Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and College for America

Websites:  https://www.snhu.edu/
http://collegeforamerica.org/

Summary of Innovation:  Southern New Hampshire University is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with more than 3,000 on-campus students, over 80,000 online students and an alumni network of over 84,000. SNHU offers over 200 programs, from certificates to doctoral level degrees.1 Business administration and computer and informational studies are the two most popular undergraduate degrees.2

SNHU was founded in the 1930s; and developed during the 1960s into the New Hampshire College of Accounting and Commerce. During the 1990s, it was one of the first higher education institutions to develop an Internet-based distance learning program, now known as “SNHU Online and first Doctoral program.3

Because so many programs and degrees are offered to on campus students, off campus students and online students, the tuition amounts vary greatly. The school’s website has a Net Price Calculator to support traditional students and non-traditional students in projecting what their full-time academic career could cost.4

College for America, SNHU’s vehicle for workforce partnerships, was founded with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation.5 This model is an online, competency-based education model focused on providing an affordable and flexible option for working adults to attain a credential or degree. The cost for this model starts at $5,000 per year with discounts available at select employer partners. They claim 60% of their students expect to earn degrees without taking out any debt at all.6

Targeted Population of Learners:  The average age of currently enrolled SNHU students is 21 years. There are 2,935 full-time on-campus undergraduates. The on-campus student population 83.2% White, 4.1% Hispanic/Latino, 3.3% Black/African-American, 2.0% Asian, and about 8% unknown or other. The ethnicity of its 80,000 online students and 1,072 graduate students is not reported.7

Partners:  SNHU has numerous partnerships in the sectors of Education, Community/Community Service, Sports, and Military. Please see below a selection of partners by the author of this profile:

1  https://www.snhu.edu/about-us.
3  https://www.snhu.edu/about-us.
4  http://www.aidcalc.com/snhu/.
5  http://collegeforamerica.org/about-college-for-america/
6  http://collegeforamerica.org/about-college-for-america/cost-of-college-for-america/
Community Colleges of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and 20 other states
Online course partnerships – Berklee Online, Landmark School, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Peace Corps
Boston Celtics
United Service Organization (USO)
Warrior Transition Technology Training (WT3)

**Bringing the Innovation to Scale:** In 2017, SNHU outlined its plans for expansion. They include a focus on supporting military affiliated students, launching online competency-based bachelor’s degrees and associates degrees to refugees in Rwanda, opening a College for Engineering Technology and Aeronautics, and developing a partnership between the college’s Workforce Partnership division and College for America, in which degree credit can be earned for prior learning in certificate programs.⁸

“To support the new majority of students — often older, working, and with families — community colleges and private universities face a common challenge: the need to find ways to evolve their learning technology systems. Students expect a more consumer-grade experience with technology, and colleges and universities will need to meet those expectations.” ⁹

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