



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

February 2024

## Credit for Prior Learning at USHE Degree-Granting Institutions, Academic Year 2022-23

During the 2022-23 academic year, 34,568 students earned 232,943 college credits through credit for prior learning at USHE institutions, saving an estimated \$56,279,227 in tuition and fees. Prior learning is the knowledge, competencies, and skills acquired through formal and informal education outside a traditional academic environment. For example, if a student participates in an employee training program, military service, or takes certain standardized exams, they may earn college-level credit.

AY2023 saw an increase of 2,979 students and 4,959 awarded credits from the previous academic year. The majority of credit for prior learning that students received in AY2023 came from assessment through national standardized exams such as AP, CLEP, IB, etc. In addition to these traditional national exams, USHE also awarded 52,016 credits to 4,334 students (about 13% of the total) for prior learning completed through military service, third-party and national certifications, foreign language exams, portfolio submissions, institutional challenge exams, and work done through technical colleges.<sup>1</sup>

### Credit earned through national standardized exams

- **Advanced Placement:** More students enrolled in AP courses in AY2023 than in the 2021-22 academic year, and all degree-granting higher education institutions in the state saw an increase in matriculating students who took AP exams. The number of AP credits earned in AY2023 declined by three percent compared to AY2022. However, Utah Tech University and Utah Valley University awarded more AP exam credits in AY2023 than in AY2022.<sup>2</sup>
- **International Baccalaureate:** Fewer Utah students participate in the International Baccalaureate Programme than AP participants. In AY2023, 254 students enrolled in IB courses compared to 14,864 students who took AP courses. However, there was a 27% increase in students taking IB courses in AY2023 compared to AY2022, and credits awarded to students increased by 18% for IB exams.
- **The College Level Examination Program:** CLEP tests are geared toward adult learners; therefore, a smaller number of students take these exams. During AY2023, 74 fewer students took

<sup>1</sup> Utah high school students also enter USHE institutions with previously earned college credits through the Concurrent Enrollment program. In AY2023, the Concurrent Enrollment program helped 53,242 students earn 408,086 credits.<sup>1</sup> Concurrent Enrollment (CE) students take actual college courses while in high school, so CE is not considered a form of credit for extra-collegial prior learning.]

<sup>2</sup> The College Board, *AP Score Distributions, 2023 and 2022 data*. November 30, 2023.

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/about-ap-scores/score-distributions>

at least one CLEP exam compared to AY2022, but those students earned 240 more credits than students in AY2022.

- **ACT or SAT:** Students may earn college credit or waive pre-requisite requirements in subjects like mathematics, science, and English depending on their ACT or SAT exam scores. While the nation has seen an increase in ACT test takers, Utah has had a reduction in the number of students taking the ACT. In AY2023, 5,440 fewer Utah students took the ACT exam compared to the previous academic year, and students earned 8,569 fewer ACT credits in AY2023 than in AY2022. ACT scores across the country have also been dropping. The decline in ACT participation in Utah is partly attributed to shifts during the 2019 pandemic but also because ACT scores are no longer required for entrance into Utah's public higher education institutions (although they are still used for scholarships and course placement).
- **Foreign language exams:** Many Utah students earn between nine and 18 foreign language credits for having learned a foreign language. USHE institutions primarily use the Brigham Young University Foreign Language Aptitude Tests, the exams most commonly administered throughout the United States to assess language skills. Many USHE students seek credit for foreign languages because of the high number of students who serve missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

### **Technical College Articulations**

Granting credit for programs completed at technical colleges is another form of credit for prior learning that helps students transition to degree pathways. Since technical colleges and degree-granting institutions merged into one system, the Utah Board of Higher Education is transitioning technical colleges from a clock hour to a credit hour model. It is also working out course and program alignments to allow for standardized, systemwide transfer articulations in the near future. Establishing common transfer pathways at degree-granting institutions, aligning course content between these institutions and technical colleges, and implementing a common course numbering system will increase the recognition of technical college credits as transfer credits instead of credit for prior learning. In the meantime, 548 students had 7,286 credits articulated into degree-granting institutions from technical colleges as recognition for prior learning, an increase of 4% from AY2022.

# Utah System of Higher Education 2022-23

## Credit for Prior Learning Report Summary Data

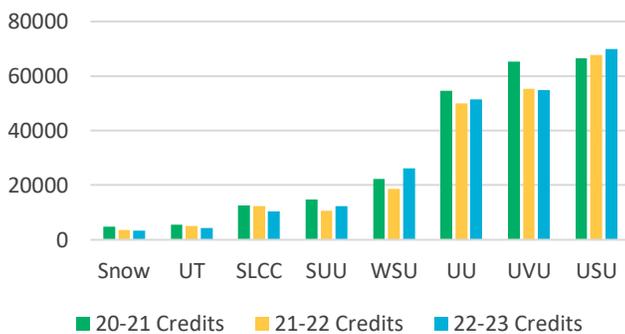
March 2024



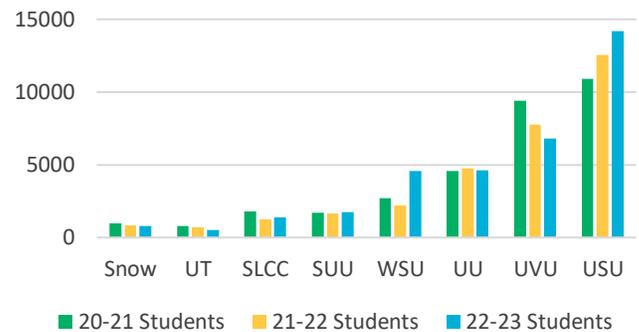
During the 2022-23 academic year, thousands of Utah students participated in the Utah System of Higher Education’s credit for prior learning program, earning college credit and saving money on tuition. Prior learning is the knowledge, competencies, and skills acquired through formal and informal education outside a traditional academic environment. For example, if a student participates in an employee training program, military service, or takes specific standardized exams, they may earn college-level credit. Included below is the finalized end-of-year data for this program.

### Total Students Receiving Credit and Credits Awarded, USHE Reporting Years 2020-21, 2021-22, & 2022-23. (See appendix.)

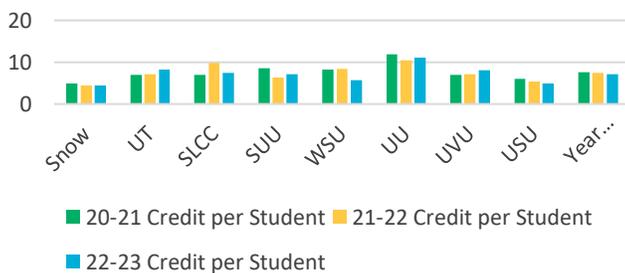
#### Total Credits



#### Total Students



#### Average Credit Awarded per Student

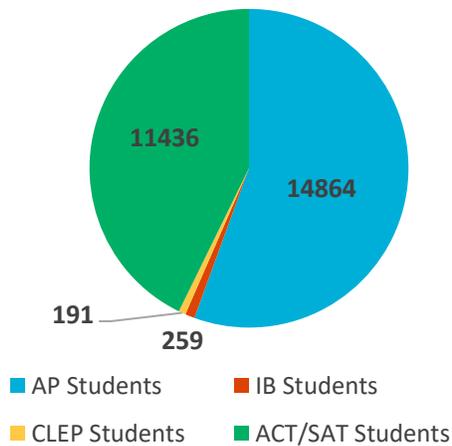


**34,568 students** participated in Credit for Prior Learning, completing **232,943 credits** and saving **\$56.3 million** in tuition.

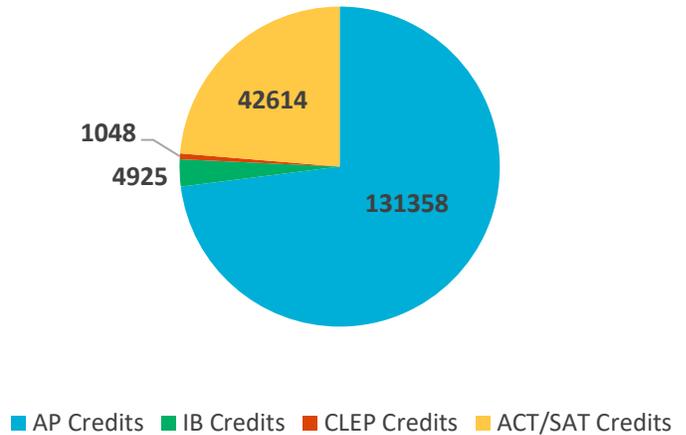
## Standardized Exams

USHE students received the most credit for prior learning through national standardized exams such as AP, CLEP, IB, etc.

### Students Earning Credit



### Credits Awarded by Exam

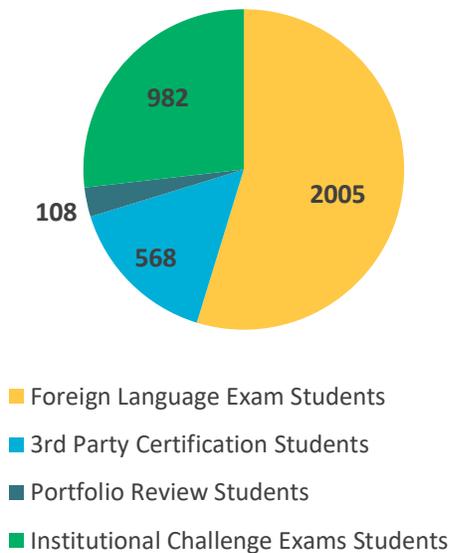


\*Additionally, Utah Valley University awarded 62 Excelsior College credits to three students and 49 Thomas Edison College credits to three students.

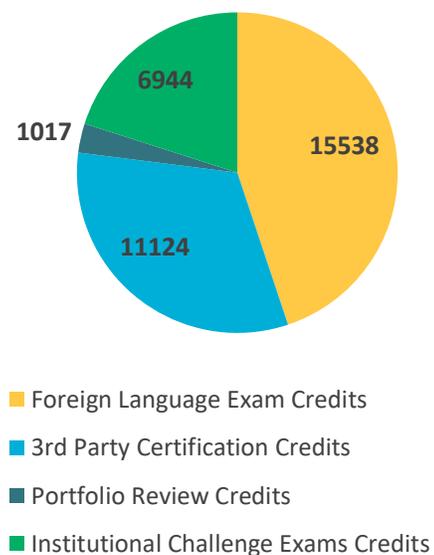
## Other Assessments

Assessments like foreign language exams can be used as credit for prior learning. This number is higher in Utah because of the many students who serve missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

### Students Earning Credit by Assessment



### Credits Awarded by Assessment



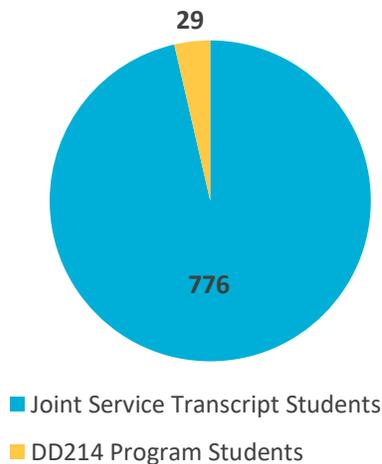
\*Additionally, Weber State University awarded 171 credits in National Certifications to 11 students.

## Military Credits

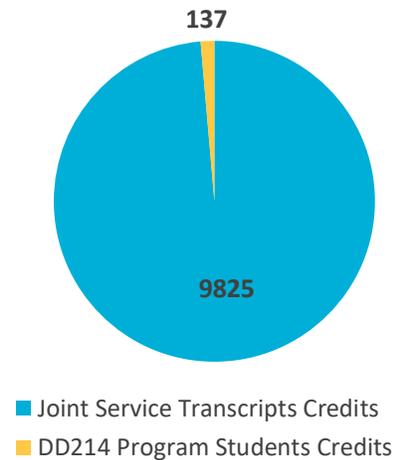
Members of the military can earn college credit for training as part of advanced individualized training and through other on-the-job training programs.

A student may present a military transcript to a USHE institution for evaluation to determine the applicability of credit to the student's program of study. Once assessed by one USHE institution, the credit is transferable to other degree-granting institutions. Specific military training programs are evaluated for credit through the American Council on Education (ACE), and these programs are awarded credit in USHE institutions. ACE and other national organizations also evaluate training programs listed on the discharge papers (DD214) of servicemembers and through the METC (armed services medical training courses) provided by the various military branches.

### Students Earning Military Credit



### Total Military Credit Earned



\*Additionally, Weber State University awarded 34 credits to one student for the METC and awarded six credits to one student for the DSST.

| Military Credit |                          |             |               |            |              |           |              |          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Institution     | Joint Service Transcript |             | DD214 Program |            | METC Program |           | DSST Program |          |
|                 | Students                 | Credits     | Students      | Credits    | Students     | Credits   | Students     | Credits  |
| SLCC            | 90                       | 191         | 12            | 11         | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| Snow            | 3                        | 11          | 0             | 0          | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| SUU             | 16                       | 157         | 0             | 0          | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| UU              | 7                        | 139         | 6             | 24         | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| USU             | 403                      | 3047        | 0             | 0          | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| UT              | 4                        | 17          | 0             | 0          | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| UVU             | 246                      | 6106        | 0             | 0          | 0            | 0         | 0            | 0        |
| WSU             | 7                        | 157         | 11            | 102        | 1            | 34        | 1            | 6        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>776</b>               | <b>9825</b> | <b>29</b>     | <b>137</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>34</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>6</b> |

## Appendix

Table 1

| Total Students and Earned Credits |                |               |                |               |                |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                   | 2020-21 Report |               | 2021-22 Report |               | 2022-23 Report |               |
| Institutions                      | Students       | Credits       | Students       | Credits       | Students       | Credits       |
| SLCC                              | 1804           | 12555         | 1259           | 12413         | 1376           | 10321         |
| Snow                              | 956            | 4760          | 831            | 3654          | 769            | 3425          |
| SUU                               | 1714           | 14769         | 1678           | 10718         | 1745           | 12361         |
| UU                                | 4570           | 54531         | 4773           | 49954         | 4640           | 51548         |
| USU                               | 10920          | 66490         | 12538          | 67629         | 14164          | 69818         |
| UT                                | 799            | 5514          | 720            | 5114          | 527            | 4354          |
| UVU                               | 9395           | 65299         | 7766           | 55250         | 6794           | 54944         |
| WSU                               | 2693           | 22279         | 2211           | 18650         | 4553           | 26172         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>32851</b>   | <b>246197</b> | <b>31776</b>   | <b>223382</b> | <b>34568</b>   | <b>232943</b> |

Table 2

| Standardized Exams |                 |                |                 |                |                   |                  |                     |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Institutions       | AP:<br>Students | AP:<br>Credits | IB:<br>Students | IB:<br>Credits | CLEP:<br>Students | CLEP:<br>Credits | ACT/SAT<br>Students | ACT/SAT<br>Credits |
| SLCC               | 813             | 8195           | 1               | 22             | 47                | 221              | 293                 | 879                |
| Snow               | 131             | 899            | 1               | 22             | 3                 | 12               | 564                 | 1692               |
| SUU                | 579             | 5279           | 16              | 354            | 15                | 81               | 832                 | 3120               |
| UU                 | 2678            | 39827          | 139             | 3339           | 14                | 98               | 1658                | 4974               |
| USU                | 7269            | 43996          | 71              | 610            | 43                | 269              | 5336                | 16009              |
| UT                 | 414             | 3273           | 6               | 141            | 14                | 75               | 10                  | 27                 |
| UVU                | 2248            | 22254          | 15              | 264            | 36                | 214              | 2435                | 7442               |
| WSU                | 732             | 7635           | 10              | 163            | 19                | 78               | 3087                | 9261               |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>14864</b>    | <b>131358</b>  | <b>259</b>      | <b>4925</b>    | <b>191</b>        | <b>1048</b>      | <b>11436</b>        | <b>42614</b>       |

Table 3

| Foreign Language Exams |             |              |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Institution            | Students    | Credits      |
| SLCC                   | 16          | 80           |
| Snow                   | 65          | 776          |
| SUU                    | 151         | 2027         |
| UU                     | 53          | 643          |
| USU                    | 869         | 3484         |
| UT                     | 72          | 792          |
| UVU                    | 494         | 4784         |
| WSU                    | 285         | 2952         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>2005</b> | <b>15538</b> |

Table 4

| Third-Party Certifications |            |              |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Institution                | Students   | Credits      |
| SLCC                       | 8          | 132          |
| Snow                       | 0          | 0            |
| SUU                        | 0          | 0            |
| UU                         | 83         | 2490         |
| USU                        | 0          | 0            |
| UT                         | 3          | 4            |
| UVU                        | 387        | 7113         |
| WSU                        | 87         | 1385         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>568</b> | <b>11124</b> |

Table 5

| Individual Assessment |                   |             |                               |             |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
|                       | Portfolio Reviews |             | Institutional Challenge Exams |             |
| Institutions          | Students          | Credits     | Students                      | Credits     |
| SLCC                  | 36                | 208         | 13                            | 59          |
| Snow                  | 2                 | 13          | 0                             | 0           |
| SUU                   | 70                | 796         | 66                            | 547         |
| UU                    | 0                 | 0           | 2                             | 14          |
| USU                   | 0                 | 0           | 70                            | 244         |
| UT                    | 4                 | 25          | 0                             | 0           |
| UVU                   | 0                 | 0           | 822                           | 6050        |
| WSU                   | 0                 | 0           | 9                             | 30          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>108</b>        | <b>1017</b> | <b>982</b>                    | <b>6944</b> |

Table 6

| Technical College Credit Articulations |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Institution                            | Students   | Credits     |
| SLCC                                   | 47         | 323         |
| Snow                                   | 0          | 0           |
| SUU                                    | 0          | 0           |
| UU                                     | 0          | 0           |
| USU                                    | 103        | 2159        |
| UT                                     | 0          | 0           |
| UVU                                    | 105        | 606         |
| WSU                                    | 293        | 4198        |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>548</b> | <b>7286</b> |