

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, July 2011

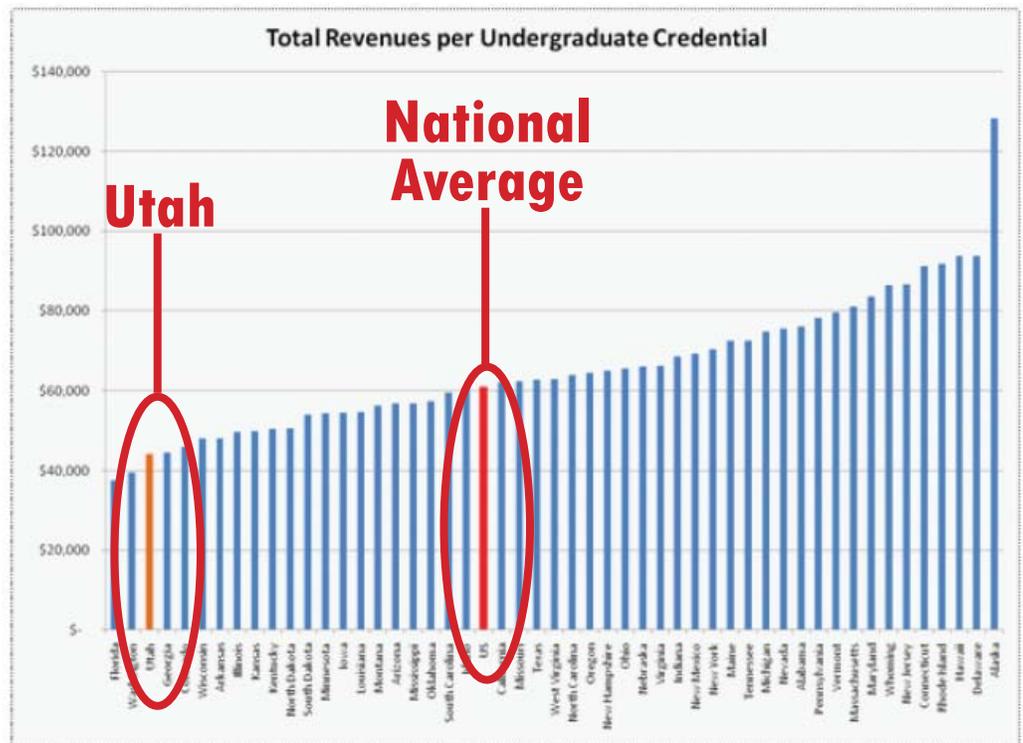
Utah Higher Ed: National Leader in Efficiency

Local history shows us that Utah has always been a hard-working, efficient state: from the pioneers trekking westward in search of a new settling place to today's innovators blasting Utah's technology to space. Even a beehive gracing the state's seal suggests that the motto "industry" is a Utah trait held strong and true.

It should come as no surprise then—**Utah is the third most efficient state in the United States in generating numbers of degrees for the dollar amounts spent by both students and states.**

Compared to the rest of the country, **Utah's institutions of higher education receive approximately 74 percent of the funding (from all sources including tuition) that their identified peer institutions receive.** And Utah's institutions have continually accommodated more enrollment growth than these peer institutions throughout the country, even while dealing with budget reductions. Ultimately, the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) is committed to finding new efficiencies and continuously improving the state's eight public colleges and universities

"Even before budget cuts affecting Utah's eight public colleges and universities, institutions already did more with less," said Commissioner of Higher Education Bill

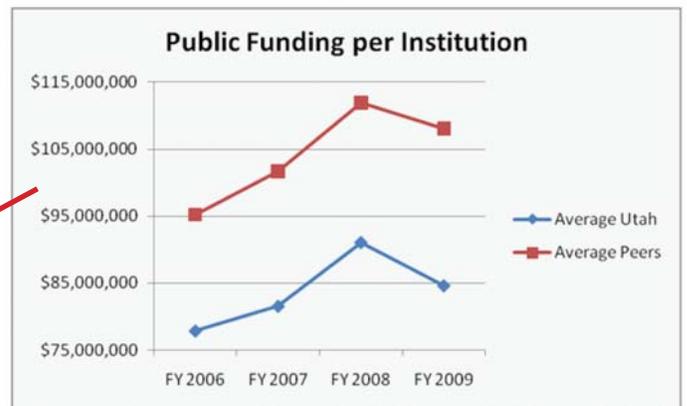


Sederburg. "We are at a point where further reductions in higher education funding will actually decrease the efficiency in the higher education system." Consequences like reduced course sections, delays in graduation and tuition increases that will limit access are potential setbacks that will become more prominent if budget cuts were to continue.

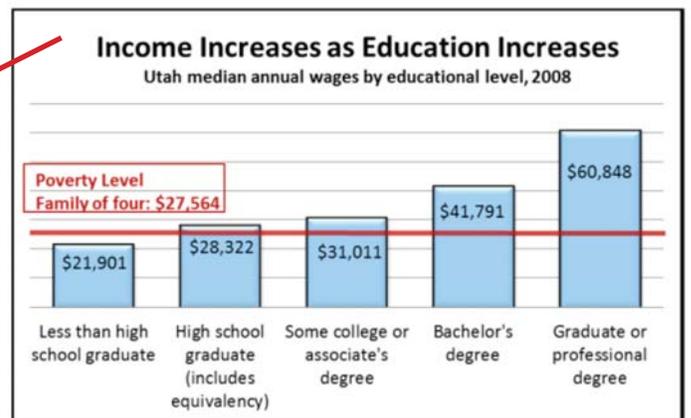
Fortunately, Utah has adopted various system-level solutions across all campuses, and institutions have also created efficiencies that work for each of them. System-wide efforts such as transferability of course credits, concurrent enrollment and common course numbering are all ways that have contributed to USHE being recognized as a national leader in efficiency.

At-a-Glance Efficiency

- Utah is the third most efficient state in the union in generating degrees for the dollars spent.
- Utah higher education institutions receive approximately 74 percent of the funding that peer institutions receive.
- Utah’s institutions have accommodated larger enrollment increases than peer institutions while dealing with budget reductions and an increasing reliance on tuition to cover costs.
- The economic benefit of college degrees is clearly evident in wage differences.
- Expenditures for research yield positive results.
- Transferability of credits, common course numbering and concurrent enrollment are just a few of the ways Utah maintains efficiency.



Graph data collected from IPEDS.



Graph data collected by the Utah System of Higher Education as presented in the HigherEdUtah 2020 Plan.

Institutions of higher education also reach efficiency through Utah’s efforts and organizations that help students to prepare and pay for college. Student outreach through the UtahFutures.org and UtahScholars initiatives take college information and planning right into the classrooms of the state’s schools, while also providing scholarship information. UHEAA-sponsored financial aid nights and statewide high school tours personally guide Utah’s high schoolers through the process of completing financial aid forms. Also UESP, Utah’s 529 savings plan, remains a “top 529 savings plan” for its “combination of low fees, investment choices and strong performance” (*Money Magazine*, May 2011). For more information, visit:



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