



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

October 21, 2022

Social Determinants of Student Success

Overview: Social Determinants of Health

In 2008, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a framework called the “[social determinants of health](#),” which details how the conditions in an individual’s environment affect their health, functioning, and quality of life. The five social determinants of health are:

1. Education access and quality
2. Economic stability
3. Social and community context
4. Neighborhood and built environment
5. Healthcare access and quality

Social Determinants of Student Success

The Colorado Department of Higher Education was the first to use the term “[social determinants of student success](#),” which considers the social determinants of health framework through a lens of student success. After all, “[while approximately 35% of students who leave an institution, part for academic reasons, the other 65% leave voluntarily for non-academic reasons](#).”

In the Student Affairs Committee meeting on October 21, 2022, staff from the Commissioner’s office will give a presentation on the social determinants of student success and how the Board of Higher Education is addressing these determinants through its strategic plan. This presentation will prepare board members for further discussion on student barriers to completion at the November 2022 Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.