



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2023

Policy 312, System Roles and Institutional Missions

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*

[Board Policy 312, System Roles and Institutional Missions](#) 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 policy needs to be updated to clarify the distinct roles of technical colleges and academic roles of degree-granting institutions.

A small 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.

Once the task force has completed its work, a policy draft be presented to Office of the Commissioner staff. The draft will be presented to chief academic and instructional officers, the Council of Presidents, the Board Academic and Technical Education Committees, and to the full Board for approval.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Academic Education Committee provide feedback on policy concepts relating to the clarification of roles and missions.