• CAU is a consolidation of two institutions: Clark College, founded in 1869, the nation's first four-year liberal arts college to serve primarily African Americans, and Atlanta University, founded in 1865, the nation's first African American graduate institution. The institutions were consolidated in 1988 to become Clark Atlanta University.

• CAU is the largest of the four autonomous institutions (CAU, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Morehouse School of Medicine) in the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC), which boasts one of the largest concentrations of African American students and faculty of color in the United States.

• CAU is the only historically black college/university in the Georgia Research Alliance, an alliance of research institutions in the state.

• CAU is a United Methodist Church-affiliated institution.

• CAU is home to National Public Radio-affiliated only jazz station in Atlanta, WCLK.