PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

ACADEMIC SUCCESS 44

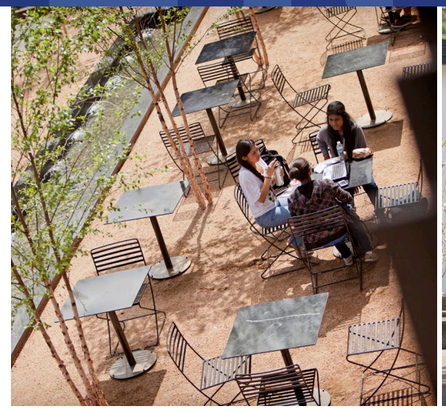
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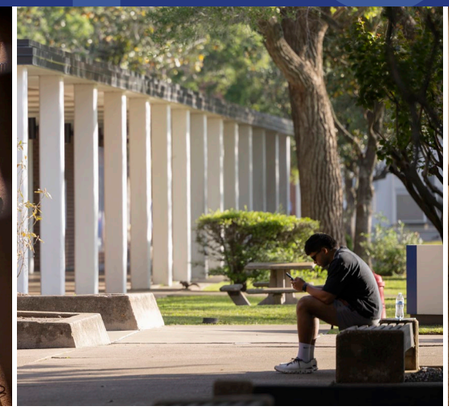
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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT







A *Legacy* of Faith and a Future of *Purpose*

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 academic year, we do so with profound gratitude for God's faithfulness and with a deep sense of responsibility to the legacy of HCU President Robert B. Sloan, Jr. Dr. Sloan devoted two decades to advancing Houston Christian University, and his vision, faith and unwavering commitment to Christian higher education helped shape the University we are today. His impact is evident in the growth, opportunities and Kingdom-minded mission that continue to define HCU.

The year 2026 was a remarkable chapter in that story. HCU welcomed a record 1071 incoming freshman students, our largest incoming class in University history. Academic momentum was equally strong, with continued growth in engineering and related fields, accreditation of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business and development of a new Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. Significant progress also was made on the $60 million Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building.

Our students continued to excel in every dimension of University life. The Women's Soccer Team won the Southland Conference and competed in the NCAA tournament. The Husky Women's Golf Team was recognized for the highest team GPA in the NCAA, and 141 student-athletes were named to the Southland Conference Spring Commissioner's Honor Roll. These accomplishments reflect the character, discipline and servant leadership we seek to cultivate in every Husky.

None of this progress happens without a community willing to invest in HCU's mission. The generosity of our donors fueled scholarships, academic growth, facilities and student opportunities while helping maintain the strong financial foundation necessary for HCU's continued advancement.

As we honor Dr. Sloan's life and legacy, we look forward with confidence. The work continues: preparing students to lead with wisdom, serve with integrity and impact Houston and the world for Christ.

Acting President,

Sandy Mooney



Growing in Purpose, Impact and Possibility

HCU continues to strengthen its commitment to academic excellence by expanding innovative, career-focused programs and reimagining the student learning experience. Through an enhanced Liberal Arts core curriculum, new courses in high-demand fields and a meaningful integration of faith and learning, HCU equips students with the knowledge, skills and character to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact on the world.

IMPERATIVE 1: GROWING SIZE AND PLACE

In fulfillment of HCU's mission, we work to spark students' passions for academic, spiritual and professional excellence so that they can serve in every field with a purpose centered in Jesus Christ. The recognition that Houston and the world need more engineers, artists, pastors, nurses, accountants and educators animated by this same vision stimulates our efforts to grow towards an enrollment of 10,000 students by 2030. HCU has taken significant steps towards that objective this year through new scholarships, new degree programs, and progress on new academic and residential facilities. We are expanding our size and place to match the scope of our vision.

HCU enrolled a record number of 4,693 students for the Fall 2025 semester, the highest total enrollment in the University's history and a 10% increase from the previous

ACADEMIC *success*

New Degree Programs

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

Launched in the 2025-26 Academic Year:

- BA Classical Christian Education
- BS Engineering Science
- MS Criminal Justice
- Master of International Business
- MS Human Resource Management - People Analytics
- Professional MBA, Accounting & Finance
- Professional MBA, Business Data Analytics
- Professional MBA, Management
- MS Data Science (Online)
- MS Artificial Intelligence

Launching in Fall 2026:

- BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- BS in Electrical Engineering Technology
- Master of Business Administration (now available in an additional hybrid format)
- Education Specialist (EdS) in Educational Leadership

Recruiting students now for programs that will begin Fall 2027:

- BS Mechanical Engineering
- BS Artificial Intelligence
- BBA Management Information Systems
- BBA Human Resource Development and Change
- BBA Business Data Analytics

Fall semester. In Fall 2025, the University welcomed 954 first-time freshmen to campus—exceeding our previous record by 25% and reflecting a 33% year-over-year increase from the previous Fall. Our residential and online campuses enrolled a combined total of 3,277 undergraduate students for the fall semester.

HCU's online campus enrolled a record 1,345 online students between our undergraduate and graduate programs.

Growing Size and Scope in Engineering and Computer Science

Our engineering and computer science programs have continued their rapid growth through the generosity of a visionary donor who funded the full tuition remaining after HCU's institutional aid for high-performing incoming students in our Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Science, Information Systems and Mathematics programs. Grace Hopper Scholars (named for a groundbreaking rear admiral, computer scientist and mathematician) have boosted new-student enrollment in these majors from 210 in the fall of 2024 to 373 in the fall of 2025.

In response to the workforce needs in the Houston Metro area, HCU is launching a BS in Electrical Engineering Technology in Fall 2026 as well as a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a BS in Artificial Intelligence in Fall 2027. The Mechanical Engineering program will be the only Christian mechanical engineering program in the region, will be built on small class sizes with close mentoring from faculty in an integrated lecture-and-lab structure across core engineering courses, and will culminate with a year-long senior design project, including some sponsored by industry partners.

At the heart of a Christian university are the classical Liberal Arts—paths of rigorous learning and virtuous living that liberate humans in the lives God has created us to live.

On-Campus Housing Expansion

On Sept. 16, 2025, HCU's Board of Trustees voted to approve the repurchase of University Place, a residential complex adjacent to HCU's main campus. The addition of University Place will soon expand the University's residential capacity by 35% and will provide at least 300 new beds for Fall 2027. The main five-story, 200,000-sq. ft. residential facility will house upperclassmen, graduate students and students with families in apartment-style housing in a complex with study and recreation spaces, dining options and other amenities. Work to refresh the living spaces and remodel and upgrade the common spaces began this summer and will be completed in summer 2027 for full occupancy next fall.

IMPERATIVE 2: REINVIGORATING THE CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS

New Liberal Arts Core Curriculum

At the heart of a Christian university are the classical Liberal Arts—paths of rigorous learning and virtuous living that liberate humans for the lives God has created us to live. This fall, HCU will launch the fruit of a multi-year effort to contemporize our engagement with these ancient ways of knowing and becoming that will cultivate humility, charity and Christian wisdom. The renewed Liberal Arts Core will 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.

Dr. Emily Stelzer, professor of literature, was appointed to a new position as Dean of the Core Curriculum and has led a faculty team to fully redevelop the 14 courses each HCU undergraduate is required to take. The team designed each course to embody HCU's Christian convictions, to nurture two or more of the essential literacies the core aims to develop in each student, and to teach with scholarly and pedagogical excellence its academic discipline. Each redesigned course includes "Signature Assignments" intended to be courage-building, character-forming, community-cultivating and Christ-honoring. This collaborative effort will deliver an integrated, cohesive and transformative academic experience for all undergraduate students beginning this Fall. (For more details about the new Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, see "Rooted in the Classics, Formed in Faith" on page 22.)

"Knowing God" Core Curriculum Focal Literacies and Outcomes

Drawing from HCU's Ten Core Convictions, every course in HCU's Liberal Arts Core contributes to a coherent curriculum that will see students develop in one of more of the nine core literacies we seek to nurture in students.

KNOWING GOD

- Biblical literacy
- Christian wisdom
- Theological proficiency

KNOWING GOD'S CREATION

- Scientific literacy
- Quantitative literacy
- Aesthetic literacy

KNOWING GOD'S IMAGE-BEARERS

- Human dignity
- Interdependence
- Flourishing

University Goal

10,000 STUDENTS

Scan here
TO SEE PLANS FOR 2026-27 CONVOCATION
HC.edu/convo







IMPERATIVE 3: RENEWING COMMUNITY LIFE AND CULTURE

Campus culture is shifting in meaningful ways as students, faculty and staff become more engaged in the life of the University. Increased participation in campus events like the Fall Festival, Spring Fling, the Crawfish Boil and Late-Night Breakfast to kick-off Finals Week reflects much more than higher attendance because of more students. It demonstrates a growing sense of belonging to a real community and a true blue (and orange) Husky pride. Faculty and staff are investing more intentionally in the student experience by being present beyond the classroom, strengthening relationships that contribute to student success. Likewise, doubled participation in Campus Recreation leagues and increased attendance at athletic events, fueled by new cheer and spirit initiatives, shows that students are rallying around their common HCU identity and celebrating one another. Together, these trends point to a campus that is becoming more connected, supportive and unified.

Our Spiritual Life team hired a new director to help mentor the development of our HCU student worship teams and to strengthen our channels to provide one-on-one discipling for our students as part of the holistic education we offer them. In this past year we have also seen more churches join our Local Church Collaborative and new campus ministries partner with us to reach and disciple HCU students.

We have also continued to expand the opportunities to encourage and equip our faculty and staff as they fulfill their callings at HCU, resourcing their development in the opportunities they have to integrate faith with their work on campus.

Campus culture is shifting in meaningful ways as students, faculty and staff become more engaged in the life of the University.



Throughout the last year, HCU celebrated the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed and its clear confession of the full humanity and full deity of Jesus Christ through our Convocation theme, *Full*. Inspired by the Lord Jesus's words in John 10:10, we spent a year exploring how we can live fully the lives God lovingly created and redeemed us to lead because he has taken our humanity fully into himself in his Son. The teaching series on the doctrine of Christ, the Holy Spirit's empowerment in our lives, how we can know abundant life through habits of spiritual intimacy with Christ and the full assurance we have in salvation from the Triune God formed our campus community in rich ways.







IMPERATIVE 4: ENGAGING THE MARKETPLACE

HCU's Marketplace Initiatives seek to steward the innovation and excellence of our faculty and students through focused impact in key sectors in Houston's civic and economic life: Health and Wellness, Energy, Education and Cyber and Data.

Dunham College of Business Initiatives

The Archie W. Dunham College of Business (DCOB) launched a new required course named Financial Literacy and Generosity (FLAG) in the Fall 2026 semester to equip business majors with the knowledge and principles to be faithful financial stewards in both the marketplace and the kingdom. FLAG will build a strong curricular foundation for student opportunities through a new partnership with Blue Trust, a financial advisory services company that brings almost five decades of biblical wealth management experience.

DCOB's Center for Christianity in Business (CCB) launched new scholarship programs through which students can receive tuition assistance (between $4,000-$5,000 per year) as well as mentorship and professional development through connections with Christian leaders in the marketplace.

Connections with Houston's Healthcare Sector

HCU's Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing (LDSON) continues to strengthen connections with Houston's healthcare sector through strategic partnerships, including collaboration with Memorial Hermann Southwest, an ongoing partnership with CompassRN and multiple grant proposals to address the nursing shortage. Faculty and staff are actively involved in professional and policy organizations, including advisory boards, legislative advocacy and national program committees. LDSON's efforts have been affirmed by strong student outcomes, including a 97.83% NCLEX pass rate in 2025, reflecting the School's commitment to workforce readiness and excellence.

Hosting Science and Engineering Industry Professionals

The College of Science and Engineering (COSE) hosted and organized career fairs, employer visits and information sessions to promote career opportunities for students with companies including Bank of America, FedEx, Bechtel Energy, IBM and Lumen Technologies. COSE offered opportunities for students to visit industry sites, including Microsoft and Nitonix Circuits; attend recruitment sessions with employers, including the FBI; and hear from guest speakers, including NASA Aerospace Engineer John Goodman and former NASA Chief Information Officer Annette Moore.

Education Impact through the Cullen Trust Grant for Early Literacy

For the 2025-26 school year, HCU was awarded a $100,000 grant from the Cullen Trust for Higher Education (CTHE) to enhance early literacy at three Title I elementary schools located near campus in the Houston Independent School District (HISD). HCU student mentors worked as tutors and reading helpers at Lovett Elementary School, Neff Early Learning Center, and McNamara Elementary School up to 10 hours a week and up to 16 weeks each semester. They helped kindergarten-5th grade students with literacy, writing, reading and language assistance. The Cullen Literacy Grant was renewed for the 2026-27 year, the third year in a row.

IMPERATIVE 5: PLANNING FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Dunham College of Business Gets ACBSP Accreditation

After a rigorous, three-year process, HCU's Archie W. Dunham College of Business (DCOB) earned accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Pursuing accreditation served to refine the curriculum, strengthen faculty development, deepen faith integration and align degrees more intentionally with workforce needs. Receiving ACBSP accreditation validates DCOB's teaching excellence, its student-centered focus and its commitment to continuous improvement in order to accomplish its mission.

Project Elevate

HCU completed a two-year overhaul of our business processes and conversion of our enterprise resource planning software (ERP) to a more streamlined and cloud-based system that will improve data quality, ease data analysis and create greater efficiency for students, faculty and staff to allow greater focus on our pursuit of excellence.



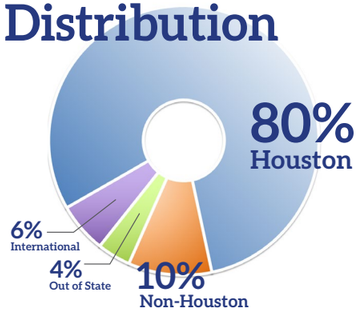




Record Enrollment, *Lasting* Purpose

On the heels of two consecutive years of record growth, the University reached another significant milestone in Fall 2026, achieving the highest enrollment in its history. This record-setting achievement reflects continued momentum toward the University's 2030 enrollment growth goals and underscores the University's ongoing commitment to equipping future generations of students.

Enrollment Distribution

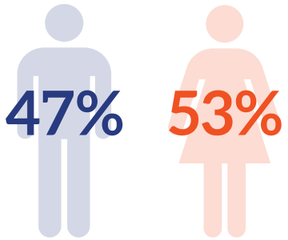


- Undergraduate: 3,142
- Pampell Online: 1,303
- Graduate: 466
- Dual Enrollment: 374

ENROLLMENT

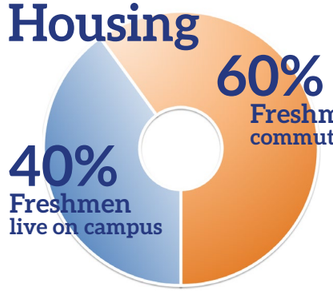


Undergraduate Enrollment



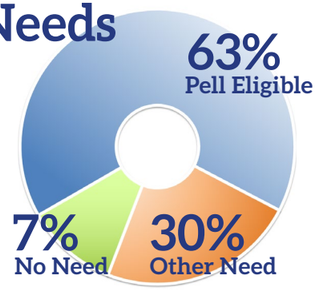


Freshman Housing



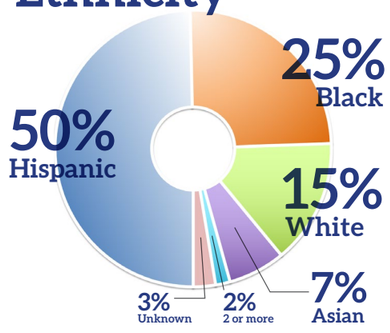


Freshman Needs





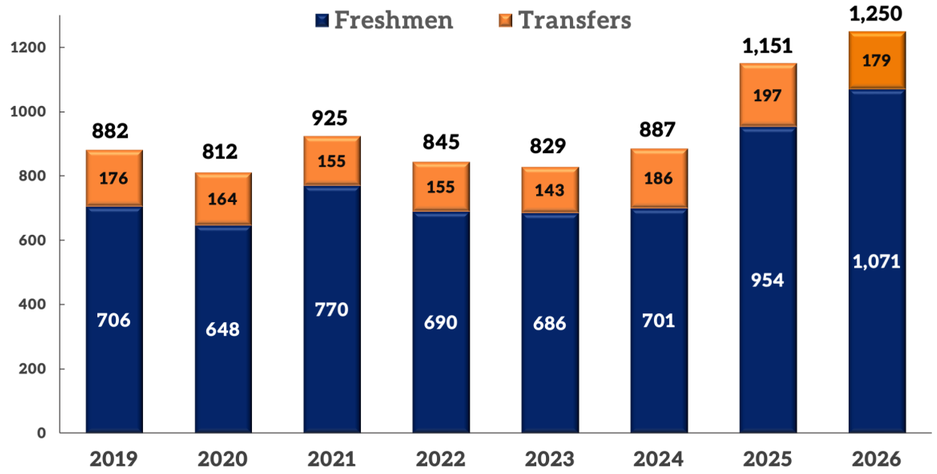
Ethnicity





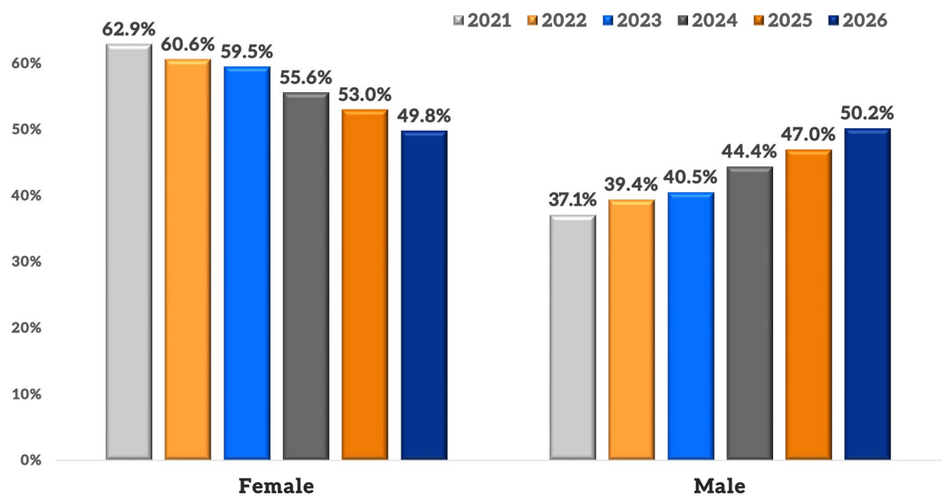
Enrolled NEW Freshmen & Tranfers

The University welcomed a record 1,071 first-time freshmen, up from 954 in Fall 2025, reflecting a double-digit 12% year-over-year increase, the largest freshmen class in the University's history. Additionally,179 new transfer students joined the Husky community, which was a slight decrease from last year's transfer numbers.



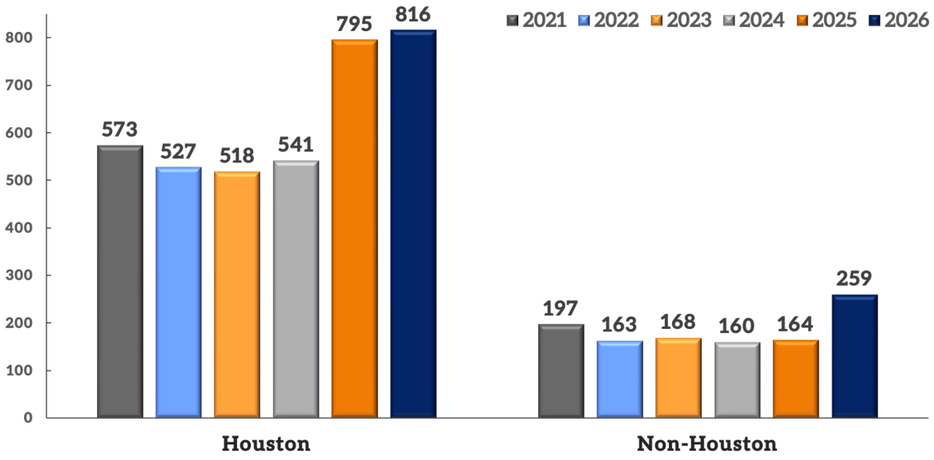
Freshman Female-Male Percentages

HCU enrolled 50.2 percent male freshmen and 49.8 percent female freshmen for the Fall 2026 semester, the first time since 1967 that the male population of incoming freshmen has exceeded the number of incoming female freshmen.



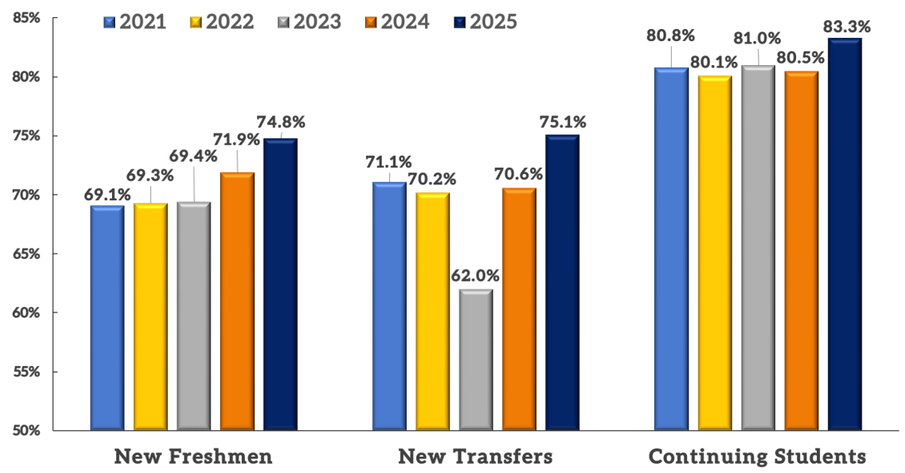
Freshmen Houston/Non-Houston Totals

The University enrolled 58% more students from outside the Houston metro than last year. This increase may reflect the effectiveness of the new branding and identity.



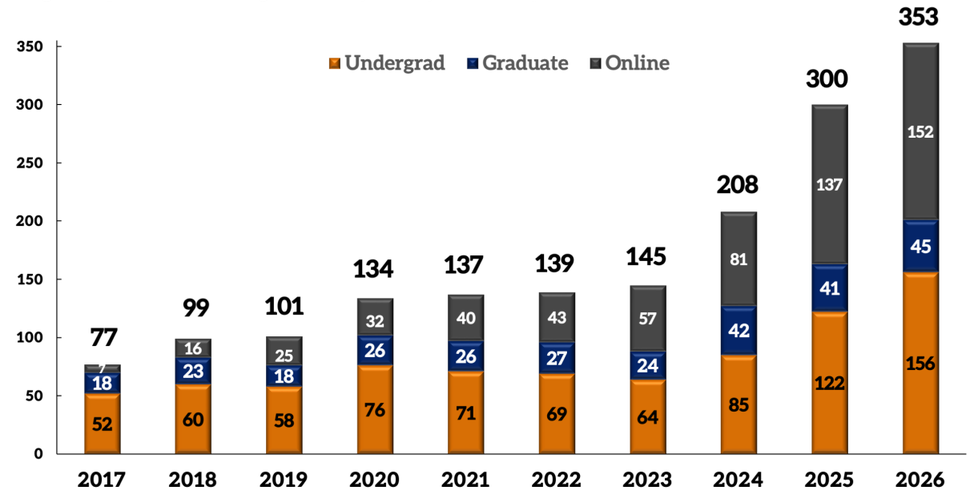
Fall to Fall Retention

The retention rate for new freshmen was 74.8 percent as compared to 71.9 percent in 2025. Transfer retention rose to 75.1 percent, up from 70.6 percent in 2025.



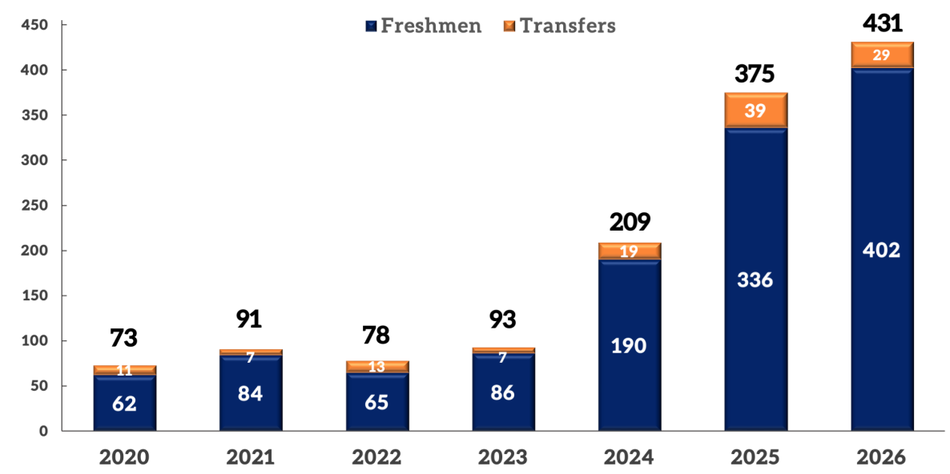
Veterans Enrollment

The number of military-affiliated student enrollment at HCU grew from 300 last year to 353 this year, building on the University's standing as a Top 10 national ranking as a Military Friendly® institution for veterans and service members.



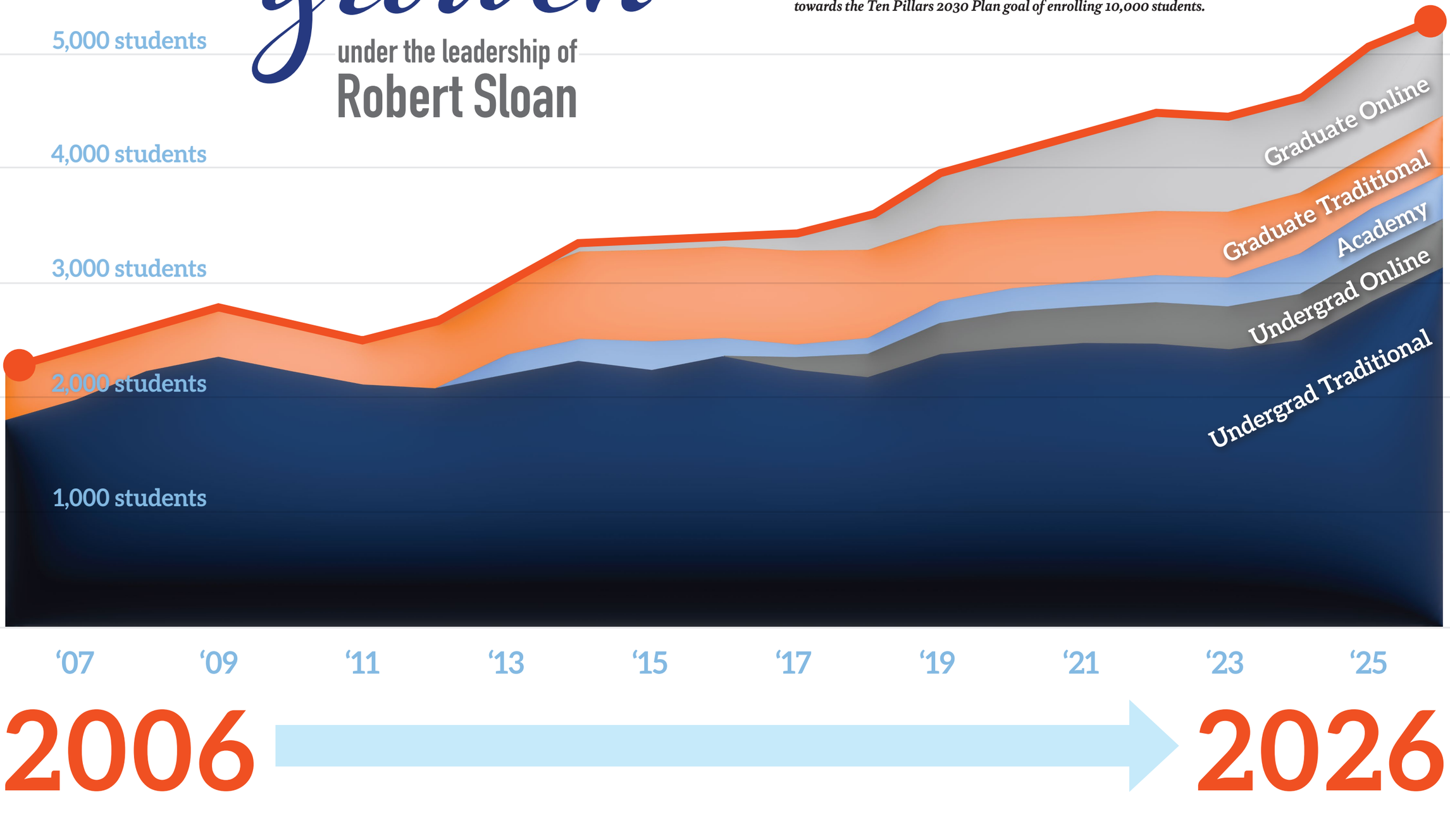
Engineering Enrollment

The University enrolled 402 new freshmen engineering majors, a 19.6 percentage increase for fall 2026. The number of engineering transfer students decreased slightly from 39 last year to 29 in the fall 2026 semester.



Twenty Years of *growth* under the leadership of Robert Sloan

During Dr. Sloan's nearly 20-year tenure, the University's total enrollment grew by a significant 147 percent, reaching 5,285 students as of fall 2026. These figures include residential and online undergraduate and graduate students, as well as dual-enrolled Academy high school students, showing the University's progress towards the Ten Pillars 2030 Plan goal of enrolling 10,000 students.





STEPPING INTO TOMORROW. l-r, Dr. Archie W. Dunham and Sherry and Jim Smith tour the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building which houses the Dunham Family Nursing Center. The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2027.

Rooted in *Faith*, Growing in *Impact*, Leaving a *Legacy*

The generosity of the HCU community continues to transform lives and advance God's work through higher education. During the past fiscal year, HCU received more than $14.3 million in philanthropic support, allowing the University to invest in students, strengthen programs and advance the Ten Pillars 2030 Plan vision.

- ***Alumni & Friends: more than 1,600 gifts totaling $5.59 million***
- ***Organizations and Corporate Partners: more than 240 gifts totaling $2.57 million***
- ***Foundations: more than 65 gifts totaling $6.19 million***

Donor support touched every corner of the University. Endowment gifts strengthened HCU's long-term sustainability, while unrestricted gifts to the HCU Fund provided immediate support where it was needed most. Together, these contributions funded scholarships, enhanced academic and cocurricular programs, strengthened spiritual life initiatives, supported capital projects that expand the University's facilities and enriched the student experience every day.

Kingdom ADVANCEMENT

HCU is grateful for the longstanding generosity of Sherry and Jim Smith, whose philanthropy and service have advanced the University's mission in transformative ways. Their lead gift made possible the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science & Nursing Building, opening in spring 2027, featuring state-of-the-art learning and laboratory spaces. Their support has also enriched the University through support of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, the gift of the Smith Letourneau Organ and the recital series it sustains, and enduring investments in the Orrien R. Smith Endowed Academic Scholarship and the John Bisagno Chair of Christian Origins. Beyond their financial support, Jim continues to serve as an Advisory Trustee, while Sherry is a lifetime member of The Guild.

In 1969, Founding Father Dr. Stewart Morris donated the first endowed scholarship. Now more than 360 Endowed Scholarships are among the most impactful ways donors ensure a lasting impact on Christian higher education, providing direct assistance to students. Named for longtime Director of Financial Aid Ken Rogers, the Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship was established through the collective generosity of 43 donors and is being awarded for the first time this fall. Its inaugural recipient, Noah Parker '30, son of Matthew Parker '03, shared the significance of receiving this scholarship: "It has meant the world to my family and me that I have been given the chance to pursue a higher education at a Christian university with the help of The Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship. I'm thrilled that I can continue the family legacy at Houston Christian University with Christ-like mentors and teachers walking alongside me. I plan to major in Information Systems and after getting my degree, go into full-time vocational ministry wherever God puts me."

1969

FIRST endowed scholarship donated by Dr. Stewart Morris



THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

2026

360+ endowed scholarships enabled students to attend HCU.

> Someone paid it forward to help make it possible for Anna to attend college. God has blessed us greatly. Now, it is our time to pay it forward to the next generation of hard-working and deserving students. Praise the Lord that He has given us the means to do His will.
>
> *Clark Cogswell*

Some donors choose to support scholarships in a way that annually and immediately support students. Anna Ford Cogswell '72 was the first in her family to get a college degree, and a scholarship made that possible. As shared by her husband, Clark Cogswell, "Someone paid it forward to help make it possible for Anna to attend college. God has blessed us greatly. Now, it is our time to pay it forward to the next generation of hard-working and deserving students. Praise the Lord that He has given us the means to do His will." The Cogswell Ford Scholarship, established by Anna and Clark Cogswell in 2022, has benefited 46 students, including 13 who have graduated.

For more than half a century, The Guild and the American Museum Society have strengthened HCU through service, advocacy and philanthropy. AMS enhances the visibility of HCU's University Museums through special events, while The Guild has raised more than $2.6 million to fund 468 scholarships for graduate students in education and Christianity.

HCU's Advisory Councils bring alumni and community leaders into the work of the academic areas they serve. Drawing on their professional experience, members help academic leaders remain attentive to changes in their fields and consider opportunities that benefit students. Their service strengthens the



> It has meant the world to my family and I that I have been given the chance to pursue a higher education at a Christian University with the help of The Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship. I'm thrilled that I can continue the family legacy at [HCU] with Christlike mentors and teachers walking along side me. I plan to major in Information systems and after getting my degree, go into full-time vocational ministry wherever God puts me.
>
> *Noah Parker '30*





connection between HCU's academic programs and the wider community.

Gifts to the HCU Fund provide annual support and directly enhance student life, supporting spiritual development, student success initiatives and campus programming. Many donors multiply their generosity through matching-gift programs that can double or triple their impact.

The impact of our foundation partners extends far beyond campus. The Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation has helped make so many things across campus possible, including the Joella & Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center, a vibrant hub for arts, education, community events and HCU's museums. A Piece of the Past Museum Essay Contest, benefiting HCU students and generously funded by the Morris Foundation alongside Isaac Heimbinder, was inaugurated in 2010-11 to encourage student research into the artifacts of the Dunham Bible Museum, the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts, and the Museum of Southern History. From commencements and symphony performances to lectures and student productions, the Morris Cultural Arts Center serves both HCU and the greater Houston community. The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty has further elevated the University's visibility through educational programs, public tours and its use as a filming location for "The American Miracle: Our Nation Is No Accident."

For five decades, the relationship with The Cullen Trust for Higher Education has shaped our institution in profound and lasting ways. Since the first gift in 1975, the Trust's steadfast commitment has strengthened our academic foundation, expanded our facilities, elevated our teaching and research capacities, and opened doors for generations of students who have come to HCU seeking opportunity, purpose and a future filled with promise. For the past three years, Cullen has provided funding to expand HCU's community impact through literacy initiatives in Houston Independent School District elementary schools. HCU students across all majors had the opportunity to tutor and mentor students who were performing below grade level in reading and writing. A total of 3,200 hours per semester were collectively logged by HCU students in the schools, resulting in measured improvement in student performance and school climate.

Members of the Covenant Society have chosen to support HCU through their wills, trusts and other planned gifts. This year, two legacy commitments generated more than $780,000 in support of the University. As Jane Jester '68 and Stephen Marmion noted, "We want to pass on the blessings God has given us to HCU, knowing its spiritual and educational legacy will continue as it has been for over 60 years."

The Don and Colletta McMillian Foundation continues a legacy established by two of HCU's earliest champions. Among our earliest Covenant Society members, Don McMillian, a Founding Trustee, and Colleta McMillian, a University Trustee and the first president of the President's Advisors (now The Guild), helped shape the University's future through their leadership and service. Today, their foundation continues to impact HCU through support for scholarships and key University programs.



We want to pass on the blessings God has given us to HCU, knowing its spiritual and educational legacy will continue as it has been for over 60 years.

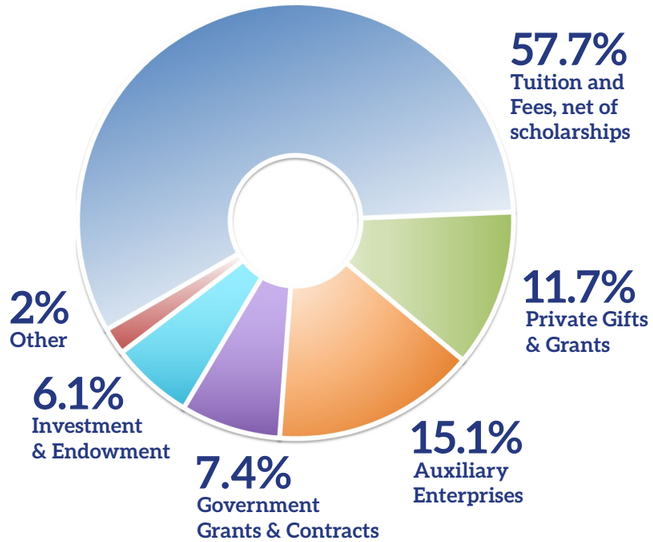
Jane Jester '68 and Stephen Marmion



The *Power* of Giving

HCU remains focused on strengthening its financial foundation to support the University's continued success and long-term sustainability. Through responsible stewardship of resources and strategic investments in growth, we are committed to building on our institutional strengths, expanding opportunities, and securing a strong financial future for the University.

Sources of Funds



FINANCIAL *health*

Statement of Financial Position

AS OF FISCAL YEAR ENDS 2026 AND 2025

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets	216,675,296	237,602,244
Non-Current Assets	199,772,433	162,638,561
Total Assets	**416,447,729**	**400,240,805**
LIABILITIES		
Current & Non-Current Liabilities	129,235,572	132,926,002
Total Liabilities	**129,235,572**	**132,926,002**
NET ASSETS		
With Donor Restrictions	167,696,089	151,468,699
Without Donor Restrictions	119,516,068	115,846,104
Total Net Assets	**287,212,157**	**267,314,803**

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

AS OF FISCAL YEAR ENDS 2026 AND 2025

	2026	2025
REVENUE	94,618,954	101,821,015
OPERATING EXPENSES	93,239,691	90,132,746
Use of Funds for Operating Expenses	87,301,352	84,957,703
Depreciation	5,938,339	5,175,043
INCREASE IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS	17,249,429	6,497,003
OTHER NON-OPERATING INCOME	1,268,660	1,059,096
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	19,897,354	19,244,368
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	267,314,803	248,070,435
ENDING NET ASSETS	287,212,157	267,314,803

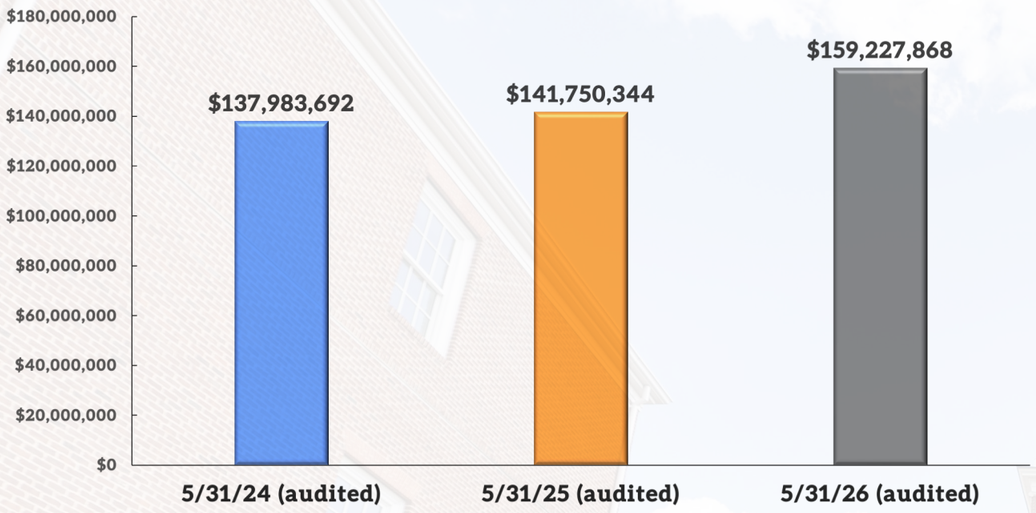








Endowment Funds



Uses of Funds

