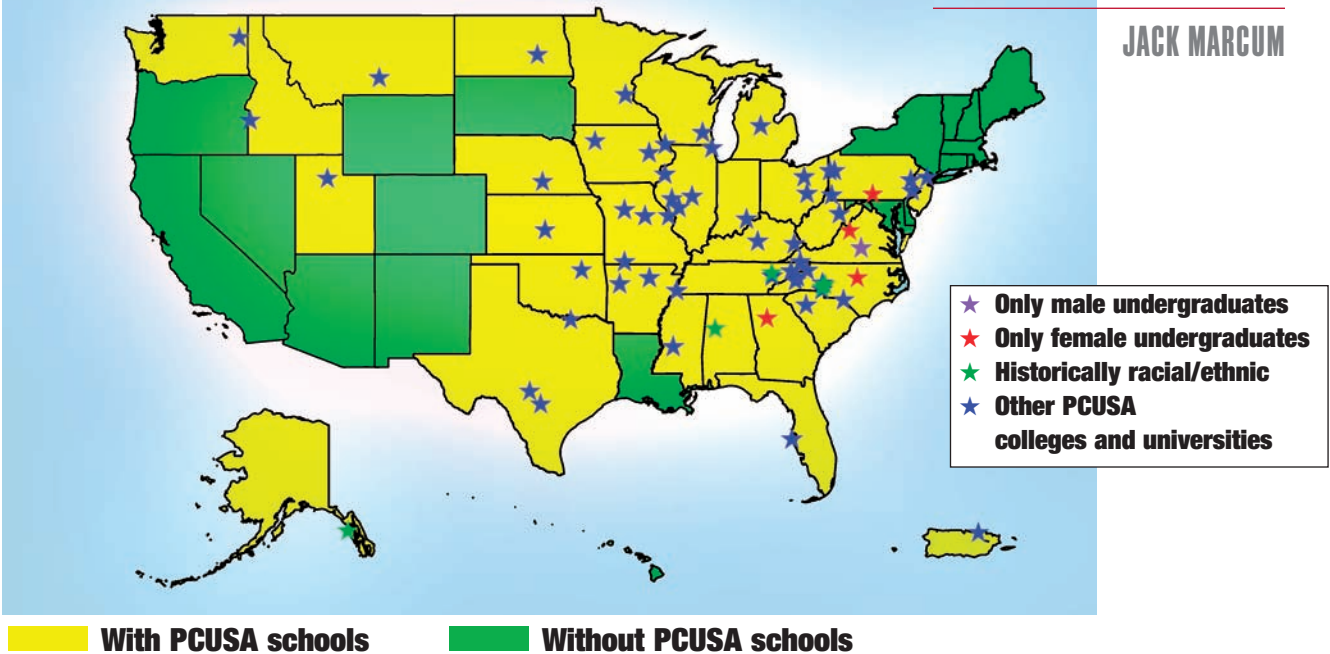


# GO FIGURE

JACK MARCUM

GRAPHICS BY KATE ANYAN



## Presbyterian colleges and universities

One manifestation of the Presbyterian Church’s long-term emphasis on education is a large number of affiliated colleges and universities. Currently there are 64 such schools.

These schools:

- **Have a total of 143,000 students.** The largest, the Inter American University in Puerto Rico, has 44,000 on multiple campuses
- **Are found in 31 states and Puerto Rico,** including nine in North Carolina and six in Pennsylvania
- **Include five that are historically racial-ethnic:** Barber-Scotia College (N.C.), Johnson C. Smith University (N.C.), Knoxville College (Tenn.), Sheldon Jackson College (Alaska), and Stillman College (Ala.)
- **Include four colleges that enroll only women** as undergraduates—Agnes Scott (Ga.), Mary Baldwin (Va.), Peace (N.C.), and Wilson (Pa.)—and one college, Hampden-Sydney (Va.), that enrolls only men as undergraduates
- **Range in age** from Hampden-Sydney College, founded in 1775, to Eckerd College (Fla.), founded in 1958
- **Have among them 11 of the 100 top-ranked liberal arts colleges,** according to *U.S. News and World Report*, and 12 regionally top-ranked comprehensive colleges.

## What the research shows

Despite the rapid growth in public universities over the last 60 years, many Presbyterian colleges and universities—mostly smaller, liberal arts schools—continue to thrive, providing quality undergraduate education.

Given this niche, Presbyterian colleges and universities will never educate a large share of American college students, not even of Presbyterians. Still, according to a 2004 survey, one in ten members—around 220,000 individuals—had attended a PCUSA-affiliated school, and another one in six had a spouse or other relative who had done so.

Of greater import for the church may be the sizable minority of ministers—three in ten—who have attended a Presbyterian college or university. Among these leaders, 78 percent indicate that experience was “very influential” or “influential” in their choice of careers.

If for no other reason, the PCUSA needs its colleges and universities for the outside role they play in helping men and women discern calls to ministry. □

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