



The University of Arizona Global Campus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The University of Arizona is establishing **University of Arizona Global Campus**, a separate nonprofit corporation. Global Campus will acquire the assets of Ashford University, which is a for-profit, all-online university accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). Global Campus will be a private, not-for-profit university that will provide affordable, high-quality education to students around the world.

What is University of Arizona Global Campus?

A new, nonprofit online university affiliated with and created by the University of Arizona. University of Arizona Global Campus will acquire the assets of Ashford University, a well-established and accredited online university that offers more than 50 associates, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs to approximately 35,000 students.

Why is the University establishing Global Campus?

University of Arizona Global Campus will benefit the University of Arizona in several ways:

- 1) Extends the University of Arizona's land-grant mission by offering online educational opportunities and access to a diverse group of students.
- 2) Embraces the opportunity to serve more international students — regardless of geographic location — who will benefit from the enhanced learning environment and resources provided by University of Arizona Global Campus.
- 3) With approximately 35,000 initially enrolled students, Global Campus will engage a diverse student body from around the country that is currently:
 - 88% over the age of 25
 - 32% African American
 - 15% Hispanic
 - 70% women
 - 56% Pell Grant recipients
 - 25% associated with the military
 - 76% from the South, Midwest or Northeast
- 4) Generates significant revenue for the University of Arizona and opportunities to substantially increase Arizona Online enrollment through transfer pathways.
- 5) Positions Arizona Online and Global Campus together as preferred leaders in online education worldwide.

What is the relationship between Arizona Online and Global Campus?

Arizona Online is part of the University of Arizona, whereas Global Campus will be a separate, affiliated not-for-profit university with its own programs, faculty and accreditation. Arizona Online and Ashford University collectively offer 140 online degrees, with approximately 125 unique degrees between the two universities. Over time, we will work to further minimize overlap and to maintain complementary programs. We will also develop robust pathways from Global Campus to Arizona Online, which will continue to grow and offer premier online degrees.

Why operate University of Arizona Global Campus in parallel to Arizona Online rather than fold it into Arizona Online?

It is not logistically possible at the outset to merge Arizona Online and Ashford University, given the different faculty, programs and accreditation of the two universities. Arizona Online and Global Campus will operate separately but in collaboration. The University of Arizona will have the option to eventually incorporate Global Campus into Arizona Online at its discretion in the future.

What is the relationship between UA Global and Global Campus?

UA Global is and will remain part of the University of Arizona. UA Global's functions include global admissions and recruiting, international student services, study abroad, and international faculty and scholars. In addition, UA Global runs a network of over 150 microcampus locations around the world, where we deliver in-person and online University of Arizona academic programs. These UA Global initiatives will remain unchanged and the emphasis of UA Global. University of Arizona Global Campus will provide additional online educational offerings, which we will make available to students around the world through our network of global locations.

Why financially invest in a new university at such a challenging time for the University of Arizona enterprise?

The establishment of Global Campus provides a compelling opportunity to reach a diverse group of approximately 35,000 students in furtherance of our land-grant mission. Moreover, University of Arizona Global Campus is investing only \$1 to acquire Ashford University. In return, Global Campus is guaranteed a substantial 15-year income stream of \$225 million, including an upfront payment of \$37.5 million. Global Campus will enter into an affiliation agreement with the University of Arizona, with upfront and ongoing payments to the University of Arizona that will have both immediate and long-term positive impacts on our university's fiscal health. Notably, we anticipate using initial revenues once the transaction closes in December to help alleviate the financial burden that we are currently facing. We look forward to a discussion as to how best to allocate this new revenue.

Why is Zovio willing to sell Ashford University to University of Arizona Global Campus for \$1?

Zovio has rebranded and retooled as an education technology services company and this allows Zovio to focus exclusively on providing high-quality education technology services to its clients. The sale of Ashford to Global Campus is a critical piece of its strategic shift. Global Campus will become Zovio's client. In addition, the affiliation with University of Arizona is expected to increase enrollment at Global Campus, as compared to Ashford University as a standalone university.

How much will Zovio make each year?

Zovio will receive 19.5% of the annual tuition revenue for the duration of the 15-year partnership in exchange for providing education technology services, only after priority payments to Global Campus totaling \$225 million.

Is the University of Arizona aware of past controversy regarding Ashford University?

The University of Arizona is aware of past controversies and investigations related to Ashford University and its parent company, Zovio. Ashford has worked to address those concerns and to ensure that it adheres to best practices in recruitment, enrollment and all areas of engagement with its current and potential students. The University and its outside advisers and attorneys have conducted due diligence on Ashford University over several months and the University of Arizona will assume no responsibility for any past financial or legal liabilities. The University of Arizona is confident in the establishment of Global Campus and the acquisition of Ashford's assets, as part of a larger strategic focus on significantly growing the University of Arizona's online educational programs. University of Arizona Global Campus benefits the entire University of Arizona community and positions the Global Campus as a leader in delivering high-

quality, evidence-based education that meets the needs and schedules of its students. The University of Arizona is steadfast in its resolve to further its strong reputation as a world-class leader in higher education. This new venture will position the Global Campus as a desirable online university, while continuing the University of Arizona's long tradition of ethical oversight and management of its operations and programs.

What are Ashford's retention and graduate rates?

Ashford's first-time, full-time student (FTFT) retention rate is 23% and its FTFT six-year graduation rate is 9%. By way of reference, University of Maryland Global Campus, which is a public research university serving a similar population of students, has a FTFT retention rate of 53% and a FTFT six-year graduation rate of 8%. It is important to note that federal graduation and retention rates in IPEDS are based on **first-time, full-time students only**. The FTFT category **excludes 83% of Ashford students** who are transfer students. Notably, based on U.S. Department of Education survey statistics, Ashford students that identify as primarily working students (70%) complete their degrees at a rate almost twice the national average. The FTFT data also does not include students who persist in their education at another institution. Ashford's progression analysis using National Clearinghouse data shows that 69% of Ashford students are active or graduate a year later either at Ashford or another institution. We are committed to increasing retention, graduation and persistence rates to best-among-peer levels within five years.

Can Ashford University students use the GI Bill to pay for their education in California?

Yes. On Feb. 14, 2020, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs approved the application from Ashford University for continued eligibility to certify VA education benefits through the State of California.

How will we ensure academic quality?

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, Ashford provides an academic challenge that ranks with the top 10% of four-year colleges in the U.S. Last year, it received a favorable reaccreditation report by WSCUC, which is the same accreditor as the California and California State University systems. More than 50% of Ashford's current faculty hold a terminal degree, and the university repeatedly ranks among the top online institutions in terms of student satisfaction. Ashford is the nation's leader in courses certified by Quality Matters, the same benchmark for online courses followed by Arizona Online. We already accept many Ashford courses as transfer credits at the University of Arizona.

To enhance this solid foundation, the University of Arizona and Global Campus will form a Joint Academic Committee, consisting of an equal number of faculty members from Global Campus and University of Arizona to conduct comprehensive annual reports, including of academic programs and student performance. The Joint Academic Committee will make public recommendations to the Global Campus president and board of trustees regarding curriculum, new programs, discontinuation of programs, student success and support measures, as well as areas of potential collaboration between Global Campus and the University of Arizona.

What does this mean for current University of Arizona students and employees?

There will be no disruption or impact to University of Arizona students, faculty and employees. The University of Arizona will provide opportunities for students enrolled at University of Arizona Global Campus to experience our Tucson campus and programs, but there will be no expectation or requirement that they do so.

What other universities or entities does Zovio partner with?

Zovio partners with over 135 universities, including University of San Diego, Louisiana State University, Caltech, Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo, University of North Florida, California State University – East Bay, Virginia Tech, San Jose State University and University of Oklahoma. More than 600

companies use Zovio's educational products and services. Examples of company partners include Amazon, AT&T, General Motors, McKesson, JP Morgan and Microsoft.

What was the internal process for reaching this decision? Were faculty consulted?

The decision to establish University of Arizona Global Campus and acquire Ashford University was reached after a robust and extensive discussion in which the advantages and disadvantages were debated and weighed with varied and valued input from more than 200 stakeholders across campus. These discussions included faculty from every college and more than 50 different departments, as well as faculty members of SPBAC, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, the Academic Deans' Council, a group of Regents Distinguished Professors exploring new revenue opportunities, and the Financial Stability Emergency Response Task Force. Multiple discussions were held with the Arizona Board of Regents. Deans were also able to discuss the proposed acquisition with their leadership teams and department heads in their respective colleges. Feedback from these groups and individuals within different contexts and their valued input both for and against the transaction were factored into the ultimate decision to move forward. Academic due diligence was conducted by University of Arizona faculty and led by Jeff Goldberg, former interim provost and dean emeritus of the College of Engineering. This consultative process was carried out under a required confidentiality arrangement with Zovio, as a publicly traded company. Further information about the University of Arizona Global Campus and the Ashford acquisition will be shared in town halls over the next couple of months.

Who will lead the University of Arizona Global Campus?

The initial management board of the nonprofit corporation Global Campus will include University of Arizona President Robert C. Robbins, Provost Liesl Folks, James E. Rogers College of Law Dean Marc Miller, Vice Provost for Online and Distance Education Craig Wilson and Dean of Students Kendal Washington White. Vice Provost for Global Affairs Brent White will lead the transition of Ashford University to Global Campus from now through the anticipated closing of the deal in December. Subject to approval by WSCUC of the change of ownership, the University of Arizona president will nominate the president of Global Campus, subject to approval by the Global Campus Board of Trustees. The University of Arizona will appoint the initial nine members of the Global Campus Board of Trustees.

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