

R315, Designation of Service Regions¹

R315-1 Purpose: This policy establishes guidelines for defining geographic service regions for institutions in the Utah System of Higher Education (“USHE”), with the aim is to promote accessibility, completion, quality, and efficiency while allowing for limited exceptions.

R-315-2 References

- 2.1 [Board Policy R165](#), Concurrent Enrollment
- 2.2 [Board Policy R312](#), Institutional Roles and Missions
- 2.3 [Board Policy R401](#), Approval of New Programs, Program Changes, Discontinued Programs, and Program Reports
- 2.4 [Utah Code § 53B-2a-105](#), Technical Colleges
- 2.5 [Utah Code § 53B-2a-106](#), Technical Colleges – Duties
- 2.5 [Utah Code § 53B-2a-112](#), Technical College – Relationships with Other Public and Higher Education Institutions
- 2.6 [Utah Code § 53B-2a-201](#), Geographic Service Areas for Degree-granting Institutions
- 2.7 [Utah Code § 53B-16-101](#), Establishment of Institutional Roles and General Courses of Study

R315-3 Definitions

- 3.1 **“Concurrent Enrollment”** is defined by [Board Policy R165](#).
- 3.2 **“Institutional Roles”** are defined by [Board Policy R312](#) and include technical college, community college, regional university, and research university.
- 3.3 **“Online”** means primarily asynchronous, with regular interactions between students and instructor as part of the teaching and learning process.
- 3.4 **“Service Region”** means the Utah county/counties for which an institution is authorized to provide services within its institutional role under [Board Policy R312](#) and within which an institution may establish physical facilities as outlined in Board Policies [R401](#) and [R703](#).

R315-4 Service Regions Guidelines

- 4.1 The Board of Higher Education (“Board”) designates service regions for USHE institutions in consultation with the Commissioner’s Office and presidents based on the following guidelines:
 - 4.1.1 **Accessibility:** Service regions should be designed to promote accessibility to post-secondary educational opportunities throughout the state, with a focus on serving traditionally underserved populations and areas;
 - 4.1.2 **Quality:** Service regions should prioritize the delivery of high-quality educational experiences that meet the needs of students, employers, and communities;
 - 4.1.3 **Responsiveness:** Service regions should be responsive to local and statewide needs, with a focus on meeting the evolving demands of the economy, society, and education landscape;
 - 4.1.4 **Efficiency:** Service regions should be designed to promote the efficient and effective allocation of state resources, with a focus on minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing collaboration between institutions.

¹ Approved September 23, 1994; amended January 21, 2000, April 15, 2009, September 13, 2013, November 18, 2016, March 31, 2017, and November 18, 2022; rescinded and approved May 18, 2023.

4.2 Service regions should be designed to maximize student choice and flexibility, while also promoting the effective delivery of educational programs and services.

4.3 Each USHE institution is primarily responsible for providing contracted training or a concurrent enrollment course consistent with its designated institutional role(s) in its service region(s).

R315-5 Designated Service Regions

5.1 In their role as research universities, the University of Utah and Utah State University are designated to serve the entire state. However, neither research university should duplicate face-to-face undergraduate programming within a regional university’s service region.

5.2 The following table reflects current² designated instructional service regions for technical colleges, community colleges, and regional universities:

Counties	Technical College	Community College	Regional University
Beaver	Southwest Technical College	Southern Utah University	Southern Utah University
Box Elder	Bridgerland Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Cache	Bridgerland Technical College		
Carbon	Utah State University (Eastern)	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Daggett	Uintah Basin Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Davis	Davis Technical College	Weber State University	Weber State University
Duchesne	Uintah Basin Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Emery	Utah State University (Eastern and Blanding)	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Garfield	Southwest Technical College	Southern Utah University	Southern Utah University
Grand	Utah State University (Moab)	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Iron	Southwest Technical College	Southern Utah University	Southern Utah University
Juab	Snow College	Snow College	
Kane	Southwest Technical College	Utah Tech University	Utah Tech University
Millard	Snow College	Snow College	
Morgan	Davis Technical College	Weber State University	Weber State University
Piute	Snow College	Snow College	
Rich	Bridgerland Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Salt Lake³	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake Community College	
San Juan	Utah State University (Blanding)	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Sanpete	Snow College	Snow College	
Sevier	Snow College	Snow College	
Summit	Mountainland Technical College	Utah Valley University	Utah Valley University
Tooele	Tooele Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Uintah	Uintah Basin Technical College	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>	<u>Utah State University Statewide Campuses</u>
Utah	Mountainland Technical College	Utah Valley University	Utah Valley University
Wasatch	Mountainland Technical College	Utah Valley University	Utah Valley University
Washington	Dixie Technical College	Utah Tech University	Utah Tech University
Wayne	Snow College	Snow College	
Weber	Ogden-Weber Technical College	Weber State University	Weber State University

² Designated service regions are currently under review, subject to Board approval. Concurrent enrollment, including academic and technical education are part of the review.

³ In Salt Lake County, Salt Lake Community College has primary responsibility and right of first refusal for concurrent enrollment.

R315-6 Evaluation of Service Regions: At least every five years, the Board will evaluate service regions to ensure the service regions continue to meet the guidelines in section R315-4 and to address any emerging needs or challenges.

R315-7 Exceptions to Service Regions: Absent an exception under this section or other approval of the Board, an institution may not operate its institutional role(s) outside of its service region(s). When an institution cannot meet its responsibility to provide contracted training or a concurrent enrollment course, it should work to identify another USHE institution that can meet the need.

7.1 Requests to Offer Programming outside of Service Region: Requests to offer programming outside of an institution's service region shall be subject to Board approval.

7.1.1 Preference for Adherence to Institutional Role: The Board may give preference for providing a degree program to an institution with an appropriate institutional role regardless of service regions if the local institution is not authorized for that level of programming.

7.1.1.1 An institution may submit a request to deliver a program or course for programs other than concurrent enrollment outside its service region based on a written proposal between institutions. The request for Board approval shall:

7.1.1.1.1 Identify the name of the program or course, the institution with primary responsibility and the responsible administrator, the institution providing the program or course, the location in which the program or course will be offered, and the delivery method, e.g., in-person, online, or hybrid;

7.1.1.1.2 Explain the reason the designated institution cannot provide the requested program or course and the expertise of the institution that is able to provide the program or course; and

7.1.1.1.3 Describe the impact on each institution, including but not limited to, facility-sharing, budget impacts, and the number of students served.

7.1.1.2 Such agreements shall be limited to five years or less.

7.2 Right of First Refusal: An institution providing a course outside its designated service region based on a right of first refusal shall be subject to Board approval.

7.2.1 When an outside entity requests a concurrent enrollment course the institution in the service region has a right of first refusal to offer the program. If the institution in the service region is unable to provide the course, an institution outside the service region may offer the course.

7.2.2 Rights of first refusal should be reviewed by the designated institution annually. If the designated institution becomes able to provide the concurrent enrollment course, it shall notify the other institution that it will resume responsibility for the program or course and shall do so as soon as possible. See [Board Policy R165, Concurrent Enrollment](#).

7.3 Cooperative Agreements for Technical Colleges

7.3.1 In accordance with Utah Code section 53B-2a-106(5)(a), a technical college may offer technical education or basic instruction outside its service region if:

7.3.1.1 The technical education or basic instruction is requested by either an employer or a craft, trade, or apprenticeship program;

7.3.1.2 The technical college notifies the Office of the Commissioner and the designated institution about the request; and

7.3.1.3 Prior to the contract being finalized or education or training being initiated, the designated institution can make a proposal to the requesting employer or program to offer the requested education or instruction. To be considered, the designated institution shall provide the proposal within one week of the notification given under subsection 7.3.1.2.

7.3.2 Subsection 7.3.1.3 does not apply if the requesting employer or program and the technical college to which the requesting employer or program makes its request have a prior training relationship.

7.4 Online Instruction: Fully online programs are an efficient and effective means for USHE institutions to provide broad and more economical access to high-quality instruction. Online programs or courses are exceptions to the service region requirements for degree-granting institutions. Each institution shall annually submit a comprehensive list of these programs and courses to the Commissioner's Office for review.

7.5 Exceptions Report: Within one week of an exception being exercised, the institution in the designated service region shall file a report with the Commissioner's Office that:

7.5.1 Identifies the name of the program or course, the institution with primary responsibility and the responsible administrator, the institution providing the program or course, the location in which the program or course will be offered, and the delivery method, e.g., in-person, online, or hybrid; and

7.5.2 Explains the reason the designated institution cannot provide the requested program or course and how the other institution will meet the need for the course.

7.6 List of Instruction Delivered outside Designated Service Regions: The Commissioner's Office shall maintain a list of all current programs and courses approved as exceptions under section R315-7. The list shall include the name of the program or course, the institution with primary responsibility and the responsible administrator, the institution providing the program or course, the location in which the program or course will be offered, and the delivery method, e.g., in-person, online, or hybrid. The Commissioner's Office shall provide this list to the Board annually.