



Institutional Roles & Service Regions

2024-25



UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Institutional Roles & Service Regions

Purpose

- To ensure:
 - institutional and programmatic excellence
 - access and opportunities for all students, including underrepresented, underserved, traditional, nontraditional, secondary, and postsecondary students, as well as students from urban and rural areas
 - wise use of state resources
 - efficiency and accountability, including avoiding unnecessary duplication of programs, resources, and effort
- To meet the state's workforce needs
- To benefit surrounding communities

Roles & Missions

Board Policy R312

Institutional Roles in Higher Education

(State Code 53B)

Research Universities

- Focus on advanced research, graduate education, and professional degrees.

Regional Universities

- Offer undergraduate and select graduate programs tailored to regional workforce needs.

Community Colleges

- Provide associate degrees, certificates, and transfer pathways to universities.

Technical Colleges

- Specialize in workforce training, offering certificates in broad occupational areas.

Roles & Missions

Roles: Defined by the Board in Policy R312, specifying the type of institution and its higher education responsibilities.

Mission: Describes the institution's general purpose and functions, aligned with the Board of Higher Education's strategic goals and the institution's role.

Mission Statement: Created by the institution's President and Board of Trustees and approved by the Board of Higher Education.

Technical College Role

Definition

Technical colleges offer:

- Technical Certificates
- Open Admission
- Dual Enrollment
- Postsecondary Instruction
- Basic Instruction
- Flexible Enrollment

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; Salt Lake Community College; Snow College; and Utah State University (Eastern, Moab, and Blanding)

Community College Role

Definition

- Offer academic certificates and associate degrees, focused on lower division teaching and training, that either lead directly to the workforce or prepare students to transfer to baccalaureate programs;
- Provide open admission for students and transfer opportunities and degree pathways for technical college students;
- Provide concurrent enrollment in partnership with secondary schools;
- Provide developmental education when needed;
- Provide continuing professional education and community education; and
- Contribute to the community's and region's quality of life and economic development.

Salt Lake Community College and Snow College, which also have a technical college role

Regional University Role

Definition

- Offer academic certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and select master's degrees to meet regional demand;
- Fulfill a community college role and provide community college services for its designated service region, including open student admission and developmental education;
- Provide transfer pathways and stackable degree options for students from technical colleges and community colleges;
- Provide scholarly and creative activity to supplement its teaching role and contribute to the region's intellectual and cultural life;
- Engage in discipline-based scholarly activity;
- Provide Concurrent Enrollment in partnership with secondary schools;
- Provide continuing professional education and community education; and
- Contribute to the community's, the region's, and Utah's quality of life and economic development.

Southern Utah University, Utah Tech University, Utah Valley University, and Weber State University

Research University Role

Definition

- A research university's primary role is to advance knowledge, drive innovation, discover, create, and impart knowledge through research, teaching, and service;
- Provide academic programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels with a strong emphasis on research;
- Provide continuing professional education and community education;
- Contribute to Utah's, the nation's, and the world's quality of life and social, cultural, and economic development; and
- Foster interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships with other research universities, USHE institutions, industries, government agencies, and other national and international organizations to address complex challenges and societal problems.

Community Outreach

All institutions

- Enhance cultural, social, artistic, and personal development within their communities as appropriate to their role.
- Provide continuing education for professional and economic development as appropriate to their role.

Accreditation

All Institutions

- Must be accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Technical Colleges

- Accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE)

Academic Institutions

- Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)

Purpose of Accreditation

- Ensures **quality standards** through institutional self-assessment and an on-site evaluation by teams from peer institutions from outside Utah
- Promotes a cycle of **continuous improvement**
- Determines eligibility for **federal recognition and funding** to offer financial aid
- Enables institution to **offer programs** that require accreditation
- Improves **transferability** of coursework

Geographic Service Regions

Board Policy R315

Purpose

- Promote access to postsecondary educational opportunities throughout the state, with a focus on serving traditionally underserved populations and areas;
- Prioritize the delivery of high-quality educational experiences that meet the needs of students, employers, and communities;
- Support local and statewide needs, with a focus on meeting the evolving demands of the economy, society, and the education landscape;
- Efficient and effective use of state resources
- Maximize student choice and flexibility
- Minimize duplication of efforts
- Prioritize collaboration between institutions.

Assigned Service Regions

Research Universities

- Serve the entire state, providing programs and services statewide.

Other Institutions

- Responsible for offering programs tailored to their institutional role within specific counties.

Technical Colleges & Universities

- Overlap in service regions but maintain distinct roles to avoid duplication.

