



FIELDING
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the
President



Statement from the Board of Trustees

On December 16, 2021, the Fielding Board of Trustees unanimously approved an affiliation agreement with Rowan Global, an initiative of Rowan University. The affiliation is expected to take effect on or about September 1, 2022, subject to regulatory and accreditation approvals. When the affiliation is complete, Fielding will be an institutional member of Rowan Global.

Created by Rowan University, Rowan Global is a non-profit affiliate network of higher educational institutions that serve diverse populations and audiences. The network is intended to benefit affiliates by providing a set of coordinated services to support the delivery of their respective academic programs. Fielding is the first institution to join the network.

Frequently Asked Questions (*for the most current FAQ list, please visit [Fielding.edu/partnership](https://fielding.edu/partnership)*):

Q. What does this affiliation mean for our diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments?

A. Rowan University has a demonstrable track record in DEI with their diversity by design philosophy and a wide range of student support services. As an affiliate in the RG network, we are joining a group of institutions committed to DEI. Fielding Graduate University is moving forward on its promise to center Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion throughout the fabric of the institution as part of our overall historical and institutional commitment to social justice.

Q. What does this announcement about the affiliation with Rowan Global mean for the future of Fielding Graduate University?

A. Fielding has engaged in conversations with several educational institutions to identify opportunities for alliances that would enable Fielding to thrive while remaining aligned with our essential mission to offer quality graduate education to adult learners. A preliminary proposal developed by Rowan University—a public, nonprofit, research university with a global network—was so compelling that the Fielding Board of Trustees authorized the President to begin formal negotiations.

Q. Who is Rowan University?

A. Since its founding in 1923, Rowan University has evolved from a teacher preparation college to a bustling regional university that is ranked among the best public universities in North America by U.S. News and World Report. Today, Rowan's more than 18,000 students choose from more than 74 bachelor's degrees and 51 master's degree programs, four doctoral programs and two professional programs. The university is one of just 56 institutions in the country with accredited programs in business, education, engineering and medicine. The main campus is located in Glassboro, New Jersey.



Q. Is this a merger or acquisition?

A. No. Fielding is not being acquired by or merging with Rowan Global. By joining the Rowan network as an affiliate, we remain independent in our management and operations. Our academic autonomy remains intact.

Q. Will Fielding still grant Fielding degrees?

A. Yes.

Q. What are some of the benefits of joining Rowan Global?

A. Rowan University invited Fielding to be the first institution in their new network called Rowan Global. Rowan Global will be a network of independent but like-minded institutions that share services to create savings that are reinvested in academic programming to achieve greater global impact.

Fielding gains several important benefits and opportunities to:

- 1) improve the student learning experience by having the resources to invest in student support services, academic resources, and technology support.
- 2) increase the strength of Fielding through marketing and recruitment so that we can invest in our current academic programs, build new specializations within programs, and create new programs for our future growth. This affiliation will enhance Fielding Graduate University's capacity to compete more successfully against better-resourced institutions.
- 3) expand the use of technology enabling Fielding to increase and diversify our means of reaching and better serving students.
- 4) enhance the work environment for faculty to facilitate their continued development as educators and scholars and make Fielding more competitive in hiring new faculty and retaining existing faculty.
- 5) take advantage of Fielding's experience and knowledge about programs specifically designed for adult learners and mid-career professionals.

Q. What happens to Fielding's assets, like our endowment funds, real estate, and cash reserves?

A. All assets remain within Fielding Graduate University, which will continue to be governed by the Fielding board of trustees.



Q. What does this affiliation mean for Fielding students?

A. While there will be no changes in Fielding students' programs, Fielding will use the affiliation to improve student support services, such as wellness programs, academic technology, and writing support services.

Q. What does this affiliation mean for faculty?

A. Fielding faculty will not experience any changes in their programs or employment status. Under the affiliation, we intend to offer more faculty development resources and support for academic technology.

Q. Will we still be accredited by WSCUC and APA?

A. We will remain accredited by the Western Senior Colleges and Universities Commission (WSCUC) and the American Psychological Association (APA).

Q. What about any donations I have given to Fielding?

A. All of our current funds and any future donations are legally required to be used for the specific purpose for which they were given and are not subject to change.

Q. What does this affiliation mean for staff?

A. We have no immediate plans for staffing changes in the process of joining the Rowan Global network, and we will continue recruiting for the many open positions posted on the Fielding website. Over time, and as our staffing needs evolve, we will work closely with Rowan Global and Fielding's Office of Human Resources to meet future staffing needs and offer opportunities for career development and support.

Q. What does this affiliation mean for alumni?

A. The alumni community remains the same. The alumni association will remain housed within Fielding.

If you have further questions, you can contact the following staff:

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