



MEMORANDUM

October 4, 2024

Fiscal Year 2025-26 USHE Operating Budget Recommendation – Degree-Granting Institutional Priorities

Degree-granting institutions submitted priority lists of budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The Commissioner’s Office examined and discussed these requests with presidents and budget officers and then prioritized the requests systemwide, giving the highest priority to requests involving partnerships and collaborations between institutions. These budget requests comply with Utah Code section [53B-7-101\(2\)\(iv\)](#), and the budget guidance adopted by the Board in its July 2024 meeting.

Degree-Granting Institutional Priorities Total **\$20,775,200 Total**
(\$11,827,800 One-time; \$8,947,400 Ongoing)

Priority	Institution	One-time	Ongoing	Total
12	University of Utah/Utah Tech University	-\$1,322,200	\$5,187,400	\$3,865,200
13	Utah State University/Weber State University	\$11,250,000	\$0	\$11,250,000
14	Southern Utah University/Southwest Tech	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
15	Snow College/Uintah Basin Technical College	\$0	\$560,000	\$560,000
16	Utah Valley University	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000
17	Weber State University	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
18	Utah Tech University	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
19	Weber State University	\$0	\$240,000	\$240,000

Priorities

12. University of Utah/Utah Tech University - Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine
\$3,865,200 (One-time -\$1,322,200; Ongoing \$5,187,400)

This request proposes to increase the number and rural health focus of medical students graduating from the University of Utah Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine (SFESOM) by creating a regional medical school campus, the St. George Regional Medical Campus (SGRMC), for 25 new students per year in St. George, Utah. Funding will support administrative leadership, operational support, core faculty and staff, educational facilities, and student support on the Utah Tech University campus and will leverage clinical partnerships with Intermountain Health and others for training experiences.

13. Utah State University/Weber State University: Space & Defense Research Institute & Workforce

\$11,250,000 One-time

This request would create a joint institute between Utah State University and Weber State University for accelerating insights, harnessing discovery, and delivering the talent needed to efficiently operationalize agile capabilities with national security partners.

14. Southern Utah University/Southwest Technical College: Workforce Alignment Partnership & Accelerated Masters Degrees

\$1,000,000 Ongoing

Southern Utah University (SUU) has a strategic focus on preparing students in programs that meet the workforce demand in our region and the state of Utah. This request will enable SUU and Southwest Technical College (SWTC) to hire faculty in high-growth, workforce-aligned programs to help increase access, completion, and post-graduate employment for their growing student bodies. Investing in additional faculty positions will provide additional course offerings to students in high-demand programs and allow SUU and SWTC to continue to allocate resources to programs that enhance Utah's economy and provide a student-centric, quality educational experience.

15. Snow College/Uintah Basin Technical College – Future Focus Initiative for Rural Secondary Students

\$560,000 Ongoing

This request is a partnership between Snow College (Snow) and Uintah Basin Tech (UB Tech), which serve two of the most rural and underserved regions of the state. This partnership addresses the specific needs of rural students with a high school GPA of 3.0 or lower and helps these students understand and plan for higher education that will immediately apply to the rural communities where these students live. Higher education and training are critical for these rural communities, but many students from these communities, especially those who consistently underperform in high school do not see themselves in college. Higher education coaches hired under this request will inform and guide secondary students to programs that meet their needs and the needs of rural communities. In a direct partnership with Snow and UB Tech, these counselors will help students identify technical education programs and/or degree programs at the local campuses, meaning students can complete their intended programs affordably and with a rural focus. At the conclusion of one of these programs, graduates can immediately work in their respective communities or continue their higher education pathway through another USHE institution, thus addressing the brain-drain problem many rural communities face.

16. Utah Valley University: Applied AI Center

\$3,000,000 (\$1,000,000 One-time; \$2,000,000 Ongoing)

The Center in this request is designed to enhance job readiness for students and foster innovation in applied artificial intelligence (AI). The funds will be used to implement key projects that provide students with essential AI skills and create an environment that promotes AI-driven innovation across the university and in the local community. This will include an Applied AI Lab, faculty members, student employees, and staff support. UVU also anticipates that AI related advancements made by the Center will be scalable to all USHE institutions as a future shared service.

17. Weber State University: Completion Grant Pilot

\$900,000 One-time

The goal for this request is to pilot a completion grant program for students with some college but no credentials who are close to finishing their degree. Funds will be used to provide a grant to a randomized selection of students who have stopped attending college but have completed 75% or more of their credentials. Grant dollars will be awarded up to \$7,060 for up to 200 students (this includes tuition, fees, and \$250 per semester toward books). Students will be required to complete FAFSA if they are eligible, and applicable Pell and SEOG funds will be applied before completion of grant dollars.

18. Utah Tech University: Higher Education for Incarcerated Youth Program Expansion

\$200,000 Ongoing

The Higher Education for Incarcerated Youth (HEIY) program at Utah Tech University was very grateful to receive \$150,000 one-time funding in the 2024 general legislative session. That funding has enabled the program to grow from 35 incarcerated youth students per semester to approximately 50 students in fall 2024. There are plans to expand enrollment in this program by up to 15 more students (allowing approximately 60-65 incarcerated youth students to be served by the program) and create opportunities for more advanced coursework for youth who earn an associate degree. HEIY requests ongoing funding to maintain expansion of the program.

19. Weber State University: Utah Academic Library Consortium

\$240,000 Ongoing

The Utah Academic Library Consortium negotiates pricing and licenses to collectively procure critical library resources that support all USHE degree-granting institutions. This funding request would enable the UALC to sustain the core collection of resources essential to continue training students via covering cost inflation experienced in recent years.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board approve the FY 2025-26 degree-granting institutional priorities funding request.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Degree-Granting Operating Budget Requests Not Recommended