

# INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

Peer evaluators will conduct a NWCCU accreditation site visit at UVU on October 23-25, 2024.

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## UVU MISSION AND VALUES

**UVU is an integrated university and community college that educates every student for success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship.**

Exceptional Care | Exceptional Accountability | Exceptional Results

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## ABOUT UVU ACCREDITATION

UVU has been continuously accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) since 1969. In 2020, NWCCU updated its accreditation standards and eligibility requirements. The revised standards emphasize two main areas: (1) student success and institutional mission and effectiveness, and (2) governance, resources, and capacity. The standards define the quality, effectiveness, and continuous improvements expected of accredited institutions. Click [here](#) to access the UVU accreditation website.

Public notice for UVU's Year-Seven Comprehensive Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) visit is [here](#).

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## UVU ACCREDITATION REPORTS

NWCCU-accredited institutions have a regular schedule of self-evaluation reports over a seven-year period. In the [current cycle](#), UVU has completed the following reports:

- Year Three Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report:
  - Will UVU be ready to demonstrate mission fulfillment and sustainability in Year Seven?
- Year Six Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR):
  - How do UVU's governance structure, practices, and policies ensure sustainable and viable operations?
  - Does UVU have adequate financial, human, student support, library and information resources, and physical and technological infrastructures to support student learning and achievement?
- Year Seven EIE:
  - How does UVU effectively translate its mission into clear educational goals that strive to advance student learning and success?
  - How does UVU employ a continuous planning, resource allocation, and evaluation process to assess institutional effectiveness?
  - How does UVU ensure quality, alignment, transparency, and effectiveness of its educational programs?
  - How does UVU promote student achievement through recruitment, orientation, and closing equity gaps using disaggregated achievement indicators?

## STRATEGIC PLAN

[Vision 2030](#), adopted in 2019 and refreshed in 2022, articulates a collective vision for the university crafted with input from diverse internal stakeholders through an open and inclusive process. Three action commitments drive UVU's mission:

- **Include:** Provide accessible, flexible, affordable education in an inclusive environment.
- **Engage:** Strengthen learning and societal impact through community and industry collaboration.
- **Achieve:** Enhance student success via improved recruitment, retention, and completion.

These commitments lead to nine priority initiatives and 35 clear objectives under Vision 2030. Aligned with the [Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan](#), UVU's goals harmonize with its master plans to boost adaptability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

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## MASTER PLANS

UVU's planning processes also encompass master plans that provide overarching guidance for broad areas of the institution:

- [Academic Master Plan](#)
  - [Completion Plan 3.0](#)
  - [Digital Transformation Plan](#)
  - [Facilities Master Plan](#)
  - [Engagement Plan](#)
  - [Sustainability Plan](#)
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## INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

As shown in UVU's [Integrated Institutional Effectiveness Plan](#), UVU employs iterative processes to create a self-reinforcing cycle of ongoing planning, assessment, and resource allocation processes aligned directly with Vision 2030. This approach drives evidence-based decision-making and improvement initiatives, supported by UVU's shared governance model, fostering accountability, inclusivity, and ownership. The goal is to continually fulfill UVU's mission, achieve goals, and enhance educational outcomes and the student experience.

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**Questions or Comments?** Contact Laurie Sharp at [LSharp@uvu.edu](mailto:LSharp@uvu.edu)



## MEANINGFUL INDICATORS

### High-Level Indicators

In 2022-2023, UVU leaders developed the [UVU Balanced Scorecard](#) to identify specific performance measures that track progress toward established targets for each priority initiative in Vision 2030. Prior to the UVU Balanced Scorecard, Action Commitment Indicators were maintained and published [here](#).

### Student Achievement Indicators

Data dashboards on the Business Intelligence and Research Services Department's website allow for the tracking and disaggregation of student achievement indicators:

- [Persistence rates](#) with group comparisons based on age, ethnicity, gender, and race.
- [One-year retention rates](#) for all degree-seeking students or those pursuing a bachelor's degree, with demographic disaggregation by race, gender, age, or first-generation status.
- [Completions](#) with filter options for student characteristics, school and college, department, major and emphasis, and degree information.
- [Outcome measure](#) with demographic disaggregation by race, gender, age, or first-generation status.

Data dashboards also provide insights into post-graduation success of students. These [dashboards](#) offer insights by school/college, major, concentration, degree level, and graduating class into alumni university experiences, employment, and continuing education.

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## PEER INSTITUTIONS

In 2019, UVU selected 10 peer institutions:

- Regional Universities
  - Arkansas Tech University
  - CUNY College of Staten Island
  - University of Alaska - Anchorage
  - Utah Tech University
  - Weber State University
  - Western Kentucky University
- Emerging Dual-Mission Colleges
  - Bellevue College
  - Palm Beach State College
  - St. Petersburg College
  - South Texas College

Annual comparisons with these peers inform UVU about university performance in enrollment, retention, and outcome and performance measures. The annual [IPEDS Data Feedback Report](#) summarizes institutional indicators for UVU alongside its regional and peer comparison group.

## UVU STRENGTHS

- Boasts a caring and dedicated faculty and staff who are experts in their fields and committed to student success.
- Ensures all students can access high-quality education:
  - Year-over-year increases in total students (Fall 2023: 44,653).
  - Year-over-year increases in full-time equivalent students (Fall 2023: 28,993).
  - Educates the most Utahans (Fall 2023 Headcount: 41,634).
- Facilitates programs and services tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, including academic advising, career counseling, internship services, and wellness and basic needs resources.
- Facilitates programs and services to address the varied needs of employees, such as flexible work arrangements, health and wellness programs, professional development opportunities, and tuition benefits.
- Invests in modern facilities and infrastructure to support learning, including labs, libraries, and recreational facilities.
- Maintains affordability (47% students receive financial aid that covers 90% of tuition and fees and is non-repayable).
- Offers a range of academic programs a wide range of programs and degrees, including programs in areas like aviation, business and analysis, culinary arts, cybersecurity, physician assistant studies, and social work.
- Offers a variety of learning options, including traditional classroom settings, online courses, and hybrid formats.
- Promotes timely completion for all students:
  - Increased 8-year graduation outcome measure for all UVU students by 22% in the past 5 years (2015/16-2023 = 46%).
  - Increased 1-year retention rate for full-time, first-time bachelor's students by 6% in the past five years (Fall 2022 Cohort: 70%).
  - Increased total awards earned by Latino students by 65% since 2018 (2021-2022 = 1,643 graduates).

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## UVU GROWTH AREAS

- 1) Update regional and national peer institutions to more closely align with our unique mission, size, structure, and student demographics.
- 2) Enhance curriculum development.
- 3) Refine program-level assessment of student learning and administrative unit assessment.
- 4) Streamline university stakeholder access to necessary data more promptly and efficiently.

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**Questions or Comments?** Contact Laurie Sharp at [LSharp@uvu.edu](mailto:LSharp@uvu.edu)