

Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan 2024-27

Our Vision

Utah is an innovative global leader in providing world-class higher education and advancing research that enhances the quality of life in the state.

Our Mission

USHE operates cohesively across the state’s 16 public colleges and universities to provide valuable education that meets workforce needs and enhances the wellbeing and prosperity of all Utahns.

ACCESS	
GOAL	Increase the college-going rate of high school grads by 3% by the conclusion of academic year 2026-27.
STRATEGY	Ensure all prospective students are meaningfully informed about postsecondary access, enabling them to take full advantage of admissions opportunities, scholarships, financial aid, dual enrollment programming, and college and career pathways.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with the Utah State Board of Education and other stakeholders, develop and implement comprehensive practices that ensure more K-12 students and adult learners pursue higher education and enhance their career opportunities.

STRATEGY	Simplify institutional admissions processes.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a statewide tool that comports with the Board’s statutory responsibility to prioritize common applications and direct admissions. Create an effective governance and collaboration model to promote use of the tool and develop and report measurable outcomes related to the tool’s impact on improving postsecondary access. • Improve transactional data movement to support student transition to higher education, including facilitating the movement of data between high school students and institutions to improve the accuracy and efficacy of student record matching.

COMPLETION	
GOAL	Increase timely completion of degrees and awards by 3% by the conclusion of academic year 2026-27.
STRATEGY	Innovate to mitigate or remove barriers that increase time to completion.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and incentivize institutions to develop appropriate sub-120-credit hour bachelor’s degrees. • Facilitate transfer and completion among institutions within the System by strengthening educational pathways, requiring meaningful articulation, and completing the transition from clock to credit hours in technical education. • Incentivize timely completion by ensuring that performance funding is invested in interventions that advance progress toward institutional timely completion goals.

STRATEGY	Standardize the awarding of credit for prior learning and ensure it aids in timely completion.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement consistent practices for the awarding of credit for prior learning, including training of faculty and staff, and annual institutional reporting of credit awarded. • Assess the impact of credit for prior learning on student enrollment and completion. • Leverage access partners to ensure students capitalize on credit for prior learning opportunities.

FINANCIAL VALUE

GOAL	Maximize the return on investment and value proposition of a USHE education for all stakeholders.
STRATEGY	Develop and implement measures to reduce or avoid low-value expenditures and create systemwide financial efficiencies.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, implement, and report outcomes of new shared service functions, with a focus on legislatively prioritized areas of technology, human resources, Title IX, and commercialization and areas that are most likely to result in budget savings, cost avoidance, and/or improved services. • Study and develop best practices related to efficient utilization of existing spaces and ensure new capital development investments are aligned with System and institutional long-term plans and strategies.
STRATEGY	Reduce costs for students and help them maximize their return on investment.

TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage a rigorous tuition- and fee-setting process that creates efficiencies on the expenditure side to keep costs as low as possible for students. • Advance activities that increase FAFSA completion and student receipt of federal aid. • Invest in, deploy, and refine state aid and scholarship programs. • Increase student participation in high-quality work-based learning.
STRATEGY	Ensure the value of a USHE education is commensurate with the cost.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess student workforce outcomes at the program and discipline level to inform targeted investments.
STRATEGY	Establish and maintain cohesive institutional roles and missions to ensure systemwide efficiency.
TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align programs across institutions. • Eliminate unnecessary program duplication. • Promote and incentivize program partnerships across institutions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
GOAL	Leverage higher education to fortify the state’s economy, grow and develop industries, enhance Utahns’ quality of life, and position the state as an innovative leader in the global economy.
STRATEGY	Meet workforce needs by increasing the completion rates of graduates in high-wage, high-demand programs by 3% by the conclusion of academic year 2026-2027.

<p>TACTICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize high-yield awards by providing students the most relevant and meaningful information about labor market outcomes. • Ensure that performance funding is invested in interventions that advance progress toward institutional timely high-yield goals. • Develop legislative priorities, policies, and funding requests for workforce development programs. • Develop and promote workforce programs in collaboration with public education, industry, and state agencies.
<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>Advance research that supports economic development and enhances the quality of life in the state.</p>
<p>TACTICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help USHE institutions secure large research grants that involve collaboration across multiple colleges and universities in the System.
<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>In partnership with government and industry, advance commercialization and economic development through The Point Innovation District.</p>
<p>TACTICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Associate Commissioner of Innovation in the execution of The Point Innovation District’s strategic plan.