



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB G

August 21, 2020

Roles and Missions of Institutions

When the Legislature passed S.B. 111 during the 2020 Session, it directed the newly formed Utah Board of Higher Education to “establish, approve, and oversee each institution's mission and role in accordance with [Section 53B-16-101](#).” The statutory roles outlined in [Section 53B-16-101](#) are divided by institution type: research university, regional university, community college, and technical college. With two systems merging together, the potential for mission and role overlap required attention.

The Commissioner worked with the institutions’ presidents to build upon the statutory roles and provide additional clarity. Their areas of focus included:

- defining the important differences between career and technical education (CTE) and technical education;
- designating technical colleges as the sole provider of technical education, while regional universities and community colleges provide CTE; and
- clarifying the distinct statutory technical college role Salt Lake Community College, Snow College and USU Eastern, Moab and Blanding have to provide technical education for their respective regions.

These roles will serve as the guiderails for institutions working within a system collaboratively and efficiently.

Commissioner’s Recommendations

The Commissioner recommends the Board adopt the institutional missions and roles, which will be subsequently formalized in Board policy.

Attachments:

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND MISSIONS

One of the Utah Board of Higher Education’s core responsibilities is to “establish, approve, and oversee each institution’s mission and role.” The Legislature establishes basic categories of roles, and the Board expands and clarifies those roles through policy. The statutory and expanded policy roles are listed below, along with statutory definitions, each institution’s mission, assigned service regions, and institutional partners.

Statutory Definitions

[53B-1-101.5](#)

Academic education means an educational program that is offered by a degree-granting institution. Academic education does not include technical education.

Career and technical education means an educational program that is designed to meet industry needs, leads to a certificate or a degree, and may qualify for funding under the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

Degree-granting institution of higher education or **degree-granting institution** means an institution of higher education described in Utah Code [53B-1-102\(1\)\(a\)](#) as follows:

- The University of Utah
- Utah State University
- Weber State University
- Southern Utah University
- Snow College
- Dixie State University
- Utah Valley University
- Salt Lake Community College

Technical college means an institution of higher education described in Utah Code [53B-1-102\(1\)\(b\)](#) as follows:

- Bridgerland Technical College
- Davis Technical College
- Dixie Technical College
- Mountainland Technical College
- Ogden-Weber Technical College
- Southwest Technical College
- Tooele Technical College
- Uintah Basin Technical College

Technical education means career and technical education that leads to an institutional certificate or is short-term training. Technical education does not include general education.

Roles and Missions

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Statutory Role ([53B-16-101](#)): Provide undergraduate, graduate, and research programs.

Policy Role ([R312](#)): A research university’s role is to provide undergraduate, graduate, and research programs and to discover, create, and transmit knowledge through academic programs at the

undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels with an emphasis on teaching, research, and outreach. Articulation agreements allow students to seamlessly transfer within the System. The research institutions contribute to the quality of life and economic development at the local, state, and national levels. Many research efforts generate grants and contracts that also expand economic development. Research Universities have a responsibility to provide access to students from all parts of the state.

University of Utah

Mission (R312): The University of Utah fosters student success by preparing students from diverse backgrounds for lives of impact as leaders and citizens. We generate and share new knowledge, discoveries, and innovations, and we engage local and global communities to promote education, health, and quality of life. These contributions, in addition to responsible stewardship of our intellectual, physical, and financial resources, ensure the long-term success and viability of the institution.

Service Region (R315): Salt Lake County, Summit County (Park City only)

Utah State University

Mission (R312): The mission of Utah State University is to be one of the nation's premier student-centered land grant and space grant universities by fostering the principle that academics come first; by cultivating diversity of thought and culture; and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement. Utah State University delivers associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees throughout its state-wide system as well as credit and non-credit technical education in the Southeastern region of the state. The institution also has a robust non-credit continuing education program.

Service Region (R315): Cache, Rich, Box Elder, Duchesne, Uintah, Daggett, Tooele, Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan.

Technical College Partners (53B-2a-112): Bridgerland Technical College, Tooele Technical College, Uintah Basin Technical College

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY

Statutory Role (53B-16-101): Provide career and technical education, undergraduate associate and baccalaureate degrees, and select master's degree programs to fill regional demands.

Policy Role (R312): The regional university's role is to provide open-access academic and career and technical education, undergraduate associate and baccalaureate programs and select graduate degree programs to fill regional or state workforce demands. Career and Technical Education programs are designed to meet workforce needs, lead to a certificate or degree, and include general education coursework. Articulation agreements allow students to transfer seamlessly from institutions offering Technical Education to CTE and academic pathways. Regional universities emphasize teaching, scholarly, and creative achievements that complement pedagogy, learning, and community service. The institution is a leading contributor to the quality of life and economic development at the local and state levels. Student success is supported through developmental programs and services associated with a comprehensive community college.

Weber State University

Mission (R312): Weber State University provides associate, baccalaureate and master degree programs in liberal arts, sciences, technical and professional fields. Encouraging freedom of expression and valuing diversity, the university provides excellent educational experiences for students through extensive personal contact among faculty, staff, and students in and out of the classroom. Through academic programs, research, artistic expression, public service, and community-based learning, the university serves as an educational, cultural and economic leader for the region.

Service Region (R315): Weber, Morgan, Davis

Technical College Partners (53B-2a-112): Davis Technical College, Ogden-Weber Technical College

Southern Utah University

Mission (R312): Southern Utah University is a dynamic teaching and learning community that engages students in experiential education leading to personal growth, civic responsibility, and professional excellence.

Service Region (R315): Iron, Garfield, Beaver

Technical College Partners (53B-2a-112): Southwest Technical College

Utah Valley University

Mission (R312): Utah Valley University is an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship.

Service Region (R315): Utah, Wasatch, Summit (Concurrent Enrollment only within Park City)

Technical College Partners (53B-2a-112): Mountainland Technical College

Dixie State University

Mission (R312): Dixie State University is a public comprehensive university dedicated to rigorous learning and the enrichment of the professional and personal lives of its students and community by providing opportunities that engage the unique Southern Utah environment and resources.

Service Region (R315): Washington, Kane

Technical College Partners (53B-2a-112): Dixie Technical College

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Statutory Role (53B-16-101): Provide associate programs.

Policy Role (R312): The comprehensive community college's role is to provide affordable and open enrollment to community members, ensuring equitable access to higher education. Community colleges focus on teaching and applied learning environments, transmitting knowledge and skills which prepare

students to enter the workforce or transfer seamlessly to stackable degree programs. Comprehensive community colleges provide education through:

- Academic and career and technical education culminating in certificates and associate degrees
- Developmental education
- Strong student services to support all functions

The institution emphasizes teaching, training, scholarly, professional, and creative achievement, and community service and contributes to the quality of life and economic development of the community and the state.

Snow College

Mission (R312): Snow College continues a tradition of excellence, encourages a culture of innovation, and cultivates an atmosphere of engagement to advance students in the achievement of their educational goals.

Service Region (R315): Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne, Piute, Millard, Juab

Salt Lake Community College

Mission (R312): Salt Lake Community College is your community college. We engage and support students in educational pathways leading to successful transfer and meaningful employment.

Service Region (R315): Salt Lake for certificate, applied associate, and associate degrees

DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTION WITH A TECHNICAL COLLEGE ROLE

Salt Lake Community College

Statutory Role (53B-16-209): Provide technical education with an emphasis primarily on open-entry, open-exit programs at a low cost to adult students and no tuition cost to secondary students that will result in appropriate licensing, certification, or other evidence of completion of training, and qualification for specific employment, with an emphasis on high-demand, high wage, and high skill jobs in business and industry.

Secondary Service Region: Salt Lake

Snow College

Statutory Role (53B-16-205): Provide, through the Snow College Richfield Campus, for open-entry, open-exit competency-based technical education programs, at a low-cost tuition rate for adults and at no tuition cost to secondary students, that emphasize short-term job training or retraining for immediate placement in the job market.

Secondary Service Region: Juab School District, Millard School District, Tintic School District, North Sanpete School District, South Sanpete School District, Wayne School District, Piute School District, and Sevier School District

Utah State University

Statutory Role (53B-16-207): Provide for open-entry, open-exit competency-based technical education programs, at a low-cost tuition rate for adults and at no tuition cost to secondary students, that emphasize short-term job training or retraining for immediate placement in the job market

Secondary Service Region: For Utah State University Eastern, the Carbon School District and the Emery School District; for Utah State University Blanding, the San Juan School District; and for Utah State University Moab, the Grand School District.

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Statutory Role (53B-16-101): Provide technical education.

Policy Role: Technical colleges meet the needs of Utah’s employers for technically skilled workers and promote local and statewide economic development by providing market-driven technical education to secondary and post-secondary students. Programs lead to institutional certificates and industry credentials, where applicable, but do not include general education. Technical colleges deliver competency-based instruction, allowing students to progress quickly and affordably with recognition of prior education, skill, and experience. Articulation agreements are in place with secondary education partners to reduce the duplication of course work for students. Pathway agreements with postsecondary college and university partners also provide opportunities for students to progress in their education.

Only technical colleges or statutorily authorized institutions may provide technical education without authorization from the Board.

Bridgerland Technical College

Mission: The mission of the Bridgerland Technical College is to deliver competency-based, employer-guided career and technical education to both secondary and postsecondary students through traditional and technology-enhanced methodologies. This hands-on technical education provides occupational education, skills training, and workforce development to support the educational and economic development of the Bear River Region.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Box Elder, Cache, Logan, Rich

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Utah State University

Davis Technical College

Mission: We are a trusted learning community embracing technical education to promote student development and economic growth.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Davis, Morgan

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Weber State University

Dixie Technical College

Mission: For students who want to improve their lives by improving their employability, Dixie Tech provides current, relevant industry-driven training in a professional and demanding environment. Dixie Tech certificates, and nationally recognized certifications or licensure, provides competence and work readiness to potential employers.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Washington

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Dixie State University

Mountainland Technical College

Mission: To enhance the employability of individuals through market-driven career and technical education.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Alpine, Nebo, Provo, South Summit, North Summit, Wasatch, Park City

Regional Post-Secondary Partner (53B-2a-112): Utah Valley University

Ogden-Weber Technical College

Mission: We build a prosperous community by creating a technically-skilled workforce one student at a time.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Ogden, Weber

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Weber State University

Southwest Technical College

Mission: Southwest Technical College provides education and job skill training through individualized competency-based programs in response to the needs of students, employers and the communities we serve.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane

Regional Post-Secondary Partner (53B-2a-112): Southern Utah University

Tooele Technical College

Mission: Tooele Technical College provides rewarding, competency-based, affordable, and accessible career preparation for youth and adults to meet the needs of Utah employers.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Tooele

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Utah State University

Uintah Basin Technical College

Mission: Uintah Basin Technical College provides technical education and training for secondary and adult students, to fulfill labor market needs, and promote economic development in the Uintah Basin.

Secondary Service Region (53B-2a-105): Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

Regional Degree-granting Partner (53B-2a-112): Utah State University