'Quinn Foundation             | Kintra and Rev. Garry Blackmon                     | Michael Matlage                     |
| The Cullen Trust for Health Care           | Madeline and Ted Collier                           | Dr. Lisa Ellis                      |
| Dr. Diane '93 and Stanley Williams         | Cheryl and Rev. Omar Garcia                        | Donna Cox                           |
| Alice and Dr. Lawrence '78 Fan             | Cyndi and Keith Jacobson                           | Betty Howell                        |
| Kathie Magness                             | Hillary and Dr. Chris Kouba                        | Victoria Means                      |
|                                            | Dr. Chuck Lang '75                                 | Melanie Hagerty '06                 |
|                                            |                                                    | Peter Bolin '21                     |



*From left to right: Dr. Robert Sloan, University President; Houston Mayor John Whitmire; Jim Smith; Sherry Smith; and Rev. Ramiro A. Peña, HCU Board of Trustees Chairman*



*Mayor John Whitmire with HCU Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing students*



*The Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building in the making!*



**SPOTLIGHT:** Scan the QR code to view bonus content.



AMANDA ARCHER



MIKHAIL ABAKUMOV

## Auxiliary Groups

Auxiliary groups remain faithful supporters of the University.

The American Museum Society celebrates 60 years of promoting public interest in the development of the cultural and educational aspects of the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts on HCU's Campus. Its outreach to the community provides opportunity for tours, lectures and special events related to the historical impact of Texas.

The Guild celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025, having raised more than \$2.6 million. Since 1994, 246 masters and doctoral students in theology and education and graduated through these scholarships.

Mikhail Abakumov, a Ukrainian theology student living in Poland said, "I do not have the right words to fully express my deep appreciation for this scholarship. The Master of Arts in Apologetics means a great deal to me and plays a significant role in the development of my ministry."

While an Education doctoral student stated, "Knowing that The Guild Scholarship Committee believes in my potential fuels my determination to excel in my studies and uphold the values of leadership, integrity and lifelong learning."

**"I am profoundly grateful to The Guild at HCU for the endowed scholarship. Their generous support is making it possible for me to complete my doctorate in Executive Education Administration this May. The scholarship helps me to further serve and empower teachers in Christian private schools, striving each day to lead with the heart and example of Jesus. Thank you for investing in leaders who are dedicated to transforming education through faith and service!"**

AMANDA ARCHER,  
*Ed.D Executive Educational Leadership '26*



**Esther Wong and her son, Lee Wong, Connecting Cultures.** *Esther Wong, founder of the Spahr-Tan Center for International Education and a major supporter of the Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building and the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, has advanced Houston Christian University's global mission through her generous leadership, deep heart for Christian education and lifelong commitment to connecting students across cultures.*

**HCU's Advisory Councils play a crucial role in supporting the mission of each academic area. Comprised of alumni and community leaders, these councils provide strategic guidance, mentorship and financial backing, strengthening programs, creating more opportunities for students, and promoting meaningful connections between the University and its broader community.**

## Foundations and Grants

During the year, Houston Christian University celebrated the extraordinary achievement of securing more than \$3.8 million in private grants from generous foundations and corporations whose partnership strengthens every facet of our mission. These vital investments supported the Annual Fund, meeting the University's greatest needs; advanced capital projects that enhance our campus; and provided scholarships for students in Science and Engineering, Theology, Nursing, Business and beyond. They also fueled educational programming across key disciplines, equipped STEM disciplines with state-of-the-art technology, expanded digital access through laptop initiatives, and bolstered Athletics operations that enrich student life. Together, these grants embody the shared commitment of our partners and the HCU community to cultivate academic excellence, spiritual growth, and servant leadership.

## Events and University Relations

HCU's Events, Camps and Conferences initiatives brought unprecedented vibrancy to campus life, with programs strategically aligned to the HCU 2030 Strategic Plan and the Ten Pillars 2030. From national conferences and immersive youth camps to fine arts and STEM programming, HCU hosted major initiatives organized by program area and infused with Christ-centered purpose. Each event, whether fostering student pipeline engagement, showcasing marketplace excellence or deepening community culture, embodied key strategic imperatives and advanced the University's mission across academic, cultural and spiritual dimensions.



**Honoring the Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing at the annual Nursing Dean's Development Council Luncheon.** *From left to right: Keith Garvin '23 MAA, Sydney Moore, Cary Dunham '93, Laura and Mark Shook, Dr. Robert and Sue Sloan*

# ENROLLMENT RECORDS

Building on a record-setting year in 2024, HCU achieved its highest enrollment in University history in 2025—a 10 percent increase that underscores rising demand and continued momentum toward our 2030 enrollment goals.

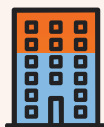


Husky Spirit. HCU students cheer on Huskies in Sharp Gym.

## Fall 2025



**In-Person  
Students  
3,348**



**363 Freshmen**  
**632 Upperclassmen**  
live on campus



**Online  
Students  
1,345**



Welcoming Start. Incoming freshmen celebrate Welcome Days' traditions in Dunham Theater.



**954**

**Class of 2029  
Freshmen  
attend class in person**



**138**

**New Graduate  
Students  
attend class in person**

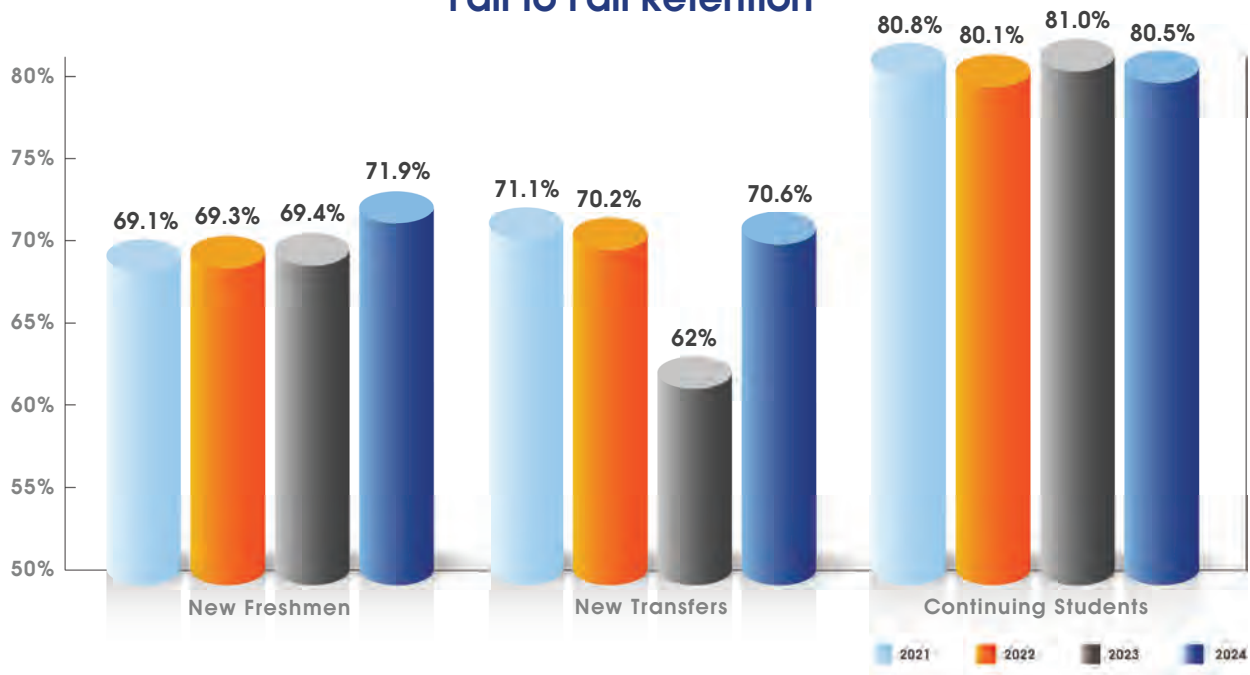


## Undergraduate Freshmen and Transfers Fall 2025



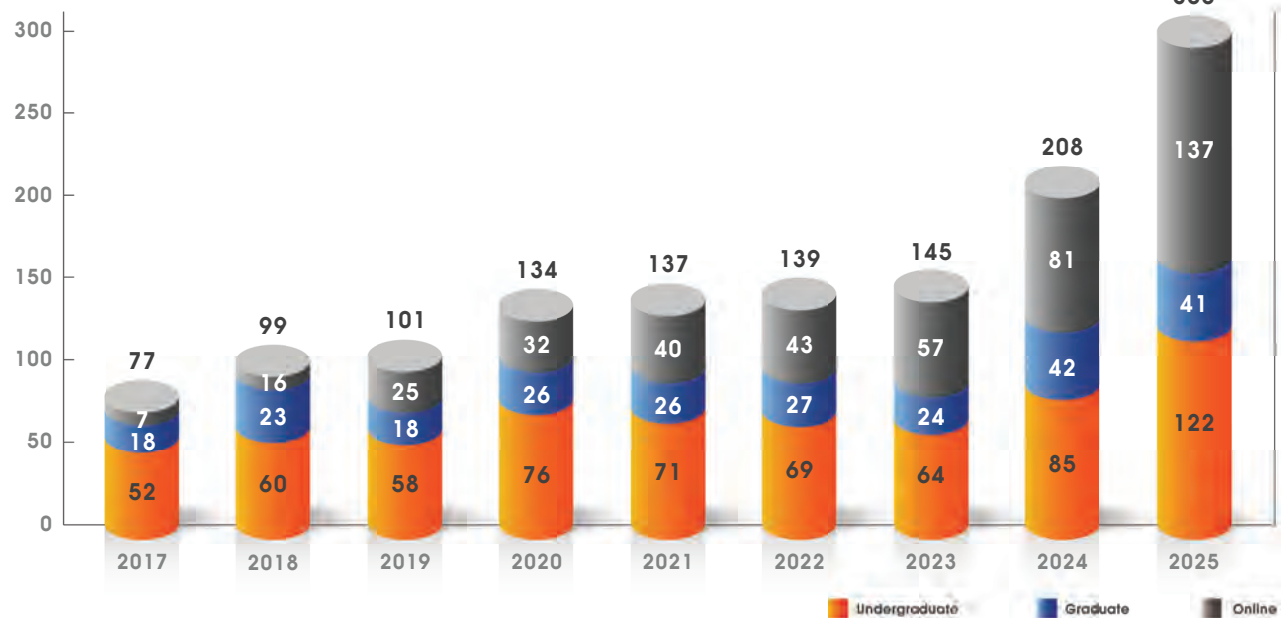
The University welcomed a record 954 first-time freshmen, up from 701 in Fall 2024, reflecting an impressive 36% year-over-year increase. Additionally, 197 new transfer students joined the Husky community, which was a 6% increase over last year's transfer numbers.

## Fall to Fall Retention



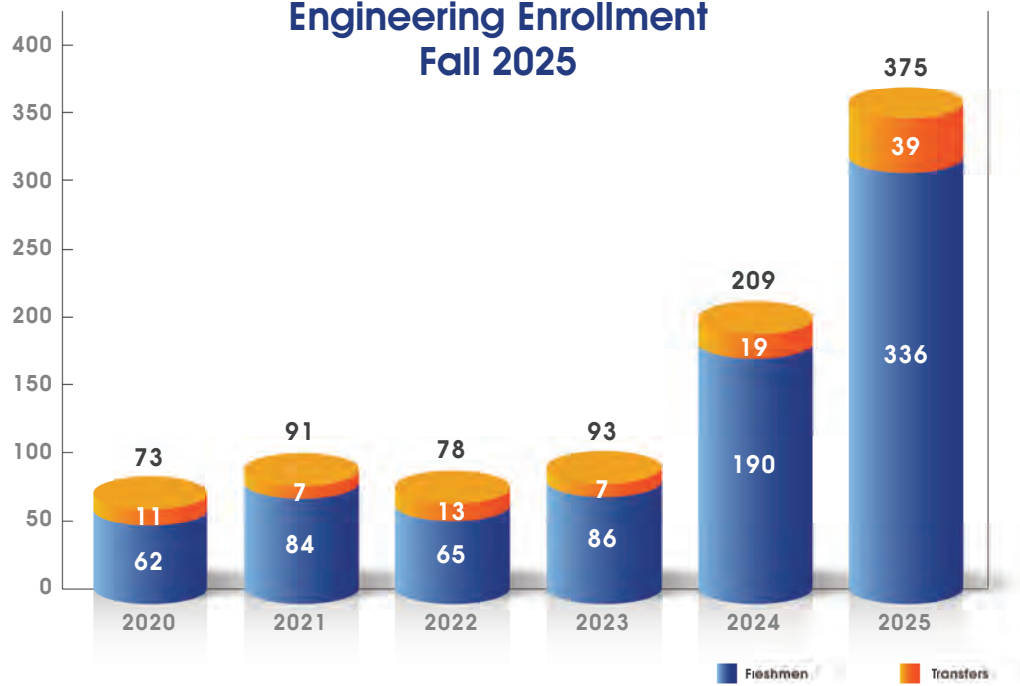
The retention rate for new freshmen saw a statistically significant increase, up two and a half percentage points year over year. Transfer retention bounced back to 71% and the retention of continuing students remained stable at 80%.

## Veteran Enrollment Fall 2025



HCU has become one of the fastest-growing destinations in Texas for veterans and military families with veteran enrollment more than doubling over two years. Since 2023, the number of veterans has increased from 145 with an additional 155 enrolled, a total growth of 108%.

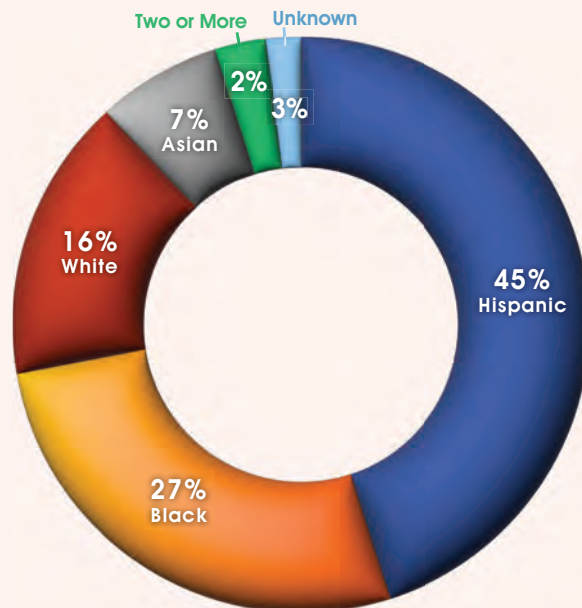
## Engineering Enrollment Fall 2025



Engineering enrollment has doubled in each of the past two years. Our goal for fall 2025 was to enroll 375 engineering majors. We enrolled exactly that many students including 337 Grace Hopper Scholars and 38 non-Hopper enrollees.



## Ethnicity



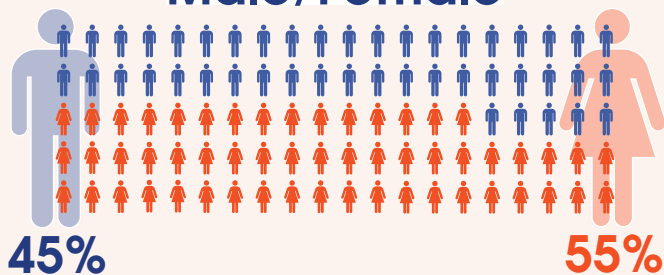
## Fall 2025 Enrollment

**Undergraduate** 2,819

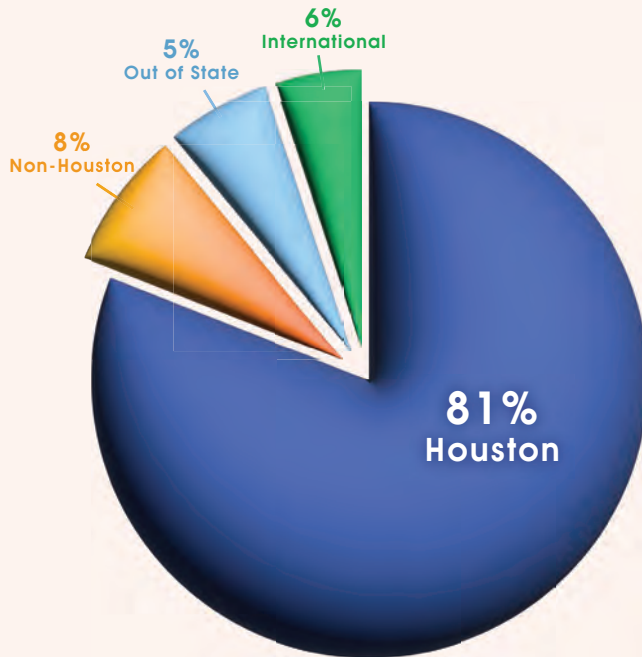
**Pampell Global** 1,345

**Graduate** 529

## Male/Female



## Undergraduate Enrollment Distribution



## Religious Preference



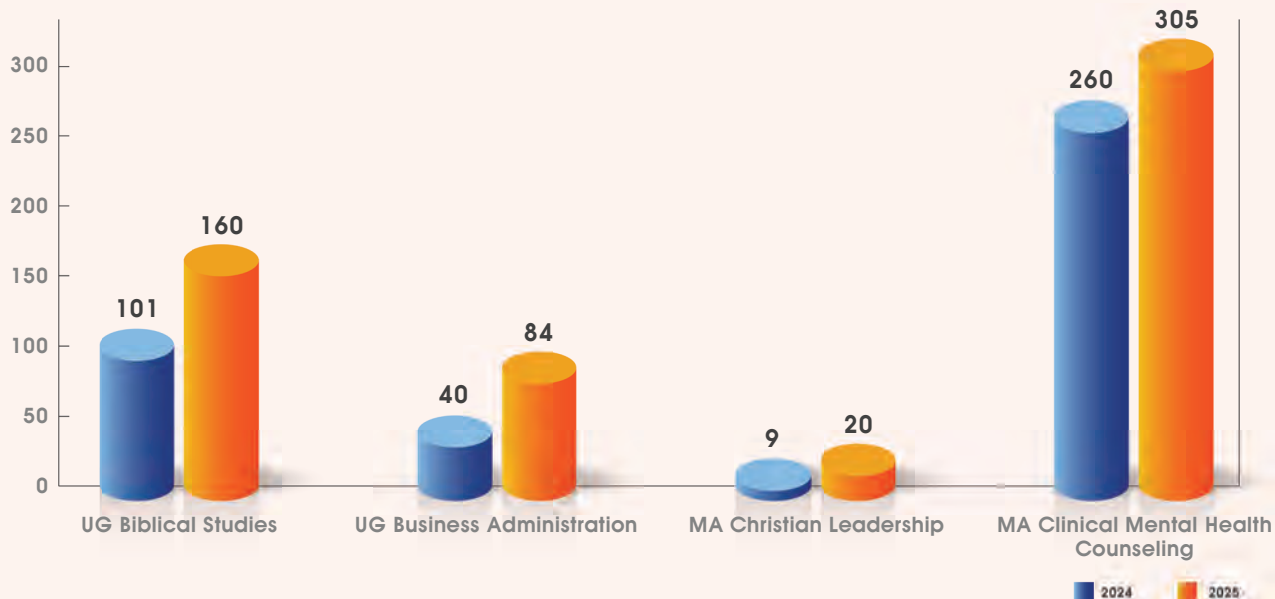


## On-Campus Students Receiving Financial Aid

97%

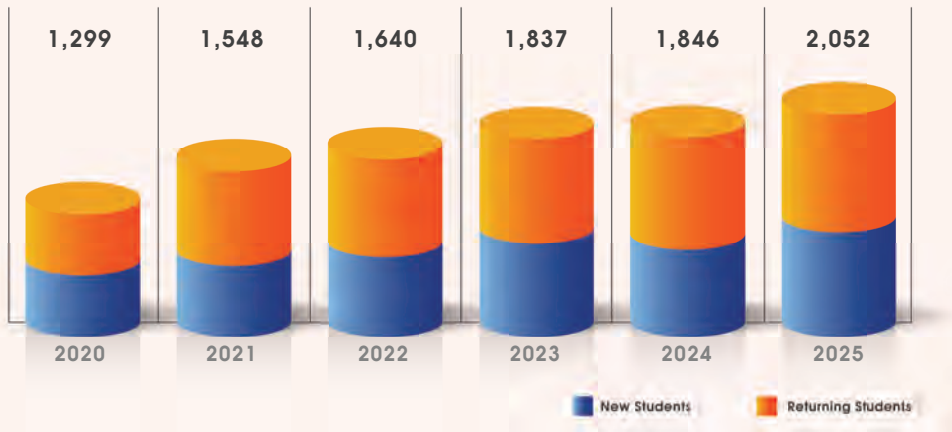


## Online Program Growth Year over Year | Academic Year 2024-25

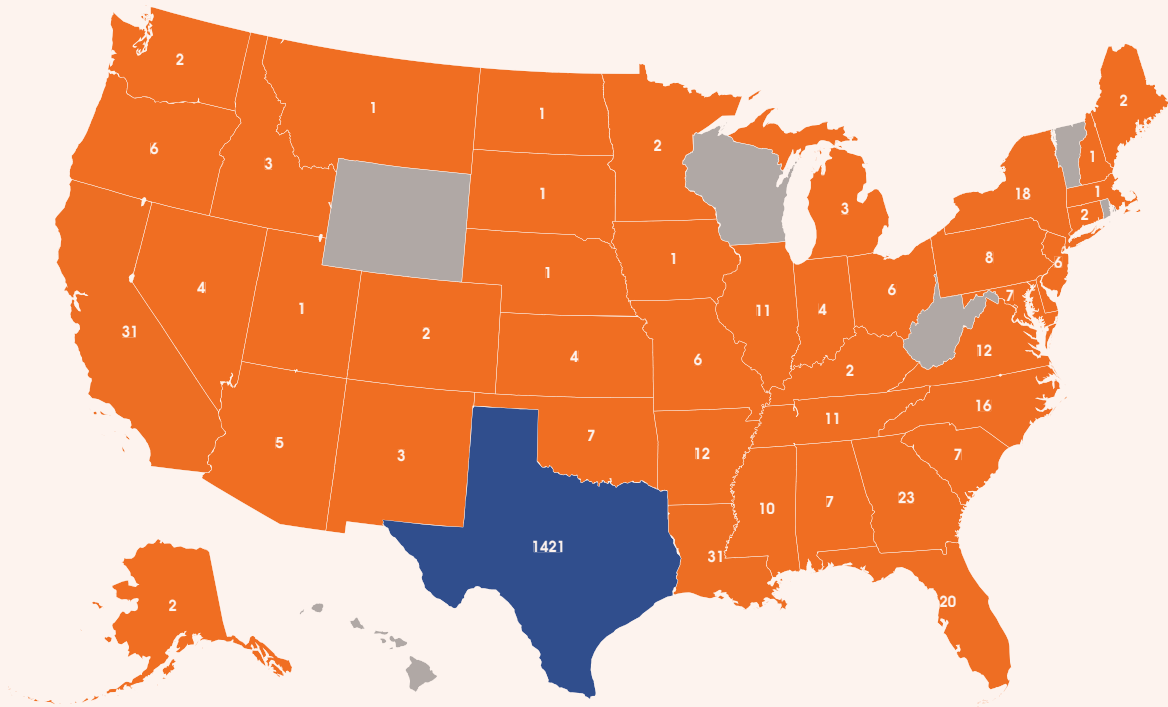


Continuing a growth trend measured last year, the most significant increase in annual program enrollment can be seen in the undergraduate Biblical Studies program, 58%. Undergraduate Business Administration online students more than doubled from 40 to 84 – a 110% increase. On the graduate enrollment front, the MA Christian Leadership enrollment also doubled and in College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling saw a 17% increase.

# Online New & Returning Enrollment | Academic Year 2024-25



Pampell Global Campus experienced a significant increase in year-to-year enrollment for the 2024-25 academic year, reaching a record 2,052 students – an 11% rise from the previous year’s enrollment of 1,846, demonstrating strong growth and interest in the University’s online offerings. Returning students increased five percent and we enrolled 1,004 new online students – a 19% increase over last year.



Another encouraging area is the increased footprint in our online campus to 45 states and seven foreign countries:

- Canada
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Austria
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- Nigeria

# FINANCIAL HEALTH

HCU remains steadfast in maintaining a strong financial foundation while pursuing strategic investments that will drive long-term growth. Through prudent stewardship and visionary planning, the University is positioned to expand its programs and facilities—to support our faith-based mission and meet the evolving needs of our community.

## Statement of Financial Position

As of Fiscal Year Ends 2025 and 2024

|                                   | 2025               | 2024               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                     |                    |                    |
| Current Assets                    | 237,602,244        | 208,780,314        |
| Non-Current Assets                | 162,638,561        | 146,856,539        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>               | <b>400,240,805</b> | <b>355,636,853</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                |                    |                    |
| Current & Non-Current Liabilities | 132,926,002        | 107,566,417        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>          | <b>132,926,002</b> | <b>107,566,417</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                 |                    |                    |
| Restricted Nonexpendable          | 77,843,283         | 76,082,305         |
| Restricted Expendable             | 73,625,416         | 56,909,359         |
| Unrestricted                      | 115,846,104        | 115,078,772        |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>           | <b>267,314,803</b> | <b>248,070,436</b> |

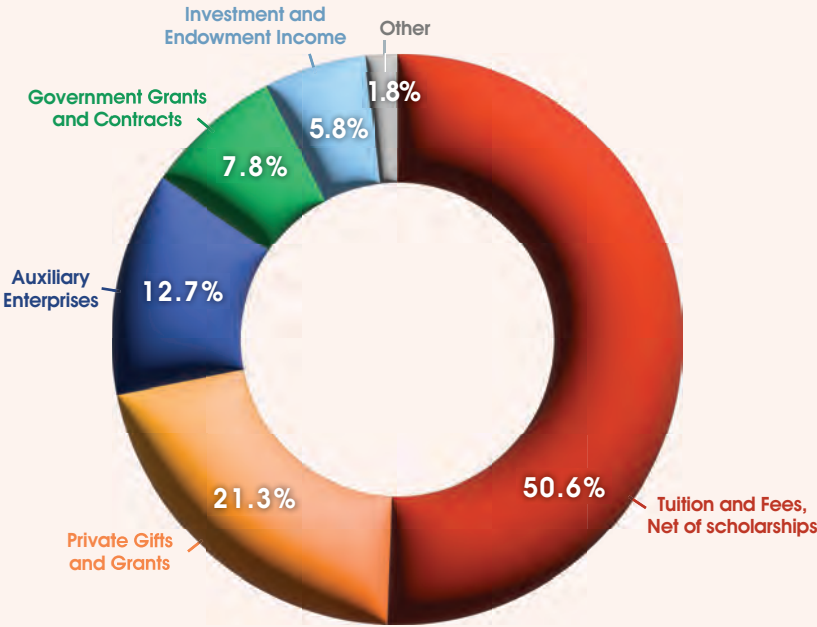


## Statement of Activities

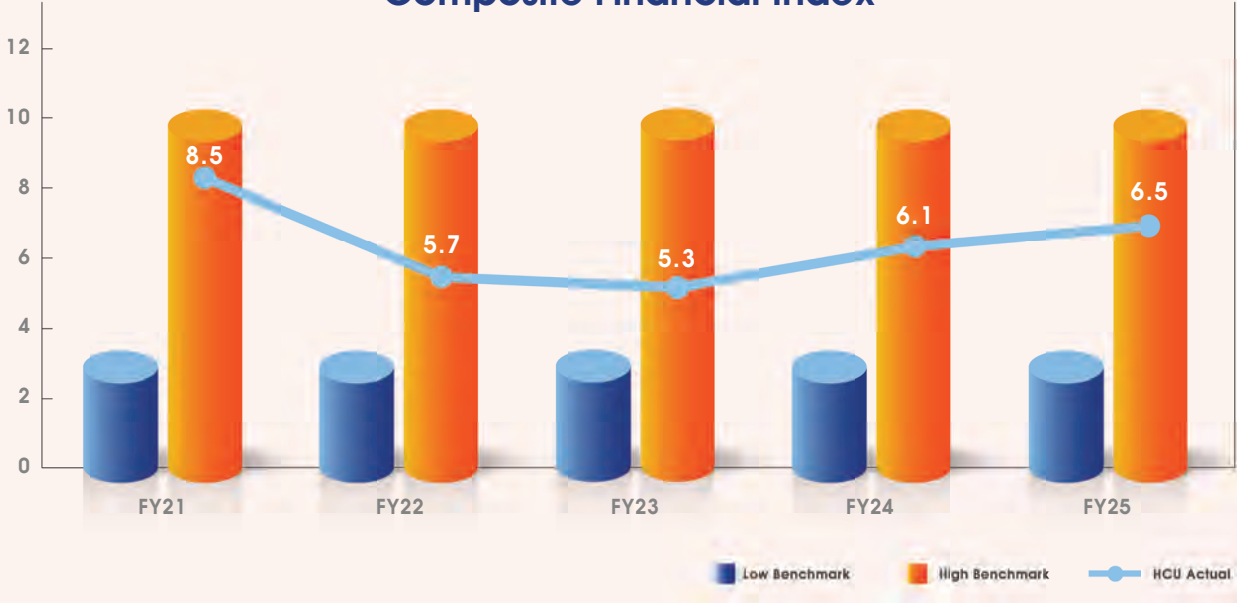
As of Fiscal Year Ends 2025 and 2024

|                                              | 2025        | 2024        |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                              | 101,821,015 | 91,347,245  |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>                    | 90,132,746  | 90,091,794  |
| Use of Funds for Operating Expenses          | 84,957,703  | 84,512,948  |
| Depreciation                                 | 5,175,043   | 5,578,845   |
| <b>Increase in Fair Value of Investments</b> | 6,497,003   | 9,013,081   |
| <b>Other Non-Operating Income</b>            | 1,059,096   | 1,300,643   |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>                  | 19,244,368  | 11,569,175  |
| <b>Beginning Net Assets</b>                  | 248,070,435 | 236,501,260 |
| <b>Ending Net Assets</b>                     | 267,314,803 | 248,070,435 |

# Sources of Funds

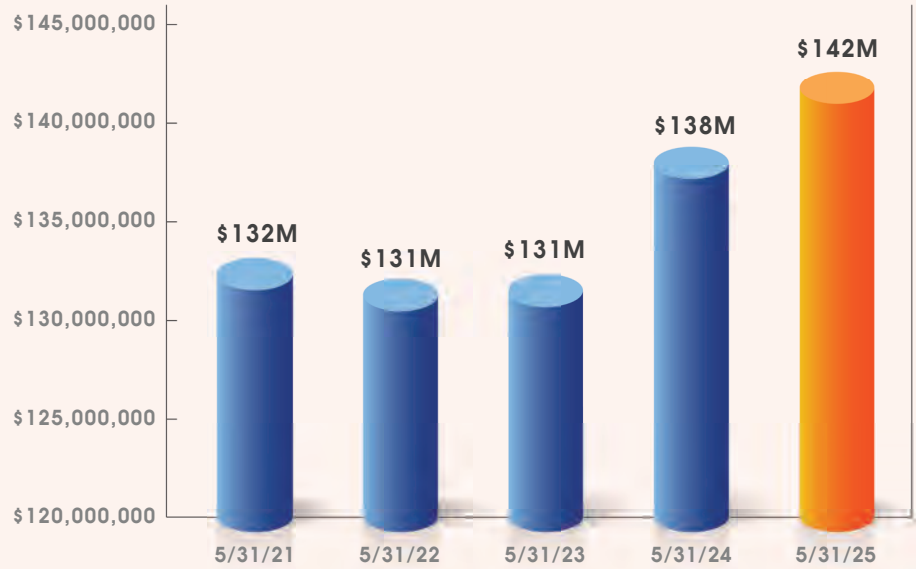


# Composite Financial Index





## Endowment Values



## Uses of Funds

