



## 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.<sup>1</sup> Business administration and computer and informational studies are the two most popular undergraduate degrees.<sup>2</sup>

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."<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

College for America, SNHU's vehicle for workforce partnerships, was founded with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

**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.<sup>7</sup>

**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:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.snhu.edu/about-us>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://colleges.startclass.com/l/2528/Southern-New-Hampshire-University-Academics&s=3jcSQv>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.snhu.edu/about-us>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.aidcalc.com/snhu/>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://collegeforamerica.org/about-college-for-america/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://collegeforamerica.org/about-college-for-america/cost-of-college-for-america/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.collegedata.com/cs/data/college/college\\_pg06\\_tmpl.jhtml?schoolId=1165](https://www.collegedata.com/cs/data/college/college_pg06_tmpl.jhtml?schoolId=1165).

- 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.<sup>8</sup>

“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.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> SNHU, *The History of SNHU*, 2018. <https://www.snhu.edu/about-us/leadership-and-history/history>.

<sup>9</sup> Thackaberry, Sasha (2017) *Mission Driven, Common Challenges*. <http://blogging.snhu.edu/academics/2017/07/14/mission-driven-common-challenges/>