

# Utah Code and Board of Regents' Policy Statements Regarding UVU's Mission and Role

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*Planning, Budget, and Human Resources  
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Utah Valley University is established by state law as a part of the Utah System of higher education as a “regional university,” one of three categories of higher public education institutions. Its mission and role, including the relative emphasis on teaching and research, is defined under state law and Regents’ policies. UVU has discretion in shaping its mission and role within the legal and regulatory bounds set by statute and Regents’ policies.

## **Utah Code 53B-16-101**

Regional universities, which provide career and technical education, undergraduate associate and baccalaureate programs, and select master’s degree programs to fill regional demands and include Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Dixie State University, and Utah Valley University.

Except for the University of Utah, each institution of higher education has career and technical education included in the institution of higher education’s primary role.

## **Utah State Board of Regents Policy R312, Utah System of Higher Education and Institutional Missions and Roles**

Regional Universities: The regional university’s role is to provide career and technical education, undergraduate associate and baccalaureate programs and select master’s degree programs to fill regional or state workforce demands. After a new master’s degree program’s fifth year, the program should be awarding a minimum average of five degrees per year as measured over a previous three-year period to be considered sustainable. Regional universities emphasize teaching, scholarly, and creative achievements that complement teaching and community service. Transfer programs allow students to seamlessly seek degrees at other institutions within the system. The institution contributes to the quality of life and economic development at the local and state levels. Student success is supported through developmental programs and services associated with a comprehensive community college. Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Utah Valley University, and Dixie State University are regional universities. (4.2)

Utah Valley University Mission Statement (2007): Utah Valley University is a teaching institution which provides opportunity, promotes student success, and meets regional educational needs. UVU builds on a foundation of substantive scholarly and creative work to foster engaged

learning. The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as lifelong learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community. (4.2.3)

Regional Universities: Faculty are selected, retained, and promoted primarily on the basis of evidence of effective teaching. Additional criteria include scholarly, professional and creative achievements, and service that complements the teaching role. (6.1.2)

Regional Universities: Regular full-time tenure-track faculty will have earned or be working toward the appropriate terminal degree for their field and specialty. Faculty in career and technical education or professional fields also will have practical, related work experience. (6.2.2)

Regional Universities: Average teaching loads are higher than those of faculty in research universities. These teaching loads reflect regional universities having fewer graduate programs and less emphasis on research and scholarship than research institutions. Institutional teaching loads will average at least 24 credit hour equivalents each academic year. (6.3.2)

Regional Universities: Regional universities are open admission institutions unless otherwise excepted by the Board of Regents. Regional universities may test or assess students for directed course placement, the ability to benefit from specific courses for financial aid purposes, and the students' projected ability to succeed. (7.2)

Open Admission: an admissions policy that allows all applicants to be admitted. An open admission policy does not necessarily grant students access to all courses until the institution has assessed the student's level of preparedness. (3.4)

Regional Universities: These institutions provide library services, support services, equipment, and other resources to support undergraduate programs, a limited number of master's programs, and the need of students and faculty. (8.2)