



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2023

Policy R312, USHE and Institutional Missions and Roles

[Policy R312, Utah System of Higher Education and Institutional Missions and Roles](#), needs to be updated to clarify the distinct roles of technical colleges and academic roles of degree-granting institutions, consistent with current statute for the combined system.

A task force was created to evaluate institutional roles and missions and make policy recommendations that ensure the system of higher education provides educational opportunities to meet the needs of Utah citizens and their communities by meeting industry and business needs. The intent is to ensure educational quality, equitable access, affordability, and efficiency to foster educational and economic growth through the responsible use of state resources. The work should address unnecessary duplication of programming offered by institutions in the same region, foster collaborative rather than competitive relationships between educational partners, and provide strong student transfer opportunities.

The task force's work will result in a policy draft to be considered by Office of the Commissioner staff, chief academic and instructional officers, Council of Presidents, the Board Academic and Technical Education Committees, and the Board. Following are concepts for the Technical Education Committee's discussion and feedback relating to technical education elements of the policy.

Institutional Role Designations

The Utah Board of Higher Education (Board) is responsible for establishing, approving, and overseeing each institution's mission and role in accordance with [Utah Code § 53B-1-402](#) and [53B-16-101](#). The Code also defines the following institutional roles and designations:

- **Research Universities:** University of Utah; Utah State University
- **Regional Universities:** Weber State University; Southern Utah University; Utah Tech University; Utah Valley University
- **Comprehensive Community Colleges:** Salt Lake Community College; Snow College
- **Technical Colleges:** 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*; Utah State University Eastern, Blanding, Moab*

**Degree-granting institutions that provide technical education*

Additionally, the Board is responsible for determining the extent to which an institution provides career and technical education, which is a primary role for all higher education institutions except for the University of Utah ([53B-16-101\(2\)](#)).

Policy R312 defines each of the institution types represented in statute, designates institutions, and includes institutional mission statements, which are approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education.

The current draft of the proposed policy includes the following characteristics of technical colleges:

Technical Colleges offer (1) technical education programs that lead to a certificate and (2) short-term occupational training. Technical education programs include educational experiences intended to meet the needs of Utah's employers for technically skilled workers by preparing adult and secondary students for employment in occupations that do not require a degree. Technical education programs do not include general education.

Definitions

Institutional Mission: Written statements of the general purposes and functions of the institution within its role, as approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education. ([Board Policy R312](#))

Career and Technical Education

- **State Definition:** An educational program that is designed to meet industry needs, leads to a certificate or a degree, and may qualify for funding under the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. ([Utah Code § 53B-1-101.5\(3\)](#))
- **Federal Definition:** An educational program that provides individuals with rigorous academic content and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions, which may include high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations. ([Perkins Act](#))
- **Technical Education:** Career and technical education that leads to an institutional certificate or is short-term training. "Technical education" does not include general education. ([Utah Code § 53B-1-101.5](#))

Technical College Mission Statements

Bridgerland Technical College

The mission of the Bridgerland Technical College is to deliver competency-based, employer-guided career and technical education to both secondary and post-secondary students through traditional and technology-enhanced methodologies. This hands-on technical education provides occupational education, skills training, and workforce development to support the educational and economic development of the Bear River Region.

Davis Technical College

We are a trusted learning community embracing technical education to promote student development and economic growth.

Dixie Technical College

Dixie Technical College trains students to master essential skills they will take directly to the workforce, enabling them to support their families, strengthen the community, and contribute to local industry while advancing their careers.

Mountainland Technical College

To enhance the employability of individuals through market-driven career and technical education.

Ogden-Weber Technical College

We build a prosperous community by creating a technically-skilled workforce one student at a time.

Southwest Technical College

Southwest Technical College provides education and job skill training through individualized competency-based programs in response to the needs of students, employers and the communities we serve.

Tooele Technical College

The Tooele Technical College provides rewarding, competency-based, affordable, and accessible career preparation for youth and adults to meet the needs of Utah employers.

Uintah Basin Technical College

Uintah Basin Technical College provides technical education and training for secondary and adult students, to fulfill labor market needs, and promote economic development in the Uintah Basin.

Salt Lake Community College

Salt Lake Community College is your community college. We engage and support students in educational pathways leading to successful transfer and meaningful employment.

Snow College

Snow College continues a tradition of excellence, encourages a culture of innovation, and cultivates an atmosphere of engagement to advance students in the achievement of their educational goals.

Utah State University

We champion exceptional education, research and discovery, and community contribution.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board Technical Education Committee provide feedback on policy concepts relating to the clarification of roles and missions for technical education.