

USHE Deferment Landscape

Utah Board of Higher Education

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UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Key Takeaways

Strong Foundation Across Institutions

All degree-granting institutions and many technical colleges have established scholarship deferment policies, creating a solid base to support student flexibility and success.

High Engagement Reflects Student Demand

Many institutions are effectively managing large deferment volumes—demonstrating strong student interest in returning and continuing their education.

Innovation is Driving Progress

Schools are embracing automation, data dashboards, and flexible appeal processes—paving the way for more responsive, student-centered support systems.

Deferment Details

Length

Deferment durations vary:

- **2–3 years** is common, with some extending up to 7 semesters
- Some institutions offer **flexible or case-by-case durations**

Approved Reasons

Deferment durations vary:

- Military service
- Religious missions
- Humanitarian work
- Medical issues
- Other (often includes internships or personal circumstances)

Innovative Deferment Practices

Streamlined Processes

Automated systems simplify deferment requests and ensure scholarships are held during approved absences

Data-Driven Outreach

Dashboards and tracking tools help monitor deferment trends and enable proactive communication

Award Continuity

Policies guarantee equivalent scholarship awards if the original is no longer available upon a student's return

Flexible Accommodations

Case-by-case reviews allow institutions to support diverse student needs and circumstances

Clear Communication

Deferment options are shared through multiple channels, including websites, emails, and advising sessions

Reentry Support

Students who did not defer in advance are often allowed to reapply or appeal for reinstatement

Next Steps

Institutions

- Continue to refine communication & outreach strategies to inform students about all deferment options

Utah Education Initiative

- Collaborate with seminary programming to reach students preparing for missionary service to provide early information about deferment options
- Support post-service enrollment with a reminder from Education Mentor to access scholarships

Department of Veterans & Military Affairs

- Develop tailored messaging for prospective students deferring for military service

Discussion & Questions