FALL 2025

PAU at a Glance

Palo Alto University (PAU) is a private, nonprofit university founded in 1975, with campuses in Palo Alto and Mountain View, California. It teaches psychology, counseling, social work and behavioral science, including the PAU–Stanford PsyD Consortium with Stanford Medicine.

1,169	8	98%	55%	32	34
Students Enrolled	Degree Programs	Graduate Students	First Generation	Median Age	Countries of Citizenship

Accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) continuously since 1986. The doctoral psychology programs, in the Psychology Department, are accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, in the Counseling Department, by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

The Students

ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

PROGRAM	LEVEL	STUDENTS	SHARE
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Master's	474	41%
PhD in Clinical Psychology	Doctoral	400	34%
PAU-Stanford PsyD Consortium	Doctoral	159	14%
Master of Science in Psychology	Master's	57	5%
Master of Social Work	Master's	43	4%
Bachelor of Science in Psychology and in Business Psychology	Bachelor's	20	2%
PhD in Counselor Education & Supervision	Doctoral	16	1%

GENDER

	STUDENTS	SHARE
Women	845	72%
Men	190	16%
Transgender or non-binary	16	1%
Chose not to disclose	110	9%
Not recorded	8	1%

FIRST GENERATION

	TOTAL	SHARE	DOC	MA	BS
First generation	648	55%	251	380	17
Not first generation	521	45%	324	194	3

ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE

	TOTAL	SHARE	DOC	MA	BS
On campus	617	53%	542	75	0
Online	552	47%	33	499	20

RACE AND ETHNICITY

	STUDENTS	SHARE
White	705	60%
Asian	290	25%
Hispanic or Latino	238	20%
Black or African American	94	8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	22	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	1%
Not reported	129	11%

Each student is counted once for every race they report, so a student reporting two races appears on both lines and the column sums to more than 1,169. Hispanic or Latino is asked separately from race and overlaps the other lines.

Students enrolled on September 17, 2025, and fixed until the next annual count. Students who asked that their information not be shared are excluded. Groups of fewer than five are combined or withheld to protect privacy; those students remain in all totals and percentages, so columns may not sum to their labels.

After Enrolling

RETURNING AFTER A YEAR

ENTERING	STUDENTS	RETURNED
2019	330	87.9%
2020	379	84.7%
2021	344	81.7%
2022	326	83.7%
2023	361	81.4%
2024	382	81.4%

Share of each entering class still enrolled twelve months later. Bars are drawn from 70% rather than from zero. Classes entering from 2025 have not yet completed a full year.

FINISHING

PROGRAM	ENTERED	FINISHED
PsyD	186	95%
PhD	392	84%
Master's, arts	1,334	80%
Bachelor's	465	77%
Master's, science	252	64%
Social work	*First students started in 2025*	
Counselor ed.	*First students started in 2024*	

Finished · Moved to another PAU program · Still studying · Left

Students who move into another PAU program are counted separately rather than as leavers. That happens most often in the MS in psychology.

THE CLINICS

Four teaching clinics operate under PAU, offering low-cost mental health care to people in the surrounding area. The clinics are also where PAU graduate students do supervised clinical work, so the training and the service are the same activity.

- Community Clinic
- Sexual & Gender Identities Clinic
- Clínica Latina
- eClinic

DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP

93%

PhD applicants placed at an accredited site

98%

PsyD consortium applicants

Ten years to 2024–25: 702 of 754 for the PhD and 309 of 314 for the consortium, at APA or CPA accredited sites. The annual figure ran from 84% in 2016 to 90% in 2025.

LICENSURE

PROGRAM	LICENSED	SHARE
PhD Clinical	294 of 344	85%
PsyD Consortium	240 of 251	96%

Graduates whose doctorate was conferred between two and ten years ago. The PhD takes a median of 5.9 years to finish and the consortium 4.9. Of PAU candidates who sat the national licensing examination in California during 2025, 85% passed, and 92% passed the state law and ethics examination; those results count California candidates only and are not reported by program.

WHERE GRADUATES WORK

SECTOR	GRADUATES	SHARE
Nonprofit organizations	167	33%
Private companies	87	17%
Other	68	13%
Hospitals and medical schools	67	13%
Federal government	59	12%
Schools	20	4%
Self-employed	15	3%
State government	11	2%
Local government	9	2%
Colleges and universities	5	1%

Alumni survey responses, graduating years 2022 to 2024. 4,244 people have graduated since 2000, roughly 280 a year recently.

Continuing Education

47,371 enrollments on webinars and on-demand courses taken by clinicians already in practice. These carry continuing education credit toward licensure rather than academic credit. The enrollments span 847 courses and account for about 327,000 hours of CE credit, two-thirds of them in forensic psychology.

BY SUBJECT

SUBJECT	ENROLLMENTS	SHARE
Forensic psychology	32,141	68%
Clinical practice	7,762	16%
Counseling	2,113	4%
Police and public safety	1,923	4%
Other	1,455	3%
Digital mental health	1,416	3%
Child and adolescent	561	1%

TAUGHT WITH

ORGANIZATION
American Academy of Forensic Psychology
Protect International Risk and Safety Services
American Board of Police and Public Safety Psychology
American Board of Professional Psychology
Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates
National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners
Cognitive Consultants International
PsychopathyIs
Gender Spectrum
Community Solutions
Feeling Good Institute

Eleven organizations co-deliver courses, most of them certifying boards and professional academies. Figures count enrollments rather than individuals.

Faculty and Staff

65+
Faculty, plus additional adjunct instructors

4,426
Published papers

142,811
Citations of that work

2,484
Doctoral dissertation committees served on

250+
Practitioners in the continuing education pool

214
Of those, holding a doctorate

74
Board-certified in professional psychology

LENGTH OF SERVICE

Two-thirds of staff joined within the last five years. PAU has opened two new programs since 2024. More than 40 staff have been at PAU a decade or longer, and the longest-serving staff member joined 38 years ago. Median service is a little over three years.

Under 2 years 83 · 33% 2 to 5 85 · 34% 5 to 10 40 · 16% 10 to 20 39 · 15% 20 or more 6 · 2%

Years of continuous service among the 253 people employed here, counted from each person's most recent start date, as of August 2026.

Palo Alto University · Allen Calvin Campus, 1791 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304. Enrollment figures describe students enrolled on September 17, 2025. Doctoral internship, licensure and time-to-degree figures are drawn from the programs' 2025 APA Student Admissions, Outcomes and Other Data disclosures. Examination results are published by the California Board of Psychology. Continuing education figures cover the life of the program and count enrollments rather than individuals.