



2025 - 2026 FACT SHEET

900 W. Daisy L Gatson Bates Dr. | Little Rock, AR 72202
(501) 375-9845 | www.philander.edu

Founded: In 1877 as Walden Seminary by the Little Rock Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1882, the name was changed to Philander Smith College and it was chartered as a four-year college on March 3, 1883. On August 1, 2023 it was renamed Philander Smith University.

President: Maurice D. Gipson, JD, PhD

Fall 2025 Enrollment Statistics: Headcount: 681

Undergraduate: 645 Graduate: 36

Females: 53% Males: 47%

Full Time: 579 (85%) Part Time: 102 (15%)

Student Body Ethnicity:

Non Resident Alien	7%	Hispanic /Latino	2%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0%	Asian	0%
Black / African American	79%	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	4%
White	5%	Two or More Races	2%
Unknown	1%		

Geographic Origin of Student Body: 64% from Arkansas 28% from other states 8% International

Freshman Class: Headcount: 93 Female 45% Male 55%

Geographic Origin of Freshman Class: 72% from Arkansas 25% from other states 3% International

Retention: (Percent of the 113 first-time full-time freshman from Fall 2024 who returned in Fall 2025) 56%

Graduation Rates: (2019 Freshman Cohort) 4 Year: 22% 6 Year: 32%

Academic Programs:

2 Certificate Programs, 1 Associate's Degree, 19 Bachelor's Degrees, and 1 Master's Degree across the following schools: School of Arts, Education, and Behavioral Sciences, School of Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, School of Sciences, Engineering, and Technology, and the Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health.

Total Employees:

Full Time Faculty 38

Part Time Faculty 79

Full Time Staff 70

Part Time Staff 1

Student to Faculty Ratio 9:1

Undergraduate Tuition and Fees: \$11,804

Room and Board: \$6,000

Graduate Tuition: \$21,600

Campus: 25 acres located just south of downtown Little Rock - Arkansas's State Capitol.

Athletics: Philander Smith University participates in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), fielding teams in men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, men's and women's track and field and men's and women's cross country while playing in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference. The mascot is the Panther, and the school colors are green and gold.

Accredited by: The Higher Learning Commission, The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and The Council on Social Work Education

Approved by: The Arkansas Department of Education and the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.