Catholic Education

The Catholic Church runs the largest network of private schools in the United States. Total Catholic elementary/middle and high school enrollment for the 2012-2013 academic year: 2,001,740.¹

- Elementary/middle schools: 5,472 schools educating 1,415,244 students
- High schools: 1,213 schools educating 586,496 students
- 6,685 total Catholic (elementary and high) schools in the United States

Other Religious Education

- Non-residential schools for disabled students: 53 schools educating 6,047 students
- Public school students receiving religious education:²
  - Elementary/middle school students: 2,776,777
  - High School students: 635,142³

Did you know?

- 2,166 Catholic schools or 32.4% had waiting lists for admission for the 2012-2013 academic year.⁴
- Non-Catholic enrollment for the 2012-2013 academic year was 317,470 or 15.9% of the total enrollment.⁵
- 31.5% of all Catholic high schools are single gender and 1.2% of all Catholic elementary schools are single gender.⁶
- 99.4 % of Catholic secondary school students graduate and 84.9% go on to college, compared to 39.5% of public school graduates.⁷

- The District of Columbia and 12 states offer 18 different voucher/scholarship programs benefiting about 104,000 recipients; 11 states offer tax credit scholarship programs benefiting 150,000 students; 6 states provide tax credits or deductions for education expenses that benefit about 850,000 taxpayers.⁸
- Dioceses with the largest enrollments are: Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Boston, and New Orleans.⁹
During the academic year 2012-2013, 28 new Catholic schools opened and 148 schools closed or consolidated.

Student Race and Ethnicity in 2011-2012

- 74.1% or 1,482,723 students enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools were Caucasian.
- 4.9% or 97,300 students enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools were Asian.
- 7.5% or 150,517 students enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools were African American.
- 5.3% or 105,726 students enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools were multiracial.
- 14.3% or 285,543 students enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools were Hispanic/Latino.

Tuition and Costs

- Based on the average public school cost of $10,652 per student, Catholic schools provide nearly 21 billion dollars a year savings for U.S. taxpayers.
- Tuition fees paid by families constitute a portion of the actual per pupil expenses.
- The average per pupil tuition in parish elementary schools is $3,673, which is approximately 62.2 % of actual costs per pupil of $5,387.
- About 93.9% of elementary schools provide some form of tuition assistance.
- The secondary school mean freshman tuition is $9,622, which is about 81.6% of actual costs per pupil of $11,790.
- About 97% of secondary schools provide some form of tuition assistance.
- The difference between the per pupil cost and the tuition charged is obtained in many ways, primarily through direct subsidy from parish, diocesan or religious congregation resources and from multi-faceted development programs and fundraising activities.
Staffing of Catholic Schools

There are 151,405 total full time equivalent teaching staff in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools. The student/teacher ratio is 13:1.

3.3% Religious:
- 3,341 or 2.2% Sisters
- 775 or 0.5% Clergy
- 737 or 0.5% Brothers

96.8% Lay
- 112,835 or 74.5% female lay
- 33,717 or 22.3% male lay

More information is available at the National Catholic Education Association at www.ncea.org.

Catholic Colleges and Universities

- There are 262 colleges and universities educating more than 940,000 students.

- About 65% of undergraduate students at Catholic colleges and universities self-identify as Catholic.

- There are 14 Catholic women’s colleges.

- The average tuition cost at Catholic colleges and universities for the 2012-2013 academic year was $26,300.

- There are 16 Catholic two-year colleges with more than 5,100 students enrolled. The median enrollment is 492, and the average cost of tuition and fees is $9,835.

- The first Catholic higher education institution in the United States was Georgetown University in Washington DC, founded by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1789.

- The newest Catholic institution is Holy Spirit College in Atlanta, founded in 2010.

- Nearly 12.5% of the world's Catholic colleges and universities are located in the United States.

- There are approximately 1,861 Catholic colleges and universities worldwide.
In the United States, Catholic institutions of higher learning include:

- Medical schools: 5
- Law schools: 28
- Pharmacy schools: 9
- Colleges and universities that offer engineering programs: 41
- Colleges and universities that offer education programs: 163
- Institutions with doctoral programs in theology, religion and ministry: 16
- Colleges, universities, and hospital-related nursing schools that offer a bachelor’s degree in nursing: 128.

More information is available at the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities at www.accunet.org.

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ii The Official Catholic Directory 2013, General Summary.
iii Ibid.
v Ibid, p.22.
vi Ibid, p.11.
vii Ibid, p. 5.
ix Ibid, p.15
x Ibid, p.12.
xI Ibid, p.21
xi Ibid.
xii Ibid.
xiii Ibid.
xiv Ibid.
xv Ibid.
xvi Ibid, p.18.
xvii Ibid.
xviii Ibid, p. 3.
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Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, (accessed on 8/1/13) http://www.accunet.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3616