About Northcentral University

Founded in 1996, Northcentral University (NCU) is a regionally accredited, private, online and graduate-focused university serving professionals globally. Northcentral University offers doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s-completion degrees in business and technology management, education, psychology as well as marriage and family therapy. Courses are taught one-to-one by a member of NCU’s 100 percent doctoral faculty, and there are no physical residency requirements. Northcentral University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

Northcentral University educates professionals throughout the world by providing an opportunity to earn a U.S. regionally accredited degree online. We are committed to helping our students achieve academically and become valuable contributors in their communities and within their professions.

Northcentral University - Facts & Figures

- Northcentral University was founded in 1996 in Prescott, Ariz.
- Northcentral University includes four schools:
  - The School of Education
  - The School of Business and Technology Management
  - The School of Marriage and Family Sciences
  - The School of Psychology
- Northcentral University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees taught completely online; no physical residency is required.
- Northcentral University has more than 4,000 alumni.
- Northcentral University has almost 9,000 students.
- Ninety-five percent of Northcentral University’s student body are graduate students; 75 percent of whom are completing their doctoral degree.
- Students from more than 50 countries, on six continents, attend Northcentral University.
- All Northcentral University faculty – full-time and adjunct – have a doctoral degree.
- Northcentral University offers the world’s first online master’s and doctoral degree programs in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT).
- Northcentral University’s teaching method is based on a one-to-one learning model where students work directly with their faculty. There are no team projects.
- Student support services include:
  - New student orientation - provides students new to Northcentral University with an online, interactive tour of the student portal, library and writing center, as well as highlights methods for engaging with faculty and fellow students.

As of 9/14
Northcentral University’s Library provides access to full-text articles and abstracts of leading publications in fields relevant to all degree programs. The University Library is comprised of 37 reference databases including EBSCOhost, Sage Journals Online and ProQuest.

The Writing Center provides American Psychological Association (APA) writing assistance and support materials.

The Dissertation Center provides resources and tools for students in doctoral programs.

Smartthinking is an on-demand tutoring service staffed by qualified tutors.

The Virtual Bookstore buys and sells course textbooks.

ePortfolio enables students to organize, store and display written documents, photos, spreadsheets, graphics and references. Students can also create online, password-protected portfolios.

Northcentral University - Accreditation

- Northcentral University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).
- Northcentral University programs in the School of Business and Technology Management are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).
- Northcentral University offers the first and only primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).
- Eight PK-12 specializations in Northcentral Universities Master of Education (M.Ed.) program have received five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

Northcentral University - Academic Alignment

- Northcentral University is a Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.) for the Project Management Institute (PMI)®.
- The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has recognized Northcentral’s MBA in Human Resources Management as fully aligning with SHRM’s HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates.

Northcentral University - Awards and Recognition

- Northcentral University’s Education school ranked #6 in faculty credentials and training by US News and World Report in 2011.
Northcentral University is ranked in the top 25 online schools by TheBestDegrees.org.

Northcentral University - Academic Leadership

- Scott Burrus, Ph.D., is the provost and chief academic officer of Northcentral University
- John LaNear, Ph.D., is the senior vice president of academic affairs at Northcentral University
- Peter Bemski, Ph.D., is the dean of the School of Business and Technology Management
- Kelley Walter, Ph.D., is the interim dean of the School of Education
- Robert (Bob) Haussmann, Ph.D., is the dean of the School of Psychology
- James Billings, Ph.D., L.M.F.T., is the dean of the School of Marriage and Family Sciences
- Heather Frederick, Ph.D., is the dean of The Graduate School
- Branden Henline, Ph.D., is the vice president of teaching and learning
- Melanie Shaw, Ph.D., is the vice president of retention and student success

Northcentral University - Key Dates

1996 – Northcentral University is founded by Dr. Don Hecht in Prescott, Ariz.
1997 – Northcentral University’s School of Business and Technology Management is created.
1997 – Northcentral University enrolls its first student.
1998 – Northcentral University is granted a provisional degree-granting license by the State of Arizona Board for Private Postsecondary Education.
2000 – Northcentral University hosts its first commencement ceremony, on June 17, for graduates from 1999 and 2000.
2003 – Northcentral University becomes institutionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).
2004 – The School of Education at Northcentral University is formed.
2006 – Northcentral University establishes a presence in the Valley of the Sun, in Tempe, Ariz.
2007 – Northcentral University relocates to Prescott Valley, Ariz. from Prescott, Ariz.
2007 – Dr. Clinton Gardner is named president of Northcentral University.
2007 – The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) program is announced.
2007 – Northcentral University is selected as an FBI National Academy Associates education partner.
2007 – Northcentral University forms the Lambda Eta Chapter of Delta Mu International Honor Society (for students of business administration).

As of 9/14
2007 – Northcentral University’s School of Business and Technology Management receives Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) accreditation for all business degree programs.

2007 – Northcentral University forms the first virtual chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international society in the field of education.

2007 – Northcentral University and Rio Salado College announce a teacher education partnership for a bachelor’s-completion program.

2008 – Northcentral University is accepted by Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society (for students of criminal justice); forms Iota Pi Chapter.


2008 – The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) selects Northcentral University’s Strategic Knowledge Studies program as a world-class offering.

2009 – Northcentral University receives provisional approval to offer Title IV funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

2010 – Dr. Clinton Gardner is named president and provost of Northcentral University.

2010 – Northcentral University announces Charter Membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society (the largest collegiate honor society).

2011 – Northcentral University’s Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) becomes an approved degree program for the State of California.

2012 – Dr. Clinton Gardner announces his retirement; George Burnett is named C.E.O. and president of Northcentral University.

2012 – Dr. Scott Burrus is named provost of Northcentral University.

2012 – Northcentral University and Rio Salado College, receive approval from the Arizona State Board of Education to offer a 3+1 bachelor’s degree in education.

2012 – Northcentral University launches Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.).

2013 – Northcentral University becomes the first and only school to offer a primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

2013 – The School of Behavioral and Health Sciences splits into the School of Psychology and the School of Marriage and Family Sciences.

2013 – Eight PK-12 specializations in the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program receive five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).
2013 – The Master of Education with a Specialization in PK-12 Principal Leadership (M.Ed./PLCS), was approved by the Arizona Department of Education.