



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

June 6, 2024

## USHE Peer Institutions

A periodic review of USHE peer institutions is necessary to ensure appropriate institutions are used for a variety of comparative purposes related to affordability, including tuition and fees setting process, financial support, per-student costs, and faculty and staff compensation. These lists help provide context for Board members, the Governor's office, legislators, and other key stakeholders in higher education.

USHE peers traditionally comprise a small select group of public institutions and are one of several peer groups used for analysis. Others include the Rocky Mountain states, Western States (excluding California), and Carnegie (national).

The last peer group revision for degree-granting institutions occurred in 2011, with many having experienced significant changes in mission, classification, and enrollment since that time. Technical colleges in Utah are unique nationally, therefore they are all considered peers to each other and compared as such.

[Board Policy R508, Guidelines for Approving Lists of Comparable Institutions](#), provides guidelines for the creation and approval of peer institution groups based on the following criteria:

- Carnegie classification (type, mission, role)
- Size and service area (location)
- Student body enrollment and characteristics (demographics)
- Academic degrees and program offerings
- Student admissions & selectivity
- Research activity

Institutions desiring a change of peer institutions should submit the necessary supporting data to the Commissioner's office, which will be reviewed and verified before making a recommendation to the Board. Once an institution has been placed on a comparable list, it will generally not be removed for at least three years.

Seven degree-granting institutions are recommending changes, with specific details in attachments 1-7. Attachment 8 provides a current and recommended list. Salt Lake Community College periodically

reviews its peers, with no suggested changes at this time. It will conduct a more comprehensive review over the next year.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends the Board approve the attached USHE peer institutions for seven of the eight degree-granting institutions.

### **Attachments**

- Attachment 1 – U of U Peer Institutions
- Attachment 2 – USU Peer Institutions
- Attachment 3 – WSU Peer Institutions
- Attachment 4 – SUU Peer Institutions
- Attachment 5 – Snow Peer Institutions
- Attachment 6 – UT Peer Institutions
- Attachment 7 – UVU Peer Institutions
- Attachment 8 – Peer Institution List
- Attachment 9 – R508, Guidelines for Approving Lists of Comparable Institutions