



American Public University System (APUS), which operates through American Military University (AMU) and American Public University (APU), is a leading provider of relevant, affordable and accessible distance learning to more than 100,000 working adults worldwide. Degree programs offered in areas including education, technology, business administration, liberal arts, national security, military studies, intelligence, homeland security and criminal justice. APUS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and a member of the North Central Association, and is the largest higher education provider to the U.S. Armed Forces.

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APUS History

APUS's origin extends back to 1991, when James P. Etter, a Marine Corps officer who taught at Marine Corps Base Quantico, retired from active service and launched one of the first 100% online universities, American Military University. AMU was designed to meet the unique educational needs of the military – transient, working adults needing a range of program offerings from traditional courses such as criminal justice to unique courses such as counterterrorism and military intelligence, which are not readily available at most institutions.

At its launch, AMU enrolled 18 students in 22 graduate-level courses. Over time, program offerings were expanded in response to demand by military students for post-military career preparation. With its new programs, AMU extended its outreach to the greater public service community, primarily consisting of police, fire, emergency management personnel and national security professionals.

In 2002, AMU expanded into the American Public University System, adding American Public University. APU is designed to extend the system's outreach to better meet the needs of those interested in public service related programs, such as criminal justice, public safety, national security and other adult learners seeking to advance their education through a robust, online curriculum.

Mission

To provide quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible and affordable, student-focused online programs, which prepare them for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

Academic Excellence

APUS is a member of the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning of the Higher Learning Commission. This continuous evaluation of student learning enables us to offer quality and timely curriculum. Our students score above the national average for the Proficiency Profile test in all subject areas including math, writing, reading, critical thinking, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. We also use national benchmarks to measure effectiveness including the National Survey for Student Engagement, Community of Inquiry survey, Proficiency Profile, and Major Field Tests.





Faculty, Scholars, and Practitioners

The University's nearly 1,900 full-time and adjunct faculty is diverse, experienced, and dedicated. With a 100% online curriculum, we are able to attract scholars and practitioners from around the world who bring relevant theory and real-world experience to their instruction. We have more than 500 faculty members with doctorates and Ph.D.s from leading state and private universities. Many are widely recognized for their accomplishments in their respective fields, including Dr. Alan Hale (co-discoverer of the Hale-Bopp Comet), Dr. James Reilly (astronaut); and Dr. Gwen Hall (recognized national security expert), among many others.

As leaders still actively engaged in their professions, they are able to bring relevancy and firsthand knowledge to the academic learning environment. Many are executives in government, business and non-profit organizations, including:

- U.S. State Department
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Central Intelligence Agency
- National Security Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- United Nations

Our Students

The majority of our students are working adults, located in all 50 states and in over 100 foreign countries.

- Approximately 58% are active duty, from all branches of service, while 42% are civilian, or other military
- About 80 % pursue undergraduate degrees and about 20 % pursue master's degrees.

- The median age is 32.
- More than 24,000 students have earned degrees since the university was founded.
- Graduates work in a variety of public and private sector fields, including intelligence, security management, military management, government agencies and contractors, among others.

Curriculum and Tuition

APUS currently offers 87 associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs, along with 85 certificates. The Homeland Security program, one of the first programs of its kind, is also one of the largest such degree programs in the nation. Program expertise encompasses intelligence and national security to criminal justice and emergency management.

APUS's courses are designed specifically for the online environment. Students can login anytime to the APUS academic community, powered by Sakai. This collaborative learning environment allows students to view video lectures, review notes and class assignments, conduct research, complete tests, and participate in online discussions and group projects. Courses are offered in eight or 16 week sessions, with monthly class starts, making it easier for students to schedule around work or family commitments. An average class numbers 14 students, with a maximum of 25.

Undergraduate tuition has not increased in more than a decade. According to the College Board, APUS's combined tuition, fees, and books are roughly **19% less for undergraduate**, and **33% less for graduate** students than the average in-state cost at a public university. In addition, among the 10 leading providers of online education, we are on average **42% lower for undergraduate** and **33% lower for graduate** students. A book grant supplies course materials at no cost for undergraduate level courses for credits.



Executive Spokespeople



Dr. Wallace E. Boston
President & CEO
Member, Board of Trustees
Member, Board of Directors

Dr. Wallace E. Boston was appointed president and chief executive officer of APUS and its parent company, American Public Education, Inc. in July 2004. He joined APUS as its executive vice president and chief financial officer in 2002.



Dr. Karan Powell
Executive Vice President,
Provost

Dr. Karan Powell leads the academics department to ensure academic quality and online teaching effectiveness, focusing on student success, advocating for the faculty, and collaborating in the advancement of online instructional strategies and technology.



Dr. Phil Ice
Vice President,
Research and Development

Dr. Phil Ice's research is focused on the impact of new and emerging technologies on cognition in online learning environments. Work in this area has brought him international recognition in the form of three Sloan-C Effective Practice of the Year Awards (2007, 2009 and 2010) and the AliveTek/DLA innovation in Online Distance Learning Administration Award.



Dr. Jennifer Stephens Helm
Vice President and Dean,
Institutional Research and
Assessment

Dr. Jennifer Stephens Helm leads the institutional research and assessment department with a focus on enhancing institutional effectiveness by providing data and information that supports and strengthens institution-wide decision making, operations management, and strategic planning processes.



Dr. Fred Stielow
Vice President,
Dean of Libraries & Course
Materials

Dr. Fred Stielow heads APUS's Classroom/Research Information Services (CRIS). His industry-leading initiatives include the innovative blending of virtual library holdings, electronic bookstore/textbook operations, and APUS e-Press outputs.












Mr. Jim Sweizer
Vice President, Military Programs

Jim Sweizer joined the staff of American Military University in 2005 after serving over 33 years in the Air Force as an active duty member and civil servant. He oversees all military outreach activities and serves as the main liaison between the University and Department of Defense agencies.



APUS History Timeline

	 1991	AMU founded and incorporated in Virginia
Licensed and authorized to enroll students	1992 	
	 1993	First master's program introduced
National accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)	1995	
	1996	Undergraduate bachelor's program introduced
Transitions to online, Web-based course delivery	1998 	
	1999	Undergraduate associate program introduced
AMU reorganized into American Public University System (7,526 students); American Public University established	2002 	
	 2003	APUS's headquarters moved from Manassas, Virginia to Charles Town, West Virginia
Regional accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)	2006	
	 2007	APUS's parent company American Public Education, Incorporated (APEI) became a publicly-traded company on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange
Prestigious Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) Gomory Award winner for Quality Online Education and first-time winner of the Sloan-C Effective Practice Award	2009	
	 2010	Two-time recipient of the Sloan-C Effective Practice Award, marking the first time representatives from a single institution received the award in consecutive years
American Public University System surpasses 100,000 active students	2011 	
	2012	APUS receives re-accreditation from HLC and withdraws DETC accreditation
Recipient of the United States Distance Learning Association's award for Outstanding Leadership by an Individual in the Field of Distance Learning	2012	